

# St. Paul's



March  
2022

THE BEACON



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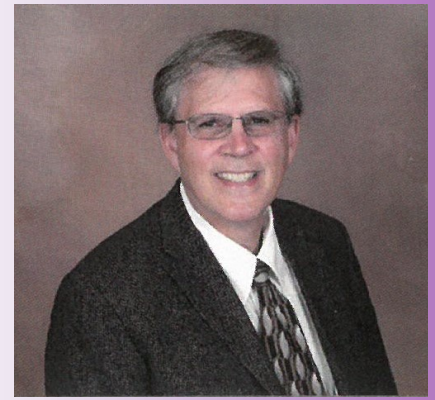
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Dear Friends,

As I write these words it seems the whole world's eyes are fixed on the conflict in Ukraine. Perhaps that fixation is related to the human fascination with conflict. Perhaps it is also related to the possibility of escalation and the fear of nuclear war - which is the universal fear of pain and death. Certainly the seemingly limitless availability of news and images contributes to our attention. It is possible to become addicted to negative news. For this reason alone, I think it is wise to know what's going on but, for good mental health, monitor the intake of news. One woman said to me, "I can't help but watch it every day."

The author of the New Testament book of Hebrews wrote, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith." (12:2). I take this encouragement to focus my attention on Jesus more than war. That doesn't mean ignore the war, nor does it mean that Jesus doesn't relate to war. Rather it means to me that all things are "filtered" through him - even war. I see the war through the unending, radical love of God who has already won the ultimate victory over sin and death. I see the war through God's promise of a day when peace will reign and God will be all things to all people. I see the war through God's special concern for the lost and hurting. This is part of what it means to me to "fix my eyes" on Christ.

*Peace,*

*Pastor Greg*

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 & 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**

March 16, 2022



Dear Church Family,

As we turn our sights towards Spring and the weather finally seems to be headed in that direction, I am drawn to themes of renewal and reawakening all around us. While the crocuses and daffodils have not yet appeared, the birdsong is once again audible and even the Sandhill Cranes have been sighted as they stop here on their north-bound migration, a sure sign say avid birdwatchers that Spring is on its way.

I am seeing signs of renewal and reawakening at St. Paul's as well. With the recent easing of the Council's mask guidance making mask wearing optional, it is nice to once again see some of the full faces and smiles of our Church Family. I notice more and more people attending our Sunday worship services and more people lingering after the service to meet and greet one another. The desire for people to reconnect is evident and much needed as we emerge from a long, cold winter and the lifting of Covid-related restrictions.

Taking all this into account, Council discussed at its March meeting this past Tuesday the advisability of authorizing the resumption of in-person social gatherings involving eating and drinking and adopted the guidelines you see posted elsewhere in this Beacon. I have been in touch with the Fellowship Time group who is ready to resume Fellowship Time following Sunday services once they have had some time to order and prepare. Be on the lookout for an announcement from them once they are ready to resume.

With Spring comes rain and as the saying goes, in a slightly modified form, into each Church some rain must fall. As you will read in more detail elsewhere in this Beacon, it is with great sadness that I report that Amanda Edwards, our Program Director, recently informed us that she will be unable to continue as our Program Director. She will, however, remain an active participant in our Church community and I hope that you will continue to welcome her and her talents into our community. She has already added her voice to the Adult Choir, a positive addition for sure! We will begin the recruitment process for a new Program Director. In the meantime, Amanda is happy to share with us the thoughts and ideas she has generated over the last several months so that interested members of our congregation might be able to put on a few programs themselves until we are able to hire a new Program Director. Please let me or any of our Council members know if you are interested in organizing any events.

As we continue our Lenten journeys, I pray that the signs of renewal and reawakening we have begun to experience will blossom into the fullness of God's glory and that we will continue to be blessed by God and one another.

