

# St. Paul's

September  
2022



# THE BEACON



**From the Pastors Desk**  
Pg. 2

**Church News**  
Pg. 5-12

**St. Paul's Prayer List**  
Pg. 16

**Church Council**  
Pg. 3

**Thank You**  
Pg. 13

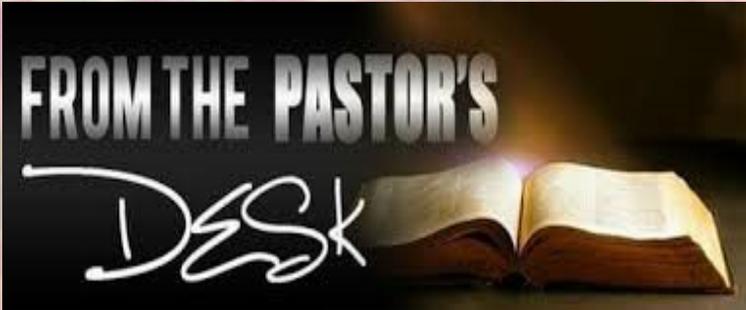
**SCRIP**  
Pg. 17

**October & November Birthdays**  
Pg. 4

**CROP Hunger Walk**  
Pg. 14

**Usher Schedule**  
Pg. 15





Dear Friends,

It's Wednesday and I'm still feeling the glee and delight of our Blessing of the Animals service last Sunday! In a way, I think the rain may have been a blessing because there was an element to having our animal friends with us indoors that made it especially fun. Joyce commented after the service that people bringing their pets enabled us to get to know one another a little better. I wholeheartedly agreed.

Back to the rain being an unexpected blessing - it is a remarkable fact of life that sometimes things we fear turn out to be blessings in disguise. I imagine part of the reason for that is we cannot see all there is to an event and how it might actually benefit us. Another part of the reason is that how we meet what we fear matters greatly. I think this is especially important. It's not primarily about what happens to us but how we respond that matters most in the long run. I think last Sunday most of the blessing I received came from my desire to worship God during this new experience for me. I think this is a good lesson to keep in mind. When our focus is on God, we can respond to anything that happens as best as we are able - and may even experience an unexpected blessing.

Tomorrow is always going to have a big question hanging over it. No matter what happens, may we keep our eyes focused on Jesus Christ and respond with Him at the center of our lives.

*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: [stpaulsucccl](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsucccl)

**Sunday Worship Service 10:00 a.m.**  
Via Facebook Live or streaming on website.

**Church Office Hours**

September 2022



Dear Church Family,

As the days get shorter, the nights get colder, and the leaves begin to fall, so begins our transition from summer to fall. And while there is a lingering sadness that our summer days are coming to an end, there is a sense of excitement and renewal as we experience this change of seasons and anticipate the hope a new season brings.

The change of seasons isn't the only transition ahead of us. With Pastor Greg's announcement of his plan to retire in May of 2023, St. Paul's is also about to enter a period of transition during which we will collectively experience a range of emotions and challenges as we prepare for his departure and a smooth transition. At its monthly meeting this past Tuesday, the Church Council began its discussions on how best to prepare for the future, as well as celebrate the past nearly 20 years we have been blessed with Pastor Greg as the spiritual leader of St. Paul's and our Church family. In the near term, we will, in collaboration with Pastor Greg, set goals for the remaining months of Pastor Greg's pastorate to ensure a smooth transition, as well as discuss ways in which the congregation can celebrate Pastor Greg's leadership over these many years and express its gratitude. Over the next nine months, we will begin to gather input and determine the best ways to move forward to ensure St. Paul's continued revitalization. The Council determined at its meeting that it would best to proceed first with an Interim Pastor before initiating a search for a new Pastor as that is the recommended course when a pastor's tenure is as long as Pastor Greg's. There is much to be done, but we have done well so far emerging from the setbacks and challenges brought on by the pandemic and there is every reason to believe that, with careful planning and attention and God's continuing grace, we will be able to surmount this challenge as we prepare for Pastor Greg's departure in the spring and chart a path for St. Paul's future.

