

# St. Paul's

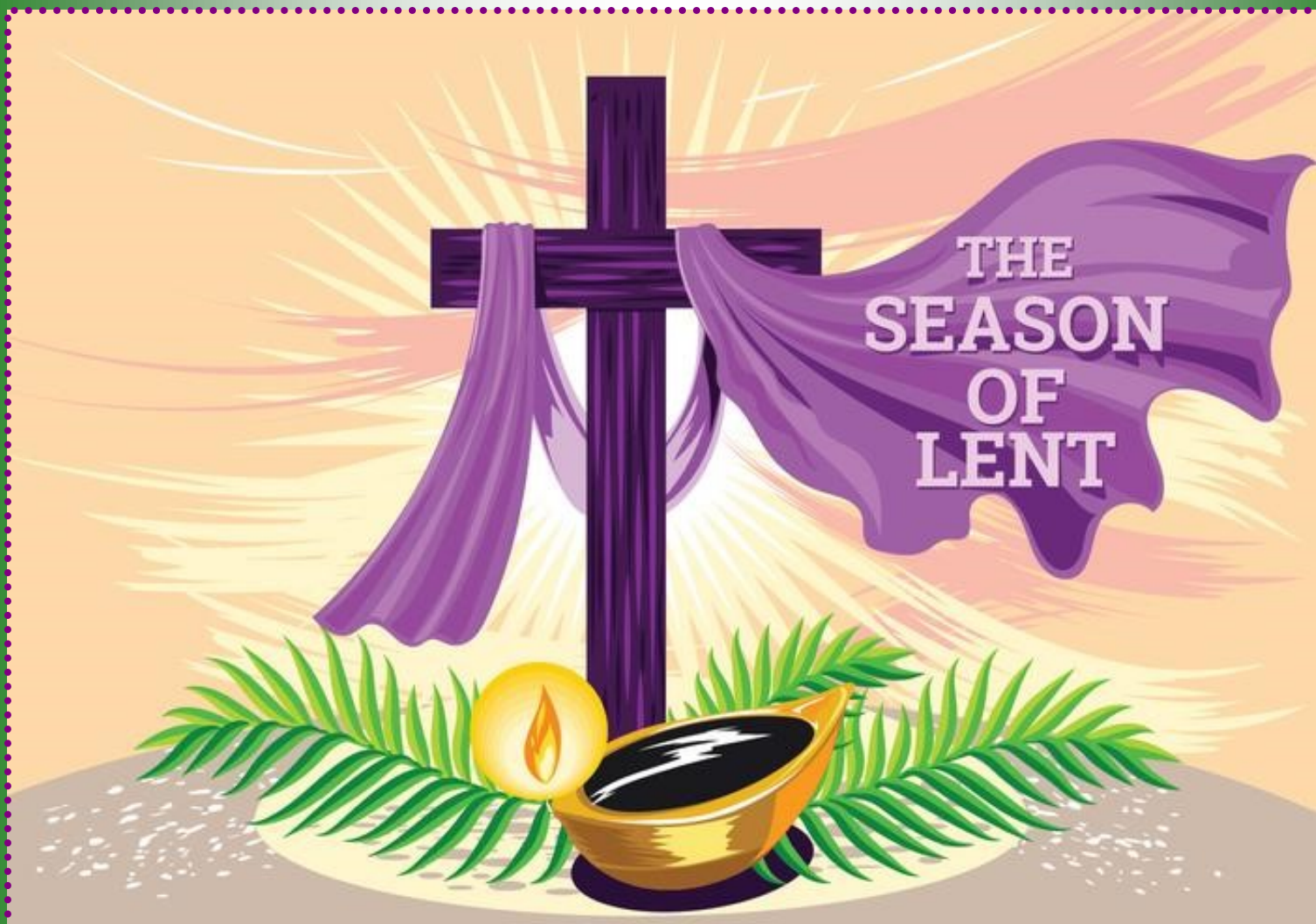


UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

MARCH

2021

# THE BEACON



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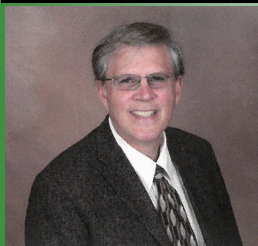
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Dear Friends,

One of the great needs in our community and world today is the need for better mental health. One of the most positive responses to this need is wholesome relationships with other people. St. Paul's is addressing this need through the formation of Christ-Centered Connection groups. These regularly meeting, small, online groups offer the opportunity for people to share confidentially in gatherings centered upon Christ – through scripture and prayer. These experiences are also structured so that people can voluntarily share about their recent “highs and lows” without fear of another group member trying to “fix” them or dominate the discussion.

Groups leaders have been coached to help create a “safe place” for anyone to share. I believe these groups can make a vital difference in people's feelings and experiences. They are “wholly” in the sense that they address simple, spiritual, emotional and social needs that every person has. Won't you give it a try? You have nothing to lose and very much to gain. Call the church office and we can find a time during the week that works best for you. We have several groups meeting currently through the week.

