

## St. Paul Lutheran Church ELCA

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# APRIL 2024

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”*

–Ephesians 2:8

During the summer months of my college years I worked at Lutheran Summer Camps. We would sing a song that was based on this Ephesians verse. It was fun and energetic and explained the gift of God’s grace. The lyrics are: “Saved by grace, through our faith! (Spell it!) G-R-A-C-E! We will worship you faithfully. We will live eterna-na-ly. What a life for you and me!” The song expresses that we have eternal life because of God’s grace. What a life we get to live knowing we are unconditionally loved and don’t have to fear death! At camp we would often praise God for this amazing grace.

We encouraged the campers to look for moments of grace in their lives. When was a time when you were given a second chance that you didn’t deserve or were surprised by a gift? Maybe you were spontaneously given extra time to take a difficult test or your neighbor unexpectedly raked your leaves. When was the last time you experienced God’s grace? It could be something radical like having a major financial debt forgiven or something simple like having the person behind you in the check-out line be patient when you rummage for your coupons. How can you offer grace to those around you?

I’m not sure I have the words to describe my appreciation for our congregation’s grace as I get into the rhythm of being a mom as well as a pastor. Thank you for the patience and understanding when I need to adjust my schedule or am late to ministry events. I humbly seek your grace to continue. During the month of April our family will be in a bit of an adjustment period. Jacob will go back to work, as we have been blessed to have him on family leave during March. Our baby won’t start day care until the end of April. Simon might need to be in the office with me or I might have to work from home more than just my typical Tuesday. I’m not entirely sure how it is all going to go and I thank you for your patience. Please feel free to call and see if Simon is at church and stop in and see us. We are excited



for him to get to know his church family as we experience God's grace together. Perhaps he can offer you a moment of grace with his smiles. Hopefully he gives his momma grace and takes good naps ☺

This April, as we walk through the season of Easter, we will celebrate God's grace. In response to this incredible gift may we share grace with each other. Praise God that we are saved by grace. What a life for you and me!

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: Eric Brown, Dawn Grell, Michelle Klinger, Barb 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 Beyler, 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.**

## Church Announcements

### **Fellowship Hall Chair fundraiser – Thank you to all who have donated!**

We are very close to meeting our goal of purchasing the 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.



### **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.



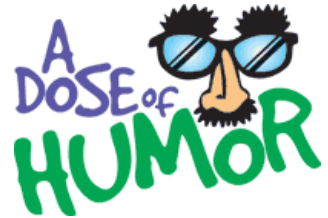


### Altar Flowers

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.

### Join in celebrating HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY on April 14!

Many American churches are resurrecting an old Easter custom begun by the Greeks in the early centuries of Christianity – **“Holy Humor Sunday!”** For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, was observed by the faithful as “days of joy and laughter” with parties and picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. Churchgoers and pastors played practical jokes on each other, told jokes, sang, and danced. The custom was rooted in the musings of early church theologians (like Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom) that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead. **Join us for this special worship service! You are invited to bring and share or submit your favorite appropriate joke during worship!**



### CLEO (Church Ladies Eating Out)

CLEO meet monthly at 6:00 p.m. at a designated restaurant. The April outing on Monday, April 29 at 3 Twelve , 312 Locust Street in Sterling (the old Manny’s restaurant). 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 Judy Bartel at 815-751-6768. All are welcome!



**Menz Group** will meet at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Sterling on Monday, April 1 at 6:00 p.m.

**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



## St. Paul Year Budget Report

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

### Totals through March 29, 2022

Budgeted Expenses \$71,577

Offerings/Interest \$29263

Expenses \$56,312

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### **Lutheran World Relief**

We will meet on Wednesday, April 17, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Thank you for your donations. We cut and sew the sheets and blankets to use within the quilts. We average 12 quilts each month.

We tie and pin the quilts the third Wednesday of the month, Dawn finishes them by the sewing the edges.

