

# St. Paul's

September  
2021



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

THE BEACON

# Indian Summer

# September

From the Pastors Desk

Pg. 2

Church Council

Pg. 3

September & October

Birthdays Pg. 4

Church News

Pg. 5-13

Usher & Greeter

Schedule for September &  
October

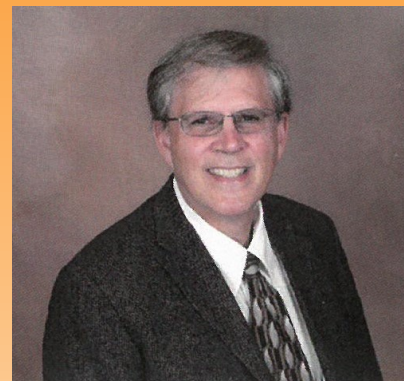
Pg. 14

Prayer List

Pg. 15

SCRIP

Pg. 16



Dear Friends,

Today, our world is full of woes. I recently received an email from a church member sharing concerns and requesting prayers for: "All of the shootings in our country, the serious fires worldwide, Afghanistan, Covid - especially the Delta variant - And other things too numerous to mention - they change daily."

As I read this list, I think it is easy to feel overwhelmed. Looking around at people, I note that many people are trying to cope, in different ways, with this torrent of troubling, frightening events.

Here are some ways I am trying to cope:

1. By Exercising self-care.
2. By staying connected to people - especially the people who are most important to me.
3. By trusting in God - for me this means practicing my faith through worship, education, service, Christian fellowship.
4. By doing what I can. I cannot make the whole world better - but there are small things I can do in my corner of the world. I can "light a candle rather than curse the darkness."
5. By striving to be gentle and kind with folks. Many people are struggling. I can remember that in my daily interactions.

What are you doing to cope? What is helping you the most?

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, Twitter & Instagram:  
[stpauls\\_ucc\\_cl](#)

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

## September Beacon Council News

Dear Church Family,

As we enter the month of September and begin our 4<sup>th</sup> and final quarter of the year, it's hard to believe the year has gone so quickly. As your Church Council President, I can't help but reflect on and evaluate how the Council is serving our Church congregation and delivering on the key goals it set for itself this year. At our most recent Council meeting last week, I reviewed with our Council members what we have accomplished to date and what we still need to do. I thought it would be helpful to share this with you. I will briefly describe it here and hope to elaborate on it further at our Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting at the end of October.



At the beginning of this year, the Council defined three key goals it wanted to address over the course of this year to rebuild and revitalize our Church. The first of these goals, Safely Reopen Our Church, has obviously been accomplished. In doing so, we worked closely with the Emergency Management Committee (some of whose members were also Council members) to establish and execute guidelines and best practices that would enable us to gather for in-person worship in a safe and healthy environment. Although the pandemic continues to present us with challenges, we remain open, monitoring and adapting as we go along, with the Council assuming the role of the EMC which laid the foundation for us. We are still in the process of rebuilding, but our Church has resumed many of its normal activities and its members continue to identify and pursue new ways to revitalize our Church community.

That brings me to the Council's second goal, Revising and Amending the Constitution and Bylaws, which we have begun to explore. While we will need to accomplish this in baby steps, we have begun to generate possible new ways to restructure our committees and ministries to enable greater efficiencies, improve communication and decision-making processes, and reduce burn-out. The Council has spent several meetings addressing this committee restructuring and we are hopeful that we will be able to communicate more to you about this in the near future.

The third and, for now, final goal, the Council is working on is Growing the Church and Attracting Young Families. To this end, we have researched and defined job descriptions, identified funds, and recruited for 2 new staff positions—Youth Director and Program Director—that we believe will be instrumental in helping us accomplish this goal. We have made encouraging progress in filling these positions, but have had our setbacks. We hope to have good news to share in the near future. We are optimistic that these positions will be a helpful stepping stone towards growing our Church, attracting young families, and serving our congregation and the greater community.

