

St. Paul's



**August
2022**

THE BEACON

A graphic element consisting of three concentric, semi-circular green lines that resemble a signal or beacon, positioned behind the word "BEACON".

From the Pastors Desk

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Dear Friends,

I was thrilled and delighted to participate in our Rally Day at St. Paul's recently. To share with young and old alike safe, wholesome fun, food and fellowship is a gracious gift. To greet and welcome new faces to our place of service is a privilege and joy. To do all of this as an expression of the love of Jesus Christ is sublime.

Rally Day was the very successful outcome of considerable planning, effort and teamwork. It was an event that is not unusual however, in our faith community these days. It was offered in connection with the growing ministry of our Guiding Light Preschool. It was also consonant with our delightful (and oftentimes wet!) summer youth events recently taking place on Tuesdays on our front yard. All of these activities have included a strong focus on sharing the love of God with our wider community.

What I am seeing now is God rewarding and reinforcing these efforts; in effect blessing them with enthusiasm and helping us to bear fruit according to His purpose. I see this because I believe this is God's purpose for God's church - to share the love we have experienced with God with everyone we can. I believe all of our efforts in this direction will be blessed by God. Our continuing joy and responsibility is to maintain our current focus and be mindful of God's ever present, loving guidance.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Peace,

Pastor Greg

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 & Instagram: [stpauls_ucc_cl](https://www.facebook.com/stpauls_ucc_cl)

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.
Via Facebook Live or streaming on website.

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

August 2022



As the summer winds down, we have much to be thankful for here at St. Paul's. Two Sundays ago, we had a well-attended and fun-filled Rally Day Community Picnic. It was wonderful to see not only familiar faces, but many new faces and young children, all enjoying a summer gathering and reuniting in a relaxed and easy way that we have not experienced in a long time. We had over 100 people in attendance, despite the weather that couldn't make up its mind! Many thanks to all who attended and contributed their time and efforts in making this such a successful event, and of course to Kelly Akerberg, Becky Lucking, and Jasmine Becker, our Program, Preschool, and Youth Directors, respectively, who organized and implemented this wonderful event.

We also are set to have a successful launch of our Guiding Light Montessori Preschool on September 6th, thanks to the hard work and preparation of Becky as our Preschool Director. At last count we had 18 enrollees and have started a wait list for the January term. It has been a long and arduous journey to get to this point, but God has been with us every step of the way and continues to bless us and signal that we are on the right path. In addition, as part of our continuing effort to welcome and introduce new people and families to St. Paul's, the Evangelism Committee will be hosting a coffee and donuts gathering for the Preschool families the second week of classes. What a wonderful way to connect with our new Preschool families!

In other news, the new proposed Care Ministry (a combination of the existing Church Life, Evangelism, Columbarium, and Mission & Outreach Committees) met last Sunday to discuss how they might move forward in a way that will enable them to be most effective and efficient with our members' time and talents. We are excited to see what unfolds.

Looking ahead to the fall, we are pleased to announce that we are two thirds of the way to reaching our capital campaign goal of \$30,300. Many thanks to all who have contributed so far, as well as to those who are considering doing so. In addition, we have a number of events and activities in the works, including the return of our Trunk or Treat event on October 28th. Please consider participating as a "Trunker" and spread the word to your friends and families with young children.

As is exemplified by the things mentioned above, St. Paul's is continuing to find ways to reach out to our congregation and greater community to spread God's Word and love. As we explore new ways to CONNECT (St. Paul's mission), may we all work together to support one another and remember what God calls upon us to do so that Thy will (not my will) be done.

Peace and Love,

Nancy Bellis, Council President

Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Donna Butler	9/1
Gordon Triefenbach	9/3
Garrett Gee	9/4
Linda Christensen	9/6
Caitlin Lindstrand	9/7
Lena Vocalino	9/8
Kathi Seibt	9/9
Eric Mason	9/10
Barbara Jelinek	9/10
David Loehner	9/12
Tasha MacKenzie	9/13
Barbara Biscomb	9/14
Joanna Kriegel	9/15
Bonnie Poulton	9/17
William Eich	9/17
Jessica Butler	9/17
Luann Hopkins	9/18

Gerilyn Whetham	9/18
Margaret Tobin	9/19
Kathleen Hewins	9/20
Connie Chappell	9/20
Marianne Spencer	9/21
Jackie Mason	9/26
Jordan Lotesto	9/26
Meghan Schneeweiss	9/26
Warren Spencer	9/26
Blake Lindner	9/26
Becky Berg	9/27
Olivia Schultz	9/28
Beverly Loitz	9/29
Linda Kranz	9/29
Randolph Kriegel	9/29
Krista Huffman	9/29
John Sroka	9/30



James Ticknor	10/1
Lynn Virzi	10/3
Lisa Sadlik	10/4
Rebecca Johnson	10/7
Julie Moore	10/7
Joan Bourdage	10/10
Ken Hansen	10/11
David Patterson	10/12
Nancy Lutz	10/14
Mary Benz	10/15

John Whetham	10/15
Dolores Broker	10/16
Emily Butler	10/16
Ginny Deuerling	10/21
Samuel Reckamp	10/21
Caitlin Monahan	10/23
Abby Pagnotta	10/24
Jan Rickard	10/25
Donna Reber	10/26
Trent Eckhardt	10/28

Church News

Rally Day – Fun Had By All!