We accept any clean sheets, blankets and quilting materials. Donations can be placed in the basket in the closet by the kitchen. If you have questions regarding the quilting contact Dawn Waite (815-631-8142) or Debbie O'Brien (815-441-0257).

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### **Stewardship**

We must strive to become good ancestors.

Giving is more than a responsibility – it is a privilege:  
More than an act of obedience – it is evidence of our faith.

If you have no charity in your heart,  
You have the worst kind of heart trouble.



*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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**Thank you to all** who helped prepare and serve the Lenten mid-week meals both at Immanuel and St. John's this Lenten season. These meals provided more than just food, they also provided meaningful opportunities for fellowship between the

Tri-Church congregations. Many blessings to all who helped and participated. Thank you to the following from St. Paul:

Julie Woessner

Bill & Carolyn Duncan

Lee & Nancy Eilers

Nancy Beck

Janie Billings

Judy Bartel

David Carrillo

**BIRTHDAYS FOR OUR CHURCH MEMBERS & FRIENDS**

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.

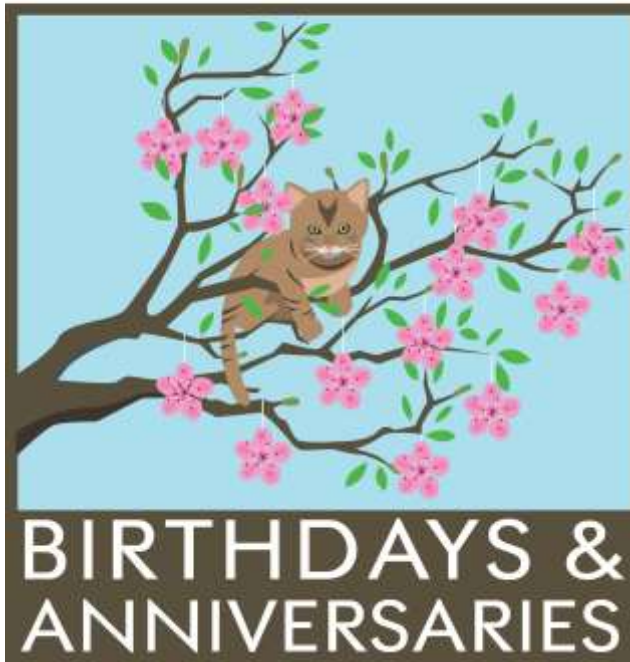
- 3 Mark Glafka
- 4 Carolyn Duncan
- 8 Tim Zollinger
- 11 Paul Steinke
- 14 Brandon Dewey
- 15 Bob Bartel
- 21 Viola Koster
- 22 Maren Esnard
- 24 Bennett Shore
- 25 Liz Klein
- 28 Susan Kuehl
- 29 Izzy Brockman

**Happy 58<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

April 2, 1966

Joe & Pam Machan

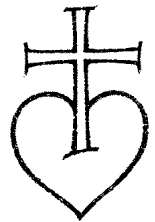
APRIL



# 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:

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

April 24 7pm Buddy Bags Packing at Wesley Methodist Church in Sterling

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 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/>



more details.

**CELEBRATING GRADUATES:** High school seniors, promoting 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and post-high school '24 grads, we are celebrating all grads in May! Please let the church office know if you/your student is graduating, being promoted, receiving a certificate, or approaching a new life milestone. We look forward to celebrating and honoring you! The church office will be contacting all grads with

