

St. Paul Lutheran Church ELCA

1701 Sixteenth Avenue
Sterling, Illinois 61081-1543
Phone (815) 625-3069

Email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

Website: www.stpaulsterling.com

JANUARY 2024

For unto us a child is born!

Simon Aaron Dahleen was born December 5, at 11am, weighing in at 8.1lbs and 21 inches long. Pastor is recovering well and Jacob is already an amazing dad. Thank you for all the prayers and support!

Join us For Worship

9:00 a.m. worship to praise God.

The Livestream can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#)



This past month we have prayed for the following: Lori Dewey, Shirley Graftaas, Carolyn Duncan, Betty Steinke, Michael Harting, Larry Hanson, Bob Cornelsen, Larry Wahler, JoDell Cruz, Sandy & Harold Julifs, Lila Edeus, Berta Beyer, the family and friends of Felipe Avelar.

Please contact Sue in the church office if you have a prayer request for the congregational prayer list.

Reminder

Reminder: If you need pastoral care during Pastor Makayla's maternity leave, please call Sue in the church office or Jim Gorman. They will connect with the on-call pastor who will get in touch with you.



Annual Business Meeting

Mark your Calendar!

The Annual Business Meeting will be January 28 immediately following worship.

Church Announcements

St. Paul is seeking to hire Children's Ministry Director

Faith formation for our kids and their families is an important ministry at St. Paul. We want to continue to equip our volunteers to lead our Children's ministry and events. To do so we are seeking a Children's Ministry Director who would work on average 10 hours a week to help vitalize our Children's ministry. For a full job description please reach out to Sue and encourage interested candidates to submit a resume and cover letter to the church office.



**DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**



Church Un-Decorating

After our worship service on January 7 will be taking the Christmas tree and decorations down. Many hands make light work!

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

Please join us in a Bible study every other Wednesday, beginning in January 2024. We will be studying a book written by John MacArthur, Pastor and Author, titled "Twelve Unlikely Heroes". There is also a workbook with this study. We will meet in the lounge at 5:30 p.m. beginning on January 17, 2024. All are welcome. If you would like to join us please let Sue Dirks know by January 7, 2024 (or earlier) so we can get the books ordered. Books will be handed out the first week and we will go over the format. There is a sign-up sheet to include your name to the list.



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 10:00 a.m. during the Sunday school hour.

Altar Flowers

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.





Sound/Livestream volunteers needed. With the birth of baby Dahleen, we will lose one of our faithful sound/livestream volunteers. If you would like to learn or see all what's involved, please see Greg Zeigler. Thank you in advance!

CLEO (Church Ladies Eating Out)

CLEO meet monthly at 6:00 p.m. at a designated restaurant. On January 29, they plan to go to Pizza Ranch in Sterling. If you are unable to attend because of bad weather or personal reasons, please join us the next month. If you need a ride or have any questions, please contact Libby at 815-626-0764 or Judy Bartel at 815-751-6768. All are welcome!



Menz Group will meet at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sterling on **Monday, January 8 at 6:00 p.m.**

Thank you I want to thank everyone for all the calls, cards, and prayers while recovering from my knee revision. Your caring means so much! ~ Carolyn Duncan



Please keep our home visitation members and friends in your thoughts and prayers. If you would the address for anyone listed here, please contact Sue in the church office.

Dorothy Carr
Lila Edeus
Harold & Sandy Julifs
Burt Severson

Bob Cornilsen
Katherine Janssen
Viola Koster
Sandra Sweitzer

Lori Dewey
Cliff Miller
Dale Worley



St. Paul Year Budget Report

2023 Budget \$265,691(\$22,141 Monthly)

Totals through December 27, 2023

Budgeted Expenses \$265,691
Offerings/Interest \$181,226
Expenses \$223,115





Lutheran World Relief

Thanks for the donations of sheets, blankets and material that we can use within the quilts.

We will NOT meet in January. The next sewing day will be February 21, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. All are welcome! Your donations can be placed in the basket in the closet by the kitchen. Any questions contact Dawn Waite at 815-631-8142 or Debbie O'Brien, 815-441-0257.

Church Council meets monthly, serving the church through leadership.

