

St. Paul's



January
2023

THE BEACON



From the Pastors Desk

Pg. 2

Church Council

Pg. 3 & 4

February & March

Birthdays

Pg. 5

Church News

Pg. 6-9

Thank You

Pg. 10-12

Usher Schedule

Pg. 13

St. Paul's Prayer List

Pg. 14

SCRIP
Pg. 15

NEXT BEACON

February 24th

All articles are due in by
February 16th



Dear Friends,

On January 15 a new series of sermons began called "The Gospel is Good News." It seems to me practically every source I turn to for news specializes in "bad" news. By "bad news" I mean sad, frightening, depressing, troubling, heavy news. During the upcoming weeks, I would like to share with you "good news" from our world. By "good news" I mean news that is hopeful, encouraging, uplifting - news of God at work in our world; God at work as Jesus revealed God. These are stories, in connection with scripture, that affirm our faith by proclaiming God's goodness and purpose. Will you please join us, in person or online, for worship and this series of messages?

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

January 2023



Dear Church Family,

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were filled with joy, peace, and wonder, and that you and your families were able to stay healthy and sound, celebrating Christmas and the New Year. When I reflect back on 2022 at St. Paul's, I feel the year passed by so quickly, but not without much positive activity, hopes, growth, and changes. With a focus on the revitalization of St. Paul's for the future. It has been heartening to see that we were blessed to have a number of new faces last year, both in terms of staff and visitors/friends. Also encouraging and incredibly joyful was the re-establishment of St. Paul's preschool program—now named St. Paul's Guiding Light Montessori Preschool. It is truly joyful to hear the sound of children's voices in St. Paul's classrooms once again, sharing and teaching the Good News to our little ones. We enjoyed the addition of a Youth Director and a Program Director last year, and are currently considering the addition of a St. Paul's Music Director. These and many other changes were all part of a special year at St. Paul's.

Although many changes were wonderful to see and experience this past year, I cannot help but feel sad that 2023 will be our last year with Pastor Greg. I cannot put into words how incredibly blessed we have been to have him among us, caring for us, supporting, teaching, and inspiring so many people. Although we will be looking towards the installation of an interim pastor, and beyond that, a settled pastor, I am certain that you feel as I do—that Pastor Greg will never be replaced here at St. Paul's. The feelings for many of us will undoubtedly be bittersweet—bitter at the loss of a warm, wonderful and inspiring pastor, but sweet in that retirement will be a celebratory and joyous time for both Pastor Greg and Joyce as they embark on their new journeys in life.

We will be starting the new year in 2023 with almost a completely new Council (only one returning member). As we learn to work cohesively as a team and as representatives of the Congregation, please be patient as we take upon and learn our new roles and responsibilities. We are in a time of a lot of change at St. Paul's, mostly positive, but it does take time for new teams to learn to work well with each other. A new budget for 2023 will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting, set for January 29th following the Sunday worship service. As with the Semi-Annual Meeting in October, the Annual Meeting will also be streamed virtually via YouTube following the livestream of the Sunday service. Please be on the lookout for an email containing the Annual Report and a ballot. Hard copies will also be available at the Church prior to the meeting.

God has richly blessed St. Paul's in 2022. As we begin the New Year, my wish and hope for St. Paul's is that we can continue to work together to promote positive growth, love, enthusiasm, revitalization, and the sharing of God's word, all the while attempting to discern His will for us.

Love,

Janis Braun,

Church Council Secretary

Note From the Council

January 2023

Lena has been a wonderful addition to the St. Paul's family as our Office Manager, but it has come to our attention of the Church Council that some people are asking her to perform administrative duties for their committees as well. Please remember that Lena only works part-time and that she has a lot of responsibilities where she is the only one who can do them because of privacy concerns or the amount of time and special skills required to complete them. Things that used to be done by the Office Manager were possible because the Office Manager position was full-time. Lena's time will become even more valuable this year as we transition to an interim minister who will require more of her as they get to know us better.

Lena will gladly help you get started if you need supplies or help setting up the copier or other office equipment. We really need to do as much as we can on our own. If you have something more complicate that requires assistance from Lena, please contact Donna Butler, Church Council Vice President, and she will let you know what is possible. The Church Council knows that everyone's time is valuable but we can all be counted on to do our part.

