

St. Paul's



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

**May
2022**

THE BEACON



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Dear Friends,

As I write this article (Monday, May 16), the window is open in my church office and I am enjoying what, to me, is one of the most beautiful days of the year. The sky is bright blue, the grass is verdant green and the air is cool and crisp. Thank you, God, for your marvelous creation - including the gift of physical senses and the capacity to wonder and enjoy it all!

I think beauty and wonder seem to naturally draw me closer to God. Who created this universe? And for what purpose? At first, these might seem like "merely" philosophical questions - questions that arise when "more important" matters are not pressing. Yet, I think these are most important questions, the answers to which provide a foundation and framework for all of life. Underneath my daily routine is a meaning and purpose that offers hope and direction - a hope and direction that carries me and persists through all life's circumstances.

Will you reflect today on what gives you hope and purpose? Jesus Christ is the center of our faith as the one who points us to life. His life offers us life. He answers the question: "Who created and why?"

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/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

May, 2022



Dear Church Family,

Warm greetings to you all! During my President's Report at our Church Council meeting this past Tuesday, I spoke about the positive momentum we are experiencing on a number of fronts at St. Paul's and the signs of hope and promise it is creating in our revitalization efforts. Pastor Greg expanded on this theme in his remarks and invited us to reflect on what Council has done and can do in the future to maintain this momentum, which he phrased as positive *spiritual momentum*.

I love that phrase and accept the invitation! But what does it mean exactly? To gain a better sense of that I did what I often do when exploring an idea or subject. That's right, I googled it! I started with the word "momentum," which has been described as a powerful experience we have all experienced in one form or another, as energy, driving power, strength, steam, or velocity. Spiritual momentum takes that concept to another level. It has been the subject of a number of sermons by religious leaders of a variety of denominations, each suggesting various ways in which it can be achieved or maintained. At its most fundamental level positive spiritual momentum keeps us moving towards and with God amid our fears and uncertainties, whether on a global level, such as living with the pandemic and in an increasingly violent and divided world, or a more local level, focusing on St. Paul's as we seek to revitalize by relaunching our Preschool, transitioning to a new committee structure, attracting new members, and expanding our community outreach.

As I see it, our revitalization efforts, to be successful, must be motivated and propelled by positive spiritual momentum as we start anew and move forward with God, through the power of the Gospel and the work of the Holy Spirit, with increased velocity. How? By drawing closer to God in prayer and humbly trusting that He will guide us and answer our prayers beyond the limits of our human imaginations and despite our fears and uncertainties. And we have begun to experience just that! Did you ever imagine a year ago that we would have on staff an amazing Youth Director, Program Director, or Preschool Director, much less all three? Or that we would be sharing Fellowship Time after Sunday service and potluck gatherings? Or that our Sunday service attendance would be at the levels we have been seeing recently, with new families joining our church community? Or that we would be on our way to reopening the Preschool, having recently signed up two enrollees for the Fall semester, with the hope of many more to come? To be sure, we still have challenges ahead and much more to be done, but we are on our way, propelled by a positive spiritual momentum that is real and palpable.

So how do we maintain this positive spiritual momentum? One sure way, as I have already suggested, is through our prayers and by humbly asking God to help us accomplish the goals Council has established as a means of serving Him through our St Paul's community. Prayer is an integral focus of our work as Council members, as you can see by the Council Prayers we have recently begun to share with the congregation in our Sunday service bulletin. It is our strength and a driving force as we push on past our fears and uncertainties and our own human limitations and imaginations. We invite you to join us as we all work together to manifest God's great glory.

With hope and prayers,

Nancy Bellis.

Church Council President

Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Anna Schmidt	6/1
Betty Kubat	6/5
Tim Benz	6/6
Lauren Rodriquez	6/6
Colin Braun	6/8
Alex Alexeyuk	6/9
Andrew Mace	6/12
Riley Breeden	6/13
Brian Zickus	6/13
Bruce Nulle	6/14
Aiden Elizarraraz	6/16
Amy Mullard	6/17

Brenda Wilson	6/18
Kristin Glauner	6/19
Kimberly Mace	6/19
Pinky Martin	6/20
Anna Zickus	6/21
Abigail Campisi	6/22
Angela Loehner	6/22
Ben Lingner	6/24
Kathy Rodriquez	6/24
Madelyn MacMillan	6/28
Dana Sideris	6/28
Rebecca Eckhardt	6/29
Rob Revak	6/29



