

## St. Paul Lutheran Church ELCA

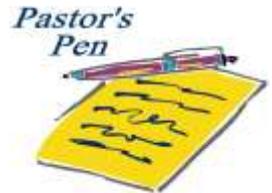
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# NOVEMBER 2021

*"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." -2 Corinthians 9:8*



The colors and cold of Autumn have blown into the Sauk Valley. The birds and butterflies are migrating south to warmer weather. We say good-bye-for-now to one of my favorite Midwest treasures, the Red-Throated Hummingbird. In the devotional *All God's Creatures*, Ashley Clark points out that hummingbirds only seek out the beauty in life. They buzz around all day looking for the most beautiful flowers on which to feed. The beauty of the flower is a blessing to them, and in turn the hummingbirds bless the flowers by providing pollination. God blesses the hummingbird with beautiful flowers, and the hummingbird blesses God's gardens with even more flowers.

As God's beloved creation, we too are blessed to be a blessing. God provides for us in abundance so that we can share that abundance with others. It all starts with recognizing God's blessings in your life. Even though this past year continued to drag on with the pandemic, can we look back on it as if we were a hummingbird, seeking out the beauty?

How did God bless you and your family this year?

How did the ministry at St. Paul bless you?

How can you share those blessings with others, in gratitude to God?

At the end of each grey November day, I invite you to say this prayer and name the beauty and blessings you encountered:

God of Abundance, I thank you for blessing me today with (*name blessings & beauty*). Open my hands and heart to share these blessings tomorrow for your glory. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

We are Blessed to be a Blessing.

In Gratitude,  
Pastor Makayla



**This past month** we have prayed for the following: Dave Kendall, Michael Harding, Lois Ukena, Shelly Fullmer, MacKenzie Gorman, Donna Palmer, Ann Ukena, Joe Machan, Paul Adams, Harold Julifs, Eliza Marinack, Marcia Fields, the family and friends of Donna Dirks, and the family and friends of Ethel Warner. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers. **Please contact Sue in the church office if you have a prayer request for the congregational prayer list.**

## Join us For Worship

**10:00 a.m. worship and praise God.**

**We returned to indoor worship Sunday, October 24.**

**Just a reminder that masks are required while in the building.**

### Tri-Church Online Worship Services

Worship will be available at 9am on Sunday and any time after that:

<http://stpaulsterling.com/> & <https://stpaulsterling.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f94d986cbc4c67a176723cace&id=eff197e4e9&e=2acc769427>

You can call the toll-free number 1-888-975-5536 and listen anytime.

### St. Paul Lutheran Church

#### Covid-19 Policy

Per Governor's Order Aug 26, 2021



1. Masks are required for everyone regardless of vaccination status while in the building.
2. Song leaders may take off their masks to sing during indoor worship.
3. During outside worship and/or activities, masks are optional.



**Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 6. You might be early to church the next morning!**

## ***Church Announcements***

### **NOVEMBER FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

Monetary donations can be sent to the church. Money can be designated for either Trinity Food Pantry, FISH Pantry or to the Sauk Valley Food Bank.



### **Coffee Fellowship**

If you would like to sign-up to celebrate a special event, the sheet is on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall. Coffee time begins at 9:00 a.m. during the Sunday school hour.



**CLEO (Church Ladies Eating Out)** The next date will be Monday, November 29. They will be going to The Factory in Sterling at 6:00 p.m. Sign-up up on the sheet on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall to let us know you will be attending and to host a future date. We are really looking forward to seeing you! If you need more information, you can contact Libby Schrader: 815-626-0764.

### **St. Paul Year Budget Report**

2021 Budget \$247,050 (\$20,588 Monthly)

#### **Totals through October 27, 2021**

|                    |           |
|--------------------|-----------|
| Budgeted Expenses  | \$205,880 |
| Offerings/Interest | \$205,059 |
| Expenses           | \$170,549 |



**Stewardship - Gratitude Sunday** is November 21<sup>st</sup>. This year it will look a little different as we will not be sending out Time and Talent Sheets. We will continue to schedule people for worship assistants on Sunday, but we will be encouraging people to volunteer personally.