On Sunday, August 14th, St. Paul's held its largest "for fun" gathering since the pandemic with over 110 members, friends, and community neighbors stopping by. Though the weather was a bit over-cast, that did not dampen the fellowship or good time!

If you missed it, the event was held outside in our field to the west with a large tent, plenty of activities for all to include a well-used bounce house for the large turnout of children, balloon animals and hats for anyone and everyone, and face painting, which was most popular with the young females in the crowd.

What was a new idea for St. Paul's was to bring in a food truck for purchase of food instead of figuring out what to bring, how much to make, time to prepare, etc. The food vendor was Kissed By Fire, who served up some very tasty BBQ pork sandwiches, rib tips, and even pizza! Great food! Dessert was provided by "the Pie Lady", a young woman from Chicago that loves to bake and sells her wares as a side gig featuring excellent cherry and apple mini pies and when topped with whipped cream – a heavenly creation!

This event would not have been possible without the super help of a great number of people and groups from set-up to running the event to clean-up. Thanks to many! Also – a BIG thanks is extended to our church directors to make this happen: Kelly Akerberg, Jasmine Becker, and Becky Lucking. From planning to execution, they were great and we all benefited from this fun day!



Loving
Growing
Serving





ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST RALLY DAY PICNIC



Church News

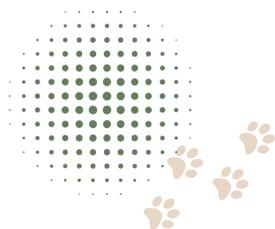
Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for a special outdoor

"Blessing of the Animals" worship service in front of St. Paul's. Bring a comfy chair and your leashed (or otherwise contained) pets to service on Sunday, September 11th and receive a special blessing from the Pastor.

Back by popular demand! **TRUNK OR TREAT!**

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 28th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. We will take care of everything else, but we need 20 TRUNKERS! Please consider being a trunker--there will be prizes for the best trunks!



485 W. Woodstock St.
Crystal Lake
815-459-5096
www.stpaulsucc-cl.org

BLESSING OF THE PETS OUTDOOR SERVICE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11,
10:00 AM

BRING YOUR LEASHED OR OTHERWISE CONTAINED PET
TO THE OUTDOOR SERVICE & RECEIVE A SPECIAL
BLESSING FROM PASTOR GREG



485 W. Woodstock St.
Crystal Lake, IL
815-459-5096
www.stpaulsucc-cl.org

TRUNK or TREAT

SAVE THE DATE!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022

6:00 - 8:00 PM

- *SAFE "TRUNK OR TREATING"
- *KIDS HALLOWEEN MOVIE PLAYING
- *FESTIVE PHOTO BACKDROP
- *VOTING ON BEST TRUNKS

"TRUNKER" SIGN-UP
COMING SOON!



Any questions, please contact Kelly Akerberg at stpaulsprogramdirector@gmail.com, or Jasmine Becker at jasmine.ydstpauls@gmail.com

Church News

North Elementary Student Snack Locker is back



With the start of the new semester, will you please consider donating again to the North Elementary Snack Locker for the 2022/2023 academic year. The school administration and staff are sincerely appreciative of this support.

Assistance is needed for a supplemental supply of pre-packaged individual snacks for some kids whose parents are unable to provide them for various reasons. The front office maintains a small supply for them, so they have snacks along with all the other kids.

Ideal items St. Paul's can donate are Goldfish, pretzels, fruit roll-up snacks, Cheez-Its and other multi-pack items on the healthier side as opposed to candy and potato chips. And, as we all know, nothing with peanuts or other nuts. There is a designated basket in the narthex area for these food goods by the marketplace table. The plan will be for me to drop off our donated items one or twice a month throughout the school year. Please let me know if you have any questions at (815) 341-6979 or elsperos@yahoo.com

Blessings,

Elizabeth Speros

Church News



Kids Hope USA – St. Paul’s

Kids Hope USA is our church partnership with North Elementary where St. Paul’s mentors are matched with students who have social-emotional needs that are not being met. Our program began in 2016, and presently it would be welcomed if more individuals from our church family would consider becoming a mentor. Matches can last several years with younger children; however, there are opportunities to also meet with older children.

The commitment is one hour a week with one student during the academic year and separately connecting to a prayer partner for support. Personal qualities of a mentor are a love of children, the ability to listen, sensitivity to an individual child’s needs, consistency, and affirmation. Our mentoring hour established through North Elementary focuses on activities like games and activities where a child feels comfortable and can talk. It is not a structured tutoring session.

If mentoring is a call that speaks to your heart, please let me know.

Program details, specific steps to be a mentor and any questions can be answered by Elizabeth Speros before or after worship services or at (815) 341-6979 or elsperos@yahoo.com.



