

St. Paul's

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

NOVEMBER
2020

THE BEACON

Thanksgiving



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Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is almost here. What are you grateful for these days?

In no particular order, here are ten things I am thanking God for at this time:

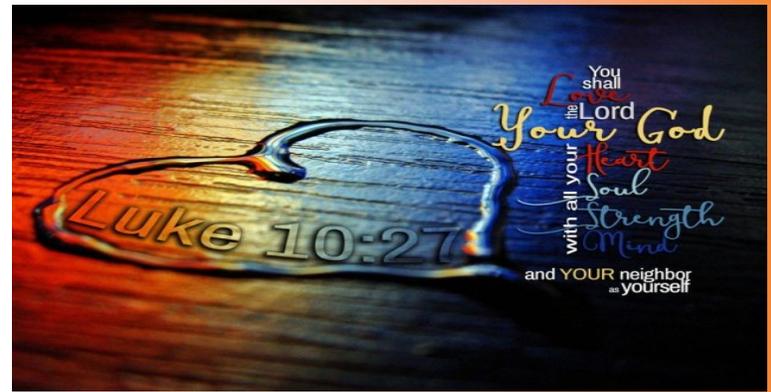
1. The daily gift of life.
2. People whom I can love.
3. People who love me.
4. This great, big, beautiful, troubled world.
5. People who serve others, sometimes at great personal cost.
6. The grace of God offered through Jesus Christ.
7. Artistry.
8. All my senses.
9. My vocation and the opportunity to live it.
10. God's creation.

Will you join me by making your own list?

Peace,

Pastor Greg

revgl@stpaulsucccl.org



“Our Purpose”

Despite the limits placed on us by the Pandemic, the work of St. Paul’s U.C.C. goes on. We have learned to stream Worship Services, reached out to all of you with phone calls, Zoomed Bible study and Men’s Christian Fellowship Group and Council meetings, continued the work of the Prayer Group, reinitiated Sunday School, assisted District 47 and North Elementary School with virtual learning needs, and manned the Food Pantry. Those are just the activities I am aware of; I am sure there are many more that you are part of. The point is the Church Family at St. Paul’s is very involved in carrying out “Our Purpose.”

That is the reason this year’s Stewardship Campaign theme is “Our Purpose.” All of us share the purpose God gave us. “Our Purpose” was clearly explained by Jesus in Luke 10:27.

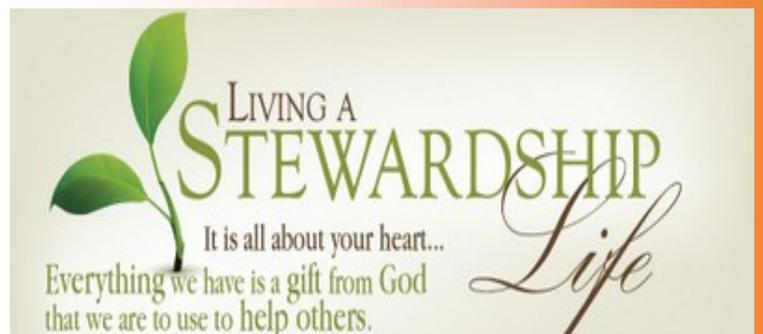
“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind... Love your neighbor as yourself.”

St. Paul’s offers us a chance to fulfill our purpose through our Worship Ministries and our outreach programs. As such, the gift you give in our Stewardship Campaign has a purpose. It allows St. Paul’s to continue to answer God’s calls for our ministries and our outreach to our community. As importantly, you will be achieving your purpose.

We will begin “Our Purpose” Campaign November 8th with the first of three Stewardship Moments. You will receive a Commitment Card in the mail. Please fill it out and return it in the stamped envelope. Your gift will be dedicated on Sunday, November 29th.

Please help us achieve “Our Purpose” with your generous gift.

The Stewardship Ministry



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

Phone: 815-459-5096
E-mail: info@stpaulsucccl.org
Website: 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



Hello St. Paul's Friends,

I have heard from our "care partners" and a few Council members that many of you are asking how St. Paul's is doing. That question can be answered in a few ways. I know that St. Paul's family is missing the experiences of worshipping in our beautiful sanctuary, of working together on a mission, of seeing and embracing friends and family. I hear from parents that their children are Zoom-weary, tired of attending class online and hoping to return to in-person learning soon. My son's family contracted Covid-19 back in March.

