

St. Paul Lutheran Church ELCA

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

Email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

Website: www.stpaulsterling.com

MAY 2025

"Is Jesus Alive for You?"

Since the Easter proclamation is at the very core of who we are as Christians, I hope and trust that those of you who are physically able were gathered together in a time of worship with other Christians at some point on the weekend of Easter Sunday - wherever you might have been. The Sunday of the Resurrection is the only Christian festival that the Church has celebrated from day one of its existence.

But Easter Sunday of 2025 is done, gone, never to be experienced again. So, now you can go back to "life as usual" or "business as usual." Right? I hope not!

I'm sure that those who organized the effort to get Jesus arrested and executed almost 2,000 years ago felt somewhat this way after Friday's crucifixion of Jesus. *"There, we got that taken care of! He's gone. Back to business and life as usual."* But Jesus' death wasn't the end of the story. And neither their lives - nor the world - would ever be the same again!

But let's get back to you. *Is Jesus alive for you? Or is he dead?* I know, that's a strange question to ask the members of a Christian congregation - especially in the days right after Easter Sunday. But let me press the question a bit with a few more.

Did you go to worship on Easter Sunday for the same reason that the women came to Jesus' tomb on that very first Easter Sunday morning? Did you go to worship to simply "pay your respects" to Jesus - this Jesus who lived so long ago? This Jesus who did and said some wonderful things, but who is no



more? If so, Easter may very well be done and gone for you. But again, I hope not!

Imagine the women who visited Jesus' tomb early on that Sunday morning. They were prepared to "pay their respects" by anointing Jesus' body - to give him a "proper" burial. However, they were *not* prepared - how could they have been? - to receive the news that Jesus was no longer dead. He had been raised to a new life! They heard this incredible message and they had to make a decision. **"What do we do now?"** Thanks be to God that, in their fear and joy, they *shared* the good news with others. Thanks to them, you and I are recipients of this shared good news and are followers of Jesus Christ today.

So, back to you. *Is Jesus alive for you? Or is he dead?* Your answer will lead you to an answer to the "now what" question. If Jesus - who was executed - is now *alive* for you, what do you do now? Is his resurrection life going to make any difference in your life today? And if so, will anyone *else* benefit from this good news and the gift of life that is yours through Christ's resurrection?

I pray that others will know the gift of Christ's new life through you. I pray that your family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, colleagues, strangers whom you meet, and strangers whom you may never meet - even on the other side of the world, will be impacted by the fact that you worship a living Lord. I pray that this impact will happen because, by the news of the resurrection, you have been freed to live this life on earth in a spirit of love and care for others.

The Bible tells us that all who have been baptized into Jesus Christ are joined not only to his death, but, because Jesus now lives, we are also joined to his resurrection. May you live in the confidence that you ultimately have nothing to fear in this life. And living in this confidence, or, as we hear in our funeral service liturgy, living in the "sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life," may you know what it is to be freed to love and serve others.

"Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!" Alleluia!

Pastor Mark S. Luepke

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: Stacy Verdick, Dylan Wescott, Ken & Sharon Mager, Dianne Miller, Bev Julien, JoAnn Garcia, Barb Lenn, Lori Dewey, Betty Steinke, Larry Wahler, JoDell Cruz, Sandy Julifs, Lila Edeus and the family and friends of Steven Julifs.

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

Church Announcements

CLEO (Church Ladies Eating Out)

CLEO meet monthly at 5:30 p.m. at a designated restaurant. The May outing is on Monday, May 19. They will be going to T's Timeout in Sterling on Lynn Blvd. 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, May 5, 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.

Shirley Dodd	Lori Dewey	Lila Edeus
Katherine Janssen	Sandy Julifs	Viola Koster
Cliff Miller	Sandra Sweitzer	Dale Worley



St. Paul Year Budget Report

2025 Budget \$293,589 (\$24,466 Monthly)

Totals through April 25, 2025

Budgeted Expenses	\$97,864
Offerings/Interest	\$44,537
Expenses	\$58,363

Lutheran World Relief Quilting

Our quilting day is May 21. We will gather in the Social Hall between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

We have completed 75 quilts to date. Thanks to all who have donated clean, spot-free materials that we use within the quilts.

