

# **Monthly Messenger**

# St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

December 2023

"We are God's servants, saved by grace, through faith, commissioned to share the Word of Christ to all."

#### A Message from Pastor

#### St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

4941 W. Center St. Millington, MI 48746 989-871-4581 stpaul-millington.org Email: church.office@spmill.org School Website: school.stpaul-millington.org

> Rev. James Bruner Administrative Pastor

Rev. Tim Martinal Associate Pastor

Worship Services Saturday 7PM Sunday 8:30 & 11AM (11AM also live-streamed) Bible Study/Sunday School 10AM +++++ In this Issue: Spiritual News Upcoming Events Lectionary Memorials

Area News Birthdays

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

If you are reading this, you probably know who Bob Hope is. He once said, "When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things, not the great occasions, give off the greatest glow of happiness."

The simplest yet greatest glow I know is a candle at the Christmas Candlelight service. This simple thing connects my heart and mind to one of the greatest love stories of all time.

Here is part of the story. There was a very dark place filled with tremendous pain and suffering. God came into this darkness as a small fragile light. Although the light was small, it was able to drive away the darkness wherever it was. In this light there was unconditional love for any and every person.

If you are reading this, you probably know this love story.

Bob Hope was known for bringing joy and hope to others, especially through his work with the U.S.O. His love for life and comedy made dark and heavy hearts laugh, but he was not the Light.

Jesus is the Light that brings joy and hope to others.

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

**9** The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

As we approach Christmas, bring joy and hope to others. Keep it simple.

• Think of someone right now who is "in the dark."

• Pray and ask God to help you bring the Light (Jesus) into the darkness of this someone.

• Tell this someone how a small candle reminds you of the greatest love story of all time.

• Invite a fellow church member, or someone who is not a member, to join you for weekend worship and the Advent and Christmas services.

God loved the world so much that He sent His only Son to be a single Light of hope in our dark places. Jesus brings Light into our lives and enables us to share this Light with others. I pray that you will have joy and hope in Jesus this month and always.

Remember - you matter to God and you matter to me,

Rev. James R. Bruner 1 John 4:10-11



The December Messenger is sponsored in loving memory of Fred Rodammer, from Gloria.

# Worship Times / Scripture

#### St. Paul Worship Times

Saturdays at 7PM, Sundays at 8:30 & 11AM Livestream at 11AM Bible Study/Sunday School Sundays at 10AM

\*Contemporary 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays \*Communion 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 8:30AM 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 11AM & Sat. eve of that weekend \*Matins 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Weekend



### Sundays at 10AM

Preschool–Grade 2 Faith Spark: Daycare Room Grades 3-5 Faith Flare: Projects Room Grades 6-12 Faith Ignite/ Flame: Youth Room Adults Faith Blaze: Parish Hall

We will also offer adult supervised toddler care in the nursery for children too young to attend the early childhood program.

**Coffee Hour** between services in the Parish Hall. Grab a cup of coffee and a snack before heading to "Faith on Fire." Volunteers needed to keep Coffee Hour going. Sign up in the Parish Hall.

#### Dear Christian Parents,

Children learn the language of their parents because their parents speak to them from the very beginning. This is not just true for English, Spanish, or German. It is true for the language of the Church.

Parents, speak the language of the Church to your children from the very beginning. Don't wait until they are in confirmation class. Don't wait until they are in Sunday school. Don't wait until they can talk. Speak the language of the Church to your children from the very beginning.

Participate in weekly public worship while you're holding them as infants and let them feel the rise and fall of your chest as you speak, sing, and pray. At home, hold your infant on the piano or in your arms so he can feel its vibrations as you sing hymns. Say the Creed together as a family. Teach them the Lord's Prayer. Pray with them before meals, after meals, and at bedtime. Speak the language of the Church to your children from the very beginning, and they will learn it.

#### **Christmas Poinsettias**

To order a **Poinsettia** for the altar, sign up on the glass case by Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. Plants are \$20 each and can be picked up after the Christmas Day service. Please mark how paid on the sheet and make checks payable to Pam Hanlin.