Peace,

*Pastor Greg*

revgl@stpaulsucccl.org

485 Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL  
Rev. Gregory Lucas, Pastor

Phone: 815-459-5096

E-mail: [info@stpaulsucccl.org](mailto:info@stpaulsucccl.org)

Website: [www.stpaulsucc-cl.org](http://www.stpaulsucc-cl.org)

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram:  
[stpauls\\_ucc\\_cl](#)

**One Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.**  
Via Facebook Live or streaming on website.

**Church Office Hours**  
**8:30 a.m.— 2:30 p.m. Monday-Friday**

**St. Paul's Christian**  
**Preschool 815-479-9770**

## Easter Lilies

There is still time to purchase an Easter Lily for \$10.00. The final date to turn in your check to the office is March 14th.

You may pick up your lily on Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at church from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. or from 4 p.m. -6 p.m. If you can't make those times, contact Cheryl Triefenbach and we will arrange for someone to meet you at church for pickup.

*Cheryl Triefenbach*



### Easter Lilies

**Deadline for Ordering:**  
**Sunday, March 14, 2021**

\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lilies at \$10.00 each

**All plants will be available to take home from 10 am - 2 pm or 4 pm - 6 pm on Monday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**Please write your listing as you would like it to appear in the Easter bulletin. Thank you.**

**Memorial Listing**

**Honor Listing**

**Neither or Other**

Enclosed is my payment for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please print names clearly*

**Place your order form and payment and mail to:**

*St. Paul's Church 485 W. Woodstock St., Crystal Lake, IL 60014*

March 2021



Dear Church Family,

Warmest greetings to you all! We enter this Lenten season in March with many reasons to be hopeful. On the most tangible level, we are emerging from a snowy and cold winter and can look forward to warmer weather and the arrival of spring, bringing with it new growth and renewal. On a more spiritual level, we embrace this Lenten season of reflection, prayer, and fasting (or other forms of self-control), as we faithfully prepare to celebrate Jesus' glorious Resurrection, our Ultimate Hope, on Easter Sunday. And finally, we are on the cusp of turning the tide in our fight against this horrific pandemic which has taken so much from us. A number of us have been or soon will be vaccinated and there is hope that we can begin the return to normalcy in the coming months. There is so much to be hopeful for!

In that spirit of hope and preparation, our Church Council, the Emergency Management Committee (EMC) and the Worship Committee have all been meeting to discuss and actively prepare our Church for safely reopening for in-person services in the near future, assuming all goes as planned and the health environment and metrics continue to improve. Now *that's* something to be hopeful for!

As part of our many actions to prepare for reopening for in-person services, the EMC and Church Council, with input from the Worship Committee, have developed and approved a set of guidelines for safely reopening our Church for in-person services. You can find a summary of these guidelines on page 4 of this Beacon and the approved guidelines in full on pages 17-19. It is important to note that we have not yet determined a specific date for reopening St. Paul's. You will be notified when a date has been set. There are still several important details that need to be addressed before we can reopen, which the EMC, Worship Committee, and Church Council are hard at work addressing. We did, however, believe it was important to share these guidelines with you in advance as we approach this important milestone so that you can prepare yourselves for what to expect and be nurtured by the hope that a tangible set of guidelines for safely reopening our Church can provide.

Please take some time to look the guidelines over and familiarize yourself with them. We are working on posting the guidelines and related information on St. Paul's website, so be on the lookout for that. It is our top priority to keep our Church members, staff, and visitors safe and healthy and we can all play a role in that by understanding and following these guidelines. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

In keeping with this message's theme of hope, I'd like to leave you with these words from the Scriptures, Romans 5:3-5: *"Not only that, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us..."*

May you receive God's fruit of the Spirit as we joyously prepare for and anticipate our Lord's Resurrection and being together again soon!

*Nancy Bellis*, Church Council President



# Summary Guidelines for in Person Worship

## Church Reopening Guidelines During Phase 4

We are preparing to open our Church for in-person worship on Sunday mornings at a limited capacity to allow for social distancing and to meet current regulations. We will notify you when we have set a date for returning. In the meantime, we thought it would be helpful for you to review and familiarize yourselves with the Guidelines for in-person worship. Below is a brief summary. We realize these Guidelines change our normal way of worshipping, but for the safety and health of all we believe they are necessary for now. Please keep in mind that they are temporary until the health environment improves. *To read the complete Guidelines, please see pages 17-19.*