As we look to the remainder of this year, we have made considerable progress, yet there is still more to be done. I have recommended that the Council, and now you as a congregation, adopt a Three Ps approach as we move forward: Patience, Perseverance, and Prayer. We will need a generous amount of all three of these things as we take two steps forward, and at times one step back. It has been a difficult year, but I continue to believe we are up to the challenge. I want to thank our Council members for their engagement and productive efforts to date. I know that with Patience, Perseverance, and most importantly Prayer, we will continue to make progress in our efforts to rebuild and revitalize our Church community and extend our outreach.

*Gratefully,*

*Nancy Bellis, Church Council President*



# Let's Celebrate Birthdays

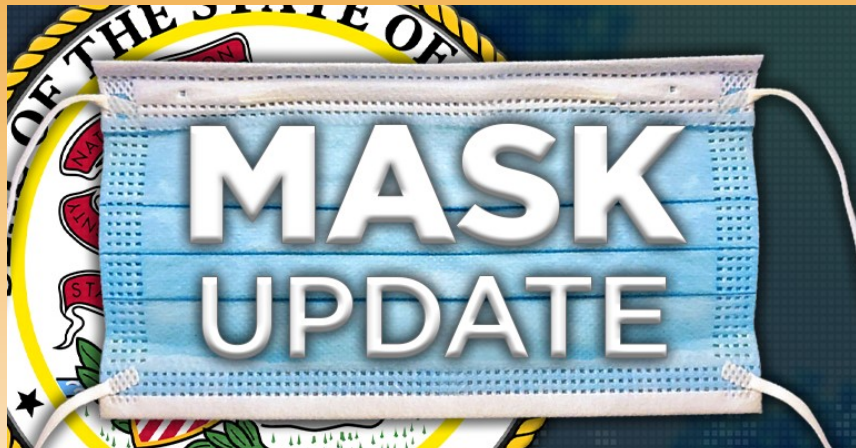


Donna Butler	9/1	Luann Hopkins	9/18
Gordon Triefenbach	9/3	Gerilyn Whetham	9/18
Garrett Gee	9/4	Margaret Tobin	9/19
Linda Christensen	9/6	Kathleen Hewins	9/20
Caitlin Lindstrand	9/7	Connie Chappell	9/20
Lena Vocalino	9/8	Marianne Spencer	9/21
Kathi Seibt	9/9	Jacqueline Mason	9/26
Eric Mason	9/10	Jordan Lotesto	9/26
Barbara Jelinek	9/10	Meghan Schneeweiss	9/26
David Loehner	9/12	Warren Spencer	9/26
Tasha MacKenzie	9/13	Blake Lindner	9/26
Barbara Biscomb	9/14	Becky Berg	9/27
Joanna Kriegel	9/15	Olivia Schultz	9/28
Bonnie Poulton	9/17	Beverly Loitz	9/29
William Eich	9/17	Linda Kranz	9/29
Joshua Voss	9/17	Randolph Kriegel	9/29
Jessica Butler	9/17	Krista Huffman	9/29
		John Sroka	9/30



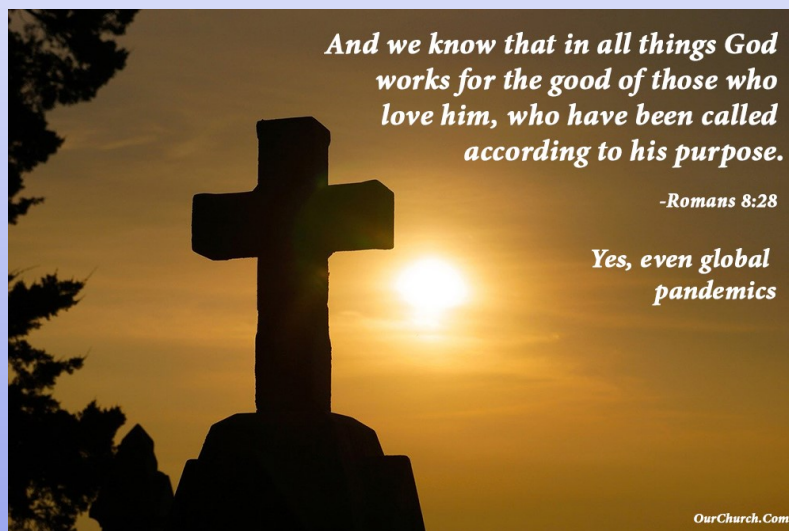
James Ticknor	10/1	John Whetham	10/15
Lynn Virzi	10/3	Dolores Broker	10/16
Lisa Sadlik	10/4	Emily Butler	10/16
Julie Moore	10/7	Ginny Deuerling	10/21
Joan Bourdage	10/10	Samuel Reckamp	10/21
Ken Hansen	10/11	Caitlin Monahan	10/23
David Patterson	10/12	Abby Pagnotta	10/24
Nancy Lutz	10/14	Jan Rickard	10/25
Mary Benz	10/15	Donna Reber	10/26
John Whetham	10/15	Trent Eckhart	10/28