Please say YES when asked to help with our ministries here at St. Paul whether it be serving on Sundays, funeral luncheons, committees, helping with our youth or the many other ministries at St. Paul.

A letter along with our pledge cards will be mailed out in November. Please prayerfully consider your participation within our church and your pledge. By pledging you make the Council's job of creating a 2022 budget much easier.

**Pledge generously with a grateful heart on Gratitude Sunday November 21<sup>st</sup>!**



**Thank you to all who helped** by donating food, helping with set-up, serving and clean-up for Ethel Warner's funeral lunch. These lunches could not happen without your generous donations. If you would like to help out by providing food, or by helping set-up or clean-up, please contact Nancy Beck. ~ Funeral Lunch Committee



**Lutheran World Relief**  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

**Our next quilting day will be November 21.**

We will meet at 9:00 a.m. before worship and again after the 10:00 service from **11:00-12:00** in the fellowship hall. **All are welcome** to join in this great ministry. These quilts can do so much and are one of the most requested items needed. No sewing experience necessary just bring yourselves and a heart to serve. We also have quilt top kits that need to be sewn on a monthly basis. They are located in the LWR basket next to the library in the fellowship hall. Donations are always welcomed. We take clean, spot free fabric such as quilting fabric, blankets, quilts, sheets and mattress pads that we may reuse within our quilts. Questions ask Lucille Dole or Debbie O'Brien at 815-441-0257.



Each month we meet to prep our quilts for quilting Sunday. If you would like to help we will meet on Friday, November 19, at 9:00 a.m. at St. Paul.



**There are opportunities to serve and create at St. John's and Immanuel!** ALL are welcome at any of the opportunities regardless of the location.

**St. John's welcomes you to participate in their Prayer Shawl Ministry!** They gather the second Saturday of every month from 9-11:30 a.m. (or so). They have all the supplies needed (yarn, crochet hooks, & knitting needles) or you are free to bring your own. If you are interested and would like to learn how to knit or crochet they are glad to teach you! Coffee and snacks are provided. Prayer shawls are gifted to people in the midst of a challenging time (illness, grief, etc.).

**Immanuel** is in the midst of re-organizing its quilting group. Quilts will be used to support local ministries, LWR, and so much more! If you want to participate, please contact Ronda Borgmann at 815-622-9306.



**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Now that we have returned to indoor worship, altar flowers can be placed on the altar during Sunday worship. The sign up chart is on the wall by the church office. If you would like to order in memory of in honor of someone, sign-up and let Sue know if you will be ordering them yourself or if you would like her to order for you.

## LSSI Holiday Hope Chest



We received notice from LSSI regarding “The Holiday Hope Chest.” Because of the Covid and so many restrictions, they have decided to forgo the purchase of individual gifts again this year. They have again opted to purchase gift cards for those in need. The easiest way is to drop off or mail in a donation designated LSSI to the church office. This gives them the opportunity to select the places from which to purchase gift cards that meet the individual needs of their clients. There is a list of place to buy gift cards from if you prefer to do that yourself and those lists are available in the church office. Money should be received by Monday, December 6. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Carolyn Duncan @ 815-625-7878 or Kathy Hall @ 815-535-1055. I hope this year we can once again provide some help for those less fortunate. ~ Thanks Carolyn

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**THIS YEAR you can be a part of the giving of Good Gifts for the ELCA.** Instead of animals this year, you can purchase a water filter for safe drinking water; a latrine to help with sanitation, an environmentally friendly cookstove, fruit seedlings, seeds and gardening tools, mosquito nets, and hygiene kits. You can also still donate toward the purchase of a Family Farm. Your donation of any kind is greatly appreciated. Please fill out the form (included in this newsletter), let me know if it is memory or in honor of someone, and then either bring your form and payment into the church office, put it in the offering plate, or stick it in an envelope and mail.