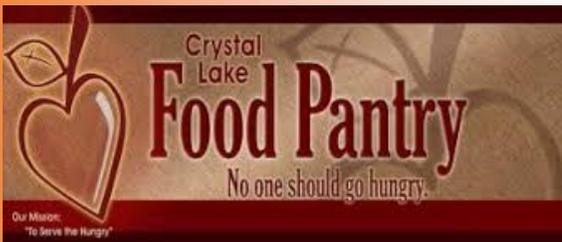
It was a scary time for our family, but everyone has recovered and do not seem to have any lingering effects. When I was informed that some members of St. Paul's family had also contracted this horrible virus, but are also recovering, I am grateful and thank God for watching over them all. I can only say that perhaps we can see the light at the end of the tunnel with the news of effective vaccines.

However, I have a feeling that the question really is how St. Paul's is doing financially. Under the current circumstances, I am pleased to say that St. Paul's is doing fine. Back in late spring, the church's treasurer, Fred Mullard put together an alternative budget which forecast income at 80%. We knew that there would be losses from the events that we were not able to sponsor, such as VBS and Fall Fair. On the other hand, there would also be no expenses for events such as Trunk or Treat. What we could not predict was the level of giving that St. Paul's family would be able to contribute. As we moved through the summer and the early fall, we could see that we needn't have been concerned. When the October financials came out in early November, it was clear to see that it is St. Paul's family, who are so generously giving, that is carrying us through. I won't bore you with a lot of numbers, but here is an example of what we are seeing. On the original 2020 forecast, not the adjusted 80% forecast, giving was projected to be \$205,510.00 at the end of October. Actual giving from January to October 2020 was 207,016.00! The Faux Fall Fair organized by Karen Radovich and Elizabeth Speros has netted \$10,800 so far which has also added to the church's financial solvency. Praise the Lord!

Now you might be thinking that maybe you don't need to give so much, but what is keeping St. Paul's cash flow in the black is the level of giving we are seeing and the reduced expenses we are incurring due to the closure of the church building. It is St. Paul's family giving so generously and the reduced Faux Fall Fair income that are keeping money in the bank to pay the bills that aren't affected by the economic downturn or the church building closure. With just two months to go, we are hoping that we will end the year in a good financial position.

Presently, Fred and the Council are working on the 2021 budget. Since we don't know exactly when we will be able to reopen the church building (I am hoping sooner than later!), forecasting expenses is a bit tricky. Nevertheless, I have every confidence that St. Paul's family will continue to support the church, just as they have done in 2020. When we do reopen the building and start planning events again, the income from those events will begin to offset the expenses. I hope that you have seen the Stewardship videos on the last two Sundays. Gary Gee is planning a third one for this coming Sunday. Please take the time to watch it and remember the 2021 budget when you do.

Have a blessed and safe Thanksgiving, Jennifer Good, President, Church Council



St. Paul's has continued its support of the Food Pantry throughout the Covid outbreak. The Pantry has supported our neighbors, adjusting distribution methods following guidance from the Health Department to keep neighbors and volunteers safe. The Pantry will continue the current system of curbside pickup for the foreseeable future.

We can support the Pantry in many ways. The community as a whole has been very generous with donations. During the pandemic shelves at the pantry have been kept full by donations of food and money. The Pantry is accepting donations of food, money and time. If you would like to make a food donation you may drop it off in the narthex during the scheduled office hours, we will make sure it is taken to the Pantry. Monetary donations can be mailed to the church or directly to the Pantry. Lastly, we provide a day of service each month helping distribute food to our neighbors.

We always welcome new volunteers to the Food Pantry. The job has become a bit more physical over the past months making extra hands very welcome. If you would like information about becoming a volunteer please contact Laurie Revak (815-245-6899) or Cheryl Triefenbach (ctrief@gmail.com) for more information.

The community harvest is scheduled for November, this food drive is the largest of the year. More information will be available soon. We are planning a drive through food collection in mid-November to support this food collection.