Donations can be put in the closer by the kitchen.

If you have questions regarding the quilting contact Dawn Waite (815-631-8142) or Debbie O'Brien (815-441-0257).



LWR Personal Health Kits

During the month of May we will be gathering the items listed below for the **Personal Care Kits**. We will have the towels, please just shop for the other items. We have monies from Thrivent from Janice Hunter and Patty Arians to buy towels.

The **Personal Care Kits** will be taken to the ingathering along with the quilts. Thank you.

There is a container in the back of the church to place the items.

These kits go all over the world when natural disaster strikes or political conflict flares. These families often have little chance to gather their belongings before fleeing the danger. They arrive in a refugee camp, or other place of safety, scared, vulnerable and dirty from travel.

The simple items included in a **Personal Care Kit** allow them to wash away dirt and sweat with the fresh scent of soap and the softness of a towel to remind them that they are cared for. So let us do God's Work with Our Hands and share God's grace by providing that simple comfort to those who do not have. Questions please ask Debbie O'Brien, 815-441-0257.

Here is the list of the items needed:

~~1 dark-colored bath towel~~

Thanks to a Thrivent grant from Janice Hunter and Patty Arians, you will NOT need to purchase a towel this year.

2 or 3-Bath size bars of soap (**8oz or more total**). Please KEEP in original packaging. Any brand welcome.

1-Adult size toothbrush .Please KEEP in original packaging or a business size envelope.

1-Sturdy comb (no picks or fine toothed combs).

1-metal nail clipper with or without a file.





Synod Assembly

We are desperate need of two volunteers to attend this year's Synod Assembly, June 13-14, at Augustana College in Rock Island. Your registration and lodging are paid for. Traditional a male and a female have been sent to Synod Assembly by St. Paul, but that has not always been the case. Contact a council member or Sue if you are interested.



NAME TAG SUNDAYS!

The first Sunday of each month we are having name tag Sundays. This will help us all! The ushers will remind us to make our own nametags as we enter the sanctuary.

Communion at the Rail

The worship committee and Council have decided to continue offering communion at the rail in addition to receiving it in the front of the sanctuary. Beginning in May Communion Assistants will be added to the Worship Assistants schedule. If you would like to be added to this list to help serve communion, please let Sue know.



Friendship Pads/Connect Cards/Prayer Request Papers

The Worship Team is streamlining our paper in the pews! Look for new connect cards where you can share all of your details. These also have a place for prayer requests. As always, if you would like to have Pastor include your prayer request in that Sunday's public prayers, please hand your connect card to an usher during the gathering hymn.





Church Directory

We continue to move forward towards a new Church Directory. There will be form for you to fill out updating your contact information in the May newsletter. If you would like your photo included and haven't had one taken yet, please contact Liz Klein to schedule a time for her to take your picture. (815-631-5078)

Stewardship – Being Blessed

What you give ought to be in direct relationship
to what you've received.

If you have been blessed with a great deal,
Then you have a lot of giving to do.



No one has ever become poor by giving.
Treat your treasures as a trust; God will meet your deepest needs. Use your
talents!!

Give generously with a grateful heart!

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	Nicholas Engstrom	21	Eileen Wolber
4	Lori Dewey	22	Keller Arduini
	Carter O'Brien	28	Libby Schrader
5	Owen Pillars		Jul Woodworth
6	Dan Bartel		
7	Mary Ordean		
	Stephen Geiger		
	Jack Saathoff		
8	Sandy Fritz		
	Paul Adams		
	Scott Wolber, Jr.		
9	Gary Fields		
	Dennis Biester		
10	Jennifer Page		
11	Shawn Andrews		
13	Chrissy Zollinger		
15	Dawn Zeigler		
16	Ron Hulteen		
18	Mel Johnson		

Happy 19th Anniversary

May 27, 2006

Ryan & Valerie Petty



Tri Church Introduces God's Work Our Hands Project

Many of you may have been familiar with Arrowwood and the Rock Falls Rehab Nursing Home – both facilities on Martin Road in Rock Falls that closed last fall. **Arrowwood is in the process of becoming Cledy's House of Hope – a sober living home for women in our communities.** As

described in the Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery newsletter, Cledy's House of Hope, designed to honor the legacy of Cledy Rumley, a devoted mother and champion of hope, is a 42-bed recovery residence for women committed to rebuilding their lives in sobriety.