#### Scrípture Readings

<u>Dec. 3rd</u> Isaíah 64:1-9 1 Cor. 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37

<u>Dec. 10th</u> Isaíah 40:1-11 2 Peter 3:8-14 Mark 1:1-8

<u>Dec. 17th</u> Isaíah 61:1-4, 8-11 1 Thess. 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28

<u>Dec. 24th</u> 2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16 Rom. 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38



#### Children's Bulletin Drawing

If your **child completes and turns in their children's bulletin** in the marked box in the lobby, they are entered into a drawing for a gift to strengthen and encourage their faith. Once a month, one (1) bulletin will be drawn at random for the gift. Please include a name and contact information. Every week is another opportunity to enter. This is a great way to encourage your child to participate in worship.



IP Lutheran Ministries "Worship for Shut-Ins" Sundays at 11:30AM on TCT Net. (DirecTV 377) Sundays at 11:30AM on WAQP 49

The Lutheran Hour Radio 1400 AM Sunday at 8:30AM

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Quilting**

Tuesdays from 1-3PM in the Parish Hall

Newcomers are always welcome. No skills necessary we have something to do for everyone. Come and see how God can use your talents to help those in need. **Quilting will be on break** Dec. 19, 26th, & Jan. 2nd. We will resume on Jan. 9th.

#### Men's Bible Study

Sat., Dec. 2nd at 8AM in the Library. Next month: Jan. 6th

#### **Toys and Joys**

Sat., Dec. 2nd 10-2

We are collecting **new or like-new toys**, books, teenager gifts, etc. for **Toys and Joys**. Drop off boxes will be in the narthex and outside the offices until Fri., Dec. 1.

#### **Christmas Decorating**

Sat., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10AM in the church. Everyone is welcome to come and help.

#### **Christmas Concert**

Sun., Dec. 3rd at 4PM Pulled Pork Sandwich Dinner Following. Freewill Donation.

#### **Scrapbooking**

Sat., Dec. 9th from 9AM-7PM in the Parish Hall. \$6.00 per person. Bring a dish to pass. Call the school office to RSVP.

#### Voters' Assembly Meeting

Sun., Dec. 10th at 1:30PM in the Church Everyone is encouraged to attend and be part of the decision making at St. Paul.

#### **Attention Book Lovers**

Introducing a book club for the women of St. Paul Lutheran. The book club will meet on the 2nd Sunday of every other month from 6:00-7:30pm. Our first meeting will be Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. No long-term commitment necessary. You are able to participate as much or as little as desired. Contact Hannah Woolwine at (989) 395-5314\_or fill out the sheet on the glass case in the Narthex to sign up.

#### Young at Heart

Thursday, Dec. 14th at 1PM in the Gathering Room It is our dream to build relationships across the generations. Seniors are more likely to be able to attend, but all ages from young adult on up are welcome. We will enjoy food and getting to know one another better. We will spend time discussing God's Word and other topics. We may even take road trips! Bring a friend and discover how good it is to be young at heart!

# **Upcoming Special Services**

#### Christmas Choir Concert:

Sun., Dec. 3rd – 4PM 5PM Pulled Pork Sandwich Dinner hosted by PTL & Petzold Farms All proceeds go to the Facility & Property Improvement Fund.

#### Advent Servíces - 6:30PM Dínners at 5PM

Wed., Dec. 6th - Free Spirit Dinner hosted by the St. Paul Sports Teams

> Wed., Dec. 13th - Pre-K Dínner hosted by Social Concerns

Wed., Dec. 20th - Joyful Noise Dinner hosted by PTL

Children's Christmas Service: Sun., Dec. 17th - 4PM

**Chrístmas Eve Servíces:** Sun., Dec. 24th - 10AM +Communion Candlelight - 9PM

Christmas Day Service: 10AM +Communion

#### <u>Meetings</u>

**Social Concerns** Tues., Dec. 5th at 5:30PM

**Council** Wed., Dec. 6th at 7:30PM in the Library

**Voters' Assembly** Sun., Dec. 10th at 1:30PM in the Church

**Board of Education** Tues., Dec. 12th at 6PM in the School Office

**Elders** Wed., Dec. 27th at 7PM in the Gathering Room

#### **His Little Lambs Childcare**

We have immediate openings for 2 1/2 to 4 year old friends in our childcare room. We are open Monday thru Friday 6am-6pm. Please contact us for information about enrollment 989.871.4581 ext. 3.



# St. Paul Lutheran School

December 2023

St. Paul Lutheran School is committed to engaging students with a comprehensive education grounded in God's Word to prepare them for a life in Christ.

