

St. Paul Lutheran Church
4941 W. Center St.
Millington, MI 48746
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989-871-4581
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St. Paul Monthly Messenger

January 2011

Rev. James Bruner
Rev. Kirk Abatelli



A Message from Pastor Abatelli

*The January Messenger
is sponsored by Ron & Ruth Mieske
in appreciation for all those who
donate their time and talents to
make St. Paul what it is and
what we stand for.*

[At the temple] Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on." Luke 21:2 - 4

What was the poor widow thinking? What was going through her mind? I picture her not wanting others to see her, trying to be invisible. I see her being ashamed of her status and disappointed that she had so little to give to God for He has been so good to her.

Those who did notice her didn't seem to understand; disbelieving her joy and doubting her smiles. You can seem to know what they were thinking, "Poor widow, you can't think God's being fair? You have nothing, what reason do you have for being grateful to God?" She was tired of their unspoken questions and judgments. She wanted to quietly give her offering and leave.

While waiting to give her offering, she became aware of voices that filled the air: comments, questions and laughter. But above all that noise she heard another sound - money. Silver coins bouncing off the sides of a huge brass bowl that collected the offering. Gold proudly boasts its value with a clang against it. Looking at her copper coins she knew they would announce their arrival with a clink.

As she dropped her small coins, she quickly turned away and saw someone watching her. Expecting judgment, she looked into eyes that understood her. She could see His smile that warmed her soul. He began to speak to those by Him saying something about her offering.

It seemed He knew why she was there, why she gave so much, and He did. She, I know walked away knowing about how much she had received from God. I know God continued to provide for her. Her gift was accepted for God first gave her His heart, providing for her. She wanted to give her heart back for what God did for her. So she gave because she wanted to and loved to. She knew who she was because of what God has done for her. Do we know the same?

The world says, the more you take, the more you have. Christ says, the more you give, the more you are (Frederick Buechner).

After seeing what God did for us, giving us His heart by bleeding and dying on the cross; taking every sin we could possibly imagine away; after seeing Christ rise from the dead showing us He has victory over our sins; the question we need to ask is who are we going to be in this story? The widow who gave her heart because God already has given His heart? Or the "others" Jesus talks about who gave just because they had the money?

This message is not about money, but about who we are and want to be. With God's help this will be done, because we are accepted by God. Now we know whatever we give out of our hearts is accepted by God.