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**Once again** we are taking orders for poinsettias for the Holiday Season. The cost is \$8.00 per plant. This year we will be ordering our plants from County Market. **The deadline to order a poinsettia is November 12.** The form is included in this newsletter. Dedications will be shared in the December Newsletter. Poinsettias can be picked up following worship on Christmas Eve.

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## CHURCH DECORATING

The Christmas season will be upon us before we know it. We are looking for help to decorate the church, which involves, setting up the advent wreath, putting up and decorating the Christmas tree, placing candles in the windows, etc. If you would like to help, please let the church office. Many hands make light work!



**BIRTHDAYS FOR OUR CHURCH MEMBERS & GUESTS**

If you don't see your name on this list or there is a correction to be made, please let Sue know in the church office.

- 2 Maurice Sweitzer
- 4 **Lucille Dole – 92**
- 7 Richard Landheer  
Dianne Miller
- 8 Stephanie Heflin
- 10 Joe Machan
- 15 Mia Arians
- 16 Judy Bartel
- 23 **Lucille Beyer – 91**  
JoAnn Garcia
- 25 Diane Yoeckel

**Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

November 13, 1971

Ron & Janie Billings



# BRANCHES



*Youth and Family Ministries of St. John's and St. Paul Lutheran Church*

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## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

SUNDAY Last month we celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism for Izzy, Jackson and Paige at St. Paul. May God continue to guide them in faith. The people of St. Paul give God thanks for our confirmands and will continue to support them in their lives of faith.



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#### CONFIRMATION FALL DAY RETREAT:

On Sunday, September 26 the confirmation students attended a 1-day retreat at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC) in Oregon, IL.



#### *TRI CHURCH CONFIRMATION*

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#### TRI CHURCH 8-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FALL FUN NIGHT AT SELMI'S:

High schoolers enjoyed the corn maze, hayride, cider donuts and more at Selmi's in Rock Falls on October 26!

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# EVENTS, ACTIVITIES & FAITH FORMATION

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## FAITH FORMATION 2021-22:

### PREK 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL/SUNDAY

**YOUTH GROUPS:** It has been fun meeting outdoors for Sunday school this fall. However, the colder weather is moving us indoors. For the safety of our families, all students and teachers are required to wear masks for all indoor activities and events. The PreK-K, 1st—3rd grade, 4th—6th grade Sunday school classes and the 7-8th grade youth group meet from 9-9:45am (we continue with our 10 am worship service). High schoolers are meeting after the 10 am worship service (times and location of high school youth group will vary each Sunday). Please see Sunday school/youth group calendar for monthly schedule. This month we are planning our children's Christmas worship, which is scheduled for December 12 (more details to come). No Sunday school classes November 28 – Thanksgiving Break.



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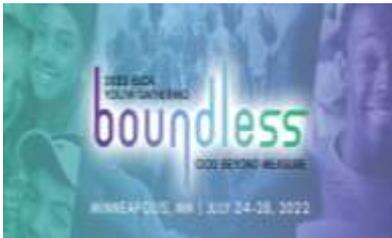
### Confirmation Class



**TRI CHURCH CONFIRMATION CLASS:** Confirmation for 7 – 8<sup>th</sup> grade is meeting at St. Paul from 7 – 8:15 PM on Wednesdays. Last month we explored the Apostle's Creed and Martin Luther and the Reformation. This month our group will begin learning more about prayer and the Lord's prayer. And, we will be serving at Wesley United Methodist Church on Wed. November 10 from 7-8:15pm,

assembling Buddy Bags (meet at St. Paul).

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### YOUTH GATHERING IN MINNEAPOLIS 2022 – REGISTRATION!!!

