Monthly Messenger

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School

October 2026

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

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School
4941W. 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. TimMartinal
AssociatePastor

Worship Services
Beginning Sept. 13th
Saturday 7PM
Sunday 8:30+Livestream
Sonshine Sunday at 11AM

Bible Study
10:00AM

+ ++++

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THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

A Message from Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The next season has been coming closer in gradual steps. Fall is a beautiful time of the year in Michigan with the cool and crisp air, the changing colors, the migrating geese, cider and doughnuts, and whatever else you enjoy. Many love this season the best out of the four seasons we have in Michigan: Fall, Winter, Spring and Construction (ha! ha!).

The season of Fall comes gradually but there is another endless season that we experience that arrived instantly. This season is from the Fall into sin. We were thrust into this spiritual season when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command concerning the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. As a result, there is now suffering, pain and death. None of these things are pleasant.

Here is the correlation to our lives. We do enjoy some beauty in the world, but there is a continual struggle with the effects of sin in us and the world. That is why we actually need a season of construction. God does preparation work by tearing us down with the Law. We face the reality that we are disobedient like Adam and Eve. As a result of sin, our lives are filled with brokenness and potholes. The only solution is to have the problem fixed. Road construction is not enjoyable, but the final product is so much better. God does construction on us by pointing out our sin, so that we will repent. When our hearts are ready, He then rebuilds us with His Gospel of mercy and grace. Isaiah wrote these words that describe this season of construction. "Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice of one calling: 'In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it.'" Isa. 40:1-5.

Every season can have a spiritual correlation. For now, remember that after the deconstruction or preparation of repentance there will be a time of renewal and refreshment. God wants us to know He loves us no matter what season we are going through.

Remember - you matter to God and you matter to me,
Pastor Jim Bruner

"This is love: not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loves us, we also ought to love one another." 1 John 4:10-11

The October Messenger is sponsored in celebration of Melvin Ayotte on his 80th birthday.

Worship Times / Ways to be In the Word

St. Paul Worship Times

Traditional Service
Saturdays at 7PM
Sundays at 8:30 (+ Livestream)
Sonshine Service Sundays at 11AM

Bible Study Sundays at 10AM

Praise Team 2nd, 3rd, & 5th
Sundays at 11AM

Communion
1st & 3rd Sundays at 8:30AM
2nd & 4th Sundays at 11AM &
Sat. eve of that weekend

Church Extension Fund Investment Opportunity

Church Extension Fund Investment Opportunity - In celebration of CEF's 125th anniversary, they have created a grant program that will award St. Paul a $125 grant for each member that opens a new Fixed or Variable Rate Note of $1,000 or more for a term between 24 to 60 months. A new account application can be found at churchextensionfund.com/applications. Please contact Diane Ackerman at (989) 871-4056 for more information.

Men's Bible Study

Sat., Oct. 3rd at 8AM in the Library.
Next Month: November 7th

Church Pictorial Directories

The Pictorial Directories are in the narthex by the coat racks. If you had your picture taken, find the envelope with your name on it. If you did not have your picture taken, but want to purchase a book for $25, call Karen at Rummel Studios 989-652-9909.

WORSHIP ANEW

Lutheran Ministries "Worship for Shut-Ins"
Sundays at11:30AM on
TCT Net. (DirecTV 377)
Sundays at 11:30AMon WAQP 49

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

FAITH ON FIRE

Sundays at 10AM

Bible Study

How can Christians live their faith in a sometimes unreceptive environment? 1st Peter provides answers and guidance so we can always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks for the reason for the hope that you have.

Faith on Fire Sunday School
All children are welcome!

Coffee Hour between services in the Parish Hall.
Grab a cup of coffee and a snack before heading to "Faith on Fire."

Scripture Readings

Oct. 4th
Isaiah 5:1-7
Phil. 3:4b-14
Matt. 21:33-46

Oct. 11th
Isaiah 25:6-9
Phil. 4:4-13
Matt. 22:1-14

Oct. 18th
Isaiah 45:1-7
1 Thess. 1:1-10
Matt. 22:15-22

Oct. 25th
Rev. 14:6-7
Rom. 3:19-28
Matt. 11:12-19 or
John 8:31-36

Upcoming Events

Quilting

Quilting meets on Tuesdays from 1-3PM in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome – no experience needed! We are accepting old jeans and denim garments for making quilts.

Dorcas/LWML

will be meeting on October 20th starting at 5:30PM in the Parish Hall. Please note the time change. More details to follow.

Voters' Meeting

Sun., Oct. 11th at 1:30PM in the Church.
Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Reformation Day
October 31st

October is Pastor Appreciation Month! Take a moment to thank our pastors for all they do. Write a note or send an uplifting Bible verse, give a gift card to their favorite restaurant or store, give them their favorite treats, or make a donation in their honor.