In Christ,
Pastor Abatelli



January Birthdays in our St. Paul Family



David Daniel	1/1	Shelley Coon	1/12	Roland Hubert	1/20	Judith Warner	1/30
Charles Haley	1/1	Philip Erickson	1/12	Thomas Meeks	1/20	Julie Weiss	1/30
Mark Reinertson	1/1	Richard Gross	1/12	Heather O'Hearn	1/20	Michael Ziegler	1/30
Marie Saeger	1/1	Shelly Holmes	1/12	Dana Schember	1/20	Gary Balcom	1/31
Tyler Hibbard	1/2	Roger Keinath	1/12	Kaylie Snyder	1/20	Emily Petzold	1/31
Mark Raymond	1/2	Haley Radisovich	1/12	Anthony Wagner	1/20	Sheryl Schiefer	1/31
Kaiden Rueckert	1/2	Wyatt Reinert	1/12	Abigail Brown	1/21	Keven Washburn	1/31
Dawn Rueger	1/2	Lana Schultz	1/12	Daniel DeOrnellas	1/21		
Joshua Schuler	1/2	Russell Sherman	1/12	Diane Maxson	1/21		
Cathy Beagle	1/3	Shannon Wyman	1/12	Christopher Smith	1/21		
Tyler Bentley	1/3	Timothy Daenzer	1/13	Christopher Washburn	1/21		
Evelyn Gregory	1/3	Todd List	1/13	Nicholas Gunter	1/22		
Cathleen Jacobi	1/3	Toni Morel	1/13	Paul Hunt	1/22		
Carol Kammer	1/3	Anthony Folino	1/14	Philip Morrow	1/22		
Gailan Kester	1/3	Jillian Muehlenbeck	1/14	Luke Petzold	1/22		
Debra Nitz	1/3	Kevin Whaley	1/14	Keith Brown II	1/23		
Marlene Stratton	1/3	Martha Eberlein	1/15	Nicholas Corrigan	1/23		
Shelly Cobb	1/4	Gerald Keinath	1/15	Michael Derscha	1/23		
Lela Higgins	1/4	Steven Kennard	1/15	Kenneth Gorsuch	1/23		
Alexander Keinath	1/4	Gabrielle Sergent	1/15	Cory Hunt	1/23		
Janice Schiefer	1/4	Grace Brown	1/16	Kyle Koch	1/23		
James Wood	1/4	Alan Draper	1/16	Leah Rader	1/23		
Dwayne Rose	1/5	David Engelhart	1/16	Jodie Reed	1/23		
Carol Schwab	1/5	Robert McClenathen	1/16	Aaron Schiefer	1/23		
Andrew Selich	1/5	Kenneth Reinert	1/16	RaeAnn Henderson	1/24		
Cody Mason	1/6	Nicole Smith	1/16	Boydenn McClenathen	1/24		
Willard Petzold	1/6	LeeAnn Wagner	1/16	Kandace Milostan	1/24		
Linda Rohde	1/6	Nicholas Cassidy	1/17	Adam Schmidt	1/24		
Michael Sherman	1/6	Bill Garrett	1/17	Christine Damon	1/25		
Eugene Ziegler	1/6	Seth Keinath	1/17	Courtney Derscha	1/25		
Kenneth Cunningham	1/7	Constance Daenzer	1/18	Amber Inman	1/25		
William Earl	1/7	Evan Damm	1/18	Loraine Petzold	1/25		
Kathleen Hergenreder	1/7	Jason Damm	1/18	Donna Stange	1/25		
Blake Erlenbeck	1/8	Jason Ide	1/18	Fred Trinklein	1/25		
Lonnie Kester	1/8	Terri Keinath	1/18	George Whittaker	1/25		
Stacey Knag	1/8	Andrew Maschke	1/18	Ashley Wisenbach	1/25		
Tina White	1/8	Nancy Petzold	1/18	James Brueggemann Sr.	1/26		
Lisa Aulbert	1/9	Michael Schiefer	1/18	Page Kidd	1/26		
Phillip Gordon	1/9	Jeanette Smith	1/18	Wilfred Schultz	1/26		
Mathew Hoard	1/9	Don Stange	1/18	Joshua White	1/26		
Brenda Keinath	1/9	Richard Harpst	1/19	David Kern	1/27		
John Kowitz	1/9	Addyson Licavoli	1/19	Paul Petzold	1/27		
Bethany Reinert	1/9	Susan Lyons	1/19	Lon Coleman	1/28		
Penny Schoenknecht	1/9	Ciara Mason	1/19	Martin Snover	1/28		
Mark Wyman	1/9	Joshua Matzke	1/19	Dustin Griesing	1/29		
Jerrit Baker	1/10	Gailan Reinert	1/19	Brittany Hunt	1/29		
Sarah Burns	1/10	Theodore Wager	1/19	Joel Petzold	1/29		
Donna Mulka	1/10	Ronald White	1/19	Stacie Ramsey	1/29		
William Rosebush	1/10	Gary Woelzlein	1/19	Michael White	1/29		
Lukas Selich	1/10	Connie Balcom	1/20	Lynn Borcharding	1/30		
Kody Steepe	1/10	Montgomery Carlyon	1/20	Ricky Horning	1/30		
Marcus H. Jensen Jr.	1/11	Richard Glady	1/20	Ellen Reinertson	1/30		
Benjamin Wittum	1/11	Carol Hagan	1/20	Chelsea Torrey	1/30		

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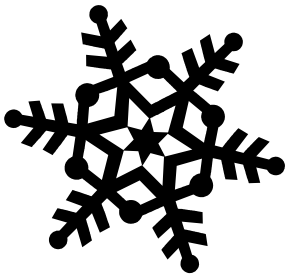
If your name does not appear on your birthday month, please call the church office so we can update our records. Thanks.