Monetary Donations can be mailed to: Crystal Lake Food Pantry | PO Box 1071 | Crystal Lake, IL 60039-1071

Laurie Revak & Cheryl Triefenbach

Around the Halls of St. Paul's



Altar picture Christmas Eve 2014

This Christmas will be a little different at St. Paul's. The sanctuary and the narthex will be decorated but we are not going to be selling poinsettias as such. The altar guild will be purchasing some to decorate the sanctuary but going in a different direction. If you are interested in giving a small amount to the cost of purchasing enough poinsettias to make an impact, please send your donation to the church by December 10th and designate that it is for a poinsettia purchase. Include your name and if possible, those will be listed in the bulletin or Beacon. We will try to leave them up during the first part of January or however long they last. Since MCC did not grow anything in their greenhouses this fall we will only get red and buy them where we can get them the nicest and cheapest. Let's pray that in 2021 we will be back doing things as we usually do but this year we want to make the church as close to normal as possible.

Cherrell Triefenbach, Altar Guild Chair

We have partnered again with North School, Pioneer Center and adopted ten families this year, we still have two families left to be adopted. If you choose a gift card for a family member please contact *Karen Radovich* for stock availability.

If you do buy a gift card for a family member please email me at pluto110390@gmail.com and let me know when you have the card and envelope ready so I can put in a request for delivery.

We are also collecting \$25.00 gift cards that can be brought to *Karen Radaovich*. Please mail all checks to: *St. Paul's UCC and in the MEMO write "Giving Tree"*

To help Pioneer Center and North School through the year and keep our own St. Paul's families in need of assistance. Any donation or monetary domination is greatly appreciated.

If you are interested in taking one of the last two families please contact me at *815-529-7120* or you can also donate a monetary amount and I will shop for the families.

All gifts must be wrapped and include a hand written tag.

Ex: Family #1/Boy age 1, Family #1/Boy age 6

All gifts must be put in a black garbage with the family number written on a large, white piece of paper. Tape one on the bag for each family.

Thank you to all and stay healthy!

Jean Nulle, Church Life Committee



12/3	Nancy Schmitz	12/20	Mason Wikman
12/6	Arlene Kopsell	12/22	Jo Ellen Roxwothy
12/7	William Jelinek	12/22	Wendy Domanico
12/9	Milton Diedrick	12/25	Eric Domanico
12/12	John Kennedy	12/27	Marsha Britt
12/13	Jared Kay	12/29	Bob Wilson
12/13	Adam Kay	12/29	Rylee Whetham
12/13	Jonathan Kriegel	12/31	Gene Coots
12/17	Lon Schmidt	12/31	Jillian Henneman

If I missed anyone please send me an email so I can add you for next year. info@stpaulsucccl.org

Faux Fall Fair



Dear Members & Friends of St. Paul's,

Even though the Faux Fall Fair campaign officially ended on November 1st, we have continued to receive donations bringing our total up to **\$10,800**.



There are so many hand crafted gifts items still available to purchase. They make a great gift for the Christmas, Birthday or Baby gifts. You can see photos on the following pages.

We continue to feel blessed by the caring and generosity of everyone who participated in this portion of the FFF. We hope you continue to be supportive through the purchase of St. Paul's Crafter items as well as **what** is left of the Pepper Jelly and Irene's Relish, all of which are available through the holidays.



Grandma's Cellar has returned "Irene's Relish" once again this fall, for the Faux Fall Fair. Relish was made in St. Paul's Kitchen with gloved hands and masked faces! Vegetables came from the Aarrk Garden. Jars of "Irene's Relish" are available at the welcome desk in the narthex. Requested donations are \$4.00 a jar. Thank you for your support and helping to continue this tradition.

Sheryl Gee

Wreath of Friendship

In the St. Paul's archives, the Weather of Friendship was first mentioned in the 1940's. It was started to give support to families in the congregation.

The present day, Wreath of Friendship is an outreach ministry that is celebrated annually in December. We honor members and friends who have lost a loved one during they year and we honor our homebound members with poinsettias, cookies and small breads. These gifts are delivered the second Saturday in December.

