



**All articles are due in by  
December 6th.**





Dear Friends,

As I write this article, Thanksgiving is right around the corner. I'm looking forward to our celebration in church.

When I think of giving thanks at least a couple of things come to mind. One of them is focus. I have a lot of memories and experiences I could recall, remember and replay in my mind. When I give thanks I am focusing on a certain set of these memories and experiences - a set I might refer to as "blessings." These are events in my life which I understand to be good, helpful, happy experiences. Thanksgiving is an invitation to focus my attention on these things.

Another thing that comes to mind is choice. Thanksgiving reminds me that I can choose to focus my memory on the blessings in my life. I could, just as easily, choose to focus my attention on the negative, painful, sad memories. I am not going to refer to these as "bad" because I believe God can use everything for God's good purpose. However, I can choose to focus my attention on things I can easily and naturally celebrate. These are things that lift my Spirit and give me a sense of hope and promise. These are joyful memories. Thanksgiving is a reminder that I can choose to focus on these memories.

St. Paul wrote to the Philippians:

"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is light, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think on these things ... And the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4

*Peace,*

*Pastor Greg*

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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**



November 2022



Dear Church Family,

This past Sunday we had an opportunity to meet and listen to a message from our UCC Illinois Conference Minister, the Rev. Molly Carlson. While there were several portions of her message that resonated with me, the part that struck me as most salient and timely was her question “What role is God calling us to play to be God alive in the world to reach God’s people?” The *us* in that question applies to both *us* as a church community and *us* as individuals—the Body of Christ and each of its separate parts which are critical to enabling the church as a whole to best administer to the larger community and world at large.

It strikes me that this is just the right question to be focusing on as we begin our transition to identifying an Interim Pastor and, ultimately, a settled pastor. What goals and purposes do we as St. Paul’s want to identify to define who we are as a church and how we want to grow to most effectively reach God’s people? In the months to come, we will develop a church profile that will address this question and serve as a guidepost in recruiting an Interim Pastor who will help us further identify and develop St. Paul’s future goals. At our Council meeting this past Tuesday, we continued to identify the specific steps that will need to be taken during this transition period so that Council 2023 can begin in January with a well-defined roadmap, along with resources to help guide them.

Which brings me to the *us* that is *each* of us in the question “What role is God calling us to play to be God alive in this word to reach God’s people?” As I have previously mentioned, Council has been praying for individual church members to prayerfully discern whether they are being called to serve as Council members next year. Our prayers continue to be answered and, as of this writing, there are five members who have come forward to serve on the 2023 Council along with our sole remaining Council member, Janis Braun. They are Ruth Costello, Wendy Manser, Linda Ticknor and our two most recent nominees, Donna Butler and Nancy Schmitz. We at St. Paul’s are blessed that these individuals feel called to play a special role as Council members to help us as a church and Body of Christ reach God’s people. The whole and its special parts all working together for the glory of God. Praise be to God! Alleluia!

As we look to the future, it is my sincere hope and prayer that we will listen to and heed God’s call as to the special role He wants each of us to play in St. Paul’s future. Whether it is serving on Council or a committee, giving prayerfully through our Stewardship Campaign, inviting new people to church, or participating in any of the varied ministries of St. Paul’s, God has a special purpose for each of us. Let us be open to His call.

In Glory to God, in whom we live and move and have our being,

*Nancy Bellis, Church Council President*

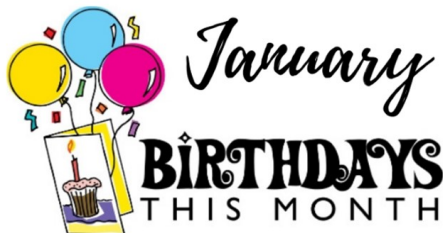


# Let's Celebrate Birthdays



Mikey Sopchyk	12/2
Nancy Schmitz	12/3
Arlene Kopsell	12/6
William Jelinek	12/7
Maxwell Wilson	12/7
John Kennedy	12/12
Jonathan Kriegel	12/13