With hope and gratitude for what is now and for what is yet to come,

*Nancy Bellis,*  
*Church Council President*



# Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Sharon Dieball	3/1
Eric Ogle	3/1
Luke Eckhardt	3/2
Roxanne Zickus	3/3
Mary Gonzalez	3/6
Michael Dul	3/8
David Kranz	3/8
Ron Jacobson	3/9
Barb Kriegel	3/9
Abigail Wikman	3/9
Meg Reckamp	3/11
Cathy Schmidt	3/13

John Arvidson	3/17
Jean Nulle	3/18
Regina Lombardo	3/19
Debra Sroka	3/20
Jennifer Campisi	3/22
Joe Rickard	3/23
Betty Eslick	3/24
Don Roxworthy	3/25
Ken Thrun	3/27
Mary Katenhusen	3/28
Noah Virzi	3/29
Janice Bordignon	3/31



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

Robin Mullard	4/16
Peter 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
Emilee Campisi	4/30
Ursula Kriegel	4/30

# Church News



## Proposed Covid Guidance on In-Person Social Gatherings at St. Paul's

In line with the improving health environment and Council's recently revised mask guidance providing that mask wearing while on St. Paul's premises is optional, the Council has determined that social gatherings that involve eating and drinking (e.g., Fellowship Time, potlucks) may now resume. We realize that members of our congregation may have varying degrees of comfort with these new guidelines and we ask that you continue to respect each person's individual choice and respond to that choice with kindness, understanding, and empathy. We will continue to monitor the key risk metrics for McHenry County to ensure we are providing a safe and healthy environment for our congregation.

*Nancy Bellis*

*Church Council President*

## Prayers From Council

You may have noticed "Prayers from the Congregation" appearing in the Sunday Service Bulletin. I wanted to provide some context for where these prayers are coming from. At every Council meeting for the past year and a half, we have had as a standing item on our meeting agenda some time set aside to solicit thoughts from the Council members for things we want to take to God and pray about. It is a recognition that while we strive to do our best in managing the business and affairs of the Church, we can't do it without His help. It is also our opportunity to thank Him for the many blessings He has bestowed upon St. Paul's. Over the past year and a half, we have prayed for God's help in our efforts to reopen St. Paul's safely and to revitalize our Church. We have asked God to send us the right people to lead our Preschool and open staff positions. We have thanked God for generous donors and His continuing guidance as we navigate challenging waters. And we have prayed for peace and comfort in our surrounding community and the world. We thought it would be appropriate to share some of the prayers on our prayer list with the Congregation so that you can help us amplify these prayers. That is where the Prayers from the Congregation come from. *Therefore I tell you, Whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. (Mark 11:24)*

*Nancy Bellis*

*Church Council President*



# Church News



The Altar Guild is taking orders for Easter Lilies. The cost of the flower is \$12.00, you can pick up an order form at the church during office hours, Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 2:30 pm. You can also order your Lily the week of **March 20th and 27th** or print this page. **The deadline to order is April 3rd, 2022. There are order forms available on the table in front of the Sanctuary.**

Think SPRING and sunshine as we prepare for a beautiful April Easter celebration.

*Jan Czosnyka & Cheryl Triefenbach*



*Easter Lilies*

**Deadline for Ordering:  
Sunday, April 3rd, 2022**

\_\_\_\_\_ Easter Lilies at \$12.00 each

All plants will be available to take home after Easter Service on April 17th.

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

**Memorial Listing**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Honor Listing**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Neither**

\_\_\_\_\_

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*

# Church News



## Nursery Reopening

We are happy to let you know that on a part time basis the nursery will be available during the Sunday Service.

The nursery will be available on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Our new Preschool Director Rebecca Lucking and her daughter Sophia will be staffing the nursery during this time.

We continue to look for people interested in acting as substitutes or regular staff in order to have the nursery available every week.

We welcome children age three and under to join us during Sunday Service. The nursery will be available on the second and fourth Sunday of the month from 9:45 am -11:15 am.

If you or someone you know is interested in this ministry please let me know. Many thanks to Rebecca and Sophia for making this happen.

*Laurie Revak*

815-245-6899



# Church News

Andrian (Jlq), St Paul's sponsor child is now 15 years old and continuing to thrive. He attends the Alfa Omega Student Center in the Kilimantan Timur region of East Indonesia.

Would you consider paying one month of his sponsorship for the coming year?