### Summary of In-Person Worship Guidelines at St. Paul's Church:

- ◆ In-person Sunday worship services will initially resume with only one Sunday service at 10:30 am. We will notify you when these in-person services are scheduled to begin as soon as a date has been set.
- ◆ You will need to sign up ahead of time for worship (details to come). A maximum of 50 people are allowed to attend in accordance with state and local regulations.
- ◆ Face coverings must be worn at all times in the building, except when participating in communion.
- ◆ You may enter at either the upper or lower level doors, however the elevator will not be available.
- ◆ You will be greeted at the entrance by an Usher or Greeter and asked to proceed directly to the Sanctuary. Please sanitize your hands at the available sanitation stations.
- ◆ Worship bulletins (and on Communion Sundays, prepackaged communion cups) will be available upon entering the Sanctuary.
- ◆ Seating in the Sanctuary will be in accordance with social distancing guidelines. Alternate pews will be roped off to allow for social distancing.
- ◆ For the time being, all singing will be done by Kristin Lundine, our Musical Director.
- ◆ Please refrain from handshakes, hugs and other close personal contact and instead substitute them with greetings that minimize person-to-person contact.
- ◆ Live streaming of our Sunday worship service will continue to be available through YouTube (accessed from St. Paul's website) or St. Paul's Facebook page. Sunday School classes will also continue to be offered online.
- ◆ We regret that nursery care will not be available during the service at the present time.
- ◆ Prayer books, hymnals, bibles, pens, information cards, etc. will be temporarily removed from pews during services, so please bring your own if you want them.
- ◆ After worship, people are kindly asked not to remain in the Narthex and to instead save their socially distanced greetings for outside the Church.
- ◆ For the safety and health of everyone, please stay home if you are sick or experiencing Covid-19 symptoms or have been exposed to anyone who has symptoms of or has tested positive for COVID-19.

# Celebrating 125th Anniversary of St. Paul's UCC

As we celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Paul's UCC in Crystal Lake, Illinois we look today at the pastorates of St. Paul's.

Knowing that St. Paul's was founded by German immigrants and provided at least one worship service in the German language for the first many years it may not surprise you that it seems every Pastor from the 1896-2004 was of German descent.

In 1948 a planning survey was done by the denomination and one of the findings is quoted as: "During pastorates lasting over 40 years, not counting the periods of vacancies, there were 17 pastorates from 1896-1947. Two of these extended over nine and seven years respectively. Beyond these there was one of three years duration; of the remaining 14 there were eight of two-year periods each, and six each of a year's length or less." Although that may seem confusing, the bottom line is that it showed a period of the history in church where some pastorates lasted less than a year. This is evident in the last line of that portion of the survey. "One can only imagine the plight of many short pastorates."

From 1948 thru 1980 there were 8 pastorates, which brings the average up to almost 4 years each.

From 1980- present there have been 3 which makes the average as of today over 10 years each.

Our present Pastor, Reverend Greg Lucas is our longest serving Pastor to date. He began his service to St. Paul's in March of 2004.

Are those numbers a sign of the times or is it a sign of the church? Of course, each Pastor's end of service to any congregation could be for a multitude of reasons. For example, Pastor of St. Paul's Theo Mayer died tragically in 1948. According to newspaper articles found in our church library history section it was reported that after breakfast Rev. Mayer told his wife he was not feeling well and decided to take a walk before the Sunday morning worship service. It is further reported that while they are unsure what exactly led to this tragic event it has been surmised, he may have suffered a heart attack and subsequently fell upon the railroad tracks before the morning train reached the station. This event was certainly shocking to this congregation as well as a great loss.

Another loss for the congregation of St. Paul's was the sad loss of a much beloved Pastor Walter Bloesch. He died of complications from cancer during the time preparations were underway to build an education wing addition to the church. The congregation followed through with their original plans and broke ground on that addition just three short months after his passing and aptly named the education wing in his honor. A memorial plaque honoring Reverend Bloesch is located in the Narthex doorway leading to the education wing.

Pastor Harold Wilke another beloved Pastor of St. Paul's left after 5 short years to serve the United Church of Christ denomination and became quite famous and loved for his work with Americans with disabilities.

Although I only have evidence of one Pastor being asked to resign, I would think that the members of that time

# Pastorates of St. Paul's

Even though there have been instances where we have had assistant Pastor's and interns to help share the load over the years, I have often thought about the pressure being the lead Pastor must be on one person for the church.

During the course of study of Pastor Greg's recent sermon series on the fruit of the spirit described in Galatians 5:22-23 as "Love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" I learned that the "flavors" of the fruit while personal in nature are also to be shared in community. When I think of that I am reminded of the scripture verses which are part of our current vision statement.

Philippians 2: 2-4 "...then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interest of others."

Romans 12: 5 – 8 "...so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a person's gift is prophesying, let them use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let them serve; if it is teaching, let them teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let them give generously; if it is leadership, let them govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."

To me those verses describe community very well. It reminds us we are all unique with our individual strengths as well as weaknesses and to that end we come together to serve one greater than ourselves. The One without whom our lives would be meaningless.