Current 8<sup>th</sup> grade through 12<sup>th</sup> grade students – we are currently in the process of registering for the ELCA Youth Gathering July 24 – 28, 2022. **Please email, text or message Gerad or the church office if you are interested in participating in next summer's event.** Early **REGISTRATION** for the gathering ends **NOVEMBER**

**21. A \$100 DEPOSIT FROM EACH STUDENT PARTICIPANT IS DUE BY NOVEMBER 21** (checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church), unless you have received a youth gathering scholarship. After November 21, participants will have an increase of \$50 out-of-pocket expense. We estimate the gathering will cost around \$1,000 per participant (based on the early reg. rate). We will continue to fundraise to offset the cost of this trip, and our goal is to have enough money in our youth fund to for the remaining cost (minus the \$100 deposit) for students. Scholarships through the ELCA are available to apply for (until they run out of funds). Ask Gerad about scholarships. **Our next 'Getting-**

Ready' meeting is Sunday November 14, 11:15 AM – 12:45 PM at St. Paul. Lunch will be provided. Get latest updates at [elca.org/YouthGathering](http://elca.org/YouthGathering) and at [facebook.com/youthgathering](https://facebook.com/youthgathering) and check your email.

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**YOUTH GATHERING 2022 YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS APPLY**

If you are a senior in high school this year or older and will be at least 19 years-old at the time of the gathering July 22, 2022, applications for servant companions opens on **November 22, 2021**. Please contact Gerad if you are interested in sharing a week of your time to help at the youth gathering. Your travel, room and board expenses will be covered. This is a great opportunity to serve and learn and grow in your faith. Our young adults who have volunteered for the gathering in the past have had life-giving experiences. For full details and to apply go to:



<https://elca.org/YouthGathering/Attend/Volunteer>

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**BUTCHER SHOP YOUTH FUNDRAISER FOR THE YOUTH**



**GATHERING:** Thank you to all who helped to sell or purchased meat bundles. NOVEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup> is pick up day. Eighth – twelfth graders, we need help distributing orders. You may deliver your orders after school on November 4<sup>th</sup>, or help hand them out at St. Paul, 3:00pm until 4:30pm. Orders that are left at St. Paul on November 4<sup>th</sup> after 4:30 pm will be kept in the freezer and available for customers to pick up on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Our youth made \$650 from the fundraiser!

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**VOLUNTEER YOUTH WORKERS UPDATING**

Sunday school teachers, VBS volunteers, all children and youth ministry volunteers: over the course of the last two months of 2021, we continue updating our volunteer applications for anyone who works closely with children and youth. This also includes updating background checks for volunteers who have not had a background check completed within the last 3 years. Thank you in advance for your patience as we work through this process together. Thank you to volunteers who have already turned in their updated forms! And, thank you for helping us to create and maintain safe spaces for our young people and volunteers.



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**November/December Children's Offering:** Children and youth will vote on an item through ELCA Good Gifts. Students PreK – high school, vote by Sunday, **November 7!**

**Options include:**



**A) Family Farm (\$715)**



**B) Computer for a community center (\$800)**



**C) Motorbike for a Pastor (\$375)**



We will be receiving the children's offering during worship and Sunday school time each Sunday during the months of November and December. Young people will receive a bank at church for their personal offerings to collect at home and bring back by December 26. Thank you all in advance for your generosity.

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## Community Announcements



### Loaves and Fishes Breakfast Program Update

The Loaves and Fishes Breakfast Program is back in action, three days per week (M+W+F) with all carryout meals per health department regulations. Loaves and Fishes is housed at First United Methodist (501 Broadway Ave, Sterling). They are currently averaging 65 people/meals served each day. This is good news. The bad news is that the Food Bank has no bacon or sausage these days and do not foresee getting any. It cost over \$140 for three days of breakfast meat.

Breakfast meat, eggs and to-go containers are being purchased weekly to make Loaves and Fishes possible. You can support feeding those in need through your donations and service. DONATIONS are needed to continue feeding those in need. Checks can be made out to Loaves and Fishes and mailed to First United Methodist (501 Broadway Ave, Sterling, IL 61081). Sign up to SERVE at Loaves and Fishes by calling Lois Heerdts at 815-626-4773 or Paul Gould at 815-499-2041. If enough funding and volunteers can be secured, breakfast will be offered on additional days. Please prayerfully consider serving at and supporting Loaves and Fishes!