A shining example of our success in overcoming challenges and thriving is the relaunch, after a three-year hiatus, of our preschool as the Guiding Light Montessori Preschool, under Becky Lucking's caring and competent new leadership. Classes began a week ago last Tuesday and are off to a robust and exciting start. And as mentioned in last month's Council News, our Evangelism Committee is already working on ways to connect the families of these new preschoolers with St. Paul's as a step towards fulfilling a longtime goal of attracting new families and their children to our Church.

There is much change in the air to be sure, seasonally and otherwise. And while some of that change may not be of our wanting or choosing, we will not only endure but thrive by loving and supporting St. Paul's and each other and, crucially, trusting in God, who continues to bless us beyond our wildest imaginations.

*With Love,*

*Nancy Bellis, Council President*

# Let's Celebrate Birthdays



James Ticknor	10/1
Lynn Virzi	10/3
Lisa Sadlik	10/4
Rebecca Johnson	10/7
Julie Moore	10/7
Joan Bourdage	10/10
Ken Hansen	10/11
David Patterson	10/12
Nancy Lutz	10/14
Mary Benz	10/15

John Whetham	10/15
Dolores Broker	10/16
Emily Butler	10/16
Ginny Deuerling	10/21
Samuel Reckamp	10/21
Caitlin Monahan	10/23
Abby Pagnotta	10/24
Jan Rickard	10/25
Donna Reber	10/26
Trent Eckhardt	10/28



Ann Kummerow	11/3
Sophia Engel	11/5
Todd Fredrick	11/6
Bill Deuerling	11/9
Nolan Van Hoorn	11/9
Barbie Fredrick	11/10
Jan Lloyd-Gohl	11/13
John Gulino	11/13
George Heck	11/15
Elizabeth Speros	11/15

Faith Lotesto	11/17
Glenn Berg	11/17
Dan Pagnotta	11/21
Tim Monahan	11/21
Jill Albertson	11/23
Kevin Kruse	11/24
Dennis Radet	11/24
Gary Voss	11/25
Kevin Lang	11/28

# Church News

## Blessing of the Animals Service.... was blessed!

This month St. Paul's held its first ever **Blessing of the Animals** service. Almost a packed church turned out to be part of or to experience this unique worship event. With the all the pets, it was a fun sight to behold!



We had many dogs, large and small. Cats too, were in attendance. Yurtle, a red-eared slider turtle owned by Andrew Eckhardt, was the lone representative from the reptile family but was really glad to be there!

Our choir also "returned" via their excellent pre-recorded signing so choir members could both listen to themselves and also participate with their furry friends.

Pastor Greg had a very relevant message that addressed the importance of animals, their place in the Bible, as well as mentioning the Queen's love of her beloved Corgis.

The highlight of the service was when our church attendees lining up to have their pets blessed by Pastor Greg with ushers handing our animal "treats" after the blessing. Some people whose pets could not be with us or were in animal heaven received a blessing by way of a photo on their phone. While the weather did not cooperate, the animals surely did as there was nary a bark in the house and zero "accidents".

All in all, for those attending both with pets as well the many attending without animals, it was a very fun way to worship and show the caring for all of nature's animals which support us in so many ways. Our church was definitely alive this special day!



# Church News



Blessing of  
the  
Animals



# Church News



## Capital Campaign Update

**HUGE Thank You!** We want to thank all those St. Paul's members and friends who stepped in when asked to help support the capital campaign at the end of July. *YOUR help* has directly contributed to us **ACHIEVING** our goal of \$30,300! In fact, with your generous support we have actually **EXCEEDED** our goal with your donations! We hope to beautify our church even more with the extra funds. It is truly amazing and we not only thank you but thank God for his part in leading us.