# Church News



## Revised Guidance on Mask Wearing In Light of New Statewide Indoor Mask Mandate

As you are aware, Illinois currently has a statewide indoor mask mandate in place applicable to anyone aged 2 or older, regardless of vaccination status. In light of this requirement and with a focus on the health and safety of our congregation, we are requesting that anyone attending in-person services or gatherings at the church comply with this mandate. Singing by the congregation and choir will be permitted, but only while wearing a mask. Thank you for caring for one another by doing your part to contribute to a safe environment.



# Church News



Prior to Covid, the entire summer and fall would have been a frenzy of planning and preparation for our annual “Fall Fair.” Because of Covid last year, the decision was made to cancel the traditional fair and instead St. Paul’s had an internal fair without the setup, take down, crafting, baking, cooking, cleaning and all the other responsibilities to hosting a fair for the public.

It was decided again after hearing from members of the congregation that the annual fair as conducted for more than 40 years may just be too much. Council heard these concerns. Additionally, because of the preplanning that was needed to occur in the early year during the uncertainty regarding vaccine rollout and other Covid concerns, Council opted instead for a Faux Fall Fair for 2021.

So just like last year, we ask you to think about all the time, talent and money you normally had spent on (cash donations, baking and craft supplies) or at (shopping, lunch, raffle and silent auction) at our traditional fair and please consider donating the equivalent to Faux Fall Fair 2021. The 2021 campaign will run from now until November 1st. Any donations must clearly indicate they are meant to go to the Fall Fair Fund and are not to be comingled with your usual offering or confused with this year’s Stewardship pledges. Like last year, our “thermometer” will be on display in the narthex and visible prior to the streamlined service on Sundays indicating donations as they are received. Although we may all be tired of the heat and humidity this summer, the RISING TEMPERATURE on our campaign thermometer will be a good thing.

Blessings,

*Elizabeth Speros & Karen Radovich*

*2021 Faux Fall Fair Co-Chairs*

# Church News

## Thanks....and Hope You Noticed!

Our summer church clean-up day was held Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> and many hands came out despite the hot and humid weather to make our beautiful building and grounds even more beautiful. Bushes were all trimmed up, grounds were weeded, leaves were raked up around the church and S.P.A.C.E. center along with cleanup of both of our playgrounds.



We are grateful to all the people who came out to help: Steve Tobin, Jane Dawson, Karen Hansen, Pastor Greg, Nancy Bellis, Sheryl Gee, Ken Hansen, Jack Vogt, Jim Henneman, Sue Thrun, Barb Thrun, Ken Thrun, Amy Williams, Gary Gee, Kevin Kruse, and Harry Patrick. If we missed anyone, we thank you as well.

This was a GREAT turnout and most work was completed by noon. *We hope you noticed!*

**The Building and Grounds Team**



## Special Program Offering: Retreat for Pre-retirees and Retirees: A Spiritual Path

Your TPIRC Team has identified a program that could be beneficial to anyone who will soon be retiring as well those who are presently retired! This program is being offered by our Illinois UCC Conference and will be conducted as a retreat on

**October 24<sup>th</sup> to October 26<sup>th</sup>.**

This will be led by Rev. Jeffery Phillips and feature contemplation, community activities, rest, silence, adventures in nature, and fun! There are many ways to think about those pre-retirement and retirement years. This retreat will help participants consider these stages of life from a spiritual perspective.