The annual **Wreath of Friendship** celebration is held each December to honor our members and friends who have lost a loved one during the year and to honor our homebound members. Poinsettias, cookies and small breads are delivered to our families.

Due to COVID, this year we will be delivering poinsettias and a Christmas box. Store bought items will be included in the box to spread our St. Paul's Christmas spirit.

Although we will not be asking for bakery goods, if you would like to participate there are two ways you can help. First, we will be accepting monetary donations for the Christmas boxes (your donations can be sent to church office) and secondly, we will be needing drivers to deliver the gifts.

Our delivery date is Saturday, December 19th. Please contact Sheryl Gee or the church office if you would like to volunteer to be a driver.

Thank you,

The Wreath of Friendship Ministry.



Fall Fair Craft Items



**Children's
Plush Toys
\$7.00**

We all know that the 2020 Christmas gift giving season is going to be different this year. With the pandemic still present it is tough for people to get out and shop. Why not support St. Paul's Crafters by purchasing beautiful, handcrafted gifts? These items make great gifts for family, friends, a new baby, coworker, or perhaps for yourself. Please contact **Cheryll Triefenbach at 815-382-9367** and she will arrange for you to pick them up at the church.



**Tooth Fairy Pillow
\$8.00**

**Tooth Fairy Pillow &
Baseball Mitt
\$7.00**



**Baby
Sweater
Sets
\$25.00**



GIFT IDEAS

Baby Shower

Birthday

New Baby Welcome

Foster Child Donation



**Children
Hat & Glove
Sets
\$8.00**



**Adult
Hats \$7.00
Hat & Glove
Set \$10.00**

Fall Fair Craft Items



Little Girl
Aprons
\$10.00



Little Girl's



Girls Purse
with Netting
\$8.00



Reversible
Placemats
\$24.00

Home Decor



Reversible
Table Runner
\$28.00



What will "Fall"
in your bag?



Handmade
Baby Quilt
\$50.00



Hooded
Blanket
\$18.00



Matching
Giraffe
\$7.00



Holiday Gift Ideas



Ministries Spotlight

EVANGELISM

We have been welcoming and greeting visitors to St. Paul's since we organized as a church in 1896. Although the church membership was very small, St. Paul's reached out to people to come together for worship, share the word of God and to socialize.

St. Paul's experienced steady growth especially in the 1940's, as new families moved into the Crystal Lake area and were welcomed into the St. Paul's church family. It is unknown exactly when Evangelism ministry was actually named but we know that visitors were welcomed to join the congregation throughout St. Paul's history.

Through the years, the Evangelism Ministry evolved into a meaningful avenue for prospective new members to explore and get to know the St. Paul's family.

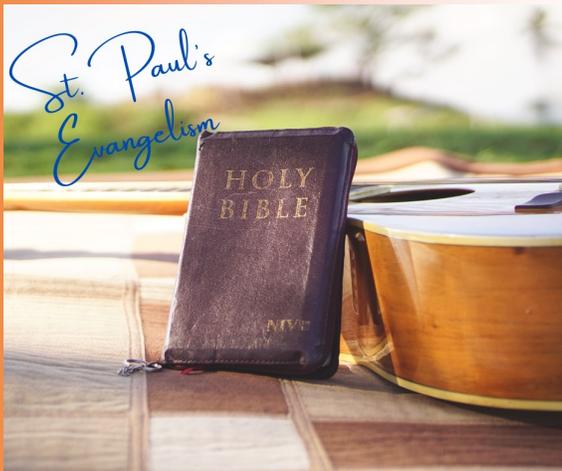
Presently, the Evangelism Ministry shares the "Good News" of the gospels by encouraging people to be actively involved in the life of Christ. We welcome visitors and prospective new members to St. Paul's and if they are interested in learning and exploring the possibility of joining our congregation, we offer "Inquirers' Sessions" twice a year, spring and fall.

Our sessions include Getting Acquainted, St. Paul's and the United Church of Christ, our St. Paul's History, Reading and Understanding the Bible and a review of our Missions, Outreach and Opportunities to get involved at St. Paul's.

Evangelism celebrates Friendship Sunday in the spring, calls our members on their birthdays and keeps in contact with our members and homebound friends through "Thinking of You" cards and postcards.