Thank you,

St. Paul's UCC Church Council

Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Karen Christensen	2/1
Scott McDowd	2/2
Calvin Reckamp	2/4
Lauren Henneman	2/4
Jake Monahan	2/4
Nancy Haskins	2/6
Hannah Virzi	2/7
Harry Speros	2/7
Everett Kalisz	2/8
Dick Hautzinger	2/9
Rebecca Lucking	2/10
Fred Mullard	2/11
Jan Czosnyka	2/11
Olivia Pagnotta	2/14

Anthony Tuscano	2/16
Bonnie Goldman	2/17
Sammie Kay	2/17
Rodney Hopkins	2/18
Sondra Matterness	2/19
Cheryll Triefenbach	2/19
Donna Layne-Albano	2/19
Kolten Heggem	2/21
Jennifer Wikman	2/26
Arlene Tuscano	2/26
Karen Ryberg	2/26
Amanda Lotesto	2/27
Jill Gapp	2/27
Amanda Lotesto	2/27



Sharon Dieball	3/1
Erik Ogle	3/1
Luke Eckhardt	3/2
Rosanne Zickus	3/3
David Kranz	3/8
Barb Kriegel	3/9
Abigail Wikman	3/9
Ron Jacobson	3/9
Meg Reckamp	3/11
Layla Lawson	3/12
Halo Gregory	3/13

Cathy Schmidt	3/13
Lisa MacKenzie	3/13
John Arvidson	3/17
Regina Lombardo	3/19
Deborah Sroka	3/20
Joe Rickard	3/23
Riley MacKenzie	3/24
Donald Roxworthy	3/25
Ken Thrun	3/27
Mary Katenhusen	3/28
Noah Virzi	3/29
Janice Bordignon	3/31

Church News

Mary Circle Christmas Party

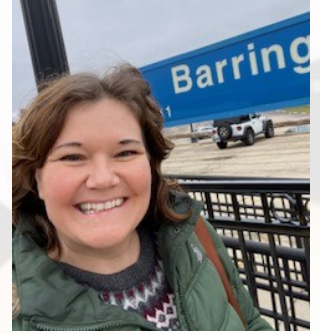


St. Paul's New Members



Church News

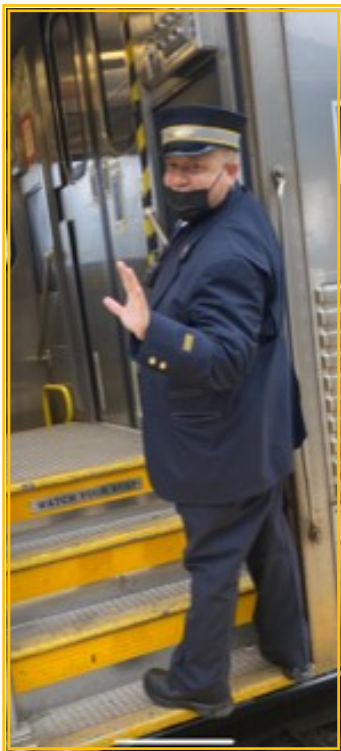
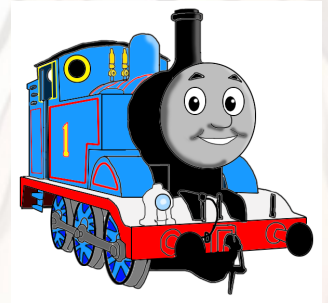
PRESCHOOL