You can benefit from this retreat whether you are years away from retirement or many years into retirement. It will be held in Sawyer, Michigan, which is just over the border from Indiana, at the Tower Hill Camp and Retreat Center.

Cost is \$300 for single occupancy and \$200 per guest for double occupancy in cottages. Additional information can be obtained by calling Tower Hill at: 269-426-3881. You may register online at:

<http://outdoorministries.campbrainregistration.com> Space is limited!

**TPIRC Team**



# Church News

## Crop Walk

In this time of great need for food and water here is a way you can help people in need. Support our local McHenry County Crop Walk, September 26, 2021. More walk details below.

### What is a Crop Hunger Walk?

- **A community-led fundraising event to end hunger.** Events are held in cities and towns across the United States, raising funds to support the global mission of Church World Service (CWS), a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. CROP Hunger Walks are interfaith events. This year, 2021, will be year 33 for our area's walk.
- **A way to show global solidarity** with the millions who walk miles every day in search of food and water.
- **An opportunity to support CWS** development projects and disaster assistance globally. Some of Crop Hunger Walk funds will be supporting the CWS Refugee 1 - Afghan Refugee Program

**A source of income for more than 1,500 local food banks and soup kitchens** in the U.S. Our McHenry County Crop Walk supported 5 local food banks in 2020 distributing \$5,813 evenly.

### What is the impact of walking? It is HUGE!

Annually, CROP Hunger Walkers raise more than \$9 Million dollars to bring help and hope. Global communities receive these funds that provide water systems and increased access to safe drinking water, tools and training to help families grow the food they need and in the U.S. funds support hunger-fighting organizations.

### WILL YOU GET INVOLVED?

Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible, and it is possible in our lifetime. You can help make it happen. Register, raise funds, and take us one step closer to ending hunger once and for all. Will you sign up to be a walker and invite others to support you? Not able to make it to the walk? You can still raise funds online. **Register to walk or donate now.** <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/mchenrycounty>

### McHenry County Crop Walk

September 26, 2021

Walk held at **Living Waters Lutheran Church**

**1808 Miller Road, Crystal Lake**

2 1/2 mile and a 4 mile walk route are planned.

1:30 sign in and group photos

2:00 Walk starts

*Rain or shine*



Do you need help registering or have questions? Look for help after our Church Service September 19. You may also contact me via email or phone. Linda Ticknor 815-3821-8295 [indaticknor@gmail.com](mailto:indaticknor@gmail.com)

**This is going to be one ENERGIZED walk!** We missed being together last year and now can enjoy this time of fellowship with each other and the walkers from our local church participants.

Like us and follow us on Facebook under McHenry County CROP Walk. Posts update frequently with great facts and figures!

*Blessings,*

*Linda Ticknor*

*McHenry County CROP Walk Committee Member*



# Church News



## **Financial Skills 101: <----- Click on the link to read the flyer**

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) of McHenry County and Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Northern Illinois has partnered up to offer Financial Skills 101. This program will teach individuals in recovery basic financial skills, new skills, and an understanding of their daily finances.

As we all know, financial stress can hinder an individual in recovery. This program can be a learning tool for how to budget, understand, create and maintain credit, and offer lifelong skills in order to maintain a healthy state of recovery.

### ***This class is in person.***

NAMI Family-to-Family: An 8-week evidence-based education program for family members and friends of adults who live with mental illness. This class is virtual - Tuesdays, October 5th - November 23rd from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. To register visit <https://namimchenrycounty.org/classes/>

Peer-to-Peer: An 8-session evidence-based educational program for adults with mental health conditions that want to gain a better understanding of their condition and recovery. This class is virtual - Wednesdays, October 20th - December 8th from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. To register visit <https://namimchenrycounty.org/classes/>

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

*Lachell Jeffries-Hanson*

*Educational Programs Coordinator*

NAMI of McHenry County  
620 Dakota  
Crystal Lake, IL 60012  
815-308-0857  
[www.namimchenrycounty.org](http://www.namimchenrycounty.org)

# Church News



The Crystal Lake Food Pantry continues to help our neighbors in need. We now allow neighbors into the facility to select the food they can use. Masks are required for both neighbors and volunteers, social distancing is encouraged.

