

St. Paul's

**January
2024**



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NEXT BEACON
February 9th
All articles are
due in by 2/2

January
2024

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



“Resolutions, Visions, and Missions Possible”

Some people make *resolutions* for the new year. A resolution is a firm decision to do or not to do something. I commend those people who make a new year’s resolution and who actually follow through on them. But the outcome or take-away from most resolutions is, more often than not, to fall back on “business as usual.” Or like the old adage, to keep doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results.

Some people create *visions* for themselves, their businesses, or institutions. A vision is the ability to think about or plan the future with imagination or wisdom. To have a vision is crucial to any organization or community otherwise we soon find we lack the motivation to sustain or maintain our basic operations. A vision, however, usually move things further along than simply having the “resolve” to accomplish something.

While, some people establish *missions*. A mission is a strongly felt aim, ambition, or calling. To have or be on a mission (emphasis on strongly felt) is to, as in the opening words of the Star Trek TV series, boldly go where we have never gone before. Once adopted, a mission gives an organization, not only a goal to work for, but an achievable dream to believe in and commit to for the long haul.

All three of these terms are part of the many conversations that I hope to be having with the key leaders, movers, and shakers of St. Paul’s Church in the coming months. Because, we can’t just keep talking the talk together and saying “we just need more members and all of our problems will be solved.”

This is a crucial year for us as we boldly move forward with a new vision. But I remind you that the above definition is about planning the future *with imagination and wisdom*. This would be a worthy endeavor and could gain some footing in the coming year but will it sustain us?

We could consider developing a new mission. The unique thing about a mission is that it requires some serious reflection on our core values as a religious institution. When developing a mission, an organization has to ask the hard questions like “why do we exist?” “What is our role and purpose in the community?” “Would we be missed if we ceased to exist?” The other thing about a mission, it implies the need for a certain amount of dismantling to happen in order for us to rebuild and become something very new and ‘relevant.’ We could call it a mission makeover.

These are all noble pursuits and the time is ripe for us to reflect on the big questions for “the church.” And to prayerfully ask, what is the new thing God is trying to do here? And what are the implications for St. Paul’s United Church of Christ? And anyone who has spent a minute or two with me has heard me offer two key words: *commitment and innovation*; a strong commitment to God’s church combined with the willingness to think outside the box as entrepreneurs for Christ, and to, all the while, get curious.

See ya’ in church.

Pastor Bob

Words from Wang

ST. PAUL'S UCC



Worship Opportunities for January & February

January 7: Baptism of Christ Sunday

Scripture: Mark 1:4-11

Sermon Theme: *Beginnings*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

January 14: 2nd Sunday After Epiphany (MLK Observance)

Scripture: John 2:1-11

Sermon Theme: *Serve No Wine Before It's Time*

January 21: 3rd Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: Mark 1:14-20

Sermon Theme: *To Follow Where God Leads*

January 28: 4th Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: Mark 1:21-28

Sermon Theme: *By What Authority?*

February 4: 5th Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: Mark 1:29-39

Sermon Theme: *There's Plenty of Jesus to Go Around*

Note: The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served.

February 11: Transfiguration Sunday

Scripture: Mark 9:2-9

Sermon Theme: *What Color is God's Skin?*

Note: Faith, Food, and Fellowship Sunday in fellowship hall (see article)

February 14: Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m. – Worship

Worship Theme: *Children of the Earth*

February 18: 1st Sunday in Lent

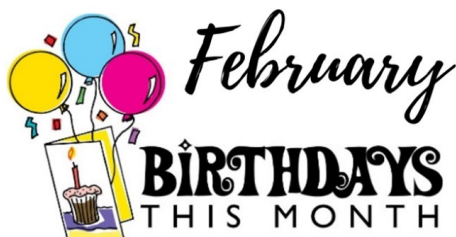
Scripture: Psalm 25:1-10, Mark 1:9-15

Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Michele Eich	1/1
Jean Hautzinger	1/4
Jane Gulino	1/5
Gene Virzi	1/6
Becky Burns	1/7
Martin Barski	1/11
Shirley Berghorn	1/11

Brian Kriegel	1/12
Carey Pagnotta	1/14
Eli Rickard	1/15
Virginia Covalt	1/15
Karen Radovich	1/16
David Burdloff	1/17
Hazel Kriegel	1/24



Scott McDowd	2/2
Calvin Reckamp	2/4
Lauren Henneman	2/4
Jake Monahan	2/4
Hannah Virzi	2/7
Harry Speros	2/7
Dick Hautzinger	2/9
Becky Berghorn	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
Jennifer Wikman	2/26
Arlene Tuscano	2/26
Andrew Chappell	2/26
Karen Ryberg	2/26
Jill Gapp	2/27
Amanda Lotesto	2/27

Church News

Crystal Lake Food Pantry Update

Just a bit of history for you, new information for some, and a reminder for those of you who were there from the beginning.