*What's next?* We have paid for the SPACE (Activity) Center new roof with \$5,000 of the campaign funds and the \$7,000 that had previously been allocated in St. Paul's 2022 budget. Under the watchful eye of our Building and Grounds leader, Ken Thrun, the repair to our cracked and leaking church chimney will be starting soon. Over the next few weeks, we will prepare the lounge for renovation by sorting through the many books to find them new homes and clear the walls and remove the television equipment to make way for drywalling. *Note – if there are lounge items you would like from books to wall mounted items, feel free to take them now!*

Following drywalling, work will focus on installing a suspended ceiling and painting our new walls. There is a furniture selection crew who are working to identify much needed replacement lounge chairs and meeting chairs. Concurrently, we will be installing our new video technology systems. Having new carpeting installed will be the final step in the remodeling project.

We will appreciate the patience of those groups who use the lounge as work progresses throughout the coming months.

We will keep you posted as to our projects progress! Thank you again!!

*Rob Revak*

*Capital Campaign/Project Manager*

# Church News - Preschool

DEAR FRIENDS OF ST. PAUL'S GUIDING LIGHT PRESCHOOL,

We are already two weeks into our inaugural school year- and I couldn't be more pleased! Both the Garden Toddler Room & the Sunshine 3-6 year old Room are filled to capacity. We have loving Lead Teachers and two incredible Assistants lined up. God is so good. A HUGE thank you to Jan Rickard, Shirley Berghorn, and Ann Linger for stepping in before these positions were secured. Our students are adjusting to being away from family for a short time and are growing in independence each day. We are busy building new friendships, learning about God's love, and exploring our campus. Our Community Outreach program for this month is to fill the North Elementary Snack Locker basket and our very first Family Field Trip is planned for Friday, Sept 16th to Piscasaw Flower and Vegetable Farm in Harvard. Our sincerest gratitude goes to the Council, Preschool Board, Pastor Greg, and the warm and caring congregation for your love, support, and guidance.

Blessings,  
Rebecca Lynn Lucking  
Preschool Director



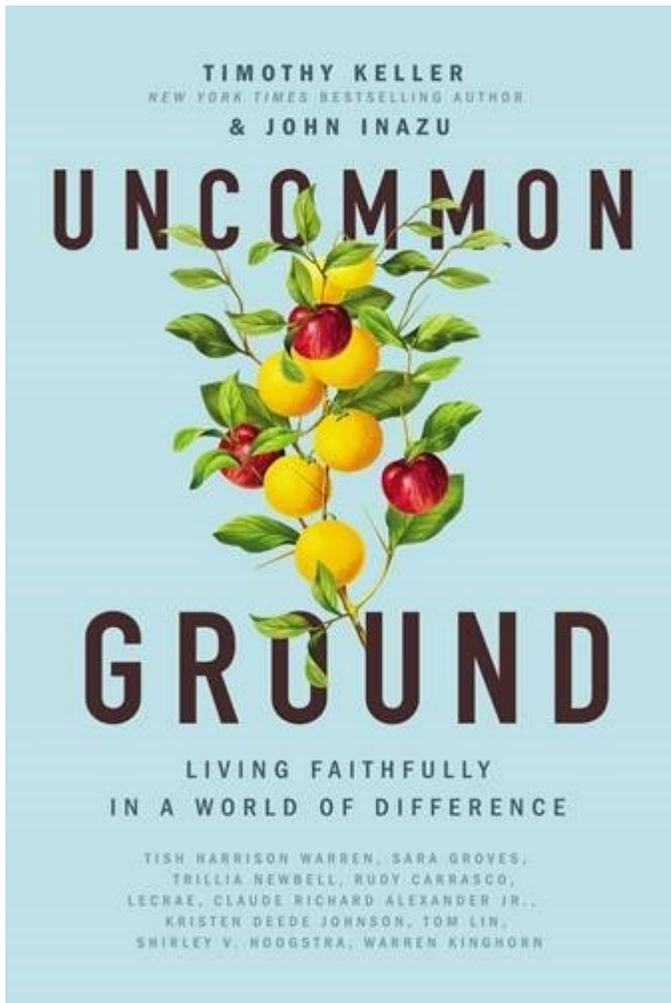
# Church News

# Upcoming Events

*A new book club has formed! Our first club meeting will be Sunday, October 2nd after service in the lounge. The book we will be discussing is Uncommon Ground by Timothy Keller & John Inazu. We have a good group coming, but there's always room for more. All are welcome!*