St. Paul's Guiding Light Preschool

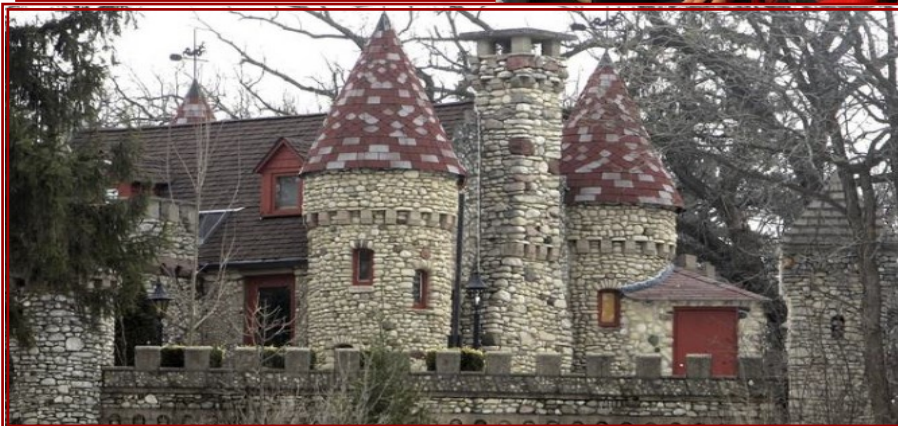
This month's *Friday Family Field Trip* was aboard the **Union Pacific NW rails**. Together we hopped on the train at the Crystal Lake station and rode until our stop in Barrington. After a little hot chocolate and exploring downtown, we rode the train back home. We had the opportunity to talk with Conductors Will and Keith, share about electronic tickets/platforms/paper schedules, hear a personalized welcome message over the loudspeaker from the Engineer just for us, and even come home with a souvenir magazine and fold out paper train. Did I mention we crossed over a large bridge and passed the **Bettendorf Castle** in Fox River Grove? It was a great adventure for our preschoolers and their families!

"The Lord Himself will go before you. He will be with you; He will not leave you or forget you. Don't be afraid and don't worry." Deuteronomy 31:8

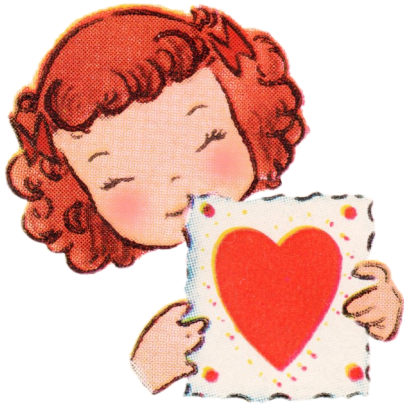


Church News

PRESCHOOL



Church News



Youth Group

February 12th
11:00 am - 12:00 pm

All kids are welcome to come to St. Paul's UCC and make Valentine's Day cards for our Senior Citizens. This event will take place after the Sunday service.

You can register ahead of time by calling **815-459-5096** or email jasmine.ydstpauls@gmail.com



485 W. Woodstock St.
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Valentine's Day

YOUTH & FAMILY FREE EVENT

SUNDAY, FEB 12TH 11:00AM - 12:00PM

**Service Project: Making Valentine's Day
Cards for Senior Citizens and Enjoy
Sweets, Music, and Friendly Faces**

**AGES 9 +
WELCOME
WITHOUT
PARENT
(YOUNGER
AGES
WELCOME
WITH PARENT)**

**PLEASE REGISTER
FOR EVENT**

**WALK-INS ARE
WELCOME!**

815-459-5096

jasmine.ydstpauls@gmail.com



Thank You

Wreath of Friendship Thank You

The Wreath of Friendship is an annual event that honors our church family home bound friends and our church families who lost a loved one during the year. Plants and baked goods are delivered right before the holidays to our honored families. This year, we made up **26 plates of cookies and breads** and delivered **poinsettias** for our church family members and friends.

The Wreath of Friendship ministry would like to thank all who made it possible this year by giving your time and talents. Thank you to all those “great bakers” who baked the delicious cookies and breads: **Cheryll Triefenbach, Joyce Lucas, Karen Hansen, Jane and John Gulino, Laurie Revak, Sue Phillips, Jan Czosnyka, Sheryl Gee, Karen Radovich, Janice Bordignon, Wendy Manser, Bev Tychsen, Ginny Deuerling, Barb Thrun, Becky Lucking, Chandra Blummer, Ann Lingner and Mary Benz.**

Thank you to **Donna Reber and Shirley and Bill Berghorn** for their donations for the poinsettias.

We would also like to recognize our delivery “elves” **Karen Hansen, Joyce Lucas, Pastor Greg, Krista Huffman, Jane Dawson, Mary Katenhusen, Ginny and Bill Deuerling, and Jim Henne-man .**

Finally, a special thank you to **Marilyn Peaco** for addressing our Christmas cards; **Karen Hansen and Sheryl Gee** for assembling the cookie plates; and to the many people who donated baked goods anonymously and donated funds to purchase the poinsettias.

May God Bless you all! May your acts of kindness and remembrance spread our St. Paul’s Christmas cheer and bring glory to God’s name.