In the fall, we greet the preschool parents on Parents' Night and welcome them and their students with refreshments on opening day of classes. We also honor the preschool graduates in May.

Local Girl Scout troops meet at St. Paul's and we have coordinated with the leaders to celebrate Scout Sunday and involve the troops in assisting with our Trunk or Treat, Fall Fair, and inside and outside clean up days at St. Paul's.



Evangelism is a very essential ministry at St. Paul's in welcoming our visitors. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. and would love to have you join our "team". Our present members are: co-chairs Sheryl Gee and Elizabeth Speros; Marilyn Peaco, secretary; Arlene Tuscano, attendance recorder; Terri Deuerling; Jack Vogt and Pastor Greg.

During COVID, we have been unable to meet as a group but we have kept in contact with our congregation through our birthday calls.

Sheryl Gee

Community Harvest



November 22nd
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM

Don't forget about St. Paul's Community Harvest Drive through drop off. We are adapting with the times; this is the biggest food drive of the year for the Pantry and St. Paul's has always been very generous to this event. So plan on driving through with your food or monetary donation as we reach out to our community.

Laurie Revak & Cheryl Triefenbach

See the link in the Church Chatter →

Most Needed Food and Supply List

- Cooking Oil*
- Canned Fruit*
- Macaroni & Cheese/Ramen*
- Juice - family size*
- Canned Tuna and Canned Chicken*
- Condiments & Salad Dressings*
- Flour* and Sugar*
- Spaghetti or Other Pasta
- Chili*
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Toilet Paper/Paper Towels*
- Personal Products*

Also Needed Food and Supply Items:

- Canned Beans (Any Type)
- Baby Food
- Tomato Products
- Dry Beans
- Baking (Cake Mixes, etc.)
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Soup (Canned or Dry)
- Pancake Mix and Syrup
- Jello/Pudding
- Baking Goods
- Canned Vegetables
- Rice - White
- Canned Pasta
- Cereal
- Side Dishes/Dinner Helpers

FOR SAFETY REASONS NO OPEN ITEMS CAN BE ACCEPTED. Please be sure to check the product dates

Pack the Food Pantry

This Year's Goals are:

Food 75,000 lbs.
Funds \$75,000

During the month of November, Crystal Lake and the surrounding communities come together to raise food and funds for our neighbors who need food assistance.

You are needed!!!

Please help us assist the Crystal Lake Food Pantry feed local families by bringing your donations to the food collection boxes at your local bank, business, church or school.

Find out more at www.clcommunityharvest.org

Monetary donations are gratefully accepted. Checks should be made payable to Crystal Lake Food Pantry or payment may be online at: <http://www.clfoodpantry.org>

Thank you for helping our hungry neighbors!

Follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/communityharvest>

2018 Harvest Partner

ST. PAUL'S PRAYERS LIST

St. Paul's Members

Barb Thurn, Bob & Ginny Covalt, Ginny Katenhusen, Marianne Spencer, Jim Butler, Shirley Huddle, Martha Hughes

St. Paul's Homebound Friends

Martha Hughes, Arlene Kopsell, Barb Biscomb

Families of our Deceased Members and Friends

William Tobin, Mary Layne, Tom Lindblom

Friends

Chris Rook, Luca Langford, James Emrich, Katie Schroeder, Christine, Teresa, Brent, Walter, Loyce McNutt, Rosie, Jody Oker, Martha Triefenbach, Lisa Almquist, Patty Van Vorne, Sister Vassa, Lily, Ashley Kelley

Military - Stateside

Beth Roxworthy & Todd Whetham

Sponsored Children

Alberly (Dominican Republic), Adrian (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)





Thank you for making this year's CROP Walk a success!

Due to COVID walks were done virtually or some walked in small groups. Fundraising was virtual and this year we are just **\$1,043.00** short of 2019 donations! Donations are still being accepted as two churches are challenging each other to be top dollar raisers!

A heartfelt thank you to Cathy and Lon Schmidt, Jennifer Good, Cheryl Triefenbach, Dana Sideris, Paul Diedrick, Nancy Bellis, Steve Stoddard, Gladys Fotre, Sheila and Pete Halasz, Jean Hautzinger, Bob and Donna Rebel, Nancy Kramer for your donations and support! Church World Service does a terrific job with their programs that Crop Walk funds feed into.