St. Paul Lutheran Church & School
4941 W. Center St.
Millington, MI 48746

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January 2011



A New Beginning

*It doesn't take a new year
To begin our lives anew -
God grants us new beginnings
Each day the whole year through.
So never be discouraged,
For there comes daily to all men
The chance to make another start
And begin all over again.*

-Helen Steiner Rice

Calendar of Events

Quilting

Tuesdays from 1-3PM in the Parish Hall.

Everyone is welcome!

We are also meeting on Sun., Jan. 9th from 1-4PM.

Heroes meets Tues., Jan. 4th at 7PM.
All men are welcome!

Dorcas Planning Meeting

Wed., Jan. 5th at 2:30PM

A SCRAPBOOK EVENT at St. Paul

(Sponsored by the Board of Youth & Fellowship)

Come for a great time of fellowship, fun, and learning.

Saturday, December 8th

TIME: 9AM-7PM -doors open to set up at 8:30AM

WHERE: The Parish Hall

COST: Pre register \$5.00 or \$10.00 at the door

PRIZES: Great Food! Great Fun! Prizes!

BRING: Your own stamping &/or scrapbook supplies,
a dish to pass and beverages if you want
other than coffee or water.

A Representative from Stampin' Up and Creative Memories will be set up with supplies, lessons, "how-to's" and ideas. **PLEASE R.S.V.P.** - Sign up in the school office or with Susan Jensen 871-4866 or e-mail: jenco33@yahoo.com

SCRAPBOOKING MAKES MEMORIES

THAT LAST A LIFETIME....

JESUS MAKES MEMORIES THAT LAST FOREVER!

Upcoming Scrapbooking Dates: Feb. 19th, Mar. 12th,
Apr. 9th, May 14th, June 11th

Messenger/Calendar Deadline

Mon., Jan. 17th

Dorcas Tea Party and New Member Welcome

All ladies of the congregation are invited to the Projects Room Sun., Jan. 23rd between services. Bring a friend and your favorite tea cup or coffee mug. Breakfast goodies, coffee, hot tea (regular & flavored), and hot cocoa will be available. There will be a short presentation explaining our Dorcas organization. We want to welcome new members and explain what Dorcas is. Ladies of our congregation have many talents. You will be amazed at the variety of ways you can join and help this great group of volunteers. Whether you like to sew quilts or Cathy caps, make craft items, cook and sample international foods or local goodies, or just visit a sick friend and send a card, our Dorcas ladies could use your help. Please consider joining today.

St. Paul Annual Fish Fry

Jan. 30, 2011 in the Parish Hall from 11AM-2:30PM

All-You-Can-Eat Menu:

Fried and Baked Fish, French Fries, Baked Potato, Homemade Macaroni and Cheese, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, Rolls, and a Variety of other Salads and Desserts.

Prices: Adults: \$8.50, Seniors (55+): \$7.50,
Children (5-12): \$4.50, Preschool: Free.

Takeout will also be available. All proceeds from the dinner will go to the general fund.

Please join us for a delicious homemade meal.

Desserts (pies, cakes, brownies, etc.) **and salads** (jello, tossed, vegetable, etc.) **are needed for the fish fry.** If you can help, please contact Lisa Bentley at 871-2005 or Heather Selich at 871-4039.