Adam Kay	12/13
Jared Kay	12/13
Lon Schmidt	12/17
Jo Ellen Roxworthy	12/22
Wendy Domanico	12/22
Eric Domanico	12/25
Marsha Britt	12/27



Michele Eich	1/1
Jean Hautzinger	1/4
Jane Guliano	1/5
Halee Sopchyk	1/5
Eugene Virzi	1/6
Rebecca 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
Millicent Feda	1/15
Karen Radovich	1/16
David Burdloff	1/17
Garry Winter	1/17
Emma Mecwan	1/21
Larry Roewer	1/23
Hazel Kriegel	1/24
Janet Kay	1/28



# Church News

## Where is God in Stewardship?

Called to serve  
Our  
Neighbors and Members  
Needs by  
Engaging as  
Christ's people  
Through Service and Love

I sometimes think we don't realize how important our gifts of treasure are. Then I think about St. Paul's vision and the role our ministries play in fulfilling it.

Without your gifts, these ministries' results would not be possible. What would St. Paul's be like without a Pastor? Would we still share Worship without our building? Would our neighbors still have the same impression of St. Paul's without the North School Kid's Hope mentorships or the Christmas Giving Tree that also serves Pioneer Center and our own church families. I'm sure Crop Walk and Crystal Lake Food Pantry would miss our presence. Would Kid's Connect or our Youth program exist? I know I'd miss the potlucks and Thanksgiving Dinners. How about the exciting potential of our Guiding Light Preschool without our classrooms? I can't imagine our Sunday services without our amazing Music Ministry or the Tech Ministry live screening.

I could go on and on and I know you can think of a lot more example of programs, ministries, and activities that would disappear without your gifts. More importantly, we would not be fulfilling our vision or answering God's calls for St. Paul's.

**Your gift matters!**





# Church News

## pre-School Projects

St. Paul's Guiding Light Preschool

**CHILDREN'S NEW OR  
GENTLY USED  
SNOW & RAIN BOOT  
DONATION**



**for the Ruth  
Project**

THE RUTH PROJECT IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION BASED IN ELGIN, IL ON A MISSION TO END THE MODERN-DAY ORPHAN CRISIS.

THROUGH DONATIONS AND VOLUNTEERING, THEY ABUNDANTLY PROVIDE RESOURCES TO FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES, SETTING THEM UP FOR LONG-TERM SUCCESS. WITH YOUR SUPPORT, THEY CAN EXPAND THEIR REACH AND SERVE MORE FAMILIES.

### **Boot Drive**

Donations may be placed outside of the Preschool Office. Collecting toddler to teen sizes Nov 1– Dec 1.

*St. Paul's Guiding Light  
Preschool*



## LIVE OUTDOOR NATIVITY

DECEMBER 2ND, 5-7PM

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."  
Luke 2:11

St. Paul's Guiding Light Preschool will be presenting a LIVE Outdoor Nativity here at the church on Friday, December 2nd from 5-7pm.

Besides adorable children as angels, shepherds and wisemen, we will be sharing music and livestock to enhance your holiday experience. Guests are invited to walk or drive by.

Please help spread the word. If you would like to assist with this special event- please reach out to Rebecca Lucking at [guidinglightdirector@gmail.com](mailto:guidinglightdirector@gmail.com).



# Church News

## Youth Program Update

Our Fall Painting Event was a wonderful time spent with both new and familiar faces. We were even honored to have a special needs child join us. The connection she made with us was beautiful, as were all the very big smiles of our youth while they danced and enjoyed chocolate fountain treats! There was definitely joy in the air and I know the memories made at this event will live on in the children's hearts, as well as the parents, Marianne Deacon, and my own.

I must give an extra shout out to Jen Good for being my support system through all my events. Her support helps bring youth events to life. Also, to Marianne Deacon for helping make the fall painting event a wonderful success! As we all know how much joy and energy she brings, she was kind enough to share that same loving spirit with the children at our Fall Youth event. Marianne thank you for the setup and take down assistance as well! Other helpers that added to the event success were Becky Lucking and Tristin Monahan. It takes a village and all support helps make the event extra special! So thank you all!