## **Spring Plant Donations**

### **Easter Lily given in Honor of:**

**Simon Dahleen's baptism** by Tony & Donna Marinack

### **Easter Lilies given in Memory of:**

**Bob Woessner** by Julie Woessner

**Heather Crofts** by Khe & Jerry Crofts

**Marcia Fields** by Gary Fields

**Family** by Dianne Stern Miller

**Harry & Ann Landheer, Dick Landheer & Merwyn Landheer** by Leta VanZuiden

**Aunt Gladys Stern** by Patty & Mark Arians

### **Tulips given in memory of:**

**Bob Wasmund** by Julie Woessner

**Kenneth & Miriam Chubb, Dr. Carl & Minna Wiederanders** by Verges & Noreen Aageson and family

**Our parents** by Ron & Janie Billings

**Julie Renner** by John Renner

**Dick Cox** by the Cathy & Audrey Cox

**Paul & Ruth George, Marcia Rodekamp** by Susan Kuehl

### **Daffodils given in memory of:**

**Paul & Ruth George, Marcia Rodekamp** by Susan Kuehl

**Rhonda Johnson (Patty's sister)** by Patty & Mark Arians

### **Hyacinths given in memory of:**

**Ruth & Don Stern and Mabel Rohde** by Judy & Bob Bartel; Steve & Janelle & family; Dan & Susan & family; Donna & Dave Kendall; Tracy & Jason Volk & family

**Geraldine Chismarick, Bob & Shirley Gorman** by Jim & Cheryl Gorman

**Members of the Segura & Ordean families** by Mary Ordean

**Loved ones** by Nancy Beck

**Ian Whitmore** by William & Carolyn Duncan

**Pearl Staples** by JoAnn & Ruben Garcia

## Community Announcements

**Rock Falls United Methodist Church**, 210 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, is having a Rummage Sale Thursday, April 4, 8:00a-4:00p; Friday, April 5, 8:00a-4:00p, and Saturday, April 6, 8:00a-12:00p. Books, toys, stuffed animals, games, puzzles, pictures, candles, jewelry, yarn, collective items (Sadler England Teapot & Crocks), wooden ducks, artificial flowers, holiday décor, and LOTS of miscellaneous!!



**Christ Lutheran School** will host its annual **Trivia Night** on **Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** at the CLS Gym. Doors open at 4:00 p.m. Trivia begins at 5:00 p.m. **Tickets are \$20 per person.** Additional FUNdraising opportunities are available through the Dessert Auction, Silent auction and raffle! **Babysitting available at 4:30 p.m.** Any questions, call

CLS at 815-625-3800.

### Mark Your Calendars for Relay For Life

Immanuel is inviting all members, friends and family to become members of the ***Spirit of Immanuel*** Relay For Life team at the 29<sup>th</sup> annual event to be held at Westwood Sports Complex in Sterling on Saturday, June 8 from 5:00-9:00 p.m.



Relay For Life is about celebrating survivors, honoring and remembering those lost to cancer, and Fighting Back against this cancer which is not fussy about who it attacks – male or female, younger or older, whatever nationality or heritage. For questions, contact Immanuel's Service Ministry Council members, Pam Shoffner or Kevin Arnold.

**Cancer survivors:** Please register by calling 1-800-ACS-2345 or online at: [www.relayforlife.org/saukvalleyil](http://www.relayforlife.org/saukvalleyil) to walk the first lap, receive a free Survivor T shirt, and a free box meal after the opening lap.





## Let's Feed Our Children



### INDIVIDUAL PASTA DRIVE

**Join in supporting the hunger needs of young people in our area! Individually packed pasta donations are needed!** Let's Feed Our Children serves grab-and-go meals at 19 sites throughout Whiteside County in Rock Falls, Sterling, Tampico, Erie, Fulton, Lyndon, Prophetstown, and Morrison, throughout the summer for young people ages 18 and younger. In the summer of 2023 they served or 34,000 free meals! You can be a part of this vital service through your donation of Individually packed pasta. Kid's favorite choices are: Easy Mac, Chef Boyardee style of pasta, ramen noodles and chicken noodle soup. Donations can be brought in anytime before Mother's Day, May 12. Thanks in advance for donating as you are able! This year lunches will be packed at New Life Church. If you like to help in the packing of the lunches, you can sign up by following this link: Choose your volunteer position and dates here: <https://signup.com/go/fXBAKtz> or reach out to United Way of Whiteside County at 815.625.7973or [mybarra@uwwhiteside.org](mailto:mybarra@uwwhiteside.org) **St. Paul will still be a site where lunches** can be picked up by families. We will need a volunteer(s) from St. Paul to help hand out lunches. Contact Sue if you are able to help out with this.