25% of money raised will stay in McHenry County supporting 5 local food banks.

If you would like to donate please contact the church office for the website link.

Shepherd of the Prairie (Huntley)	\$290.00
McHenryCountyJewishCongregation	\$493.00
St. Paul's UCC	\$625.00
St Mary's Episcopal	\$1,615.00
First Church (United Methodist)	\$2,073.00
Cary United Methodist Church	\$2,195.00
Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presby Church	\$3,105.00
Bethany Lutheran Church	\$4,311.00
Living Waters Church	\$4,493.00

TOTAL \$19,200.00

Linda Ticknor



Dear St. Paul's Church,

Words cannot express our sincere appreciation for your donation of tools for our student's sensory, emotional-regulation, and self-regulation kits. We would like to take this opportunity to say **Thank You** for supporting North School families with your generous donations. These kits are used for calming, alerting, increasing concentration and decreasing stress while learning at home and at school. We wish you could see the joy and gratitude on the student's faces as we present the kits to them. The kits have provided some relief for our students at school and families at home during this very difficult time.

Thank you!

North Elementary School



October 11, 2020 submitted by Cheryl Triefenbach

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 U revgl@stpaulsucccl.org

Office Manager, Lena Vocalino

815-459-5096 U info@stpaulsucccl.org

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815-245-3287 U jennifer.a.good@gmail.com

Rob Revak, Council Vice-President

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Elizabeth Speros, Secretary

815-341-6979 U elsperos@yahoo.com

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Amanda Lotesto, amandalotesto@yahoo.com

John McGuire, jmcguire@matrix-ps.com

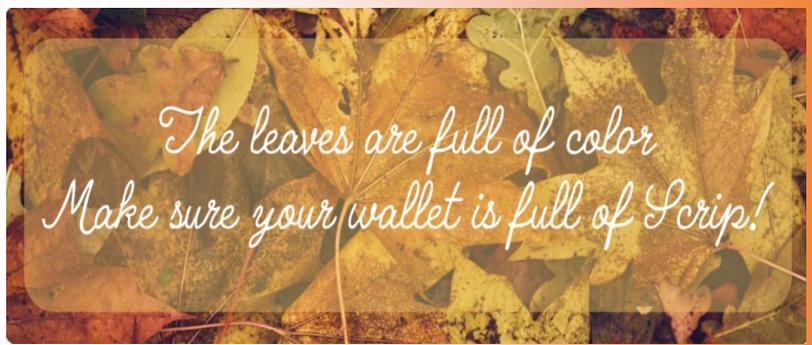
Jan Rickard, j.rickard.60014@gmail.com

Evelyn Winter, evelyn4114@yahoo.com

NEXT BEACON

December 20th

All articles are due in the church office by
Fri., December 11th.



IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS as of October 12, 2020

BP	3 @ \$50
Buffalo Wild Wings	3 @ \$25
Buona Beef	9 @ \$10
Chili's	4 @ \$25
Chipotle	4 @ \$10
Darden – Olive Garden	4 @ \$25
Dunkin'	2 @ \$10
Fannie May	5 @ \$10
IHOP	2 @ \$25
Jewel	9 @ \$100
Kohl's	1 @ \$100
LL Bean	2 @ \$100
Marathon	1 @ \$100
Marciano's	6 @ \$50
Meijer	3 @ \$50
Menards	1 @ \$100
Mobil	4 @ \$50
Outback	2 @ \$25
PF Chang	2 @ \$25
Panera	4 @ \$10/ 2 @ \$25
Shell	5 @ \$50
Speedway	1 @ \$100
Stein Mart	1 @ \$25
Subway	6 @ \$10
Target	1 @ \$25/ 1 @ \$50
Walmart	5 @ \$100/ 3 @ \$250

If you would like to browse through the list of 700+ participating retailers, contact the church office. If you would like to place an order for cards not in stock, contact **Karen Radovich** (nuknees@mc.net). Cards will be dropped off at church for pick up during business hours.

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!