Visit the youth group FB Page for several videos of all our events! They are very rewarding. Click on the link to visit the Youth Program Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/youthgroup60014/> You can also search on FB for YouthGroup60014.

If you are interested in volunteering at our Youth Events, please contact me at [Jasmine.ydstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:Jasmine.ydstpauls@gmail.com) or contact Lena at the office. Our next event celebrates Christmas and will be held on Dec. 6th from 4:30PM to 5:30PM.

### **Christmas is Coming Event could use help with the following:**

*Setup: 1 hour or less / 1 to 2 Volunteers Needed*

**Help Directing/Playing with the Children and Taking Photos:** *As there are at least two different age groups to work with. 1 hour / 2 to 3 Volunteers needed.*

**Clean Up:** *less than an hour / 1 to 2 Volunteers needed.*

Volunteers are welcome to help out for the entire event. This would be roughly 2 to 3 hours.

Thank you kindly for your love and support! God Bless!

*Jasmine Becker, Youth Director*





# Church News

It's that time of the year again!

A time when our wonderfully generous community comes together to help us provide food to our neighbors in need throughout the area. Your donations help us feed thousands every year! Through your participation you can help us celebrate this community-wide, hugely impactful, and "FEEL GOOD" event of the year.



St Paul's has been a great supporter of the food pantry throughout the years. This year we will hold our community harvest on **Sunday November 20<sup>th</sup>**. This is the date of our annual Thanksgiving celebration which will once again include a Turkey pot luck dinner following the service.

**The pantry has offered a list of suggested food donations, they include:**

CANNED FRUIT | MAC & CHEESE  
PASTA | TOMATO SAUCE  
SIDE DISHES/DINNER HELPERS  
CANNED BEANS | CANNED MEAT  
CANNED MEALS (hearty soups, chili, ravioli)  
PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS

Please no open or expired items, they happily accept monetary donations also.

The food pantry has been experiencing higher numbers of neighbors requesting assistance, and is counting on this food drive to help meet those needs.

Thank you for all the support you provide.



## CHURCH LIFE

**REMINDER: St. Paul's Church Life group is hosting our traditional Thanksgiving Supper on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> immediately following the evening service at 5:00 pm.**



Church Life will supply the turkey, dressing, gravy and beverages. The sign up sheet is in the narthex, be sure to list the delicious item you will bring to share with the congregation.

Please remember to bring nonperishable items for the Food Pantry.

Also, if you are uncomfortable driving at night, but still wish to attend the service and the supper, **NO PROBLEM**. Call **Wendy Manser at 815-245-0058, or the church office at 815-459-5096** so we can arrange transportation.



# Church News



## ***Wreath of Friendship***

On **Saturday, December 10th**, we will sponsor our annual *Wreath of Friendship*.

Poinsettias and delicious baked goods are delivered to members and friends of St. Paul's who have lost loved ones during the year. We also remember and honor our homebound friends with this gift from the church family.

Please put the *Wreath of Friendship* on your December "to do" list. You can help us by:

- donating baked goods, (cookies and small breads)
- donating your time and delivering the gift; and/or
- making a monetary donation to assist with the cost of the poinsettias.

Look for the sign-up sheet at the **Market Place** in the Narthex if you are willing to help us this year.

Circle **Saturday, December 10th** on your calendar today and keep the *Wreath of Friendship* in your thoughts and prayers.

*Thank you.*

*Wreath of Friendship Ministry*



## ***Update***

For those who have been keeping an eye on the large FFF thermometer on display in the narthex, you may have noticed that it has been completely filled in. We want to point out, however, that since we have never set an actual monetary goal for any FFF, this once again simply indicates that the six week fundraising campaign ended October 31st. Fall of 2022 marks the third autumn without our beloved Arts & Country Craft Fair which was canceled due to the Covid pandemic. With the loss of that income from our church's biggest annual fundraiser, the Faux Fall Fair was initiated as a "boost to our budget" for the entire year.