Dear God,

We thank you for gifts we have received from You. We thank You for the Pastors that have served this congregation for the past 125 years. We thank You for their leadership and love for You that enables them to do Your work. We thank you also for this community of which we belong to that encourages and strengthens us to serve You and each other to the best of our abilities. We ask You to guide us as we seek to CONNECT through our local, regional and global work and love to bring glory and honor to your name.

Amen

*Donna Butler*





# Pastorates of St. Paul's

## Rev. Theodore Mayer Found Dead Sun. Opposite Depot

Local Pastor Suffered Attack  
or Fell in Path  
of Train

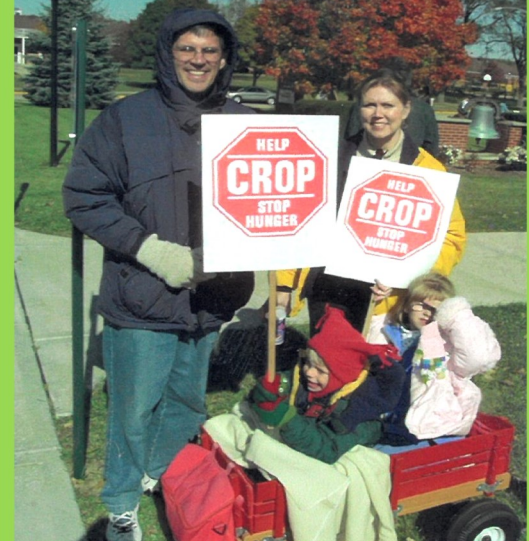
Rev. Theodore Mayer, 61, pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed church at Sherman and Ellsworth sts., for the last year, was found dead at 9:50 Sunday morning opposite the depot. No one saw the accident, the lifeless body being noted by Joe Pa-



THE BLOESCH CENTER  
OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION  
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
JUNE 14, 1970

THIS BUILDING DEDICATED IN BELOVED  
MEMORY OF REVEREND WALTER W. BLOESCH  
PASTOR TO THIS CONGREGATION 1955 - 1969

The Lucas Family  
CROP WALK  
October 17, 2004





# Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Sharon Dieball	3/1
Luke Eckhardt	3/2
Rosanne Zickus	3/3
Mary Gonzales	3/6
Michael Dul	3/8
David Kranz	3/8
Ronald Johnson	3/9
Barb Kriegel	3/9
Abigail Wikma	3/9

Meg Reckamp	3/11
Lisa MacKenzie	3/13
Catherine Schmidt	3/13
John Arvidson	3/17
Jean Nulle	3/18
Regina Lombardo	3/19
Deborah Sroka	3/20
Jennifer Campisi	3/22



Joe Rickard	3/23
Betty Eslick	3/24
Riley MacKenzie	3/24
Donald Roxworthy	3/25
Ken Thrun	3/27
Mary Katenhusen	3/28
Janice Bordignon	3/31
Eric Dawson	3/31



Isaiah Elizarraraz	4/3
Nolan Lotesto	4/3
Harper Lang	4/4
Nancy Kramer	4/8
Charlie Lang	4/8
Terri Deuerling	4/8
Pastor Greg Lucas	4/10
Adam Reckamp	4/10
Evelyn Winter	4/11
Jane Dawson	4/12
Gary Woodrum	4/15

Robin Mullard	4/16
Pete Singer	4/17
Edward Bourdage	4/18
Janet Henneman	4/19
Nick Lingner	4/19
Rob Breeden	4/20
Emily Benz	4/21
Brian Butler	4/22
Bob Reber	4/23
Emilee Campisi	4/30
Ursula Kriegel	4/30



# Church News

## **Let's Connect! Introducing God's Pods (GP)**

Our St. Paul's TPIRC team (Thriving Pastors in Revitalizing Congregations) is rolling out another opportunity to better connect us with each other during this continuing pandemic time when we are away from each other.

This offering, **God's Pods (GP)**, will primarily use the technology *of email*. The intent will be to allow all of us who sign up to better connect with others in our congregation and get to know some we either don't know well or may know only by face.

**How GP Will Work:** We will be forming email "pods" of 4. You can sign up individually or as a couple. If you are a couple, you can still sign up individually if you would like to be placed in your own pod. Its up to you to decide.

These email "pods" **will be formed in groups of 4**. We will try to put those signed up into a group where you **do NOT know the others** in that group well, if at all. As you move forward in your weekly email exchanges, you get to share your background, interests, likes/dislikes, hobbies, books, movies, pets, church thoughts, whatever...with all the other members in your pod of 4. Again, the focus is getting us closer together and also allowing us to get to know others in our congregation we do not know very well, but in the safe comfort of email exchanges.

**Weekly Emails:** The suggestion of the program is that each person(s) in their respective pod will communicate by email with the other 3 members in their assigned pod at least once a week. When an email is sent out, it is to ALL the members of the pod. Therefore, you send out one email "chat" and will receive three emails back. On whatever topic the pod group is would like to "talk" about. If you want to communicate more frequently than weekly, that is up to each respective pod.