During these trying pandemic times the pantry has done a great job adapting and making sure resources remained available.

St. Paul's will again be participating in the large community wide food collection in November, until that time please remember the first Sunday of the month, Communion Sunday, has traditionally been a day designated for Food Pantry contributions. It would be great to keep that going.

Food can be placed in the white cart near the Market Place and we will be sure it gets to the pantry.

Our service day is one Friday a month. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please let me know. Thank you for all your support.

*Laurie Revak 814-245-6899*

*Cheryll Triefenbach*



# Church News

## COLUMBARIUM



You may have noticed that prices have gone up on everything. Well, unfortunately this is also true with prices for the Columbarium supplies. The price for the brass urn that we provide and also the price of the name plaques have all gone up. Therefore, we must raise our prices for these items on all new contracts.

All future companion niches will now be \$1600.00 and future individual niches will be \$1000.00. The opening and closing fee, which covers the name plaques, will now have to be market value. We will only cover our costs on this item.

We will honor all current contracts and those contracts that have been prepaid. The Walk of Remembrance pavers will remain at \$200.00. This is the first price increase we have had to make since the Columbarium was built in 2007.

I hope you all understand. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Karen Hansen at 815-455-1385.

Columbarium Chairperson,

*Karen Hansen*

## SUNDAY SERVICE

If you would like to donate flowers in honor or memory of a loved one, please notify Cheryl Triefenbach. She can be reached by e-mail [ctrief@gmail.com](mailto:ctrief@gmail.com) or phone 815-382-9367.



# Church News



## ***Funeral & Memorial Luncheons***

You have all heard the expression “Change is inevitable” Well changes are coming to the way the funeral and memorial lunches will be handled. There is several reasons why we have made the decision to simplify the process of the luncheons. In the past this included the committee buying everything and charging the family for anything purchased including the paper products. The congregation was providing salads, side dishes, desserts, serving the food, and handling the set up and take down. Going forward, the family involved will be responsible for providing their own food whichever way they want to handle it. There are supermarkets and caterers available, or the family can provide it themselves. The committee will charge the family 25¢ per person for any paper products used including plates, napkins, place mats, and plastic utensils. They will also be charged for the coffee or tea that the family uses. The committee will still provide dessert, serve the food, set up and take down tables and clean the kitchen after the event.

The family will still contact the Church office to let the Office Manager know that they want to book a memorial luncheon or dessert and coffee hour after a funeral/memorial and then they will be asked to contact [Nancy Kramer at 224-333-0750](tel:224-333-0750) to let her know as well.

We could use more ladies to volunteer to bring in desserts and help at the funerals. If you are available, please contact one of the three (3) committee members listed below.

We hope these changes work out well for any families involved in the future.

*Nancy Kramer*

*Karen Radovich*

*Cheryll Triefenbach*



# Church News

## *Adult Choir Returns*

The Adult Choir resume this Fall with a new rehearsal schedule. The Choir will be rehearsing Sunday mornings from 8:30 am - 9:30 am., before the 10:00 am Church service.

New members are welcome. If you love to sing, we'd love to have you join the fun! Some choir member will not be returning, and we really need **YOUR** voice!

If you have any questions please call Lon Schmidt.  
**815-459-7948**



## ANNOUNCING DIRECTOR POSTION

We are EXCITED to announce that St. Paul's is seeking to add the paid position of a Christian Youth Director to our church staff. Responsibilities will be to create and lead our Sunday children's service, along with the help of our Sunday school teachers and BOCE. This position will also lead our youth group (grades 6-12), their Sunday school program, and youth activities.

This position is a paid part-time (10 hours/week) role and will report to our Board of Christian Education along with input from Pastor Greg. If you know of anyone with a strong Christian background, able to relate well to children/youth, and possessing energy and enthusiasm for this type of opportunity, please have them send a letter or resume to: [TPIRC485@gmail.com](mailto:TPIRC485@gmail.com) for consideration.