On behalf of the Church Council we want to thank all who have participated by contributing what they could to this important endeavor. This year's Faux Fall Fair brought in **\$1,870.00**.

*Blessings,*

*Karen Radovich and Elizabeth Speros*



# Church News



*Giving Tree*

HELP SUPPORT PIONEER CENTER,  
NORTH SCHOOL & ST. PAUL'S  
FAMILIES.

- ✓ Sunday after service
- ✓ Choose any ornaments off the tree
- ✓ Bring it to Wendy or Ann outside the Narthex
- ✓ Make a check payable to: St. Paul's
- ✓ Deadline is 12/5/22

Gift





# Church News

**Mary's Circle celebrates Halloween and makes their own pumpkins at its monthly gathering.**





# Thank You

Thank you to our church family and friends who sponsored us for this years Crop Hunger Walk. Our team raised **\$3,145.00!** Isn't that terrific and such a blessing to those who are hungry! The McHenry County Crop Hunger Walk has taken in over **\$16,750.** They are still tabulating and taking donations. We also packaged 500, yes, 500 East Eats Meals that have been distributed to local 9 food pantries. What a wonderful blessing.

On behalf of your St. Paul's Team we thank you!

*Linda Ticknor*

Your St. Paul's Team participants for 2022 are; Pastor Greg and Joyce Lucas, Ruth Costello, Fred Mullard, Elizabeth and Harry Speros, Ann Lingner, Sheryl Gee, Michele and Bill Eich, Dana and So-lon Sideris, Eva and Finley Mertes, Jean Hautzinger, Jan Rickard, Linda Ticknor, Jane Dawson and Margie.



Thank you St. Paul's for supporting our walkers!



Thank you St. Paul's for supporting our walkers!





# Church News



## ST. PAUL'S BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE Sunday, December 18, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Worship is filled with remembrance and hope for anyone feeling the pain of loss, or loss of a way of life, or any circumstance that makes finding joy during the Christ-mas season difficult. This service will be held both in person and on line.

For those of you watching on line, there will be an opportunity to interact virtually on Facebook by providing a name of love one lost, or any pain you are experiencing. Prayer requests will also be received.

Please contact the church office if you are attending in person, so we may provide for everyone. [815-455-5096](tel:815-455-5096) or [www.stpaulsucc-cl.org](http://www.stpaulsucc-cl.org) Light refreshments will be served after the service.

You will have an opportunity to share a picture of a lost loved one on our memorial table.



# Church News

This year the altar guild will be ordering white and red poinsettias from Renee's in Ridgefield, the same place we ordered from last year. The price will remain the same at \$10 each. You can put the order form and check in the offering plate or send your order in to the church office. Someone will be in the narthex to take your orders on November 13th, 20th, and 27th. ***The deadline to order is November 27th.***

## *Altar Guild*



### It's time to order your CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS!

This year you have your choice of two poinsettia colors, indicate your selection below.  
All plants have 5-8 blooms per 6" pot.

\_\_\_ Classic Red



\_\_\_ White



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order \_\_\_ Poinsettias at \$10.00 each.  
Enclosed is my check/cash for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.



### MEMORIAL LISTING

\_\_\_\_\_

### HONOR LISTING

\_\_\_\_\_

Deadline for Ordering  
November 27th, 2022

Please return your order form with payment to an Altar Guild member or the Church Office.

Thank you.

All plants are available to be taken home after the Christmas Eve service.





# Thank You

On behalf of the Altar Guild, I would like to thank a couple of our members for their generous donations recently that will add so much beauty to the altar.

As was announced, Sondra Matterness, using her husband Tom's memorial money, had the communion table refinished and added a glass top. It had a large water stain due to a leak from the window. Pastor Greg has decided to keep it where it normally is for communion so it will be more noticeable, and easier for the altar guild members to walk down the altar when regular communion starts up again.