**To Get It Started:** No one in the pod is the leader. Really, you all are! To get things rolling, we will provide you some initial topic ideas for which you can start your pen pal exchanges. Anyone in the pod can suggest some other ideas as you move forward...such as "what is your favorite movie and why", "what type of books do you like and can you recommend a good one", or even "what's your favorite food recipe and can you share?" Anything is open to "talk" about.

**Once We Are Back Together:** Once we are again able to attend in-person services, you will have "met" others you did not really know in the congregation. If you like, you can continue to email any or all of your pod with your new found friendship connection. Perhaps your pod might suggest getting together for a breakfast out after church service (once vaccine is in place and it is deemed safe to do so).

**Bottom Line:** We will have better connected with each other, feel just a little bit closer to our church community, and we have something to look forward to at least weekly from our fellow pod participants by way of ongoing email conversations.

**Come...Try it! To Sign Up:** Send your name and email address to: [TPIRC485@gmail.com](mailto:TPIRC485@gmail.com) Once we have enough people registering, we will reach back out to you and let you know when we have placed you in a pod along with the other 3 pod members.

**For Those Without Email Access:** You can participate by regular mail and we will connect you with others that also do not have email access. You can either write or computer print out and send your communications through regular mail to each other. If you wish to sign up, please call **Lena at the Church Office (815- 459- 5096)** and provide your name and address and we will get info back to you!

**Cancelling Out:** If you try this but find its not for you, simply let us know you are cancelling your GP involvement by again contacting us at: [TPIRC485@gmail.com](mailto:TPIRC485@gmail.com) We will handle the rest.

*The TPIRC Committee*

# Church News



## Calling All Techs!

We are looking for Church volunteers to assist our present Sunday live streaming team with our online Sunday services. We will be continuing live streaming of our Sunday services even after we are all back at Church attending in-person services, so this will remain a very important ministry to contribute to our Church's growth and outreach. Interested volunteers ideally would possess familiarity with the basics of using online live streaming platforms (Facebook, YouTube) and broadcast software, such as OBS or Vmix, as well as video production basics, using multiple cameras and other image and audio sources. Knowledge of video and photo editing software, as well as audio mixing techniques and experience in digital photography and the basics of composition is also helpful. Some training will be available.

Volunteers would serve as members of a team of Technicians, with a rotating service schedule. Responsibilities would include reviewing and editing as necessary congregant video content prior to the Sunday service, coordinating with the Pastor and Musical Director on aspects of the streaming production prior to "go live," managing live audio levels of separate in-house and streaming mixes, and working through any "in-flight" technical difficulties.

A typical Sunday commitment would include arriving 60-90 minutes prior to the service for set up and preparation, and recording the streaming content and Pastor's Sermon Message.

After the service, an upload of the recorded content to YouTube (typically 30 minutes) would be necessary.

This is a vital service for our Church and we hope that experienced and dedicated volunteers will prayerfully consider contributing their time and talents to this important ministry. If interested, please contact Brian Click at [brian.click@att.net](mailto:brian.click@att.net).





# Church News



Hi everyone!

Now that the end of my 2020 duties is complete I will have more time to focus on posting with some regularity on our St. Paul's Facebook page. Be sure to check in daily and feel free to add a photo of you and your family with a short caption. It's a great way to stay in touch and will also help newer members and myself get to know you. You can also watch Pastor Greg's daily videos, each day Pastor is taking time to post an inspirational message for all members. Give them a LIKE and share a comment.

If you have not *LIKED* our page please do so. You can go directly to our St. Paul's page, just click on the link. <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsuccel> and click on the button

Give us a



[Here is a list of our weekly and monthly church communications that are sent via email:](#)

Church Chatter: Wednesday (email only)

Sunday Bulletin: Thursday (email and homebound members get a copy by mail)

The Beacon: Monthly (the beginning of the month) Extra copies are always available on the desk in the Narthex and in the mailbox. (right side)

*If you have an address or phone number change please call me in the church office so I can update our member directory. @ 815-459-5096 or you can send me an email at [info@stpaulsuccel.org](mailto:info@stpaulsuccel.org)*

*Lena*

## Unique Opportunity

The family of a long-ago member of St. Paul's (Mathilda Wiston) inherited some cemetery plots at McHenry County Memorial Park in Woodstock. Their family doesn't need these plots and would like to donate them to St. Paul's to be gifted to any Church members who might be interested. Other than a \$99 transfer fee per plot, the plots are free of charge. There are currently **6 plots** being offered. If there are more interested Church members than there are plots available, the plots will be gifted on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you are interested, please call **Lena, our Church Office Manager**, to let her know. A member of the Church Council will follow up with you for additional details.

# Church News

## *Christ-Centered Connections*

Dear Friends,

Pastor Greg has written a wonderful article on the first page of this Beacon. It is in regards to the importance of mental health in our community and the world today. We will be addressing this issue in our ongoing Christ-Centered Connections groups.