Michael Popp	7/1
Ernie Good	7/5
Dave Kay	7/9
Monet Lindstrand	7/12
Anna Mason	7/13
Barbara Thrun	7/13
Nancy Bellis	7/13
Norman Falk	7/15
Jeffrey Lutz	7/15
Olivia Kachelmuss	7/16
Connie Burdloff	7/18

Ruth Costello	7/18
Bill Berghorn	7/21
Marlene Kuhlman	7/21
Jim Henneman Jr.	7/22
Deborah Patterson	7/23
Jennifer Good	7/24
Brian Click	7/24
Mary Glauner	7/25
Jordan Lombardo	7/25
Andrew Eckhardt	7/29
Morgan Roewer	7/31
Steve Tobin	7/31

Church News



Now that our church is back open and activities and committees are able to meet in person, there is much more traffic entering the church. I am enjoying meeting members in person and putting a face to a name.

With the renewal and reawakening of St. Paul's, everyone is very excited. With that being said, the church office has become very busy orientating our two new employees along with the everyday administrative duties. Many of my duties have a deadline and require me to get them done on time and within my scheduled day.

It would be a **GREAT** help if you want assistance or need to meet with me to please schedule a time to come to the office. This can be done via my email: info@stpaulsucccl.org or call me at 815-459-5096. I am most free to meet with anyone on **Thursdays or Fridays between 10:30 am and 2:00 pm.**

My next request is for anyone wanting to add an article, blurb, or photo in the Church Chatter or Beacon to jot down the below deadlines. If I don't get your content by the deadline it will automatically go in the following week or month depending on the publication.

Deadlines are as follows:

Church Chatter: ***Tuesday before 11:00 am***

Bulletin: ***Wednesday before 11:00 am***

Beacon: ***This date is always listed on the back page of each issue.***

I appreciate your understanding and thank you all for being welcoming and supportive first day at St. Paul's!

Lena Vocalino

Office Manager

Church News

Columbarium

Spring is finally here and it's time to start thinking about buying that paver to honor your special friend or family member. How about a paver to memorialize the love one you have lost? This is the time of year we can install one for you in the "Walk of Remembrance". And what better time than Memorial Day!

The cost remains the same at \$200.00. Interested?

Call Karen Hansen 815-455-1385.

Your Columbarium ministry



Mission & Outreach

What is St. Paul's Vision?

What are St. Paul's Missions and Outreach?

Would you like to get acquainted or reacquainted with St. Paul's?

The Evangelism Ministry would like to form an inquirer's gathering to reach out to people who have worshipped with us online and in person who may be looking for a church home that would assist in growing and nurturing their faith.

If you are interested in attending our inquirer's gathering or if you know of someone who would like to get better acquainted with St. Paul's, please call our church office **815-459-5096** or visit with our ushers and greeters on Sunday.

Church News

Upcoming Events to Share with the Community

"Create your own Imagination Garden"

Saturday, June 11th from 9:00 - 11:00 am
at St. Paul's. Kids & their accompanying
adult will create container gardens filled
with dirt, plants, rocks, possibly fairies,
dinosaurs, gnomes, etc. The sky's the lim-
it to their creativity! Great grandparent/
grandchild outdoor activity to kick off
summer vacation! This event will be
open to the community as well. Bring
your own container; all other materials
will be provided. No drop-offs, children
must be accompanied by an adult.



485 Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake



All are welcome! Please bring your own
container. All other supplies will be
provided.
NO DROP OFFS! Children must be
accompanied by an adult.



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

"Community Bike Swap"

Thursday, July 14th from 5:00 - 7:00 pm
at St. Paul's. Bring your old bike and
trade it in for a new one! Tricycles &
scooters also accepted. Doing some
spring cleaning in your garage? You can
bring your old bike NOW, and anytime
leading up to 7/14. We will happily take
any bikes, tricycles, scooters, helmets,
training wheels, etc. This event will be
open to the community as well.



485 WOODSTOCK ST, CRYSTAL LAKE

BICYCLE SWAP



KIDS TOO BIG FOR THEIR OLD BIKE?
WANT TO TRY A NEW KIND OF BIKE?