People of God, the nominating committee will soon be seeking nominees for council. You have two options: Option #1 – Prayerfully consider serving on Church Council in 2024; Option #2 – Pray that God will raise up leaders in our congregation willing to serve on Church Council. NOW is the time to be choosing and enacting option 1 or option 2. **Thank you for your diligence in this!**



LSSI HOLIDAY HOPE CHEST

Thank you to all for the donations of money, children's offering, and gift cards for this year's Holiday Hope Chest. A total of \$264.70 was given.



Offering envelopes for 2024 are available for pick-up. They are at the back of the sanctuary on a cart. Please dispose of 2023 envelopes at the end of the year as your number for 2024 may be different. If you cannot find your envelopes or you would like some, please contact the church office.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to my mission trip. ~ Hope

The pictures reflect the many good things provided at the free rummage sale. God Bless you all. ~ Father Jean Claude, Lower Brule, SD.



Stewardship – Giving in Response

At the heart of our lives as Christians is the blessing and promise of God's grace and life. Our life as a disciple and steward is in response to this amazing free gift that God brings to us in Jesus Christ. Giving in Response is the acknowledgement of God's abundant gifting and our gratitude for how we respond as God's people living each day in God's promise and blessing. Gratitude initiates a response of joy and thanksgiving for all the God does for us.



The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone for their response to the Gratitude Sunday campaign this year. Commitment gives the Church Council a better idea on how to set our 2024 budget and to **plan with a purpose**. If you have not yet returned your commitments, please bring or mail it to the church. Help us continue to grow and become disciples to God and our neighbors.

To those who do not make pledges but continue to give faithfully, we also want to say **THANK YOU** for all your time and treasure. We appreciated all that everyone does, large or small. With all our commitment, St. Paul will continue to grow in God-pleasing ways in 2024 and beyond.

Please make sure your 2023 contributions are in the office before the end of this year for them to count towards 2023.

Let's make 2024 the best by Giving in Response for all the God does for us!

Treat your treasures as a trust; God will meet your deepest needs. Use your talents!!

Give generously with a grateful heart!

Thank you to all who make 2023 a very good year for St. Paul. Your contributions of time, talents and treasures went a long way to help sustain our mission.

Happy New Year 2024!!



AS WE BID FAREWELL TO THIS YEAR
AND WELCOME THE NEW YEAR,
LET'S JOIN OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER
FOR OUR BELOVED CHILDREN AND
THEIR FAMILIES. MAY THE COMING YEAR
BRING ABUNDANT BLESSINGS, HEALTH
AND JOY TO EACH ONE OF THEM.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Scripture Readings for Worship at Home

(These devotional readings may not exactly match the readings at Sunday worship services.)

January 2024	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Baptism of the Lord January 7, 2024	<u>Genesis 1:1-5</u>	<u>Psalm 29</u>	<u>Acts 19:1-7</u>	<u>Mark 1:4-11</u>
Second Sunday after the Epiphany January 14, 2024	<u>1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)</u>	<u>Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 6:12-20</u>	<u>John 1:43-51</u>
Third Sunday after the Epiphany January 21, 2024	<u>Jonah 3:1-5, 10</u>	<u>Psalm 62:5-12</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 7:29-31</u>	<u>Mark 1:14-20</u>
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany January 28, 2024	<u>Deuteronomy 18:15-20</u>	<u>Psalm 111</u>	<u>1 Corinthians 8:1-13</u>	<u>Mark 1:21-28</u>

Part of the ministry we share includes providing a worship space that gives glory to God. Especially in this, one of our highest festival occasions, we decorate with particular detail. Thanks to the following people for the donation of poinsettias, a symbol of the season:



Jerry & Khe Crofts in memory of Heather Crofts

John Renner in memory of Julie Renner

Dianne Stern Miller in memory of Florence, Parents & Family

Leta VanZuiden in memory of friends and family

Nancy Beck in memory of loved ones

Ron & Janie Billings in memory of our parents

Gary Fields in memory of Marcia Fields

Cox family in memory of Dick, Harold, Hazel and Bob Cox

Dale & Sharon Worley in memory of our parents, Woody & Justine, Harvey & Pearl

Bob & Judy Bartel & family, Dave & Donna Kendall & family in memory of Ruth & Don Stern and Mabel Rohde