The cost is \$38 per month and if you are interested would you please put a check made out to St Paul's in the offering with the word Compassion in the memo? Please also let me know so I can keep track of the months we have covered. My cell is 815-404-1204 and my email is [middaughfamily@yahoo.com](mailto:middaughfamily@yahoo.com). so, please let me know if you are interested in writing a letter and I will get you some stationary.

*Lauran Middaugh*



## Our Sponsor Child



Preschool Open House  
485 Woodstock St, Crystal Lake



last Saturday of March,  
April, May & June  
9am-12pm

Dear St. Paul's Family,

I'm excited to announce the reopening of our St. Paul's preschool now called, St. Paul's Guiding Light Preschool. It will open this fall and I would love to ask our church family if they would like to help spread the word around the community at your favorite restaurant, grocery store, library, or coffee shop? If so, you can pick up a poster or postcard to share, they will be on the desk at the welcome center in the Narthex.

Becky Lucking  
Preschool Director



# Church News



## North Elementary Student Snack Locker

With the start of the new semester, will you please consider donating again to the North Snack Locker that our church helps maintain? Every time I would drop off our items prior to the winter break, the office staff was sincerely appreciative.

The re-cap for this assistance follows: There is a need 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 snack locker 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, Cheezits, 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. I have a designated basket in the narthex area for these food goods. The plan will be for me to drop off our donated items once 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](mailto:elsperos@yahoo.com)

*Blessings,*

*Elizabeth Speros*



There is a new flower chart in the narthex for 2022, and a link to the assigned altar member for each month. If you have not had a chance to sign up, please call the person assigned for the month you would like to donate. [2022 Altar Guild Schedule](#) There is no longer a need to call the office or Cheryll Triefenbach, the altar member will get in touch with you to confirm whether you are bringing your own flowers, or if she should purchase them for you.

Everyone was very generous in 2021 in donating flowers and it made the sanctuary look beautiful. We hope that you will continue to contribute in 2022.

*Happy New Year!*

*The Altar Guild*

# Church News

## Update – Program Director

We would like to update everyone on the status of our program director position. We have both sad news and glad news. In January we announced the filling of this position with Amanda Edwards. We were very happy to learn of her and her talents.

However, there have been some unforeseen changes for Amanda that have impacted her ability to fulfill the requirements of this role. Her full-time job, which she began at the same time she was hired by St. Paul's, has expanded in scope and responsibilities considerably beyond what they were when she first started this job. This extra work demand, coupled with the time she needs for her family, has made finding an extra 10 hours a week to perform her Program Director responsibilities much more difficult than she had originally anticipated. As a result, Amanda recently informed us with great regret that she could no longer continue in her St. Paul's role as she felt she could not give us her "all".

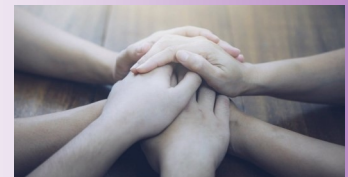
That is the sad news. The glad news is that she has met many people at our church, feels very comfortable here, and would like to continue worshiping here as a regular attendee. She has started to sing in the choir. Her involvement may deepen in other volunteer areas as her time allows. We are grateful Amanda has found us a warm and welcoming place and we look forward to her continuing to share her voice as well as other talents that may fit her schedule.

We are beginning our recruiting effort to identify a new program director resource. In the meantime, Amanda is happy to share with us her thoughts and ideas cultivated over the last several months so that we may be able to put on a few programs with the help of interested members of our congregation. Please let me or any of our Council members know if you are interested to assist.

*Rob Revak,*

*Personnel Committee*

## Christ Centered Connection



Thank you to all that are participating in our Christ Centered Connections. These groups have become opportunities to connect during the week in a "Christ Centered" way and to refresh for the days ahead. The Christ Centered Connections groups have expanded to 5 groups, with one meeting on Monday mornings and three on Monday evenings. We also have one group meeting on Wednesday nights.

We had a chance last October to celebrate the one year anniversary of the Christ Centered Connections and acknowledge our facilitators and participants. Thank you again to those that attended and those that made the event possible.