*Back by popular demand! **TRUNK OR TREAT!***

*Mark your calendars for Friday, October 28th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. We will take care of everything else, but we need 20 TRUNKERS! Please consider being a trunker--there will be prizes for the best trunks!*



*Any questions, please contact **Becky Lucking** at [guidinglightdirector@gmail.com](mailto:guidinglightdirector@gmail.com) or **Jasmine Becker** at [jasmine.ydstpauls@gmail.com](mailto:jasmine.ydstpauls@gmail.com)*

# Church News

## Mission & Outreach



**TIME FOR CULVER'S  
A FUNDRAISER for CROP Hunger Walk**



*Thursday, September 22,  
400 Pingree Rd, Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
(5-8 PM)*



Funds raised by this event will help to purchase ingredients for Easy Eats meals Ziplock bags, containing the ingredients to make a meal for a family of four. At the McHenry County CROP Walk, participants will be invited to assemble the meals, which will be donated to the Cary Grove Food Pantry.

The walk will take place at 2 PM, Sunday, October 16th, starting and ending at Cary United Methodist Church.



## Save The Date

McHenry County CROP  
Hunger Walk 2022

TIME: 2:00 PM

DATE: Sunday, October 16th

The walk will take place, starting and ending at Cary United Methodist Church  
500 North 1st Street  
Cary, IL 60013

**ENDING HUNGER  
ONE STEP  
AT A TIME**

**CROP HUNGER  
WALK**



# Church News

# North Elementary Student Snack Locker is back



With the start of the new semester, will you please consider donating again to the North Elementary Snack Locker for the 2022/2023 academic year. The school administration and staff are sincerely appreciative of this support.

Assistance is needed 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 supply 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, Cheez-Its 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. There is a designated basket in the narthex area for these food goods by the marketplace table. The plan will be for me to drop off our donated items one 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*

# Church News



## Kids Hope USA – St. Paul’s

Kids Hope USA is our church partnership with North Elementary where St. Paul’s mentors are matched with students who have social-emotional needs that are not being met. Our program began in 2016, and presently it would be welcomed if more individuals from our church family would consider becoming a mentor. Matches can last several years with younger children; however, there are opportunities to also meet with older children.

The commitment is one hour a week with one student during the academic year and separately connecting to a prayer partner for support. Personal qualities of a mentor are a love of children, the ability to listen, sensitivity to an individual child’s needs, consistency, and affirmation. Our mentoring hour established through North Elementary focuses on activities like games and activities where a child feels comfortable and can talk. It is not a structured tutoring session.

If mentoring is a call that speaks to your heart, please let me know.

Program details, specific steps to be a mentor and any questions can be answered by Elizabeth Speros before or after worship services or at (815) 341-6979 or [elsperos@yahoo.com](mailto:elsperos@yahoo.com).



# Thank You



I was humbled and honored to receive this Thank You card from the Super Summer Sunday crew.

Thanks be to God who is blessing our church with these beautiful children and dedicated teachers and organizers.

Thank you, Caitlin, Jake, Will, Andrew and Dylan – God loves you and so does the whole congregation here at St. Paul’s!

Thank you, Marianne, Jasmine, Jen, Jan and all of the BOCE members – may God bless your lives exceedingly for your nurturing care of our youngest Christians!

In His Service,  
Kevin Kruse (and Mr. Oakley, too)



# Blessings

# CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

## McHenry County CROP Hunger Walk 2022 2 PM, Sunday, October 16

JOIN UP and come out and WALK in this COMMUNITY EVENT. We always have a blast walking alongside other McHenry County churches! In 2021 there were over 200 participants and we raised **\$25,194.00**. St. Paul's UCC, for many years, has participated in our area's Crop Hunger Walk. We have also been the host church in past years.

The walk will take place at 2 PM, Sunday, October 16, starting and ending at Cary United Methodist Church located at 500 North 1st Street Cary, IL 60013.