Mom to Mom Sale and Bake Sale

Sat., Feb. 5th from 8AM-8PM in the Parish Hall. Call Lori Osborn 989-205-9873 to rent an 8 foot table or space for \$10.00. If you have your own hanging racks or display racks, please bring them. Large items such as strollers, furniture, etc. are \$1.00 each to rent space. This is a fundraiser for St. Paul. You will keep the money from your sales, or you may donate items to be sold with the proceeds going to support our school. This is a great way to share your gently used children's items. We accept things of all sizes and baked goods of all kinds. Invite your friends to shop and find treasures for infants to young adults, as well as maternity clothes. All items are gently used and for sale at a reasonable price. You will find school clothes and shoes, church clothes, maybe an Easter outfit, and many everyday items.

SAVE THE DATE! Phantom of the Auction - The 8th annual VLHS Benefit Dinner & Auction is Sat., Feb. 26, 2011 at Apple Mountain Conference Center. The past 7 auctions have netted us over \$250,000 which has been applied to various school improvements including the 21st Century Classroom Initiative, busses, student aid, teacher training & more! Thank you for your past support of VLHS! We could use your help - we are asking for items to be donated and put up for bid (merchandise, tickets, services, vacation homes, etc.) There are also opportunities to participate by way of Prayer, advertising, sponsorship, or attending the auction. Click on our Auction link www.vlhs.com and get more information and check out our often-updated list of items. For further information or questions, you may call Valley Lutheran at 790-1676, Beth (Lambert) Kaul 989-754-5918 kaulfarm@airadv.net, or Karrie Gatza 989-667-0034 karriekookies@aol.com.

Happy New Year!



Spiritual News



Adult Bible Studies Sunday Mornings at 9:45AM

- † **Old Testament Bible Study** - Led by Pastor Bruner in the Parish Hall.
- † **The Gospel of Mark** - Led by David Kaiser in the Computer Lab.
- † **Effective Parenting in a Defective World** - Led by Paul Schoenkecht in the 5th grade classroom.
- † **Crown Financial Bible Study** - Led by Ted Wager. Orientation will be Jan. 9th and the Bible Study will begin on Jan. 23rd. The cost is \$45/single and \$55/couple.
- † **Adult Instruction Class** - Led by Pastor Abatelli in the Projects Room.
- † **S.T.A.T.I.C. (Serving Together As Teens In Christ) – High School Bible Study** – Led by Laura Gleim in the Youth Room.

St. Paul Cottage Meetings

The Board of Stewardship is working on bringing the congregation together through cottage meetings. Cottage meetings are small groups of people (8 up to 30) gathering in a home or possibly the church. We want to bring members together for fellowship. The idea is to build stronger relationships among the members and to provide them the opportunity to share what is on their hearts about how we can better serve one another and reach out to the world with the message of Jesus' love. We are still developing the format, but the evening could include a time for getting acquainted, time of hearing from God through His Word, sharing individual thoughts about the ministry St. Paul has or could have, and discussing the privileges and responsibilities of being a member of St. Paul. As this plan is developed, we hope you will get on board. Agree to help if asked to volunteer. Make a commitment to attend one of the cottage meetings that fits your schedule.

Excel in Giving

(Electronic Funds Transfer Service)

Did you know that you can have your gifts to the Lord given automatically through an electronic fund transfer system? It is a free service for you. You decide how much is given and when it is withdrawn from your bank account. You can change or discontinue whenever you need. There are many benefits to this approach to giving. Just two of the benefits are that it helps the church with its budgeting because your gifts are received even if you are out of town or miss worship for some other reason. A second benefit is the joy that comes from your commitment to give regular gifts to your Lord in support of the ministry that touches so many lives. Please contact the church office to sign up for this program.

January Scripture Readings

January 2nd

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-18
John 1:1-18

January 9th

Isaiah 42:1-7
Acts 10:34-38
Matthew 3:13-17

January 16th

Isaiah 49:1-6
I Corinthians 1:1-9
John 1:29-41

January 23rd

Isaiah 9:1-4
I Corinthians 1:10-17
Matthew 4:12-23

January 30th

Micah 6:1-8
I Corinthians 1:26-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Musical Opportunities

Church Choir Rehearsal

Wednesdays at 6:53PM

There is now a **nursery available** during choir rehearsal for parents with young children. Please join us.