Tri Church members toured the facility and determined this project very worthy of supporting. Help will be needed with cleaning, painting, and outdoor clean-up, as well as donations from a "wish list" for resident rooms. Until the contractor's work is completed, it is unknown at this time as to when Tri Church project work will take place. It will also be determined if there will be one designated work time, or perhaps more than one to accommodate a variety of schedules. Please look for more information in Sunday bulletins and newsletters.

Thank you in advance for "your hands" to support God's work in our community. We, too, can be champions of hope!

Deb Keaschall
Tri Church Convener

Spring Plant Donations

Easter Lily in Honor of:

Sandy Julifs by David Julifs

Easter Lilies given in Memory of:

Marcia Fields by Gary Fields

Harold & Steven Julifs by Sandy Julifs

Harry & Ann Landheer, Richard Landheer & Merwyn Landheer by Leta VanZuiden

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

Bob Woessner, Rhonda DeJonge, Bob Wasmund and Oliver DeJonge by Julie Woessner and Randy DeJonge

Tulips given in memory of:

Heather Crofts by Khe & Jerry Crofts

Bob Woessner, Rhonda DeJonge, Bob Wasmund and Oliver DeJonge by Julie Woessner and Randy DeJonge



Our parents by Ron & Janie Billings

Julie Renner by John Renner & my parents, Julia & Ronald Renner

Pearl Staples & Graftaas family by JoAnn & Ruben Garcia

Daffodils given in memory of:

Our parents by Mike & Debbie O'Brien

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

Dave & David Beck, and George & Sylvia Day by Nancy Beck

Dick Cox by Audrey & Cathy Cox

Ian Whitmore by William & Carolyn Duncan

Michael Harting by Mary Ordean

Youth News!

STUDENT MUSICIANS:

This summer, the **UNITE** churches are again hosting student musicians from the Sterling/Rock Falls area. This includes any student completing 7th grade – a just graduated college student. We ask that students share a piece with St. Paul and then arrange to play that piece at other **UNITE** congregations, where you will be paid \$25/service as a guest musician. This is a chance to keep your music skills tip top over the summer, share an IMEA or audition piece you may be working on, or another special piece. Please contact Dawn Zeigler 815.275.3775 or dawn@stpaulsterling.com for all of the details! We can't wait to hear you!



CELEBRATING GRADUATES: High school seniors, promoting 8th grade students and post-high school '25 grads. Graduate Sunday is set for June 1. 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 more details.



Summer Camp

Now is the time to sign up for Summer Camp! The theme for 2025 is Remember. Reconnect. Renew.

Camp is offered weekly from June 15-August 5. All camps enjoy a full schedule each day at the beautiful 600+ acres of

LOMC. Campers experience morning devotions, natural exploration, cookouts, Bible study, archery, team building, campfires, games and so much more. Come to LOMC this summer for a unique outdoor experience! You can learn more about all the great options for LOMC Summer camp at www.lomc.org. A non-refundable deposit per camper is required to hold your space. **In addition to summer camp, LOMC has tent and trailer sites available for rent!** LOMC is also looking for volunteers to assist with mowing – please call the camp if you can help (815-732-2220).



Children's Offering

The children's offering for the month of May will support the United Way's Let's Feed Our Children. The free summer lunch program kicks off the first week of June. Thank you for sharing in the ministry of giving and helping to feed our

local children.

NOW is the time to make plans to join in CommUNITY VBS this summer! Consider having your grandkids or extended family coming to visit during that time and join us for VBS too! **CommUNITY VBS is offered for Pre-School-5th graders July 20-24 from 5:30- 8 p.m.** at Immanuel Lutheran (501 8th Ave., Rock Falls). Festivities include a free supper, Bible exploration, music, games, science and arts & crafts! Guard your calendars and plan to volunteer for this life-shaping week too!