The Pantry was started in 1983 by 17 area churches and celebrated its 40th anniversary of operation serving our community neighbors in need this past September. From a small startup, it has grown into a trusted and respected part of our community. It is a ministry that has been fully supported by our congregation throughout the entire 40 years.

The past year has seen a **50% increase** in the number of neighbors needing food assistance. The Pantry has distributed **over 1.2 million pounds of food** in 2023! All of this growth and need has increased the need for the number of volunteers required to operate the pantry. St. Paul's has a dedicated group of volunteers, but we need additional help. We especially need someone who would be willing to act with me as a co-team leader. We provide Pantry coverage for 14 service days a year and I cannot always be available.

Our service day is always Friday **and we do need more people to assist** any part of our shift which is 8-2:30. There are a variety of tasks and we can accommodate any limitations you may have.

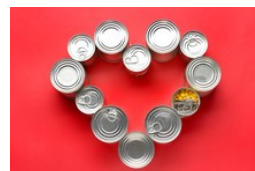
Without additional people stepping up to assist us, we may have come to the point that we may not be able to meet our obligation to the pantry and may have to withdraw St Paul's as a Pantry support organization. This is something we would **definitely like to avoid**.

Please consider helping out – it is a great way to “give back” to our community and is easy! Our service days this year are as follows so mark your calendars and consider joining us so “That no one goes hungry”.

All dates are on Friday:

1/19, 2/16, 3/1, 4/19, 5/17, 5/31, 6/21, 7/19, 8/16, 8/30, 9/20, 10/18, 11/8, 11/22, 12/20

Thank you. **We NEED you.** Hope to see you there!
Laurie Revak (Call me! 815-245-6899)



Church News



NEW GROUP

ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Hello, St. Paul's members and friends!

We are starting a new adult fellowship group. Its primary focus will be on building community and engaging in fun activities. At least one of the activities held throughout the year will be giving back to the community, like volunteering at Feed My Starving Children.

This group will be based on an informal format, meaning there are neither regular meetings nor officers. Those in the group will decide the activities offered. We will take turns planning the events. For example, if I would like to organize a bowling outing, I gather all the information (date, time, pricing, etc.). Then I share the information with the group through the Beacon, emails, and/or Church Chatter. We hope to offer something once per month. Each participant will be responsible for their own transportation and any costs involved. The key is simply getting together in Christian fellowship. All are welcome!

We'll meet in the church lounge after service on Sunday, January 21st, for a few minutes to talk about our first event. If you cannot attend, please give your email to Lena so you can be added to the group, or just watch for announcements in the Church Chatter and Beacon.

Thank you,

Ann Lingner and Pastor Bob

December Highlights



Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the Giving Tree this year.

The total collected was \$2,485.

\$1,585 will be available for St. Paul's families.

\$900 in gift cards was presented to Pioneer Center and PADS.

Many people in need had a merrier Christmas season because of you!

Happy New Year!

Ann Lingner & Wendy Domanico



2023

Mary Circle Christmas Lunch



December Highlights

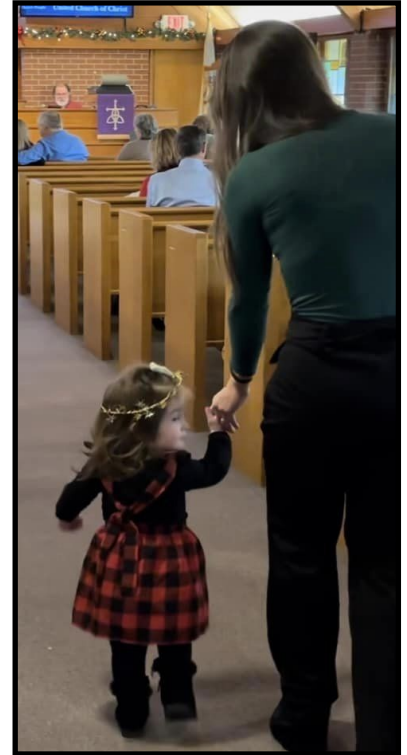
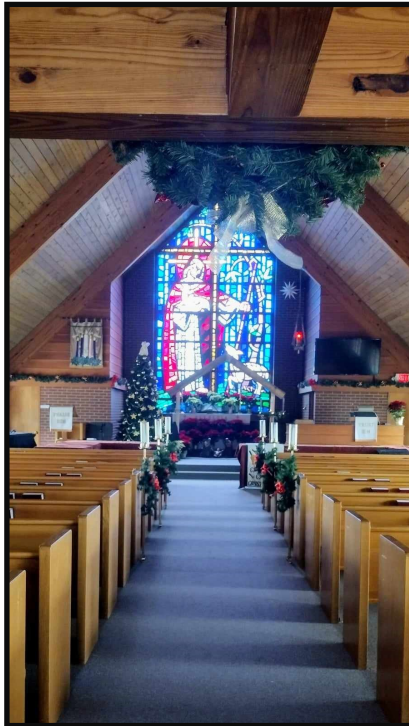


“Hope for Humanity” Concert



December Highlights

St. Paul's Christmas Pageant



December Highlights

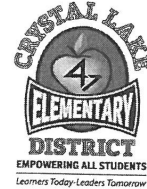
Guiding Light Preschool

Christmas Carols with Pastor Bob



Thank You Notes

North Elementary School



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. Because of you, **we were able to support a total of 37 families this year which included a total of 101 children**. This is incredible!