Opportunities to Serve & Volunteer / Finance / Memorials

Opportunities to Serve, Volunteer and Donate

Our **4-year-old Preschool** is looking for a volunteer. Class times are Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8AM-2:45PM. You can pick a time – it doesn't have to be a full day. Any help would be appreciated! If questions, call Cassie 810-728-3753.

Scholastic Books – Our Preschool, Child & Infant Daycare are looking for Book Angels. They want to send books home to families to inspire the love of reading. Any donations will be greatly appreciated.The goal is to collect $600. Cash or checks made to St. Paul can be brought to the church office. Thank you in advance!

Women's Shelter Health Kits - The following items are always needed: 15 Chapstick, 15 hand towels, 15 toothpaste, 15 deodorant, 15 shampoo, 15 conditioner, Tylenol, 20 2-gallon storage bags, creams, and cleaning supplies. Items can be placed in the wooden cabinet in the narthex.

Board of Social Concerns is **collecting books** all year for our used book sale. Place books in the bin outside the church office.

Mission Lunch Prep Fri., Oct. 9th at 12:30PM in the School Kitchen. All are welcome to help prepare the lunches which are 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. If at any time you want to bake cookies, just put them in the freezer in kitchen storage and label them "Rescue Mission."

Memorials

In Memory of Mildred Bickel:

$25.00 School Fund

In Memory of Bill & Betty Bleuer:

$4,240.00 Trust & Investment

August 2026 Revenue & Expenditure Summary

August General Fund Revenues	$161,130.52
August General Fund Expenditures:	$88,977.94
August surplus (deficit)	$72,152.58
2026 surplus (deficit) YTD	$(2,313.42)
Gen Fund Balance	$336,760.91
CEF loan balance-Property & Facilities Impr.-6%	$176,488.99

RESTRICTED Cash Accounts Summary

School Designated Accounts balance:	$118,619.44
Facility & Property Improvements Fund balance:	$46,850.21
Other Church Designated Accounts balance:	$49,676.82
All Memorials balance:	$11,735.35
** This money is RESTRICTED**	$226,881.82

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contributions to Grantparent Fund	$184.00
Contributions to Facility/Property Impr. Fund*	$5,073.58
*includes investment rebate of	$1,155.19

IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, IRS rules allow you to make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD's) from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). If you are age 73 or older, QCD's also count toward the year's required minimum distribution (RMD).

Generally, IRA distributions are taxable, but QCD's remain tax-free if sent directly to a qualified charity by the trustee.

Benefits of a QCD

-Avoid taxes on transfer of up to $111,000 from your IRA to St. Paul
-Satisfy your RMD for 2026
-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 a QCD works

-Contact your IRA trustee to make a QCD gift from your IRA to St. Paul
-Your IRA funds will be transferred directly to St. Paul to help continue our important work
-Please note that QCD gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction

Please contact your tax professional and/or financial advisor for more information.

Mark Your Calendar / Thank You

Mark Your Calendars!
Details will be in the upcoming bulletins.

Smorgasbord
Sun., Nov. 1st

Dorcas Bazaar
Sat., Nov. 14th

Thanksgiving Dinner
Sun., Nov. 22nd

St. Paul Lutheran School - Adopt-a-Class Program

Would you like to make a difference in the life of a classroom this year? Our Adopt-a-Class Program is a completely optional way for families, alumni, and friends of St. Paul to support students and teachers in a personal and meaningful way.

✅ Pray for a specific classroom
● Attend chapel services with their class or church when they sing
✅ Send encouraging notes or cards
● Attend a sporting event that a majority of the class participates in, and cheer them on.
✅ Surprise students or teachers with small acts of kindness
● Read ● Play games ● Help with art projects ● Help with class parties
✅ Contribute toward classroom needs (optional)

Every level of involvement is welcome — big or small! This is simply an opportunity to walk alongside our teachers and students as they grow in faith and learning. Interested in learning more? Contact the school or church office:
📞989-871-4581 ✉️
school.office@spmill.org or
church.office@spmill.org

A big "Thank you" to all that bought, donated, helped prep, made desserts, and helped serve the chicken dinner. We couldn't do all this by ourselves. We really do appreciate everybody that helped. It was a good summer. We had four chicken dinners and were able to profit just over $5,000 for the General Fund.

October Birthdays

St. Paul Lutheran School

October 2026

St.PaulLutheranSchool is committedto engaging studentswithacomprehensiveeducation grounded inGod'sWord toprepare themforalifeinChrist .

Rooted in Christ

Welcome to the beautiful season ofcolored leaves and falling temperatures. God is so amazing in the way He creates beauty all around us, that gives us so much for which to be grateful! We are thankful that our school year has gotten off to a great start!

We'd love to see you worship with us on Wednesday mornings in the church. Big Chapel (1-8th grades) is at 8 -8:30 a.m. and Little Chapel (Preschool- Kindergarten) from 8:45-9 a.m. You would sit anywhere in the back half of the church. Offerings for the first quarter are going to the St. Paul Giving Tree.