Another new addition that you will see in Advent, is a new pre-lit Christmas tree that was purchased by Shirley Berghorn, using money from her mother's memorial fund. She also purchased the lovely advent candle stand that was used for the first-time last year.

We are so thankful to these ladies who care so much for St. Paul's that they have purchased items that the congregation can enjoy.

Perhaps you have also noticed there is a new handrail going up the steps to the altar. We thank the Building and Grounds committee for making it easier for people who need aid when climbing the steps.

*Cheryl Triefenbach*





# Usher Schedule

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

## ***USHERS***

### **November 6th**

Ken Hansen - Captain  
Karen Hansen & Steve Tobin  
Greeter: Jo Ellyn  
& Don Roxworthy  
Reader: TBD

### **November 13**

Ken Thrun - Captain  
Kevin Kruse & Wendy Dominico  
Greeter: Donna Butler  
Reader: Cathy Schmidt

### **November 20**

Rob Revak - Captain  
Laurie Revak & Elizabeth Speros  
Greeter: Lon & Cathy Schmidt  
Reader: Sue Phillips

### **Thanksgiving Service**

5:00 pm  
Ken Hansen - Captain  
Karen Hansen  
Greeter: TBD  
Reader: Pastor Greg

### **November 27**

Sheryl Gee - Captain  
Gary Gee & Jack Vogt  
Greeter: Sondra Matterness  
Reader: Linda Ticknor

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

## ***USHERS***

### **December 4th**

Jim Henneman - Captain  
Lauren Henneman & Bill Berghorn  
Greeter: Janet & Jim Henneman  
Reader: TBD

### **December 11th**

Ken Hansen - Captain  
Karen Hansen & Don Roxworthy  
Greeter: Jan Czosnyka  
Reader: Rebecca Eckhardt

### **December 18th**

Ken Thrun - Captain  
Gene & Lynn Virzi  
Greeter: Elizabeth Speros  
Reader: Arlene Tuscano

### **Blue Christmas 3:00 pm**

Ken Hansen - Captain  
Karen Hansen

### **December 24th**

Christmas Eve  
Sheryl Gee - Captain  
Gary Gee & Jane Dawson  
Greeters: The Eckhardt Family

### **December 25th**

John Whetham - Captain  
Ann Lingner & Sondra Matterness  
Greeter: Regina Lombardo  
Reader: TBD



# St. Paul's Prayer List



## **St. Paul's Homebound Friends**

Arlene Kopsell, Barb Biscomb

## **Deceased Members and Friends**

Stanley Podlasek, Darren Konecny, Tom Riley

## **Friends**

Clifford, Hailey

## **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](mailto:info@stpaulsucccl.org)

Office Manager, Lena Vocalino

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

Preschool Director, Becky Lucking

815 - 479-9770 - [guidinglightdirector@gmail.com](mailto:guidinglightdirector@gmail.com)

Youth Director, Jasmine Becker

847-561-9965 - [Jasmine.ydstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:Jasmine.ydstpauls@gmail.com)

### **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)

## **Give the Gift of SCRIP**



### **IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS as of October 20, 2022**

Amazon	4 @ \$25
Buffalo Wild Wings	2 @ \$25
Chipotle	3 @ \$10
Darden	1 @ \$25
Dunkin'	8 @ \$10
Fannie May	8 @ \$10
IHOP	2 @ \$25
Jewel	3 @ \$100
Kohl's	2 @ \$25 / 1 @ \$100
LL Bean	2 @ \$100
Mariano's	2 @ \$50
Panera	7 @ \$10
Red Lobster	8 @ \$25
Shell	3 @ \$50
Speedway	1 @ \$100
Starbucks	5 @ \$10
Synergy (Mobil)	10 @ \$50
Steinmart	1 @ \$25
Subway	3 @ \$10
Walmart	6 @ \$100/1 at \$250

Former members (regular LL Bean customers) moved without buying two of those cards I still had in stock. If anyone could make use of them, it would help us out as they were NOT returnable after two months. 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](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!