As we begin December, let's prepare our hearts and homes for the coming of

our Lord; not only His first coming as a baby but also for His second coming when He shall reign forever!

Import	ant December Do	ates	5
- Te.	Dec. 1	$\frac{1}{2}$ day of classes with bussing, dismissal at 11:15 a.m.	
SALSTERAS	Dec. 3	Church Christmas Concert	4:00 p.m.
The second		followed by Songs of Praise dinner/Silent Auction	
The states	Dec. 6	Advent Service	6:30 p.m.
an include an	Dec. 15	PTL Family CHRISTmas Movie	6:00 p.m.
	Dec. 6 & 10	Book Fair	
	Dec. 13	Advent Service/ Preschool CHRISTmas	6:30 p.m.
	Dec. 15	Last Day of classes	
	Dec. 16 - Jan. 2	Christmas Vacation	
	Dec. 17	K-8 CHRISTmas Service	4:00 p.m.
	Dec. 24	CHRISTmas Eve Service	9:00 p.m.
	Dec. 25	CHRISTmas Service	10:00 a.m.

If there is a school delay or cancellation, notifications are on any of the major television/radio stations and through our school notification system.

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J School	Musical	<b>Opportunities</b>
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Dec. 3	Church Christmas Concert: all school choirs, Band	4:00 p.m.
Dec. 6	Free Spirit	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 13	Advent/ Preschool CHRISTmas Service	6:30 p.m.
Dec. 17	K-8 grade CHRISTmas Service	4:00 p.m.
Dec. 20	Joyful Noise	6:30 p.m.



**Spartan Sports** Our basketball season for boys and girls on the B-teams finishes up this month. The boys start play followed by the girls. Come and support the children as they use their God-given talents.

a. He w	Dec. 1 Dec. 5	at St. Michael's, Richville at St. Paul, Flint	6:00 p.m. 4:45 p.m.	
	Dec. 7	at St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth	4:30 p.m.	. Ý.
W ALCO	Dec. 8	with Trinity-Trost	6:00 p.m.	
	Dec. 12	at Christ the King, Sebewaing	4:30 p.m.	1.660

Blessings to you and your family from the St. Paul Lutheran Church and School faculty and staff!

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Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. I Corinthians 10:31

# Memorials / Financial / Trust & Invest / Misc.

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<b>Memor</b>	ials &	<b>Special</b>	<u>Gifts</u>

In Memory of Martin Powell General Fund	\$110.00
In Memory of Louis Laux School Fund	\$10.00

#### October 2023 Income & Expense Summary

October General Fund Income:	\$80,966.69
October General Fund Expenses:	\$99,085.71
October surplus (deficit)	\$(18 <i>,</i> 119.02)
Overall surplus (deficit) to date	\$ 88 <i>,</i> 211.66)
Gen Fund Balance	\$373,958.74
RESTRICTED Cash Accounts Summary	
School Designated Accounts balance:	\$177,320.75
Facility & Property Improvements Fund balance:	\$288,570.26
Other Church Designated Accounts balance:	\$76,379.08
All Memorials balance:	\$18,508.25
** This money is RESTRICTED**	\$560,778.34
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Contributions to Grantparent Fund October	\$527.07
Contributions to Facility/Property Impr. Fund-Oct	\$30,949.90

#### Trust & Investment Donations The Gift That Keeps On Giving

September 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023

Member donations	\$195.00
Memorials	\$800.00

Gifts given to Trust & Investment are invested. Per the church constitution the principal donation cannot be spent. Profits from the investments are disbursed annually per the Voters Assembly approval. Any recognized board of St Paul can submit requests. Requests are for projects and equipment not in the General Fund budget.

Total amount disbursed from funds earned in 2022 was \$47,113.00.



#### **IRA Oualified Charitable Distribution**

If you are age 701/2 or older, IRS rules require you to take required minimum distributions (RMDs) each year from your individual retirement accounts (IRAs). If this applies to you, you may be interested in a way to lower the income and taxes from your RMDs. An IRA qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a way you can help continue our work and benefit this year.

Benefits of an IRA QCD

- Avoid taxes on transfer of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to St. Paul
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for 2021.
- Reduce your taxable income.
- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts.
- Help further the work and mission of St. Paul.