**Rock River Valley Self Help Enterprises** is seeking donations for their Santa's Secret Workshop. This event in the past was a huge success and their individuals had a great time shopping for as well as giving the gifts. Their individuals live on a very limited income and after their monthly expenses are subtracted from their income they seldom have enough to think about Christmas gifts. Below is a list of items they are looking for. A monetary donation can also be made for them to purchase items they might need, make checks payable to Self Help Enterprises.



|                 |                |              |                        |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|------------------------|
| Knick Knacks    | Nail Polish    | Posters      | Decorative hair ties   |
| Board games     | Coloring books | Paints       | Manicure sets          |
| Scented lotions | Movies         | Makeup       | Toys                   |
| Gift cards      | Perfume        | Gift bags    | Bows                   |
| Pet toys        | Cd's           | Lip gloss    | Small Gift baskets     |
| Hand bags       | Picture frames | Puzzles      | Christmas collectables |
| Puzzle books    | Markers        | Crayons      | Pedicure sets          |
| Body wash       | Books          | Socks        | Decorative mugs        |
| Hats            | Wrapping paper | Tissue paper | Ornaments              |

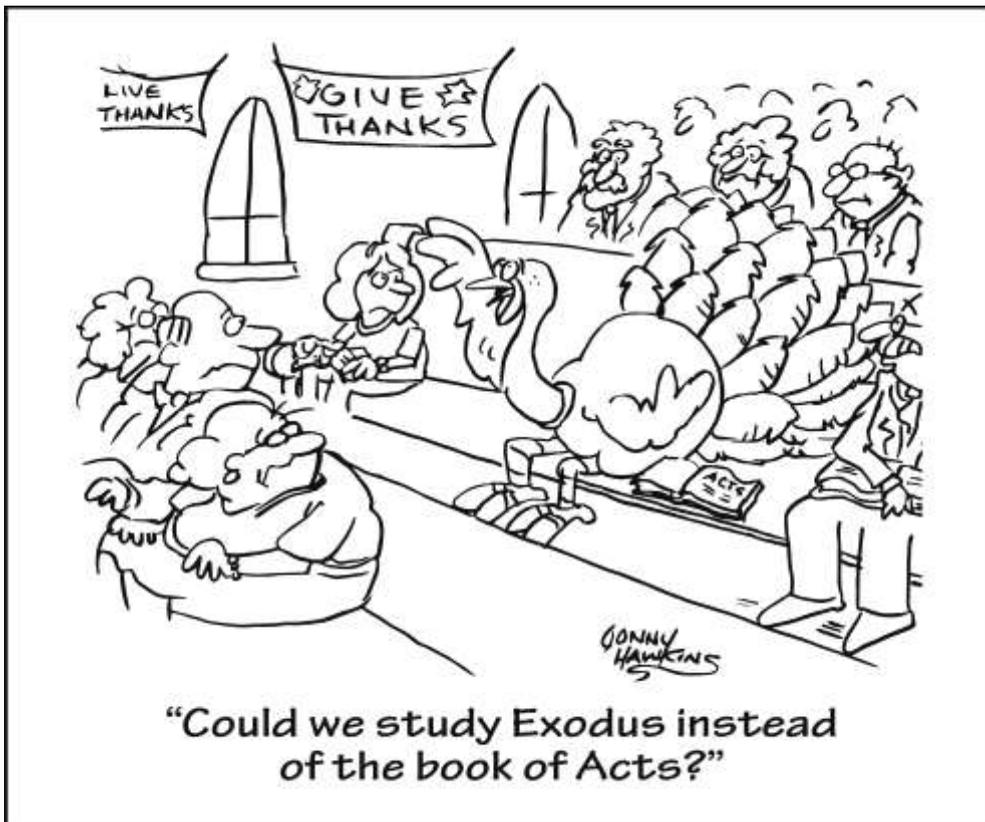
**Rock Falls Methodist Church** sponsors a program: *Bear Necessities Personal Care Pantry*. The pantry is open the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Families are eligible to receive products from the pantry by showing their current LINK card. Each family receives the following items, which are not able to be purchased with the LINK card:

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| laundry detergent | toilet paper |
| bath soap         | toothpaste   |
| Dish soap         | shampoo      |
- Additionally, the following items are available upon request:
- |               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| shaving cream | deodorant                  |
| toothbrushes  | feminine hygiene products. |

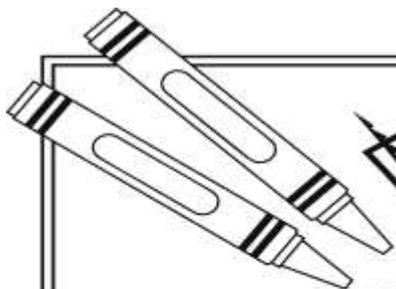


Donations of any of the listed items, as well as monetary donations to support the pantry, may be made simply by dropping the items off at the church weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and noon.

This pantry has been open since September 21, 2003.



“Could we study Exodus instead of the book of Acts?”



# PUZZLE

## HARVEST OF GOODNESS

God always provides, no matter the season.

*Directions: Match the shapes in order to write the words in the correct places below.*



“The  will    
 what is , and   
 will  its .”  
  : , NIV

**Please remember our Members & Friends on the Home Visitation List:**

*Katherine Janssen* – Rm. B104

*Richard Landheer* – Rm 152

Resthabe Nursing Home

408 Maple Avenue, Morrison, IL 61270

*Viola Koster* – Rm. 306

Windsor Manor

403 Scenic Street, Morrison, IL 61270

*Cliff Miller*

Moosehaven

1701 Park Drive, Orangepark, FL 32073

*Burt Severson*

5147 Edgewood Circle, Mesa AZ 85206

*Lois Ukena*

1816 Thome Drive, Sterling, IL 61081

*Gladys Stern* – Apt. 206

Heritage Woods

2205 Oak Grove Avenue, Sterling, IL 61081



# TELEPHONE PRAYER SUPPORT GROUP

We welcome your prayer requests and also your praise reports:

*(Want to be a part of this? Call the church office.)*

Pastor Makayla (815) 780-9401

Janie Billings (815) 564-8628

Judy Bartel (815) 751-6768

Greg Zeigler (815) 632-3366

James 5:16 *Pray one for another.*

## DIRECTORY OF STAFF and CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Pastor Makayla Dahleen

(815) 780-9401 – [pastormakayla@stpaulsterling.com](mailto:pastormakayla@stpaulsterling.com)

Gerad Von Holten, Youth Director; (815) 626-8329 home;

(815) 590-0006, cell – [gerad@stpaulsterling.com](mailto:gerad@stpaulsterling.com)

Sue Dirks, Parish Secretary

(815) 535-3574 – [sue@stpaulsterling.com](mailto:sue@stpaulsterling.com)



### 2021 Congregation Council

President – Jim Gorman

Vice President – JJ Shore

Treasurer – Chrissy Zollinger

Secretary – Janie Billings

#### Christian Education/Youth

Jennifer Pillars ('22) 716-0311

Andy Beswick ('23) 785-202-0636

#### Stewardship

Janie Billings ('22) 564-8628

Bev Julien ('23) 716-8797

#### Social Outreach

JJ Shore ('23) 590-2868

Bev Julien ('23) 716-8797

#### Lay Ministry & Worship

Jim Gorman ('23) 716-7043

JJ Shore ('23) 590-2868

#### Property & Management

Pam Machan ('23) 847-302-6772

Andy Beswick ('23) 785-202-0636

Jim Gorman ('23) 716-7043

#### Treasurer

Chrissy Zollinger ('22) 262-903-0007

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1701 Sixteenth Ave.  
STERLING, ILLINOIS 61081

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**– DATED MATERIAL –  
PLEASE DO NOT HOLD**



***LOVING – SERVING – SHARING***

**DIRECTORY OF STAFF**

Office (815) 625-3069

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Website: [www.stpaulsterling.com](http://www.stpaulsterling.com)

Facebook: St. Paul Lutheran Church – Sterling, IL

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