Praise Team

Meets every Thursday at 6:15PM.
Anyone is welcome to join at any time.

Breakfast Club

Millington High School Students:

Every Friday Morning

@ 7am in the School Cafeteria!



EPIPHANY
JANUARY 6TH

Memorials and Special Gifts / Misc.

JANUARY 2011 MEMORIALS AND SPECIAL GIFTS

IN THANKSGIVING FOR Doris Gardner on her Birthday General Fund	\$500.00
IN HONOR OF Lloyd & Norma Taylor on their 54 th Wedding Anniversary General Fund	\$100.00
IN HONOR OF Irene Smith General Fund	\$20.00
IN HONOR OF Edna Keinath on her 90 th Birthday General Fund	\$20.00
IN HONOR OF Mary Jane Shreve at Christmas Jack Shreve Scholarship	\$75.00
IN HONOR OF Don & June Bierlein on their 51 st Wedding Anniversary General Fund	\$51.00
IN MEMORY OF Helen Bush General Fund	\$20.00
IN MEMORY OF James Roeske General Fund	\$50.00
IN MEMORY OF Donna Pogoreski General Fund	\$1000.00
IN MEMORY OF Melvin Ronald Colman General Fund	\$100.00
IN MEMORY OF Mary Snover General Fund	\$10.00
Building Fund	\$25.00
To be designated by family	\$20.00
IN MEMORY OF Jennifer Laplow Philo General Fund	\$80.00
To be designated by family	\$55.00
Future Church Worker	\$10.00
Stephens Ministry	\$10.00
IN MEMORY OF Erwin Reinert General Fund	\$1720.00
To be designated by family	\$ 845.00
Building Fund	\$ 200.00
St. Paul's School	\$ 85.00
To be designated by Memorial Comm	\$ 35.00
Stephens Ministry	\$ 25.00
IN MEMORY OF Juanita Wiacek General Fund	\$ 125.00
Building Fund	\$ 45.00
To be designated by family	\$ 20.00



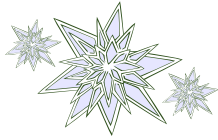
Thank You!

Another year for the **Giving Tree** has been wrapped up and another year for me to learn that with God all things are possible. When it was time to pull the remaining stars from the tree and have my shoppers go fill the needs of those stars, there were at least 140 stars left, not counting the stars for laundry soap, toilet paper, gas cards etc. My heart dropped and I didn't know where the money was going to come from to fill all of those stars. When am I going to learn that all I have to do is turn to God and He will do amazing things through all of His amazing people?! The very next day, I received over 600 dollars to help with those needs. We were able to fill all of the stars and do the gas and grocery gift cards for 20 families, over 75 individuals! **I can not begin to thank the many people who helped me this year.** Not only with gifts and money but with cookies, wrapping, sorting, boxing, delivering etc. I am so blessed to be able to do this ministry because it helps me always remember what wonderful people there are at St. Paul and how blessed I am to be a child of God! May you all have a blessed CHRISTmas. Betty DeOrnellas

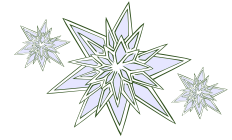
I am thankful to be able to share with you that current seminarians are each receiving scholarships of \$2,300 this school year. By comparison, just three short years ago, the **scholarship level was \$1,025. Why the increase? By God's great grace, your response, and that of His people to The Future is Now** campaign, has allowed the scholarship levels to more than double in just three years. (I suspect they will continue to increase as the campaign continues to advance.) We are overjoyed that the Michigan District is able to provide scholarships totaling nearly \$100,000 this school year to seminary students from the Michigan District. Praise God! As you and your congregation go through this season of joyous worship, giving, loving, caring, and sharing, please consider how you can respond to this important need of our church for its future. We will be entering a period of time in a few years, when it is expected a large number of current pastors will be making decisions to retire. Therefore, we need to do all we can today to prepare for when this happens. Continuing to improve our scholarship capability will be a great help for students who are studying to be future pastors and other professional church workers.