# Usher & Greeter Schedule

September  
Sunday Worship  
10:00 a.m.

## *USHERS*

### SEPTEMBER 5

Ken Hansen - Captain  
Karen Hansen & Jan Dawson  
Greeter: Debbie & Dave Patterson  
Lay Reader: Rob Revak

### SEPTEMBER 12

Jim Henneman - Captain  
Lauren Henneman & Bill Berghorn  
Greeter: Ann Kummerow & John Vogt  
Lay Reader: Arlene Tuscano

### SEPTEMBER 19

Ken Thrun - Captain  
Gene & Lynn Virzi  
Greeter: Nancy Schmitz  
Lay Reader: George Heck

### SEPTEMBER 26

Arlene Tuscano - Captain  
Nancy Bellis & Kevin Kruse  
Greeter: Evelyn & Gary Winter  
Lay Reader: Eric Mason

October  
Sunday Worship  
10:00 a.m.

## *USHERS*

### OCTOBER 3

John Wetham - Captain  
Rob & Laurie Revak  
Greeter: TBD  
Lay Reader: TBD

### OCTOBER 10

Ken Thrun - Captain  
Kevin Kruse & Nancy Bellis  
Greeter: TBD  
Lay Reader: TBD

### OCTOBER 17

Arlene Tuscano - Captain  
Jane Dawson & Bill Berghorn  
Greeter: TBD  
Lay Reader: TBD

### OCTOBER 24

Ken Hansen - Captain  
Karen Hansen & Rebecca Eckhart  
Greeter: TBD  
Lay Reader: TBD

### OCTOBER 31

Sheryl Gee - Captain  
Gary Gee & Elizabeth Speros  
Greeter: TBD  
Lay Reader: TBD

# St. Paul's Prayer List

## **St. Paul's Members**

Ruth Costello, Jan Czosnyka, Marianne Spencer, Shirley Huddle

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

Martha Hughes, Arlene Kopsell, Barb Biscomb

## **Deceased Members and Friends**

Kim Weiss

## **Friends**

Kirk Steinhaus, Thiri Hellyer, Maddie Dunham, Hipolito Family

## **Military - Stateside**

Beth Roxworthy & 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), 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 - [revgl@stpaulsucccl.org](mailto:revgl@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)

Jan Rickard, Council Vice President  
815-459-2287 - [jrick4@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jrick4@sbcglobal.net)

Elizabeth Speros, Secretary  
815-341-6979 - [elsperos@yahoo.com](mailto:elsperos@yahoo.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)

Amanda Lotesto - [amandalotesto@yahoo.com](mailto:amandalotesto@yahoo.com)

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

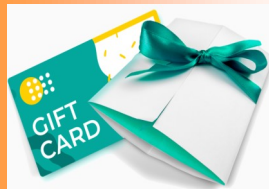
Rob Revak - [robrrr52@gmail.com](mailto:robrrr52@gmail.com)

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

## NEXT BEACON

October 8th, 2021

All articles are due in the church  
office by October 1st



## Give the Gift of SCRIP

### IN STOCK SCRIP CARDS as of August 2, 2021

Amazon	8 @ \$25
Buffalo Wild Wings	3 @ \$25
Buona Beef	7 @ \$10
Chili's	6 @ \$25
Chipotle	7 @ \$10
Darden	6 @ \$25
Fannie May	7 @ \$10
IHOP	2 @ \$25
Jewel	1 @ \$25/20 @ \$100
Kohl's	8 @ \$25
LL Bean	2 @ \$100
Mariano's	3 @ \$50
Menards	2 @ \$100
Mobil	5 @ \$50
PF Chang	1 @ \$25
Panera	8 @ \$10/ 2 @ \$25
Red Lobster	8 @ \$25
Shell	3 @ \$50
Speedway	6 @ \$25/ 1 @ \$100
Starbucks	5 @ \$10/ 2 @ \$25
Target	4 @ \$25
Walgreens	4 @ \$25
Walmart	6 @ \$100/4 @ \$250

With so many cards still in stock, I am currently only replenishing those purchased on a regular basis. 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:karenradovich@nuknees.com)

### 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!