Walk highlights this year include local food pantries receiving 25% of funds split evenly, 1 and 2 mile walk routes for walkers or runners, and participants will be invited to help assemble Easy Eat meals. We hope to put together 200+ meals and they will be donated to the Cary Grove Food Pantry. CROP fundraisers will purchase ingredients for the Easy Eats meals—Ziplock bags containing the ingredients to make a meal for a family of four.

The ongoing war in Ukraine, on top of the pandemic and other disasters is causing a global food crisis. Millions are on the brink of famine. The CROP Hunger Walk and the funds we raise will feed the hungry through Church World Service (CWS). **When you join this movement to raise funds and donate, these gifts will provide life-saving support like emergency food along with the seeds, tools and programs that will help families feed themselves in the future.** 75% of our CROP walk funds go directly to CWS and 25%, as mentioned above, stay in McHenry County going to our local food pantries.

### Registration to become a walker is now open.

Join St. Paul's UCC Crystal Lake TEAM on the CWS Crop walk Website page. [CROP WALK](#) Join St. Paul's UCC Crystal Lake TEAM at church on Sunday's. Look for CROP liaison in our Narthex

- START your own team! Your neighborhood, youth, dog walkers unite, stroller clubs; any kind of team you want. All are welcome.

Call or email Linda Ticknor for help to register a new team or as a walker with St. Paul's UCC Crystal Lake. As a walker you will ask friends and family to sponsor your efforts to raise money to End Hunger.

Our walker's have dwindled over the past years and my prayer is that we can form a St. Paul's walking team this year. May we walk together, helping to eradicate hunger one step at a time.

*Faith in action,*

*Linda Ticknor*

*Committee member McHenry County*



# Usher Schedule

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

## ***USHERS***

### ***October 2nd***

Jim Henneman - Captain  
Lauren Henneman  
Jane Dawson  
Greeter: Wendy Domanico  
Reader: TBD

### ***October 9th***

John Whetham - Captain  
Bill Berghorn  
Ann Linger  
Greeter: Marlene Kuhlman  
Reader: TBD

### ***October 16th***

Sheryl Gee - Captain  
Gary Gee  
Linda Tichnor  
Greeter: Barb & Ken Thrun  
Reader: TBD

### ***October 23***

Rob Revak - Captain  
Kevin Kruse & Nancy Bellis  
Greeter: Lynn & Gene Virzi  
Reader: TBD

### ***October 30***

Gary Voss - Captain  
Carla Voss  
Wendy Manser  
Greeter: Arlene Tuscano  
Reader: TBD

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

## ***USHERS***

### ***November 6th***

Ken Hansen - Captain  
Karen Hansen  
Steve Tobin  
Greeter: TBD  
Reader: TBD

### ***November 13***

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

### ***November 20***

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

### ***November 27***

Sheryl Gee - Captain  
Gary Gee  
Jack Vogt  
Greeter: TBD  
Reader: TBD

# St. Paul's Prayer List



## St. Paul's Members

Arlene Kopsell, Warren Spencer

## St. Paul's Homebound Friends

Barb Biscomb

## Deceased Members and Friends

Dave Seibt, Martha Hughes, Norm Falk

## Friends

Brandon Geer

## 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

Youth Director, Jasmine 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 June 2nd, 2022

Amazon	2 @ \$25
Bath and Body Works	2 @ \$25
Buffalo Wild Wings	2 @ \$25
Chipotle	6 @ \$10
Chili's	4 @ \$25
Darden	5 @ \$25
Dunkin'	9 @ \$10
Fannie May	9 @ \$10
IHOP	2 @ \$25
Jewel	11 @ \$100
Kohl's	2 @ \$25 / 1 @ \$100
LL Bean	2 @ \$100
Mariano's	4 @ \$50
Menards	2 @ \$100
Mobil	4 @ \$50
Panera	7 @ \$10
Red Lobster	8 @ \$25
Shell	3 @ \$50
Steinmart	1 @ \$25
Subway	3 @ \$10
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)

## 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: October 21st**

All articles are due in by October. 12th.