Jim & Cheryl Gorman in memory of Geraldine Chismarick, Bob & Shirley Gorman

Susan Kuehl in memory Ruth George, Pastor Ray & Janice Heilener

Jeff & Dawn Waite in memory of Florence Pfundstein, Johnnie Stern, Elizabeth Ruth Waite

Jeff & Dawn Waite in honor of our children; Jonathon, Joshua, Rebecca & Erik Giles

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES FOR OUR CHURCH MEMBERS

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

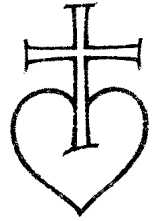
2	Marilyn Geiger	<u>Happy 54th Anniversary</u>
3	Greg Zeigler	January 3, 1970
	Andrew Spaulding	Bob & Judy Bartel
15	Vicki Sauter	<u>Happy 64th Anniversary</u>
17	Ron Gerken	January 24, 1960
18	Rebecca Giles	Ron & Karol Gerken
19	Donna Palmer-93	
20	Berta Beyer	<u>Happy 56th Anniversary</u>
	Jim Lincoln	January 26, 1968
	Eliana Avelar	Mike & Debbie O'Brien
22	Cathy Cox	
	Jacob Straw	
25	Evan Lobdell	
26	Nancy Frank	
	Chad Arians	
29	Paige Reitzel	
30	Hope Howell	
31	Karol Gerken	
	Bev Julien	
	AmyZeigler	



Youth News!

Middle School Ministry of Confirmation

5th-8th Graders: Confirmation is a multi-year opportunity to explore your faith through Bible Study, questions, service, worship, retreats and more! Immanuel, St. Paul and St. John's are teaming up for Confirmation this year through monthly Sunday gatherings from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each session will include a light lunch.



We also have service and fellowship opportunities such as retreats and packing Buddy Bags, lunches for school kids to take home on the weekend. We pack right up the road at Wesley Methodist Church 2200 16th Ave. in Sterling.

The schedule for the year is below:

January 14, 2024; 11am-2pm at St. John's, exploring the Lord's Prayer

January 26-28, 2024; Schaumburg Youth Quake Retreat

February 4, 2024; 11am-2pm at Immanuel, exploring the Commandments

February 28 7pm Buddy Bags Packing

March 3, 2024; 11am-2pm at St. Paul exploring the Commandments

April 14, 2024; 11am-2pm at St. John's, exploring the Commandments

April 24 7pm Buddy Bags Packing

May 5, 2024; 11am-2pm at Immanuel exploring Communion

We hope you can attend as many opportunities as you are able. Nothing is required, but now is the time to explore faith and friendship. You will get out of our time together what you put into it.

Children's Offering

JANUARY CHILDREN'S OFFERING: The January Children's offering will go to the PADS Homeless Shelter's Roof Fundraiser Campaign.



Did I remember
to take the price
tag off my gift?



Satire

Puzzle!

Complete this Bible passage by adding the missing vowels.



F_r by gr_c_ y_ _ h_v_
b_ _n s_v_d thr_ _gh
f_ _th, _nd th_s _s n_t
y_ _r _wn d_ _ng; _t _s
th_ g_ft _f G_d — n_t th_
r_s_lt _f w_rks, s_ th_t
n_ _n_ m_y b_ _st.

_ph_s_ _ns 2:8-9, NRSV



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

Judy Bartel

Greg Zeigler

James 5:16 *Pray one for another.*

DIRECTORY OF STAFF and CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Pastor Makayla Dahleen

(815) 780-9401 – pastormakayla@stpaulsterling.com

Sue Dirks, Parish Secretary

(815) 535-3574 – sue@stpaulsterling.com



2023 Congregation Council

President – Jim Gorman

Vice President – Greg Zeigler

Treasurer – Chrissy Zollinger

Secretary – Jennifer Pillars

Christian Education/Youth

Jennifer Pillars ('24)

Stacey Avelar ('25)

Stewardship

Greg Zeigler ('25)

Social Outreach

Stacey Avelar ('25)

Jennifer Pillars ('24)

Lay Ministry & Worship

Chrissy Zollinger ('25)

Julie Woessner ('25)

Property & Management

Dan Bartel ('24)

Jim Gorman ('25)

Chad Arians ('25)

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

Office Hours: Monday – Friday; 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

Website: www.stpaulsterling.com

Facebook: St. Paul Lutheran Church – Sterling, IL

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