- Rev. David P. E. Maier, President Michigan District, LCMS

Carryover Deficit 11/1/10 (Correction)	(39,453.71)
November General Fund Income	91,114.10
General Fund Expenses	<u>91,720.29</u>
Balance	(606.19)
Ending Deficit 11/30/10	<u>(40,059.90)</u>
Missions (Budgeted & Non-Budgeted)	2,177.10
T.I.M.	1,459.50
Building Fund	17,518.10
VLHS	552.00
Boiler Fund	4,570.00



January Schedule



Acolytes

January	Time	Acolyte	Back Up
1 st	7:30PM	Jeremy Corrigan	Brendan Johnson
2 nd	8:30AM	Andrew & Richard Cobb	Nick Harson
2 nd	11AM	Austin & Scott Koch	Shane & Owen Reinig
8 th	7:30PM	Tyler & Jordan Goodhue	Brandon David
9 th	8:30AM	Nick Harson	Andrew & Richard Cobb
9 th	11AM	Shane & Owen Reinig	Austin & Scott Koch
15 th	7:30PM	Brendan Johnson	Jeremy Corrigan
16 th	8:30AM	Tim & Kent Singer	Evan Hoard
16 th	11AM	Aaron Reinbold	Justin Allen
22 nd	7:30PM	Brandon David	Tyler & Jordan Goodhue
23 rd	8:30AM	Eddie & Ed Meeks	Tim or Aaron Singer
23 rd	11AM	Justin Allen	Aaron Reinbold
29 th	7:30PM	Tyler & Jordan Goodhue	Brandon David
30 th	8:30AM	Evan Hoard	Eddie & Ed Meeks
30 th	11AM	David & Mike Derscha	Aaron Knoll

Greeters

First Sunday	8:30AM 11:00AM	Shirley Petzold, Ken & Kathy III Les & Diane Maxson, Ron & Olga Nims
Second Sunday	8:30AM 11:00AM	Russell & Sherry III & Rachel III LuAnn Licavoli, Wayne & Luanne Jaruzel
Third Sunday	8:30AM 11:00AM	Dianne Scarborough, Natalie Smith Rosie Horning, Linda Kester, Dale & Pam Hanlin
Fourth Sunday	8:30AM 11:00AM	Jim Bickel Evelyn Gregory, Anna Tuttle, Cheri Sutherland
Fifth Sunday	8:30AM 11:00AM	Donna Torrey Linda Kester, Steve & Nila Schmandt
Second Saturday	7:30PM	Bill Bleuer & Betty Bleuer
Greeter Subs – Denise Miller (871-2675), Sherry Sebert (871-3084)		

Ushers

Team C

7:30PM	Jeffrey Yorke - Captain Mathew Hoard, Michael Hoard, Michael Schiefer
8:30AM	Captain - Glenn Brown; Assistant - Vic Reinert John Hergenreder, Alex Kern, Mike Kern, Nate Kern, Tim Kern, Brian Meier, Jeff Platt, Ron Schiefer, Bill Weber, Duane Weber Ed White
11:00AM	Captain - Mike Daenzer; Assistant - Tim Brown Tim Daenzer, Larry Henderson, Roger Keinath, Matthew Lynn, Michael Lynn, Arlyn Marks, Jim Rude, Mark Rude, Rod Wilson

Church Sextons

Rodger & Judy Grulke	Elmer Snover
Ray & Judy Leach	Ted & Katrina Wager
Ron & Ruth Mieske	Rod & Nancy Wilson

Thank you to everyone who in any way volunteers their time to help with the worship services. May your servant heart continue to bless those you serve at St. Paul.