Just a reminder that these structured, confidential gatherings will be facilitated by fellow members and are an opportunity for people who are desiring more Christian connections. They will include a time for “checking in,” prayer, and scripture. As Jesus said, “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of the.”

(Matthew 18:20)

You can still sign up and be included in a group by sending an e-mail to Lena @ [info@stpaulsucccl.org](mailto:info@stpaulsucccl.org) or call the office at **815-459-5096** with the best day and time to meet. Initially the groups intends on meeting twice per month.

*Jim Henneman*

## *Compassion Child*

As many of you know, we as a church sponsor Andrian (Now 14 years old!!) from East Indonesia through Compassion International. Usually, I do a brief presentation during service each year and after service, collect \$38 contributions from those willing to cover one month of sponsorship. This year, I will be encouraging this remotely. If you are willing and able to help with Andrian’s sponsorship costs, would you please let me know by calling or texting me at **224-357-0180** so I can make sure we have the costs for this year covered. From there you can just write a check to St Paul’s and put “Compassion” in the memo and submit to the church office as you usually would. Also, if anyone would like to send a letter to Andiron, just let me know and I’ll get you some stationary and a stamped and addressed envelope. Also, please let me know if you are interested in sponsoring a child yourself. I can get you signed up.

*Laura Middaugh*





Dear St. Paul family,

Thank you for all the card's, prayers and loving sympathy shown to us in the passing of my father, Harold Wittig. It brings us great comfort to know so many people care.

God bless you all!

Gene & Lynn Virzi

Dear church family,

Thank you for the nice treats and card that was delivered to me during the Christmas season. The poinsettia flower is still blooming.

I would also like to thank those who have called or sent me a letter.

With love,

Arlene Kopsell



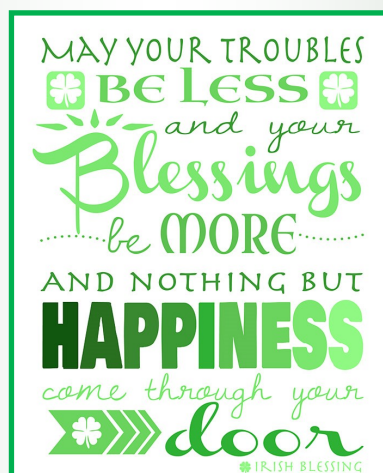
Dear St. Paul members and friends,

With humble thanks and love, the family of Ginny Katenhusen wishes to express our deepest thanks to all of our St. Paul's family for the outpouring of love we have received since her passing from this life.

Your prayers, calls, texts, cards and gifts during this time are greatly appreciated. While we recognize that in the larger sense this is not up to us but it is our hope that sometime this year, we will be able to celebrate her life with all our family and friends through some type of service at St. Paul's.

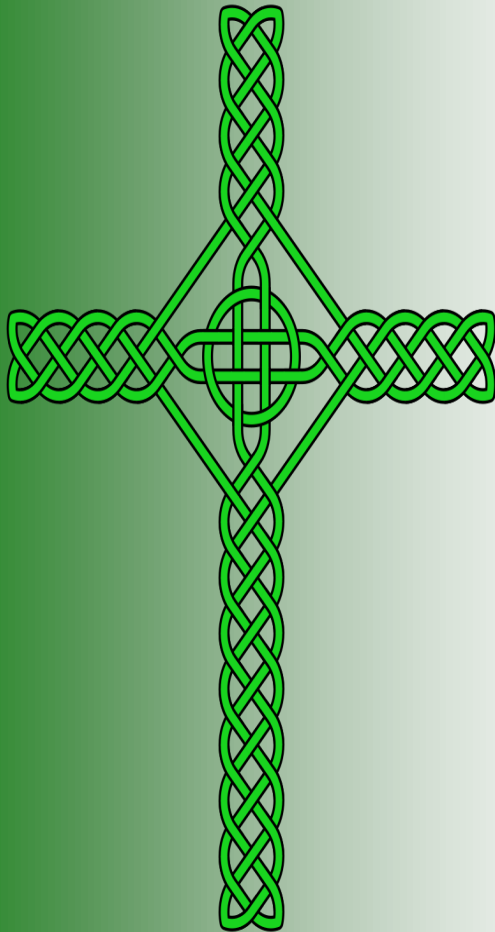
With love and thanks,

The family of Ginny Katenhusen





# St. Paul's Prayer List



## ***ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST***

485 Woodstock St., Crystal Lake, IL  
815-459-5096 [www.stpaulsucccl.org](http://www.stpaulsucccl.org)  
Rev. Gregory P. Lucas, Pastor

### **St. Paul's Members**

Jim Butler, Shirley Huddle

### **St. Paul's Homebound Friends**

Martha Hughes, Arlene Kopsell, Barb Biscomb

### **Deceased Members and Friends**

Virginia (Ginny) Katenhusen, Helen Sroka,  
Mary Ann Benz (Paul Benz's Mother),  
Harold Wittig, Ron Ebel, Charles Grumprecht