Confirmation 2024-2025

St. Paul has a multi-year confirmation program for **6th-8th graders** students who desire the Rite of Confirmation typically Affirm their Baptism in the fall of their 9th grade year.

2024-2025 Tri Church Confirmation Schedule

May 4, 2025; 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Immanuel, New Testament (Wrap-up Party & Review)

Make plans to join us in exploring your faith this year!



Northern IL Synod 2025 Focus



Earlier this year, Bishop Stacie Fidler, announced our focus for 2025: Growing Disciples. It will be a year of intentionally returning to the roots of who we are as the body of Christ, listening to the life of Jesus, and growing deeper in our faith and our following.

Every month will have a theme related to following Jesus, an area of discipleship we can grow and nurture in our lives. We will explore the seven different marks of discipleship and invite each other to grow deeper roots in each area through practice, study, and opening of our hearts and lives, just as the original disciples did. A bulletin insert will be shared. These bulletin inserts are a

starting place and will include an introduction to the monthly theme and an invitation to go deeper.

This is an opportunity to grow and walk together. This is an opportunity to grow and walk together. ~ Bishop Stacie Fidler



Growing Disciples Starts With *Studying*

The regular study of the Bible and books that help to enliven its message is a key way a disciple practices loving and knowing God. Study happens privately through personal Bible study and regular devotional time. Study also happens publicly as families and friends learn together, in small groups, and through larger gatherings of formal study and worship.

Through reading, meditating, and the study of Scripture, the lively word of God becomes active in the lives of believers.

The Holy Spirit inspires us through Scripture to see ourselves as we are and as God would have us become. Through the Bible, we come to understand how God works in the world, for the world, and through people like us.

In what ways does studying the Bible
reshape our hearts, minds, bodies
and spirits?



Throughout our Growing Disciples year, you are invited to explore different ways of studying scripture to find what works for you. This might be through the use of tools, taking up a new daily practice, or joining a bible study group. The best part of growing as a disciple is that there is not one way to study the Bible; each of us is being called to explore scripture in ways that makes sense for us.

One of the ways to engage with scripture is through reading through a passage several times and meditating on different things each time.

As you read through the passage the first time, listen for a word or phrase that catches your attention.

As you read through the passage a second time, listen for how the passage is speaking to your life today.

As you read through the passage a third time, listen for what God may want you to do, or be, or change this week.

Studying Resources

Additional resources will be added throughout the year.

- ELCA Daily Bible Reading
- Daily Grace, Reflections of Faith from the Women of the ELCA
- ELCA Daily Faith Practices
 - Currently we are in Lent Year C
- ELCA Seven Faith Practices Bible Study on Study
 - Living Faith in Daily Life: A four-session small group study on study.
- Book of Faith Dwelling in the Word

Brief Scripture readings and simple questions around a single theme to guide committee or team devotions.

- Lament
- Forgiveness
- Faithfulness
- Wisdom
- Praise
- Light
- Mission
- Prayer
- Hope

Community Announcements

**Breaking
Bread
Together
BBT**

Breaking Bread Together (BBT)

Join us for **Breaking Bread Together (BBT)** this May! BBT is a time of sharing life, God's love and a meal together! These are no host gatherings for all interested parties. **Join us for BBT this month on: Tuesday, May 6, (note day change) at 11:30 a.m. at The Factory,** (103 W. 3rd Street, Sterling). Afterward we will head to Jodie Wetzell's shop, **Frosted Farm Girl** (9825 Tampico Rd., RF)! If you prefer to meet us there, we anticipate arriving at 1:15 p.m.

On Tuesday, May 20 at 11:30 a.m. BBT is at Route 40 Café (145 Washington St., Milledgeville). **Come and share life with God and each other at BBT!**

You can support **Sterling Buddy Bags by dining at the Factory (103 W. 3rd St. Sterling on Tuesday, May 6th!** Please join us in supporting Sterling Buddy Bags program. The Factory will donate a percentage from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The money raised will help keep this program going for children in need of weekend meals.



Rock Falls United Methodist Church, 210 4th Avenue, is having a Rummage Sale Friday, May 16, 8:00a-4:00p, and Saturday, May 17, 8:00a-12:00p. All new donations and Vintage items, milk glasses, Beanie Babies, Barbie Dolls, Fabric, Coolers, Holiday stuff, Misc. stuff, Fishing gear, baby fabric, throw pillows, Glassware, Tupperware, Storage containers, and some furniture.