How an IRA OCD Works

- Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to St. Paul. Any gift not designated will go to the General Fund.
- Your IRA funds will be directly transferred to St. Paul to help continue our important work.
- Please note that IRA QCD gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction.
- Please contact your tax professional or financial advisor for more information.

#### What is Thrivent Choice?

The Thrivent Choice program is a charitable grant program that encourages members of Thrivent to recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding. Choice Dollars<sup>®</sup> and Thrivent Choice Voting<sup>®</sup> Events result in the distribution of several million dollars of grant funds to causes that members care about most. If you qualify, your Choice Dollars can be directed every quarter, or once a year. If you haven't directed your dollars for 2023, please call Thrivent or go online to www.thrivent.com.

#### **Used Ink Cartridges**

Please keep bringing in your ink cartridges and turn them to cash!

**Drop Off** in the box on the wooden cabinet outside of the Church Office or in the cabinet in the narthex. Large Laser cartridges are no **longer accepted.** Please only bring in small ink cartridges.



Thank you!

## Serve & Volunteer / Misc.

#### **Opportunities to Serve, Volunteer and Donate**

#### <u>Giving Tree</u>

The **Giving Tree** is in the narthex with Bring <u>un-</u> wrapped gifts to the church by Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Staff Christmas Gift**

Our St. Paul staff goes above and beyond daily for the work of kingdom. To show your appreciation, please consider giving to the "Staff Christmas Gift." Cash donations only can be placed in an envelope marked "Staff Gift" and put in the offering box, mailed to the office, or brought to the church or school office by Sun., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. **No checks please**, and remember, this is not a tax-deductible gift and will not be recorded on your statement. Thank you for remembering our staff this Christmas.

#### Preschool Donations

Preschool is looking for **Beanie Babies and 4-5**year-old Halloween costumes to add to their dramatic play area. Please drop off in the school office or childcare entrance. Thank you!

#### Candy Bags

Every year, **candy bags** are given to the children after the Children's Christmas services. Monetary donations are welcome to help defray the cost of the candy, peanuts, and oranges used to fill the bags. Donations can be placed in an envelope marked "Candy Bags" and placed in the offering box or brought to one of the offices by Sun., Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you in advance!

#### **Women's Shelter Collection**

Dorcas is collecting items for the **Women's Shelter. Items needed:** Hand towels, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste. Place items in the cabinet in the narthex. Thank you!

#### **Mission Lunch Prep**

Fri., Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30PM in the School Kitchen. All are welcome to help prepare the lunches which will then be delivered to the Saginaw Rescue Mission. Monetary donations are welcomed and needed for the lunches. Contact Paul Schoenknecht 871-2280 if you are willing to help.

#### **Grantparent Program**

**Consider opening your hearts** to families who want their children to receive a St. Paul Christian education, but perhaps cannot afford the rising costs. The "**Grantparent" Program** is designed to ease the financial burden for struggling parents, but it needs ongoing funds. If you are able to help continue St. Paul's long-standing heritage of supporting this important mission to our families, please contact the school office. You may donate for general tuition funding or to a specific student. Thank-you in advance for blessing our children with your prayers and support.

#### Messenger Sponsors

If you would like to sponsor the Messenger in honor or memory of someone for a month in 2024, please call the church office. The cost is \$75.00 per month.

#### Lost and Found

The shelf in the coat area in the narthex has items that have been left behind. Check to see if any of the items may be yours.

#### Calendar/Door Scheduling

If you need to book a room or the gym and **need the doors unlocked** for an event, practice, or meeting (or if your event is cancelled,) you need to call the church office at least a **couple days in advance** so the doors can be programmed. We want to prevent conflicts from occurring.

#### \*\*Just a Reminder\*\*

If you are having an event at St. Paul, we have paper products in the group storage cupboards you can use for a minimal fee. Fill out the form indicating how many items you used and bring payment to the office or have the amount deducted from your profits. It's simple and way cheaper than buying everything separately from the store. If you are having a large gathering, please call ahead to be sure we have enough items in stock. Call the office if questions.

#### Read the Bible with us!

We hope you are having fun and learning a lot by reading the Bible together with your family! Whenever you are done reading a book of the Bible, you can fill out a form and turn it into the office or your child's teacher. This month, we are reading the book of **Luke** to prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas. It's a big book! If you finish early, some other ideas would be to read from the Daily Lectionary (found in the Messenger) or from Proverbs. Every family who fills out at least one form during the year will be invited to a gathering at the end of the school year. Any family who reads all 9 focus books will be put in a drawing for a study Bible. We love to see you reading the Word of God!