### **Friends**

Hellen Winter, Carl Kazimier, Bill Jelinek,  
Seeger Family, Jan DeJulius

### **Military - Stateside**

Beth Roxworthy & Todd Whetham

### **Sponsored Children**

Alberly (Dominican Republic), Andrian  
(Indonesia), Daniel W. (Indonesia), Nicole V.  
(Bolivia), Nicole S. (USA), Tran Thi Chin  
(Vietnam), Breny (Columbia), Alfred (Tanzania),  
Dereje (Ethiopia), Isack S. (Tanzania), Maria,  
Jobenta M. (Haiti), Emyli (Guatemala)

## St. Paul's Vision

Call to serve  
Our  
Neighbors' and Members'  
Needs by  
Engaging as  
Christ's people  
Through service and Love



### Follow Us on Social Media!

Keep up with St. Paul's latest news, information,  
and connection. LIKE our pages and share our posts

on social media:



### Church Staff

Reverend Gregory Lucas  
815-459-5096 - revgl@stpaulsucccl.org

Office Manager, Lena Vocalino  
815-459-5096 - info@stpaulsucccl.org

### Church Council

Nancy Bellis, Council President  
312-493-5144 - nkbcconsulting@yahoo.com

Jan Rickard, Council Vice President  
815-459-2287 - jrick4@sbcglobal.net

Elizabeth Speros, Secretary  
815-341-6979 - elsperos@yahoo.com

Fred Mullard, Treasurer  
224-629-3755 - mullard@mc.net

Jennifer Good, Financial Secretary  
815-245-3287- jennifer.a.good@gmail.com

Amanda Lotesto - amandalotesto@yahoo.com

Jane Dawson - dawson247@comcast.net

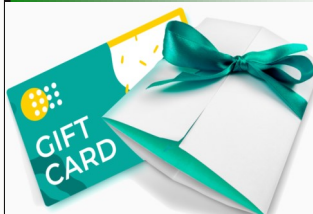
Rob Revak - robrrr52@gmail.com

Gary Gee - ggwn@aol.com

## NEXT BEACON

April, 8, 2021

All articles are due in the church  
office by Monday, March 29th.



## Give the Gift of SCRIP

### IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS as of March 3, 2021

Amazon	3 @ \$25
BP	3 @ \$50
Buffalo Wild Wings	3 @ \$25
Buona Beef	8 @ \$10
Chipotle	3 @ \$10
IHOP	2 @ \$25
Jewel	5 @ \$25/ 9 @ \$100
Kohl's	12 @ \$25
LL Bean	2 @ \$100
Mariano's	3 @ \$50
Meijer	2 @ \$50
PF Chang	2 @ \$25
Panera	10 @ \$10/ 2 @ \$25
Shell	3 @ \$25/ 2 @ \$50
Speedway	4 @ \$25/ 1 @ \$100
Stein Mart	1 @ \$25
Starbucks	9 @ \$10/ 2 @ \$25
Subway	4 @ \$10
Target	5 @ \$25
Walgreens	6 @ \$25
Walmart	5 @ \$100/ 3 @ \$250

With so many cards still in stock, I am currently only replenishing those purchased on a regular basis. If you need any of the above cards, they can be dropped off at church for pick up. If you want to order any particular cards, please let me know. As always, checks are made payable to St. Paul's.

**Karen Radovich** (nuknees@mc.net)

## EASY AND CONVENIENT

These products make it easy to earn on the go.

### PrestoPay™

The secure online payment system for families that lets them pay for orders and receive e-gift cards and reload their cards immediately.

### MyScripWallet™

Our mobile website where families can buy physical gift cards, reloads, and eGift cards. Directly onto their phones great for when you are in line at a store. you can reload or buy cards to go straight to your phone!



# Guidelines for In-Person Church

## Guidelines for In-Person Gatherings at St. Paul's Church Crystal Lake (including In-Person Sunday Services) During Restore Illinois Phase 4

*These guidelines were developed by the Church Council and the Emergency Management Committee in accordance with CDC and Illinois Conference UCC recommendations. They are designed with the overarching goal of promoting safety and health-conscious practices among our Church members, staff, and visitors during Phase 4 of this Covid-19 pandemic. We will be closely monitoring Illinois state and local requirements and metrics relating to Covid-19 on an ongoing basis and may find it necessary to modify these guidelines accordingly. It is our top priority to keep our Church members, staff, and visitors safe and healthy and we can all play a role in that by following these guidelines. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.*