Wreath of Friendship Ministry

Thank You

Thank you to the Wreath of Friendship!

Thank you very much for sending us the delicious cookies and beautiful Poinsettia plants, it is still blooming. We also received a second tray of cookies for Christmas.

Thank you for the thoughtful gifts.
Marianne & Warren Spencer

Thank you St. Paul members and friends for the wonderful treats!

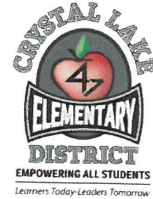
Mary Katenhusen so generously drove over to my house to deliver the goodies. We had a nice chat and the cookies and bread were delicious. The Poinsettia looks so nice on my piano. It's been a hard year for me, first the loss of my Mom, then my Aunt and, of course, the unexpected and overwhelming loss of my husband Dave in September. God is really testing my faith. But with friends, family, my strong faith in God, and St. Paul's welcoming and loving arms are always open. I am coping with these losses.

Thank you for thinking of me and keeping me in your prayers.

God Bless you all.
Kathi Seibt

Thank You

Kids Hope



Dear Community Members & Friends--

Words cannot express our sincere appreciation for the overwhelming donations we received for our North Elementary families this holiday season. We would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You for supporting our community with your generous donations.

This year families were showered with support and due to the number of gift cards that were donated, we are happy to share that we will continue to be able to assist our families in need in ways that we ordinarily could not, on top of the gifts they received.

We wish you could see the joy and gratitude on the families' faces as we presented them with their holiday goodies, but just know, they were entirely grateful! Your donations bring our families relief and peace during the holiday season!

From North Elementary to you... Thank you!

Usher Schedule

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

USHERS

February 5th

Ken Thrun - Captain
Steve Tobin
Ann Lingner
Greeter: Linda Christensen
Reader: Rebecca Eckhardt

February 12th

Ken Hansen - Captain
Karen Hansen
Sondra Matterness
Greeter: Terri Deuerling
Reader: Jane Dawson

February 19th

John Whetham - Captain
Joe & Jan Rickard
Greeter: Arlene Jezierski
Reader: Lauren Henneman

February 26th

Gary Voss - Captain
Carla Voss
Linda Ticknor
Greeters: Arlene Tuscano
Reader: TBD

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

USHERS

March 5th

Jim Henneman Jr. - Captain
Lauren Henneman
Bill Berghorn
Greeter: TBD
Reader: TBD

March 12th

Ken Thrun - Captain
Wendy Dominico
Rebecca Eckhart
Greeter: TBD
Reader: TBD

March 19th

John Whetham - Captain
Linda Ticknor
Jean Hautzinger
Greeter: TBD
Reader: TBD

March 26th

Gary Voss - Captain
Carla Voss
John Vogt
Greeter: TBD
Reader: TBD

St. Paul's Prayer List



St. Paul's Members

Ernie Good, John Whetham, Bill Berghorn, Rodney Hopkins

St. Paul's Homebound Friends

Arlene Kopsell, Barb Biscomb

Deceased Members and Friends

Karen Kummerow

Friends

Chad Kummerow, Ron Almquist, Barb Eich

Military - Stateside

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), 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

Youth Director, Jasmine Becker

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

Church Council

TBD, Council President

Donna Butler, Council Vice President

815-451-1114 - butlersmail6@yahoo.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

Give the Gift of SCRIP

IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS as of December 5th, 2022

Buffalo Wild Wings	2 @ \$25
Chili's	2 @ \$25
Chipotle	3 @ \$10
Darden (Olive Garden, Longhorn)	5 @ \$25
Dunkin	1 @ \$10
IHOP	1 @ \$25
Jewel	3 @ \$25/ 15 @ \$100
LL Bean	2 @ \$100
Mariano's	4 @ \$50
Menards	1 @ \$100
Panera	5 @ \$10
Red Lobster	8 @ \$25
Speedway	16 @ \$25/ 1 @ \$100
Starbuck	15 @ \$10/2 @ \$25
Synergy (Mobil)	6 @ \$50
Steinmart	1 @ \$25
Subway	3 @ \$10
Target	4 @ \$25
TJ Maxx (Sierra, HomeGoods, Marshall)	3 @ \$100
Walmart	5 @ \$100

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!