Not only were we able to provide our students and families with holiday gifts, but we are fortunate enough to have had organizations provide additional funds to continue to assist our families following the holiday season.

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!

Happy Holidays!

Thank You Notes

Dear St. Paul's friends,

Thank you for the cards and treats for my birthday, and wreath of friendship for my return from rehab. I appreciate all St. Paul's does for people.

Arlene Kopsell

Dick and I are grateful to have been at the receiving end of The Wreath of Friendship.

Thank you for the delicious home made breads, cookies and the lovey poinsettia. We are also grateful for your prayers, cards and meals provided as I heal from my fall.

Thank you to my church family from my heart.

Jean Hautzinger

Dear St. Paul's Family,
Thank you ever so much
for the Wreath of Friendship
visit and wonderful goodies.
Our sister-in-law, Barb,
will be missed by all of the
Roxworthy Family.
We enjoyed time with
Laurie + Rob! ☺
Merry Christmas!
Don + Jo Ellen Roxworthy

Usher Schedule

January
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

USHERS

January 7th

Sheryl Gee- Captain
Gary Gee & Wendy Domanico
Greeter: Marianne Deacon
Liturgist: Wendy Manser

January 14th

Jim Henneman - Captain
Lauren Henneman & Linda Ticknor
Greeter: Arlene Jezierski
Liturgist: Jane Dawson

January 21st

Ken Hansen - Captain
Gene & Lynn Virzi
Greeter: Steve & Margaret Tobin
Liturgist: TBD

January 28th

John Whetham - Captain
Jean Hautzinger & Cheryl Trifenbach
Greeters: Linda Ticknor
Liturgist: Cathy Schmidt

February
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

USHERS

February 4th

Ken Thrun - Captain
Joe & Jan Rickard
Greeter: Marianne Deacon
Liturgist: TBD

February 11th

Jim Henneman - Captain
Lauren Henneman & Bill Berghorn
Greeter: Steve & Margaret Tobin
Liturgist: TBD

February 18th

Ken Hansen - Captain
Karen Hansen & Jane Dawson
Greeter: Ken & Barb Thrun
Liturgist: N/A

February 25th

John Whetham - Captain
Kevin Kruse & Nancy Bellis
Greeters: Jane Dawson
Liturgist: TBD

St. Paul's Prayer List



St. Paul's Members

Dick & Jean Hautzinger, Marianne Spencer

St. Paul's Homebound Friends

Arlene Kopsell

Deceased Members and Friends

N/A

Friends

Frank

Military - Stateside

Todd Whetham, Beth Roxworthy

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 UCC
485 Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL

Phone: 815-459-5096

E-mail: info@stpaulsucccl.org | Website: www.stpaulsucc-cl.org

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram: [stpaulsucc-cl](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsucc-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

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

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Church Council

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Donna Butler, Council Vice President

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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

Ruth Costello

815-354-0121- rev.ruth.costello@gmail.com

Nancy Schmitz

815-338 -2670 - nancyschmitz123@icloud.com

Linda Ticknor—lindaticknor@gmail.com

815-382-8295

Give the Gift of SCRIP



IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS as of November 28th, 2023

Amazon	10 @ \$25
Best Buy	1 @ \$25
Buffalo Wild Wings	2 @ \$25
Chili's	4 @ \$25
Chipotle	3 @ \$10
Darden (Olive Garden)	8 @ \$25
Dunkin'	6 @ \$10
Fannie May	5 @ \$10
Home Depot	2 @ \$100
IHOP	1 @ \$25
Jewel	2 @ \$25/11 @ \$100
Kohl's	4 @25/1 @ \$100
LL Bean	1 @ \$100
Mariano's	3 @ \$50
Menards	2 @ \$100
Panera	6 @ \$10
Red Lobster	8 @ \$25
Shell	7 @ \$50
Speedway	12 @ \$25/1 @ \$100
Starbucks	7 @10/ 10 @ \$25
Synergy (Mobil)	3 @ \$50
Steinmart	1 @ \$25
Subway	3 @ \$10
Synergy (Mobile)	4 @ \$50
Target	2 @ \$25
TJ Maxx (Sierra, HomeGoods, Marshall)	2 @ \$100
Walmart	8 @ \$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** 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!