Tithing Stories

We are writing this letter to challenge any of our fellow St. Paul Lutheran Christian brothers and sisters to tithe regularly. (For those who don't practice tithing.)

Admittedly, Joyce and I haven't always given a tithe to the church. We gave what extra money we had after paying bills, but not the "First Fruits." One of the members of the St. Paul Church family started a discussion with us about how his family tithed before paying bills and the effect that it had in his family's life and their business. He led us through why we should want to tithe and the rewarded blessings enjoyed because of it.

Since that discussion, about 10 years ago, we started to tithe, although not every week. It didn't seem that important to us to tithe weekly. Through prayer and also hearing more about tithing in the messages on Sunday mornings, we eventually began tithing every week and our family has been blessed by the Grace of God ever since. After giving our tithe to God at St. Paul, we always have enough of what we need, "Our daily bread" (food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, vehicles, health, money, electricity, heat) with thanksgiving. Over and above our tithe to St. Paul Lutheran Church from our salaries, God blessed us with additional income from our employers and customers. With this extra income, we have always taken 10% of the total gift and used it to pass on as blessings to others. It seemed when there was a need, either ours or someone else's, God would bless us with this extra money, allowing us to pass on part of our blessing (tithe) to someone else in need. We even tithe from our garage sales. When Bob lost his job and income last year, Joyce's business started to increase, so God is helping us through these difficult times, too. Although our income is substantially less than when Bob was working, we still tithe.

All of us at St. Paul should be thankful to God for His blessings, His unconditional love, His grace, and His mercy and we should all try to give our "First Fruits" to Him, to Glorify His Name and to serve Him. When you tithe, your blessings will increase and your lives will be changed forever. Please pray about tithing today.

Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

God's Blessings,
Bob and Joyce

"I'm a good person and I care about others and the church. If I give something to the church, I am doing a good deed and pleasing God. If I give more than someone else, then the church should appreciate it. If I give what I think is fair, then who are they to question it?" This kind of described my early view of how much of my money I gave to the church. I volunteer a lot. I serve on boards and committees. I attend Bible classes faithfully. I make my pledge to the church, and when I miss a Sunday, I make it up on the next week. At one point, I considered what percentage of my income I gave. I started out giving 5-6% of my income. "Not bad," I said to myself. When I worked overtime, I gave more. When the church asked, I gave more because I could afford it.

My relationship with God is much more than what I give in offerings. It is part of who I am. In fact, I cannot be separated from God unless I choose to be. All the blessings in my life, including my income, are on account of Him. He provides for me, and I am part of the family of God at St. Paul. As a family, we take care of our needs. I set out to become a tither by gradually increasing my giving to 8%. When I got to 8%, I struggled with the definition of tithing. Is it 10% before or after taxes? If it is after taxes, I'm good. 10% before taxes is another story. I'm sure God is pleased, if I am giving out of joy. Remember His words: "give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." The question of this "law" became a stumbling block for many years. I also struggled with how much I gave when He blessed me with extra income, such as overtime money. God made my choice easier. He took away the extra money I make from overtime. I gladly tithe now (before taxes.) I think that God doesn't keep an account of exactly how much I give or what % of my income that I actually give. Thanks be to God. I don't focus on what others do. I focus on what God has done and continues to do in my life.



St. Paul Lutheran School

January 2011

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!”

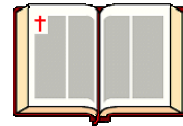
1 John 3 :1

Welcome to the year 2011! What a way to start the brand new year, than with our Lord and Savior! We begin our journey with hearts that are open and ready for God to lovingly lead us on His path through the year to come.

Our hymn of the month is Let Our Gladness Banish Soddness **LSB #371**

Our Bible verses for the month are:

1/2-8	Romans 8:15
1/9-15	Matthew 18:19-20
1/16-22	Matthew 23:9
1/23-29	Matthew 25:34
1/30-2/5	Matthew 28:19



Here is a list of the up-coming school activities for January.