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Saturday, June 14th | 5 PM – 9:30 PM

Westwood Fitness & Sports Center - 1900 Westwood Drive, Sterling IL

- 4:30-5PM** Event Site and Registration Open
- 5:00PM** 30th Celebration of Relay For Life of Sauk Valley IL
- 5:30PM** Opening Ceremony and Survivor Lap
- 8:00PM** Luminaria Ceremony
- 8:45PM** Closing Ceremony

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



Johnson Oil Company
Support Local
Gas & Food Stores
In The Rock River Valley



**Select Employees
Credit Union**



Use the QR Code to
www.relayforlife.org/saukvalleyil
to register, donate and more details!





Relay For Life of Sauk Valley Plans Survivor Activities

All cancer survivors are invited to the activities of the American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Sauk Valley. Who is a cancer survivor? Anyone who has heard the three little words, "You have cancer". All survivors are invited to be guests of honor at the activities of our thirtieth (30th) annual event. All activities are free of charge. Relay For Life celebrates survivorship.

*All cancer survivors should register at www.relayforlife.org/saukvalleyil or call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345, option 4 to register on the phone. **This registration will trigger a request for a survivor T-shirt to be mailed free of charge to the survivor. Allow 3-4 weeks for shipping. Shirts will not be available at the event on June 14th. Please submit T-shirt request ASAP.** Paper registration forms are also available at the Sauk Valley Foodbank behind Self Help complex in Sterling.

1. A free dinner for a cancer survivor and one caregiver will be provided on Thursday, May 8 at Wesley United Methodist Church, 2200 16th Avenue, Sterling. Doors open at 5 p.m.; dinner is served at 6 p.m. **Reservations are required by April 24 at the latest** by completing the information below and either dropping it off at Sauk Valley Foodbank, 1801 Plant Road, Sterling, IL 61081 or placing it into the mail to the address below **no later than April 21 to receive a postmark.**
2. Be an honored guest as a survivor with your caregiver to open the first lap at the 30th Annual Relay For Life of Sauk Valley at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 14 at Building 3 of Westwood Sports Complex in Sterling. On-site registration is from 4:30 - 5:25 p.m. to record number of years of survivorship. Cupcakes will be given to mark another birthday during this time of registration.
3. Experience the Luminaria Ceremony around 8:00 p.m. in which names of all persons for whom luminaria have been purchased are read aloud to honor those who have fought the battle with cancer and survived or lost. All survivors are invited! Survivors are the heart of Relay!

American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Sauk Valley Survivor Reservation

Survivor name _____ Phone (____) _____

Mailing address _____
(street, city, state, zip)

Check each activity you wish to attend:

_____ I wish to pre-register to receive a free dinner on **May 8** at Wesley United Methodist Church for myself and one guest. Please indicate number attending: _____ 1 or _____ 2

_____ I plan to attend the Survivor first lap of the 2025 Relay For Life on **Saturday, June 14** at 5:30 p.m. at Building 3 of Westwood Sports Complex in Sterling where I will register my number of years of survivorship between 4:30 – 5:25 p.m..

_____ I have registered for the Relay For Life Survivor Shirt. **(please see * above)**

Please submit this bottom portion to register for Relay For Life Survivor activities by either dropping off the form at Sauk Valley Foodbank Monday-Thursday 8 a.m. – noon at 1801 Plant Road, Sterling or send in mail postmarked no later than **Monday, April 21** to

Survivorship Committee of RFL
18626 Hoover Road
Sterling, IL 61081



**American Cancer Society
Relay For Life of Sauk Valley
June 14, 2025**

**Westwood Sports Complex, Sterling
Building 3**

**You are invited to attend the
LUMINARIA CEREMONY**

8:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 14

You may pay tribute to:

Cancer Survivors, Loved Ones Battling Cancer, Loved Ones Lost
The names of all those honored will be read aloud during the Luminaria Ceremony.