#### **December's Book: Luke**

Day	Reading	Day	Reading	Day	Reading
1	Luke 1:1-80	9	Luke 9:1-62	17	Luke 17:1-37
2	Luke 2:1-52	10	Luke 10:1-42	18	Luke 18:1-43
3	Luke 3:1-38	11	Luke 11:1-54	19	Luke 19:1-48
4	Luke 4:1-44	12	Luke 12:1-59	20	Luke 20:1-47
5	Luke 5:1-39	13	Luke 13:1-35	21	Luke 21:1-38
6	Luke 6:1-49	14	Luke 14:1-35	22	Luke 22:1-71
7	Luke 7:1-50	15	Luke 15:1-32	23	Luke 23:1-56
8	Luke 8:1-56	16	Luke 16:1-31	24	Luke 24:1-53

Additional Devotional Resources: https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/ luke/ https://www.biblereadingplan.org/luke/

## **Church Calendar**

#### The Time of Christmas

#### Advent

Begins on the fourth Sunday Before December 25,

or the Sunday closest to the Festival of St. Andrew (Nov. 30), and ends with midday prayer on Dec. 24.

The Savior's birth is second in importance only to His resurrection on Easter Sunday. During the Time of Christmas, Christians reflect on God's great and gracious gift of Himself.

The Church Year begins with Advent (from Latin *adventus,* which means "coming into"), a four-week period of preparation before Christmas. The story of Jesus during Advent is the story of hope coming into the world. When the time was just right, God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. The Advent season teaches us to prepare to receive Jesus, the hope of the world.

#### In Advent, we wait for our coming King.

Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, 11:1-2; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:18-25;

Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

#### **Advent Practices and Traditions**

- The color for Advent is blue, which symbolizes anticipation and hope in our coming King. Violet can also be used during Advent as a symbol of our repentance in preparation for our coming King.
- We do not sing the Gloria in Excelsis in the Divine Service during Advent. This is the angels' song at Christmas, so during Advent we pass over this traditional Hymn of Praise in silent anticipation.



• It has become common to use an Advent wreath to mark the season. This wreath has four candles – one for each week in Advent. As these candles are lit each week, our anticipation mounts as we look forward to Jesus' coming.

• We gather for midweek services. These services heighten our awareness and anticipation for the celebration of Christ's coming in the flesh.

#### The Time of Christmas

#### **Christmas and its Season**

Begins with evening prayer on Christmas Eve and ends with midday prayer on Jan. 5th.

Christmas tells the story of Jesus as the long-awaited King who has finally come to save us. Jesus, God's Son, the King of heaven and earth, is born in Bethlehem-the Son of God is a baby lying in a manger.

The evening services of Christmas Eve mark the beginning of the Church's celebration of the Nativity of Our Lord. The season continues after Dec. 25th over a period traditionally known as the twelve days of Christmas. This season includes a number of lesser festivals: The Festival of St. Stephen, the first martyr, occurs on Dec. 26th. St. John, apostle and evangelist, is remembered on Dec. 27th. The death of the babies in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:16-18) is observed on Dec. 28th as the Festival of the Holy Innocents. The circumcision and naming of Jesus on the eighth day after His birth (Luke 2:21) is celebrated on Jan. 1st.

#### At Christmas, we worship our God made flesh.

Luke 2:1-24; John 1:1-18; Galatians 4:4-5

#### **Christmas Practices and Traditions**

- We sing the Gloria in Excelsis and join the angels at Christmas in their Hymn of Praise: "Glory be to God on high: and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men."
- The color for Christmas and its season is white, symbolizing the divinity, eternity, purity, light, and joy of Jesus Christ.
- Many Christians celebrate with special services during the Christmas season. A special Divine Service late on Christmas Eve reminds us how the angels announced the birth of Jesus to shepherds who were "keeping watch over their flock by night." On Christmas Day, we celebrate the Word of God made flesh and receive Him in the Means of Grace. And on Jan. 1st, eight days after His birth, we gather in worship to begin the year in His name, Jesus, which means "the Lord saves," for He has come to save His people from their sins.