School Musical Opportunities

Joyful Noise (K-3)	Oct. 11	8:30 a.m. service
Grades K-8	Oct. 25	Choice of Service

October Sports

Remember games start at 4:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Volleyball
with Trinity-Trost
A-Team Tournaments, TBA
Oct. 1-12

We are planning the following events for this month of October; mark your calendars.

Oct. 2	Spartan Spirit Day
Oct. 8 Oct.	School Pictures Retakes
15-16 Oct.	NO SCHOOL – Teachers Conference
25 Oct. 30	First grade Bible presentation after the 8:30 a.m. service, ½ day of class - end of quarter, Grandparents Day-students leave with their grandparents after lunch
Oct. 31	Reformation Day, "Hall"o'ween from 5-6 p.m.

Adopt-a-class Program:

This is a completely optional way for families, alumni and friends of St. Paul to support and walk alongside our students and teachers in a meaningful way as they grow in their faith and learning.

Here are some things you could do as sponsors:

*PRAY for the classroom *attend Chapel services & attend church when your class sings
*Send encouraging notes *attend sporting events

**** If you'd like more information, contact the office at 989-871-4581. ****

Please continue to pray for our students, staff, and faculty as we continue through the year.

Remember you can use our website, www.stpaul-millington.org, to read the weekly school newsletter and find events on the St. Paul Lutheran-Millington Facebook page.

Rooted in Christ

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

October Daily Lectionary

1
Deut. 2:16-37
Mat 6:16-34

2
Deut. 3:1-29
Matt 7:1-12

3
Deut.4:1-20
Matt.7:13-29

4
Deut.4:21-40
Matt. 8:1-17

5
Deut. 5:1-21
Matt. 8:18-34

6
Deut. 5:22-6:9
Matt. 9:1-17

7
Deut. 6:10-25
Matt. 9:18-38

8
Deut. 7:1-19
Matt. 10:1-23

9
Deut. 8:1-20
Matt. 10:24-42

10
Deut. 9:1-22
Matt. 11:1-19

11
Deut 9:23-10:22
Matt. 11:20-30

12
Deut. 11:1-25
Matt. 12:1-21

13
Deut. 11:26-12:12
Matt 12:22-37

14
Deut. 12:13-32
Matt. 12:38-50

15
Deut. 13:1-18
Matt. 13:1-23

16
Deut. 14-1-2, 22-23,
14:28--15:15
Matt. 13-24-43

17
Deut. 15:19-16:22
Matt. 13:44-58

18
Deut. 17:1-20
Matt 14:1-21

19
Deut. 18:1-22
Matt. 14:22-36

20
Deut. 19:1-20
Matt. 15:1-20

21
Deut. 20:1-20
Matt. 15:21-39

22
Deut. 21:1-23
Matt. 16:1-12

23
Deut. 24:10-25:10
Matt. 16:13-28

24
Deut. 25:17-26:19
Matt. 17:1-13

25
Deut. 27:1-26
Matt. 17:14-27

26
Deut. 28:1-22
Matt. 18:1-20

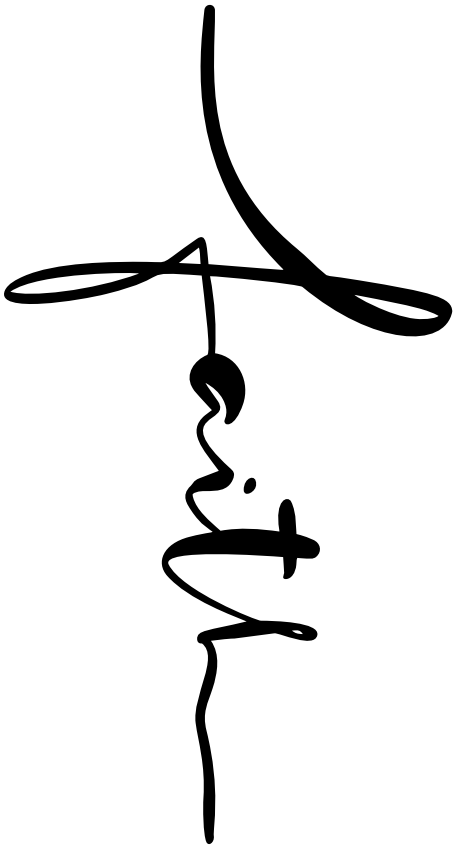
27
Deut. 29:1-29
Matt. 18:21-35

28
Deut. 30:1-20
Matt. 19:1-15

29
Deut. 31:1-29
Matt. 19:16-30

30
Deut. 31:30-32:27
Matt. 20:1-16

31
Deut. 32:28-52
Matt. 20-17-34



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Tell the Next Generation
PSALM 78:4
St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

Autumn is a gentle reminder that changes can be beautiful.