To honor your loved ones touched by cancer, please fill out this form

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

Honored by (your name) _____

Address (street, city) _____

A \$10 donation is requested for each luminaria ordered. Please make your check payable to the American Cancer Society RFL of Sauk Valley and mail it and this form **postmarked no later than Saturday, June 7th** to:

American Cancer Society RFL of Sauk Valley

Attn: Beth Wilson

4102 Hillcrest Lane

Sterling, IL 61081

Please credit: Team _____ Individual _____

Luminaria will also be for sale until 7:00 p.m. on the day of the event.



Let's Feed Our Children



INDIVIDUAL PASTA DRIVE

MOTHER'S DAY
SUNDAY, MAY 11TH

Help the United Way serve FREE meals for children in Whiteside County.
15,000+ servings will be needed this summer.
Donations may be collected at your church and New Life Church
(702 W Lynn Blvd., Sterling) May 12th-16th, 8:30AM-3PM.

Questions? Contact United Way at 815-625-7973 or
kolson@uwwhiteside.org

SPONSORED BY



Great Option: Easy Mac Pouches
No bowl = less expensive!

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 2024 they served countless 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 11. 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/EiUzLvT> or reach out to United Way of Whiteside County at 815.625.7973 or 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.

Your city and rural letter carriers of Sterling and Rock Falls will participate in the National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive on Saturday, May 10. Please place nonperishable food and/or paper product donations by your mailbox and the carriers will pick them up. Please help our community. This has been successful in the past and can only continue with your help. Thank you.



***Northern Illinois Synod
Giving Challenge for ELCA World Hunger***

***All donations from March 16 to October 16
up to \$100,000 will be matched***



Join us now to be part of our journey to raise
not just \$100,000 ... **but \$200,000** in honor of
ELCA World Hunger's 50th Anniversary



Congregations and Individuals:
Mail a check or give online today!
Checks can be made out to Northern
Illinois Synod, please include ELCA World
Hunger in the memo.

*Just imagine, if every congregation
gave \$1,000 between now and October
16th, we would surpass our goal!*

The World Hunger Committee has
secured an anonymous donor to provide
the matching funds. We give God
thanks for this individual's generosity.
We give thanks for everyone who
contributes to help us reach this goal.



Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Learn more about how your
congregation can participate at:

www.nisynod.org/hunger



As sweet as honey




Honey is both a sweetener and a medicine.
How can our words be used in the same ways?



Directions: Use the hexagon key to fill in the missing vowels and complete Proverbs 16:24, NIV.



Gr c s w ords
 r h n c mb,
 sw t t th s l
 nd h l ng 
 t th b n s.



PROVERBS 16:24, 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.)

Church office – 815-625-3069

Janie Billings

Judy Bartel

Greg Zeigler

James 5:16 *Pray one for another.*

DIRECTORY OF STAFF and CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Pastor Mark Luepke

pastormark@stpaulsterling.com

Sue Dirks, Parish Secretary

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

Gabby Law, Children Ministry

(815) 981-6470 – gabby@stpaulsterling.com

Dawn Zeigler, Music Coordinator

(815) 275-3775 – dawn@stpaulsterling.com

Julie Woessner, Children's Music Leader/Worship Song Leader

(815) 441-8084 – 4woessner@comcast.net

Shawn Andrews, Custodian

(779) 775-4530



2025 Congregation Council

President – Greg Zeigler

Vice President – Mary Ordean

Treasurer – Chrissy Zollinger

Secretary – Stacey Avelar

Christian Education/Youth

Stacey Avelar ('27)

Stewardship

Greg Zeigler ('27)

Social Outreach

Stacey Avelar ('27)

Lay Ministry & Worship

Chrissy Zollinger ('27)

Julie Woessner ('27)

Property & Management

Dan Bartel ('26)

Members-at-large

David Carrillo ('27)

Mary Ordean ('26)

Rayce Gale ('27)

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



LOVING – SERVING – SHARING

DIRECTORY

Office (815) 625-3069

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday; 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday – 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Pastor Mark's hours – Tuesdays – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Email: stpaulsterling@comcast.net

Website: www.stpaulsterling.com

Facebook: St. Paul Lutheran Church – Sterling, IL