### General Guidelines:

1. **Permitted Gatherings.** In-person Sunday worship services will initially resume with only one Sunday service at 10:30 am. You will be notified when these in-person services are scheduled to recommence as soon as a date has been set. No other group meetings will be permitted at the Church at this time until further notice. This includes Church Committee meetings, Bible Study, Youth Group gatherings, children's Sunday School, Preschool, or any other group gatherings, including meetings held by non-members who request to use our Church facilities. Baptisms, memorial services and weddings will be permitted if held in accordance with these guidelines after consultation with Pastor Greg.
2. **Accessible Areas.** Only the Narthex, Sanctuary, and bathrooms on the main floor will be open to the public during in-person services. Entry will be from the upper and lower level doors. The elevator will not be accessible nor will any of the rooms on the lower level, including Fellowship Hall and the downstairs bathrooms.
3. **Online Services.** In consideration of our more vulnerable members, those who may choose not to participate yet in Sunday worship in-person, and visitors whose first exposure to St. Paul's might be our online services, we will continue to offer our live online Sunday worship service at 10:30 am through YouTube (accessed from St. Paul's website) or St. Paul's Facebook page. Online Sunday School classes will also continue to be offered online as they are presently being conducted.
4. **Mandatory Requirements.** Face coverings will be required to be worn at all times while on the Church property, along with social distancing of at least 6 feet apart among non-family members. Anyone not abiding by these rules will be respectfully required to leave the premises.
5. **Non-Contact Greetings.** Participants are requested to refrain from handshakes, hugs and other close personal contact and to instead substitute them with greetings that minimize person-to-person contact, such as hands clasped together in prayer or crossed over one's heart, bowing, or waving.

# Guidelines for In-Person Church

6. **Maximum Attendance.** A maximum of 50 people will be permitted to attend any Sunday worship service. Priority to attend will be determined on a first come, first served basis to those who have registered in advance using St. Paul's Reservation System. Specific instructions about how to use this System will be described on the Church's website, in the weekly Church Chatter, and in the monthly Beacon. People arriving after the maximum number of attendees has been reached will be unable to participate in the in-person service, so advance registration is **strongly encouraged** and **highly recommended**.

7. **Cleaning and Hygiene.** Prior to reopening for in-person services, the Church will undergo a thorough deep cleaning. Regular cleaning will continue on an ongoing basis at least weekly to promote a safe, hygienic environment. Congregants and visitors are reminded to maintain good personal hygiene, including hand washing, sanitizing and not touching one's face. Hand sanitizers will be placed at several locations in the Narthex for general use.

## **During the Sunday In-Person Worship Service:**

1. **General.** All applicable general guidelines listed above will apply.

2. **Entrance and Seating.** Upon arriving at the Church, people will be greeted by an Usher at the entrance to the Church and asked to proceed directly to the Sanctuary where they will be seated in an unoccupied pew by another Usher. People in the same household or family will be seated together in the same pew. Non-family individuals may be seated with other non-family members in the same pew, provided they maintain a distance of 6 feet apart from one another. Every other pew will be roped off and remain unoccupied in order to observe social distancing requirements.

3. **Worship Materials.** Prayer books, hymnals, bibles, pens, information cards, etc. will be temporarily removed from pews during services. Congregants are encouraged to bring their own worship materials or follow along on the overhead screens. Hard copies of the worship bulletin will be available.

4. **Offerings/Donations.** Members wishing to drop off donations will be requested to do so in a designated plate located outside the Sanctuary as it will not be passed around during the service. Online giving is encouraged as a substitute for those who wish to make a donation.

5. **No Congregant Singing.** Given the heightened risk of infection caused by singing, for the health and safety of all members inside the Sanctuary there will be no singing by the Congregation, with the exception of our Musical Director, Kristin Lundine, who will be positioned facing away from any congregants.

6. **Ushers and Greeters.** To the extent available, there will be Ushers and a Greeter at every service. All Ushers and Greeters will be socially distanced and wear face coverings at all times before, during, and after the service.

# Guidelines for In-Person Church

7. **Communion**. Communion will be served on Communion Sunday to all those wishing to participate by means of prepackaged servings of wine/juice and wafers which may be picked up by participants upon their entry to the Sanctuary.

8. **Children and Nursery Care**. Children present at services should remain with their parents and guardians and avoid congregating or interacting with children of other families, including during the Children's Message. We regret that nursery care will not be available during the service at the present time.

9. **Dismissal**. After the Benediction, people will be dismissed by the Ushers pew by pew. There will be no receiving line, but the Pastor may choose to greet congregates from a socially safe distance in the Narthex. Congregates are kindly asked not to remain in the Narthex and to instead save their socially distanced greetings for outside the Church.

10. **Sickness or Exposure to Virus**. Any staff or congregant feeling sick or displaying symptoms of COVID-19, as well as people who have had close contact with a person who has symptoms of or has tested positive for COVID-19, should refrain from participating in any aspect of in-person services. Any person who attends an in-person service and subsequently tests positive or experiences Covid-19 symptoms within a week thereafter should notify the Church office immediately (or have someone notify the office on their behalf) so that appropriate action can be taken. The identity of the person who is sick will be kept confidential unless otherwise permitted by that person.