THIS EVENT IS FOR YOU!
BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

THURSDAY, JULY 14
5:00 - 7:00 PM

Tricycles & scooters accepted too!

Church News

News from our Program Director

Our first Potluck lunch was a big success! Thank you to all who attended & brought yummy dishes to share. Everything was delicious! Thank you as well to everyone who brought donations for the Crystal Lake food pantry. As we enjoyed our lunch, we were also full of heart knowing the people of St. Paul's were helping those in need in our community. Special thanks to the ladies on the Church Life Committee, as they were the driving force behind making this event beautiful! I believe Pastor Greg summarized it best when he said it was a warm, joyful experience that made him full of gratitude for the opportunity for us to spend time together. Can't wait for the next one!

With gratitude,

Kelly Akerberg

Program Director



Church News

Nursery is NOW Open!



Just a reminder that the St. Paul's Nursery is NOW open.

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.

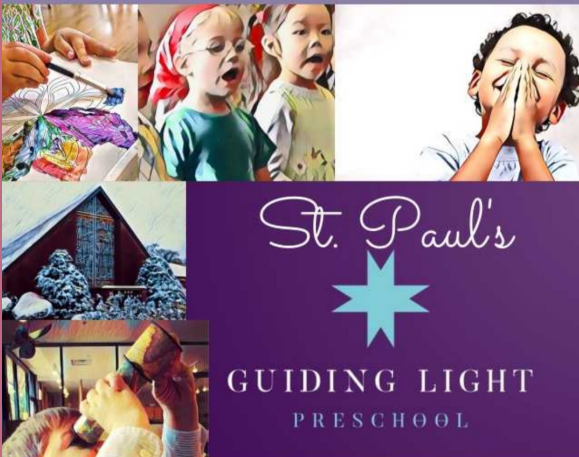
If you or someone you know is interested in this ministry please let me know.

Laurie Revak

815-245-6899



Preschool Open House
485 Woodstock St, Crystal Lake



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

Dear St. Paul's Family,

Our 3rd open house is coming up on Saturday,
May 28th from 9:00 am—12:00 pm.

The Preschool 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.

Becky Lucking
Preschool Director

Church News



A big thank you to everyone who donated snacks for the North School student locker.

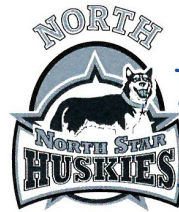
Because this was such a HUGE success, I will continue to collect snacks again next school year. I may also add a school supply donation as well. More information to come.

Thank you very much!

Elizabeth Speros
Kids Hope



EMPOWERING ALL STUDENTS
Learners Today - Leaders Tomorrow



From the Principal

Dear St. Paul Congregation,
We want to send a huge thank you for your generous donations throughout the year. The snacks have made a huge difference with our students. Not only do they provide nutrition they also provide stability and kindness. In addition, they put a huge smile on their faces. We are grateful.
Michelle & Danielle



Usher & Greeter Schedule

June
Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m.

USHERS

June 5

Jon Whetham - Captain

Ann Lingner

Sondra Matterness

Greeter: Nancy Kramer

Reader: Fred Mullard

June 12

Rob Revak - Captain

Laurie Revak

Jane Dawson

Greeter: Cheryll & Gordie Triefenbach

Reader: Rebecca Eckhardt

USHERS

June 19 Father's Day

Jim Henneman - Captain

Lauren Henneman

Bill Berghorn

Greeter: Barbie Fredrick &

Mary Faulk

Reader: TBD

June 26

Arlene Tuscano - Captain

Gene & Lynn Virzi

Greeter: Jane Gulino & Kayla

Reader: Jane Dawson

St. Paul's Prayer List

St. Paul's Members

Andrew Eckhardt, Sandy Macmillan, Barb Thrun, Marianne Spencer
Ruth Costello, Colin Braun, Norm Falk

St. Paul's Homebound Friends

Martha Hughes, Arlene Kopsell, Barb Biscomb

Deceased Members and Friends

Allen Eslick, Mary Jane Butler, Betty Charles, Elizabeth Hannigan, Carlene Macko

Friends

Abigail Czosnyka, Floyd Wilson, Luann Springston

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, Jasmin 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 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 checks 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!

NEXT BEACON: June, 21st
All articles are due in the church June 10th