Peace on Earth and Blessings on the New Year!

## Daily Lectionary / / Thank You / Area News

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
December Daily Lectionary					1 Is. 7:10-8:8 1 Pt. 3:1-22	2 Is. 8:9-9:7 1 Pt. 4:1-19
3 Is. 9:8-10:11 1 Pt. 5:1-14	4 Is. 10:12-27; 33-34 2 Pt. 1:1-21	5 Is. 11:1-12:6 2 Pt. 2:1-22	6 Is. 14:1-12 2 Pt. 3:1-18	7 Is. 24:1-13 1 John 1:1-2:14	8 Is. 24:14-25:12 1 John 2:15-29	9 Is. 26:1-19 1 John 3:1-24
10 Is. 26:20-27:13 1 John 4:1-21	11 Is. 28:14-29 1 John 5:1-21	12 Is. 29:1-14 Jude 1-25	13 Is. 29:15-30:14 Rev. 1:1-20	14 Is. 30:15-26 Rev. 2:1-29	15 Is. 30:27-31:9 Rev. 3:1-22	16 Is. 32:1-20 Rev. 4:1-11
17 Is. 33:1-24 Rev. 5:1-14	18 Is. 34:1-2; 8-35:10 Rev. 6:1-17	19 Is. 40:1-17 Rev. 7:1-17	20 Is. 40:18-41:10 Rev. 8:1-13	21 Is. 42:1-25 Rev. 9:1-12	22 Is. 43:1-24 Rev. 9:13-10:11	23 Is. 43:25-44:20 Rev. 11:1-19
24 Is. 44:21-45:13; 20-25 Rev. 12:1-17	25 Is. 49:1-18 Matt. 1:1-17	26 Is. 49:22-26; 50:4-51:8; 51:12-16 Matt. 1:18-25	27 Is. 51:17-52:12 Matt. 2:1-12	28 Is. 52:13-54:10 Matt. 2:13-23	29 Is. 55:1-13 Luke 1:1-25	30 Is. 58:1-59:3; 14-21 Luke 1:26-38
31 Is. 60:1-22 Luke 1:39-56						

#### Special Thanks!!

A **heartfelt thank-you** is extended to all who donated pillows, sheets or financially to the City Rescue Mission of Saginaw. Your gift will provide needed comfort during challenging times in the lives of homeless individuals.

A **special thanks** to all who volunteered brought a dessert, washed dishes, helped prep, helped clean up, cut desserts, served drinks, and all the other "jobs" that go into making the Smorgasbord successful! You are appreciated! Thanks again!

#### <u>Area News</u>

Valley Lutheran High School special chapel service on Thurs., Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> to formally dedicate **Al Kaul as Executive Director** in service to the ministry of Valley Lutheran High School. Guests are encouraged to arrive between 9:45 and 10:00 a.m. with the service beginning at 10:15 a.m. You are also invited to stay for a cake and punch reception immediately following the chapel service. We hope you will join us!

**German Christmas Song Fest** Sun., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3PM, at St. Lorenz Church. German carols, hymns, and scriptures, harp pre-service music beginning at 2:45 pm, Afterward, please visit the log cabin and church bells specially decorated for a pioneer Christmas. Free will donation. Please join us as we celebrate the Savior's birth!

**Living Nativity** at Immanuel Lutheran Church Fri., Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 7-9PM; Sat., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> 6-8PM; Sun., Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 6-8PM. Free 30-minute outdoor walk, refreshments following. For more info go to frankentrost.org.

The annual **Valley Lutheran Choral Christmas Concert** will be held on Sun., Dec.  $10^{\rm th}$  at 3PM at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Bay City.

Ever considered participating in a **short-term mission trip**? Valley Lutheran is leading a group to Ensenada, Mexico this summer and has a few more openings. To see what this trip is all about check out the video at www.vlhs.com/bajavideo or visit www.bajabound.org. An informational meeting will be held on Mon., Dec. 11th at 7PM Valley. Contact Mrs. Brenner at at rbrenner@vlhs.com with any questions.



