

## St. Paul Lutheran Church ELCA

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

Email: [stpaulsterling@comcast.net](mailto:stpaulsterling@comcast.net)

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

# MARCH 2024

*I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."*

-Philippians 1:3-5

Greetings to you all after a blessed 12 weeks of maternity leave with Simon! I want to express my deepest gratitude to each of you for your support, love, and understanding during this season. Your encouragement during my time of leave allowed me to be fully immersed in the joys and challenges of a newborn and I was able to cherish precious moments and create wonderful memories with my family and manage sleep deprivation 😊. The first six weeks were rough and we are still figuring out the rhythm of life, but we so appreciate the first 12 weeks to get started as a family of three.

Since my time away, I have been reflecting on the parallel between nurturing a family and nurturing a church community. Both require patience, love, and a deep sense of commitment. At St. Paul, we say we are a church family, and these past few months are yet another example of how we live it out. I know it may not have been easy to be "without" a pastor for 12 weeks; yet I also know this congregation remained resilient as you came together to worship and manage the business of our congregation. The continued love and care you provided for one another demonstrates the true spirit of the Church: a body of Christ's love filled with the Holy Spirit's power.

I am excited to return to walk through Lent with you. During this season we will share in telling our sacred stories about our ancestors in the faith. I



hope you can join us for Wednesday Midweek services in collaboration with Immanuel and St. John's. More details are in the pages that follow. It was a joy to share the stories of Christmas and Epiphany with Simon and I am looking forward to sharing our stories of faith as we worship together on Sundays and Wednesdays.

As I return to my pastoral duties, I carry with me a renewed sense of purpose and an overflowing heart filled with gratitude. The time away has allowed me to recover and grow, both as a mother and as a pastor. I am looking forward to being with you as we deepen our faith and serve our Sauk Valley community.

May God guide our journey together!

With gratitude,  
Pastor Makayla

## 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: Dawn Grell, Michelle Klinger, Barb & Don Lenn, Dottie Julien, Lori Dewey, Shirley Graftaas, Betty Steinke, Michael Harting, Larry Hanson, Bob Cornelsen, Larry Wahler, JoDell Cruz, Sandy & Harold Julifs, Lila Edeus, Berta Beyer, the family and friends of Mike Bushaw.

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

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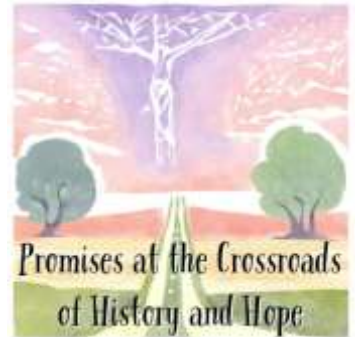
**Don't' forget to "Spring Ahead" your clocks before you go to bed on March 9! You wouldn't want to be late for church on Sunday.**



## LENT 2024

### Join us for Mid-Week Lenten Worship!

Throughout Lent we will be teaming up with Tri Church congregations and utilizing a synod-wide Lent series entitled, “**Promises at the Crossroads of History and Hope**” written by the Rev. Dr. Charlene Rauchy Cox for mid-week worship services. This resource is provided free for congregations to use through the Northern Illinois Synod. The season of Lent affords a unique opportunity to prayerfully consider this crossroads of history and hope. We are invited to reflect upon who and what we have been while also pointing to Christ - promise fulfilled, love incarnate, and hope embodied for the sake of the whole world. Throughout Lent, we will be immersed in the history and hope of the Abrahamic family - Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, and Isaac. We will remember we are a people and a story with a past and future with innumerable experiences, both life-giving and life denying. Our series invites us to proclaim and embody a sure and certain hope.



**Please join us for mid-week Lenten Worship Midweek at 12:15 p.m. at Immanuel and at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's with Tri Church Congregations. Food will be available prior to each worship beginning at 11:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. respectively.** A sign up sheet for St. Paul provide soup, bread and dessert is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. We are responsible for providing: March 6 – Lunch at Immanuel (no one else needed; and March 20 – Dinner at St. John's **All are welcome!**

This year's weekly themes:

March 6	Sarah—God Declares and Delivers
March 13	Ishmael—God Hears and Helps
March 20	Isaac—God Protects and Provides



**Easter egg hunt | Candy needed:** Easter Sunday is **March 31**. Immediately following the 9:00 a.m. worship service, we will be having an Easter egg hunt for kids of all ages. We are planning for outside, but will still have the hunt inside in case of rain. Congregation, we are asking for donations of individually packed candy, stickers, little toys (needs to fit inside plastic eggs). You can pick up a bag of empty

eggs at church, fill them, then bring them to the church no later than Sunday, March 17. Or, just bring your candy, etc. donation to the church and we'll fill the eggs. Thank you for your support of this fun event for the children and youth of St. Paul.

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### **Holy Week 2023**

**Palm/Passion Sunday** – March 24, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. worship

**Dinner Plates & Passion Service** – March 29, 2023 – 5:30 p.m. with meal, Holy Communion and a reading of Christ's passion.