If you would like more information on the Christ Centered Connection group, their times and dates, please email me at [james.henneman@nm.com](mailto:james.henneman@nm.com).

*Jim Henneman*

# Church News



## *St. Paul's Opportunity to Aid Ukrainian People*

We have all been watching, listening, and reading about the horrific events happening in Ukraine and what the freedom-loving people of that country are going through. I am sure that most of us can't even imagine such a scenario that is so disruptive to that country and the lives of their people. While it is very sad and disturbing to see these tragic events unfold, there is something we can do to help the Ukrainian people in their time of desperate need.

If you would like to donate, there are several methods to do this listed below:

- You can make out a check to St. Paul's with the memo on the check "Ukraine Relief Fund"
- You can donate cash by putting it in an envelope also labeled Ukraine Relief Fund
- You can mail a check to the church office made out to St. Paul's, also with "Ukraine Relief Fund" as a memo.

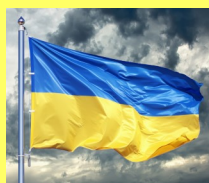
If any of the above methods are used, you may drop your donation off at the church marketplace just outside the sanctuary. We will group all the funds to transfer to the UCC Ukraine donation address.

The United Church of Christ missions has set up a website, which is below, where anyone can donate to assist those in Ukraine. Follow your heart and please consider a donation to these people in desperate need of our help. Cheryl Triefenbach is taking donations until March 31st.

The UCC website is: <https://www.ucc.org/global-h-o-p-e/ukraine-emergency-appeal/> If you have a problem opening the link, you may have to cut and paste it to your browser for it to open.

*Rob Revak*

*Vice-President, Church Council*





# Thank You



Thank you to Pastor Greg, my family, Jill, my church family and friends for your prayers, cards and care!

I'm doing very well and will see you all very soon.

*Pete Singer*

Thank you Pastor Greg, Joyce, my church family and friends for all the kind and caring cards, texts, Facebook comments, and prayers in the passing of my mom, Janet Hannigan.

I'm sure she feels the love!

*Kathy Seibt*

Thank you Pastor Greg and all the St. Paul's church members who sent cards, messages and for the beautiful plant in the passing of my Dad.

I appreciate all your sentiments.

*Lena Vocalino*

# Usher & Greeter Schedule

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

## **USHERS**

### **MARCH 20**

Ken Hansen - Captain  
Karen Hansen  
Jane Dawson  
Greeter: Linda Christensen  
Lay Reader: Rebecca Eckhardt

### **MARCH 27**

Ken Hansen - Captain  
Karen Hansen  
Elizabeth Speros  
Greeter:  
Lay Reader: Lauren Henneman

**March**  
**Wednesday**  
**Lenten Services**  
**7:00 p.m.**

## **USHERS**

### **MARCH 16**

**Lent**  
Ken & Karen Hansen

### **MARCH 23**

**Lent**  
Bill Eich  
Wendy Manser

### **MARCH 30**

**Lent**  
Arlene Tuscano  
Bill Berghorn

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

## **USHERS**

### **April 3**

Ken Thrun - Captain  
Joe & Jan Rickard  
Greeter: TBD  
Lay Reader: TBD

### **April 6**

#### **Lent**

Ken Thrun & Jane Dawson

### **April 10**

Rob Revak - Captain  
Laurie Revak & Elizabeth Speros  
Greeter: TBD  
Reader: TBD