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### Immanuel Lutheran Church in Rock Falls

is honored to host a Connection Recovery Group for people eighteen and older who are living with a mental health condition. The Connection Recovery Group is sponsored by the National Alliance on Mental Illness



(NAMI) Sauk area and meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Luther Room (downstairs) at Immanuel. New participants are most welcome. Please contact [namisaukarea@gmail.com](mailto:namisaukarea@gmail.com) with any questions. In May, this gathering will switch to the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month. NAMI Sauk Area is dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with mental illness and their families through support, education, and advocacy. You can learn more about what NAMI Sauk Area offers at: <https://namisaukarea.org/>.

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**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.



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



# earth day earth church

At LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CENTER in OREGON IL

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20**  
**12:00PM-3:00PM**

Special Event Includes:

Lunch  
Earth Church Celebration  
Forest Meditation  
Prayer Labyrinth  
Hiking

Guest Leader:  
Bishop Stacie Fidlar  
Northern Illinois Synod

\$7 Per Person

**REGISTER AT [www.LOMC.org](http://www.LOMC.org)**  
*and for more information*

1974-2024  
**LOMC**  
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center



Creation Care Subcommittee  
Northern Illinois Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



MAY 4 and 11, 2024

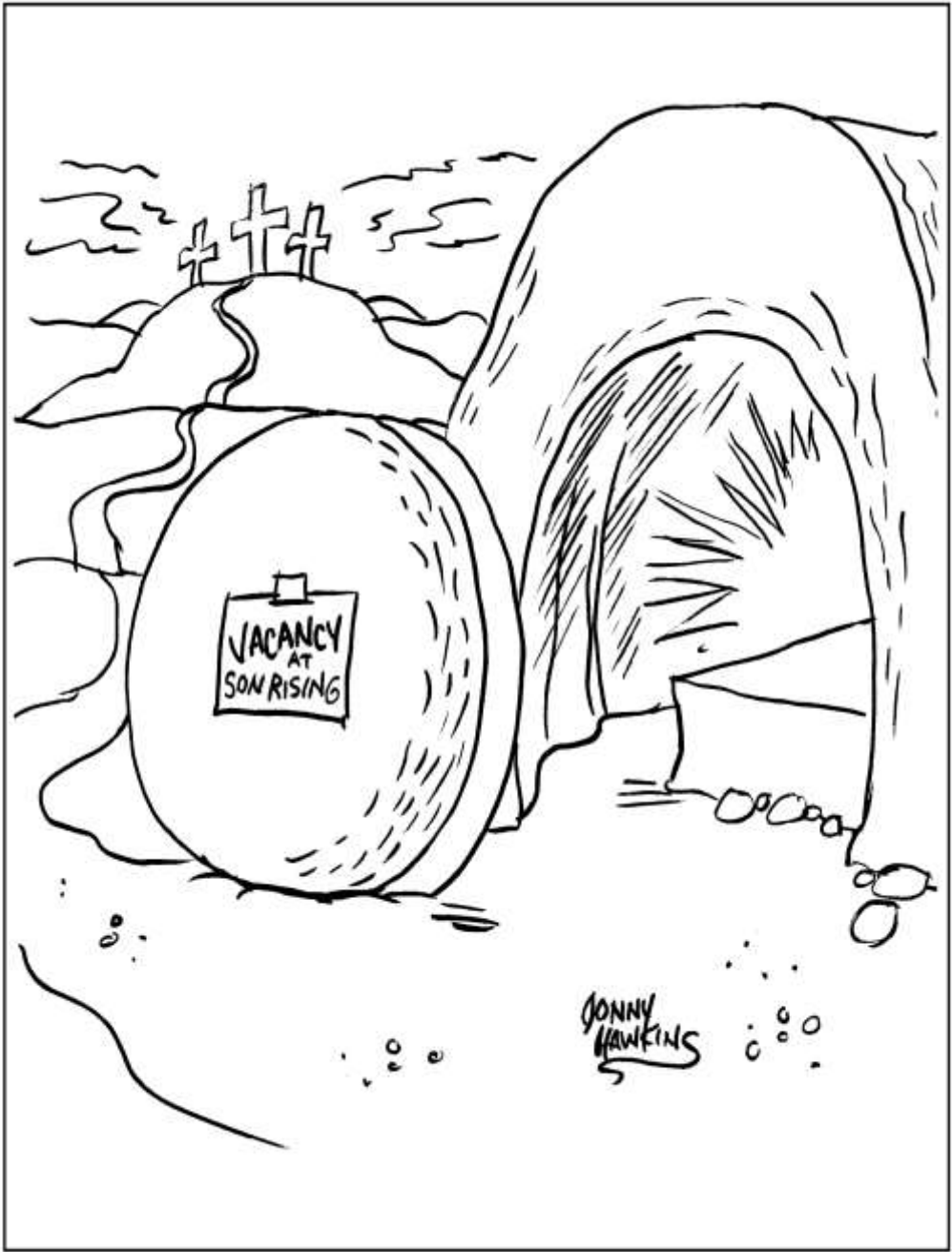


# MAY WORK DAYS

9:00am-4:00pm



REGISTER AT  
LOMC.ORG

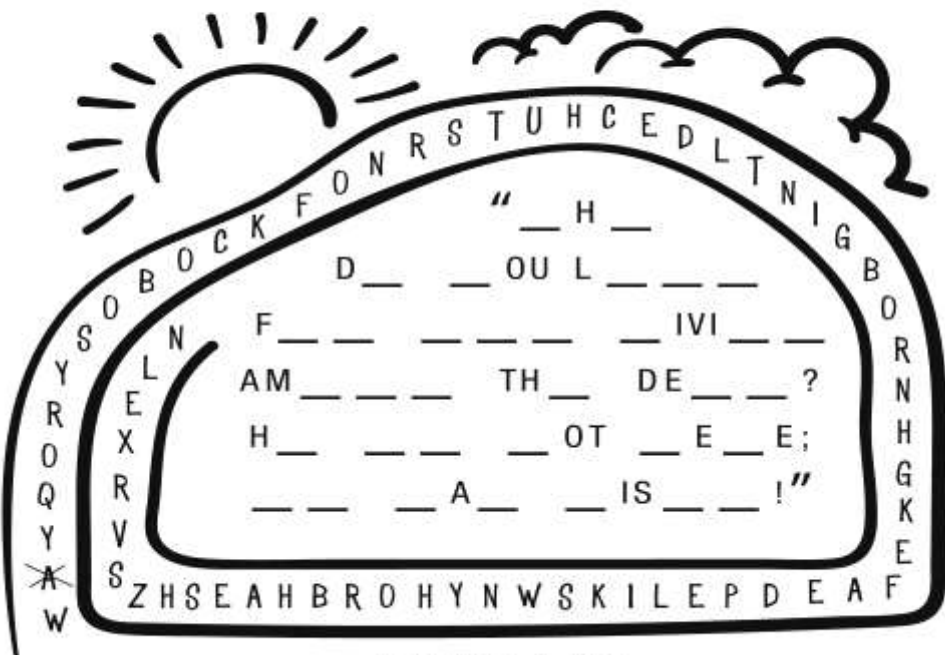




# EASTER MORNING *message*

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

*Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.*



LUKE 24:5-6, NIV

# 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)

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Facebook: St. Paul Lutheran Church – Sterling, IL

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