**Easter Sunday** – March 31, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. worship with egg hunt to follow.



## **Birthday BUDDIES**

**We are participating with Tri-Church** serving LSSI group homes this coming year in a new program to make birthdays a special day for some people in our community! “Birthday Buddies” is a program that will give some differently-abled people an opportunity to feel God’s love through a gift on their special day. Each of the Tri-Church congregations will take turns providing a gift and cupcakes for residents monthly. Our first resident to celebrate is in May. We will be sharing the names of our assigned recipients with you

all and encourage you to send cards or sign a card from St. Paul before their birthday. Thanks in advance for sharing God’s love through the Birthday Buddies program! This picture is from the January celebration when St. John’s were the host. If you like more information or to help out, please talk to Greg Zeigler.

### ***Church Announcements***

**We are in process** of taking donations to purchase chairs for the Fellowship Hall. We need a total of 25 in order to have seating at all the tables for large events, (funeral lunches, meetings, etc.) Each chair is \$30. If you have any questions, please talk to Nancy Eilers. You can use a pew envelope or bring your donation to the church office. Be sure to mark your donation for the chair fund.



## 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**

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## 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.

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**Sound/Livestream volunteers needed.** We are need of more volunteers to help out with the sound system on Sunday mornings. If you would like to learn or see all what's involved, please see Greg Zeigler. Thank you in advance!



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## CLEO (Church Ladies Eating Out)

CLEO meet monthly at 6:00 p.m. at a designated restaurant. The March outing on Monday, March 25 at Brinks 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!



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**Menz Group** will meet at St. John's Lutheran Church in Sterling on Monday, March 4 at 6:00 p.m.

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**Please keep our home visitation members and friends** in your thoughts and prayers. If you would like 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



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

2024 Budget \$286,313 (\$23,859 Monthly)

### **Totals through February 26, 2022**

Budgeted Expenses \$47,718

Offerings/Interest \$16,856

Expenses \$28,695

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### **Lutheran World Relief**

We will meet on Wednesday, March 20, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Thanks for the donations of material, sheets and blankets that we use within our quilts.

Any donations can be placed in the basket in the closet by the kitchen.

Dawn Waite (815-631-8142) or Debbie O'Brien (815-441-0257) can answer any questions regarding the quilting.

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### **Stewardship**

*REMEMBER: Whenever you're in a position to help someone,  
Be glad and always do it.  
Because that's God answering someone else's prayers  
Through you.*



*Dearest Lord, teach us to be generous:  
Teach us to serve you as you deserve:  
To give and not to count the cost.*

*Give with a grateful heart for all he has done for us!*

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## **BIRTHDAYS 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 Feona Pfundstein  
5 Cliff Pfundstein  
6 Dale Worley  
10 Jacob Reitzel  
12 Chris Engstrom  
12 Scott Wolber  
18 Liz Spaudling  
22 Lyle Spaudling  
24 **Gene Strike – 93**  
Joan Jensen  
24 Austin Petty  
26 Collin Zollinger  
28 Dawn Waite  
31 Sarah Wolber

### **Happy 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

March 14, 2015  
Joe & Pam Machan

### **Happy 48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

March 20, 1976  
Mark & Patty Arians

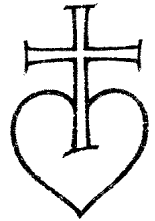
# MARCH



# Youth News!

## Middle School Ministry of Confirmation

**5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 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:

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

**In March and April** the children's offering will support our synod partners in Tanzania and India. The offerings will be sent directly to non-profit organizations that work with the North Central Diocese of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Arcot Lutheran Church (ALC) in India.



The Friends of Mwangaza supports education programs that tackle issues related to teaching, learning, public health, empowering women, and building community in Tanzania. Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry supports education through financially supporting students at the ALC boarding homes in India. Check out both organizations here: <https://lutheranpartners.org/what-we-do>

<https://www.mwangazapartnership.org/>





**Chicago's Premier  
Handbell Ensemble**

**KC Congdon, Artistic Director**

**in Concert on  
April 14 at 4 p.m.  
at Immanuel Lutheran Church  
(501 8th Ave., Rock Falls, IL)**

***A free will offering will be received. ALL ARE WELCOME!***

This program is partially  
supported by a grant from the  
Illinois Arts Council Agency.



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COUNCIL  
AGENCY

**[www.AgapeRingers.org](http://www.AgapeRingers.org)**





*A training for all individuals who work or  
engage with children*

## YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

*"Just one person can make in a young person's life by  
simply asking, 'Are you OK?'"*

March 21

8:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Virtual

April 10

8:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Sterling  
Township

May 2

8:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Ogle County  
TBD

June 6

8:30 - 2:30 p.m.

SVCC

July 25

8:30 - 2:30 p.m.

ROE 47

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## 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](mailto:pastormakayla@stpaulsterling.com)

Sue Dirks, Parish Secretary

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



### **2024 Congregation Council**

President – Chad Arians

Vice President – Greg Zeigler

Treasurer – Chrissy Zollinger

Secretary – Stacey Avelar

### **Christian Education/Youth**

Stacey Avelar ('25)

### **Stewardship**

Greg Zeigler ('25)

### **Social Outreach**

Stacey Avelar ('25)

### **Lay Ministry & Worship**

Chrissy Zollinger ('25)

Julie Woessner ('25)

### **Property & Management**

Dan Bartel ('26)

Chad Arians ('25)

### **Members-at-large**

David Carrillo ('25)

Mary Ordean ('26)

**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](mailto:stpaulsterling@comcast.net)

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

Facebook: St. Paul Lutheran Church – Sterling, IL

Pastor Makayla Dahleen

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