# December Birthdays



Andrew	Weber	1	loffrov (	Johnston	11	Ctover Cr	Llalmaa	20
		1 1	Jeffrey	Johnston	11	Steven, Sr.	Holmes	20
Taylor Kamden	Wirsing Keinath		Janette	Keinath	11	Allen	Marks	20
		1	Dana	Earl	11	Chester	Petzold	20
Deborah	ILL Deinert	1	Terry	Reinbold	11	Norma	Taylor	20
Delores	Reinert	2 2	Jason	Stewart	11	Alexis	Hudie	20
Tyler	Rude		Logan	Wirsing	12	Holli	Johnson	20
Logan	Myers	2	Linda	Windt	12	Seth	Sundberg	20
Jodi	Torrey	2	Cameron	Loomis	12	Trudie	Mohr	20
Ella	Chapman	2	Michelle	Stewart	12	Julie	Rude	21
Zachary	Simon	2 3	Margaret	Matthews	12	Megan	Curtis	21
Kara	Polk		Margaret	Matthews	12	Trenton	Weber	21
Jeremy	Corrigan	3	Fran	Carnet	13	Nicholas	Schultz	21
Brooklyn	Ewing	3	Gerry	Smith II	13	Carlee	Brookins	21
Dawn	Knoll	3	Ashtyn	Stewart	13	Jakki	Petzold	22
Kara	Stevens	3	Harper	Koeltzow	13	Collin	Strouth	22
Melissa	Sandusky	3	Lisa	Bach	14	Connor	Simon	22
Sarah	Waterman	3	Dennis	Schmidt	14	Natalie	Laude	22
Daniel	Petzold	4	Alison	Reinig	14	Larry	Kammer	23
Lori	Kowitz	4	Amy	Casto	14	Alex	Kern	23
Holly	Leach	4	John	Allard	15	Sheila	Peche	23
Brad	Sayles	4	Karen	Bruner	15	Sarah	Campbell	23
Deb	Hazel	4	Melissa	Hager	15	Marlene	Keipinger	23
William	Woodward	5	Cherri	Herrick	15	Rhonda	Nielson	23
Eric	Galant	5	Doris	Meier	15	Arnie	Petzold	24
Daniel	Karcher	5	Lincoln	Keinath	15	Gary	Wagner	24
Lucas	Dobis	5	Dylan	Horning	15	Christine	Jaruzel	24
Scott	Jensen	6	Jonah	Horning	15	Finnlee	Lowrey	24
Kari	Johnston	6	Nicolas	Horning	15	Jena	Giardini	25
Connie	Keinath	7	Cheryl	Anderson	16	Kassandra	Mills	26
Faydra	Myers	7	Denise	Miller	16	Anna	Reinig	26
Rylyn	Roth	7	Reagan	Hoard	16	Gerald	Higgins	26
Elizabeth	Selich	7	Lexie	Swink	16	Lucas	Hoard	26
Candice	Tatro	7	Andy	Rosebush	16	Larry	Jensen	26
Molly	Wolfington	/	Susan	Washburn	16	Melody	Payea	27
Carol	Weber	8	Sarah	Pobocik	17	_ Marie	Ross	27
Mary	White	8	Carter	Stevens	17	Tamera	Dreher	27
Grace	Adamic	9	Shelby	Jesberg	18	Robert	Fall	28
Matthew	Allen	9	Adam	Polk	18	Lynnette	Keinath	28
Kaitlyn	Burton	9	Carol	Burchett	18	Aiden	Koch	28
Danielle	DeOrnellas	9	Karri	Smith	18	Hannah	Cain	28
Lillian	Sergent	9	Brody	Willson	18	Matt	Ayotte	29
David	Janowski	9	Angelique	Babcock	18	Floyd, III	Harsen	29
Joshua	Keinath	9	Aidan	Bach	19	Cameron	Henderson	29
Joshua	Petzold	9	Sandra	Brow	19	Alexis	Sutton	29
Michelle	Sayles	9	Taren	Ewing	19	Jeff	Staple	30
Elizabeth	Goodhue	10	Marie	Trinklein	19	Donna	Torrey	30
Violet	Myers	10	Nicholas	Borcherding	19	Shannon	Keinath	30
Chy	Rueckert	10	Dane	Coleman	19	Teresa	Walter	31
Destiny	Blakeley	10	Karrie	Colman	19	Brody	Germain	31
Geri	Blue	11	Paul	Rogers	19	Dean	Mason	31
Lorine	Edler	11	Taren	Webster	19	John	Osborn, Jr	31

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