- Jan. 3 School resumes
- Jan. 6 Epiphany
- Jan. 28 ½ day of school ~ end of quarter School dismisses at 11:10 a.m. **NO BUSESSES**

Watch the school newsletter and the website for any special additions to the calendar for January.

If there is a school delay or cancellation, we will be following Millington public schools. You will get these notifications on any of the major television or radio stations in the area and through the School Reach phone system of St. Paul.



Jan. 16

School Musical Opportunities

Free Spirit Choir



8:30 a.m.

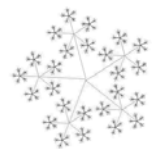
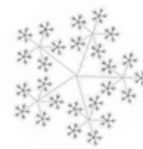
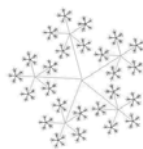
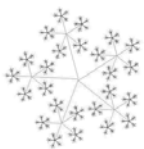
Spartan Sports Our basketball season for boys and girls on the B-teams finished last month. Thank you to the coaches, fans and parents for all they did for these children. A-Team basketball starts this month. The girls start the play followed by the boys. Come and support the children as they use their God-given talents.



January Girl's & Boy's A-team Basketball

Jan. 14-16	Boys Tournament at St. Paul, Bay City	TBA
Jan. 15	Girls Tournament at HOME	TBA
Jan.18	at St. Paul, Flint	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	with Christ the King (GIRLS only)	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 22	Girls Tournament at Christ the King	TBA
	Boys Tournament at HOME	TBA
Jan. 26	with Peace, Saginaw	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	at St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth	6:00 p.m.

We have many programs going on throughout the school year that earn money for St. Paul: Box-Tops for Education, can tabs, Campbell soup labels, drink pouches, ink cartridges, SCRIP, Thrivent, Meijer and Kroger programs and others. Some other programs that have started are those with the following companies: Lay's Snacks, Mars candies. See the school office for more information.



JANUARY 2011

St. Paul Lutheran Church Activities

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
Notes 9:45AM Bible Study Sunday School Adult Instruction Class						1 No Service
2  8:30AM Worship+C Church Choir **See Notes**  11AM Worship Church Choir	3 School Resumes  7PM Handbells 7PMPublic School Confirmation	4 1-3PM Quilting 7PM Heroes	5 2:30PM Dorcas Planning Meeting  6:53PM Choir 7PM LYF Basketball Game	6  6:15PM Praise Team	7 9-11AM Storyhour	8 9AM-7PM Scrapbooking  7:30PM Worship +C
9  8:30AM Worship **See Notes**  11AM Worship +C 1-4PM Quilting	10  7PM Handbells 7PMPublic School Confirmation	11 1-3PM Quilting	12  6:53PM Choir 7PM LYF Basketball Game	13  6:15PM Praise Team	14 9-11AM Storyhour	15  7:30PM Worship
16  8:30AM Worship+C Free Spirit **See Notes**  11AM Worship Contemporary	17 <i>Messenger / Calendar Deadline</i>  7PM Handbells 7PM Public School Confirmation	18 1-3PM Quilting	19  6:53PM Choir	20  6:15PM Praise Team	21 9-11AM Storyhour	22  7:30PM Worship +C
23  8:30AM Worship Handbells **See Notes** 9:45AM Dorcas Tea Party  11AM Worship +C Contemporary 7PM LYF Game	24  7PM Handbells 7PMPublic School Confirmation	25 1-3PM Quilting 7PM Evangelism	26  6:53PM Choir 7PM LYF Basketball Game	27  6:15PM Praise Team	28 ½ Day School 9-11AM Storyhour	29  7:30PM Worship
30 Youth Service  8:30AM Worship **See Notes**  11AM Worship 11AM-2:30PM Fish Fry 7PM LYF Basketball Game	31  7PM Handbells 7PMPublic School Confirmation					