Church News



Special Service – Coming Soon!

Part of our mission is to “CONNECT” with the community in a variety of service-oriented ways. One special event coming up is a “**Blessing of the Animals**” service! Fall special music is also returning with our choir kicking off our music program.

This unique service is being planned for **Sunday, September 11th, at 10:00 AM**. It will be an outdoor service on our front lawn. A limited number of chairs will be set up – but better would be for everyone to bring their favorite lawn chair and choose their spot. This will be open to anyone with or without any pets.

Any and all pets (that are **not** of a mean or aggressive nature) are welcome to come with their favorite human. Pets must be either on a short leash or caged. During the service, owners and pets will be invited to walk up to Pastor Greg for a special blessing! Children with stuffed animals also welcome to have them blessed!

Note: We cannot guarantee the blessing will correct any poor behavior of your pet, but God will surely shine down upon them!

This special service is open to all members, friends of St. Paul’s, everyone’s friends and neighbors, **and the public**. Invite them! We will have refreshments after the service as usual.

Please make sure to mark your calendar and come see what will be, no doubt, a wide array of pets for this unique service!

NOTE: if the event of rain or inclement weather, the rain date will be Sunday, September 18th.



Thank You



It's hard to express in words the heartfelt thanks my family and I have for the pouring of love, concern, hugs and willingness to help in any way during Tom's illness and passing.

I would like to quote the reading on the thank you note we chose:

"Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair;
Perhaps you sent a floral piece, if so we saw it there;
Perhaps you spoke the kindest words and any friend could say;
Perhaps you were not there at all but thought about us on that day."

Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much.

The Family of Tom Matterness

Usher Schedule

**September
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.**

USHERS

September 4

John Whetham - Captain
Jan & Joe Rickard
Greeter: Jane Dawson
Reader: TBD

September 11

Gary Voss - Captain
Carla Voss
Bill Eich
Greeter: Ken & Barb Thrun
Reader: TBD

September 18

Ken Hansen - Captain
Karen Hansen
Jack Vogt
Greeter: Arlene Jezierski
Reader: Elizabeth Speros

September 25

Sheryl Gee - Captain
Gary Gee
Elizabeth Speros
Greeter: Nancy Schmitz
Reader: Eric Mason

**October
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.**

USHERS

TBD

October 2nd

- Captain
Greeter:
Reader: TBD

October 9

- Captain
Greeter:
Reader: TBD

October 16

- Captain
Greeter:
Reader: TBD

October 23

Captain
Greeter:
Reader: TBD

October 30

Captain
Greeter:
Reader: TBD

St. Paul's Prayer List



St. Paul's Members

Warren Spencer, Norm Falk

St. Paul's Homebound Friends

Martha Hughes, Arlene Kopsell, Barb Biscomb

Deceased Members and Friends

Jud Boyer, Grayson, Craig Starbird, Bruce Kahler, Jim Johnson,
Laura Jacobson

Friends

Brandon Geer , Jay Vocalino, Bob Bellis, Christine

Military - Stateside

Todd Whetham

Beth Roxworthy - Now stationed in Djibouti, Africa

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 and share our on social media.



Church Staff

Reverend Gregory Lucas

815-459-5096 - info@stpaulsucccl.org

Office Manager, Lena Vocalino

815-459-5096 - info@stpaulsucccl.org

Preschool Director, Becky Lucking

815 - 479-9770 - guidinglightdirector@gmail.com

Program Director, Kelly Akerberg

815-404 -1351 - stpaulsprogramdirector@gmail.com

Youth Director, Jasmine Becker

847-561-9965 -Jasmine.ydstpauls@gmail.com

Church Council

Nancy Bellis, Council President

312- 493-5144 - nkbconsulting@yahoo.com

Rob Revak, Council Vice President

815-245-4170 - robrrr52@gmail.com

Janis Braun, Secretary

815-575-1997 - eliotness62@gmail.com

Fred Mullard, Treasurer

224-629-3755 - mullard@mc.net

Jennifer Good, Financial Secretary

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

Jane Dawson - dawson247@comcast.net

Gary Gee - ggwn@aol.com

Give the Gift of **SCRIP**



IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS as of June 2nd, 2022

Amazon	2 @ \$25
Bath and Body Works	2 @ \$25
Buffalo Wild Wings	2 @ \$25
Chipotle	6 @ \$10
Chili's	4 @ \$25
Darden	5 @ \$25
Dunkin'	9 @ \$10
Fannie May	9 @ \$10
IHOP	2 @ \$25
Jewel	11 @ \$100
Kohl's	2 @ \$25 / 1 @ \$100
LL Bean	2 @ \$100
Mariano's	4 @ \$50
Menards	2 @ \$100
Mobil	4 @ \$50
Panera	7 @ \$10
Red Lobster	8 @ \$25
Shell	3 @ \$50
Steinmart	1 @ \$25
Subway	3 @ \$10
Walmart	5 @ \$100 / 6 @ \$250

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 mailto:(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!

NEXT BEACON: September 16th

All articles are due into the church by Sept. 7th