### **April 14**

#### **Maundy Thursday**

Ken & Karen Hansen

### **April 15**

#### **Good Friday**

Rob Revak - Captain  
Laurie Revak & Elizabeth Speros

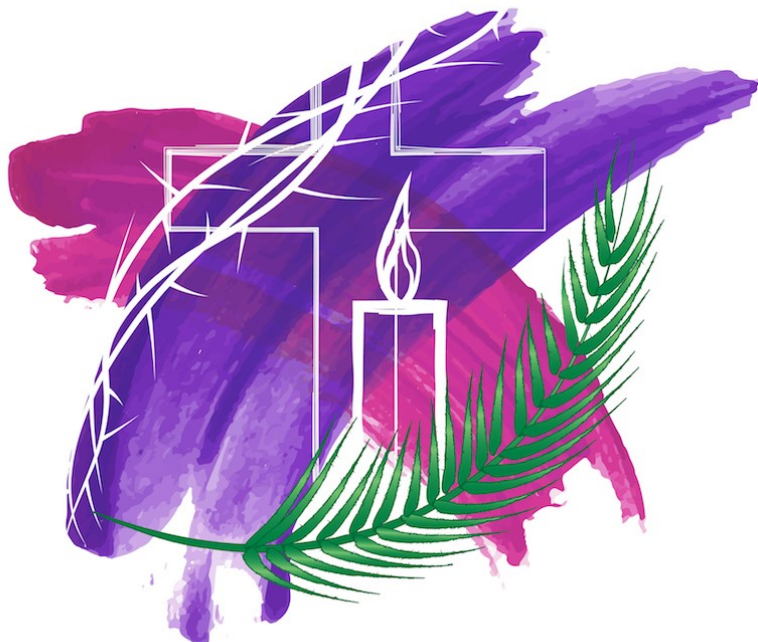
### **April 17**

#### **Easter Sunday**

Ken Hansen - Captain  
Karen Hansen & Linda Tichnor  
Greeter: TBD  
Reader: Jim Henneman

### **April 24**

John Whetham - Captain  
Bill Berghorn  
Greeter: TBD  
Reader: TBD



# St. Paul's Prayer List

## St. Paul's Members

Norm Falk, Allen Radovich, Pete Singer, Brian Zickus

## St. Paul's Homebound Friends

Martha Hughes, Arlene Kopsell, Barb Biscomb

## Deceased Members and Friends

Elizabeth Hannigan, Frank Vocalino, Carlene Macko, Shirley Huddle ,  
Betty Cameron, Larry Skipper, Janet Hannigan  
(Kathi Seibt's Mother)

## Friends

Floyd Wilson, Luann Springston, Suzanne Olsen

## 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 our pages and share our posts on social media.



## Church Staff

Reverend Gregory Lucas

815-459-5096 - [info@stpaulsucccl.org](mailto:info@stpaulsucccl.org)

Office Manager, Lena Vocalino

815-459-5096 - [info@stpaulsucccl.org](mailto:info@stpaulsucccl.org)

## Church Council

Nancy Bellis, Council President

312-493-5144 - [nkbconsulting@yahoo.com](mailto:nkbconsulting@yahoo.com)

Rob Revak, Council Vice President

815-245-4170 - [robrrr52@gmail.com](mailto:robrrr52@gmail.com)

Janis Braun, Secretary

815-575-1997 - [eliotness62@gmail.com](mailto:eliotness62@gmail.com)

Fred Mullard, Treasurer

224-629-3755 - [mullard@mc.net](mailto:mullard@mc.net)

Jennifer Good, Financial Secretary

815-245-3287- [jennifer.a.good@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.a.good@gmail.com)

Jane Dawson - [dawson247@comcast.net](mailto:dawson247@comcast.net)

Gary Gee - [ggwn@aol.com](mailto:ggwn@aol.com)

**NEXT BEACON**

**April 22, 2022**

**All articles are due in the church  
office by April 12th**



# Give the Gift of SCRIP

## IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS as of February 26, 2022

Bath and Body Works	2 @ \$25
Buffalo Wild Wings	2 @ \$25
Buona Beef	6 @ \$10
Chipotle	5 @ \$10
Darden	6 @ \$25
Fannie May	4 @ \$10
IHOP	2 @ \$25
Jewel	12 @ \$100
Kohl's	8 @ \$25 / 1 @ \$100
LL Bean	2 @ \$100
Mariano's	4 @ \$50
Mobil	2 @ \$50
Panera	3 @ \$10
Red Lobster	8 @ \$25
Shell	4 @ \$25
Speedway	1 @ \$25 / 1 @ \$100
Steinmart	1 @ \$25
Subway	3 @ \$10
Target	1 @ \$25
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, check are

made payable to St. Paul's.

Karen Radovich [mailto:\(nuknees@mc.net\)](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!