



St. Paul's
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
Elgin, Illinois

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

ST. PAUL'S CONNECTION

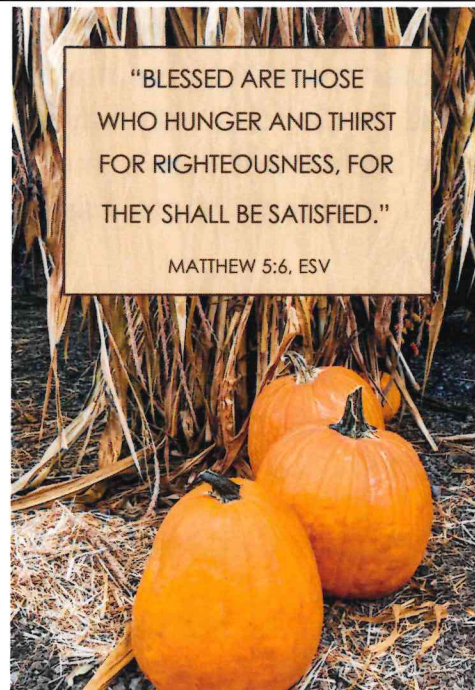
October 2025

Visit us on our Website at www.stpaulucelgin.org and
Facebook at St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Elgin, IL

Browse our Church Calendar on our website to keep up to date on our various events.
You can find the calendar on our website at www.stpaulucelgin.org and click on the
calendar link

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- Christian Education
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- Financially Speaking
- October Birthdays & Anniversaries



Church: 40W720 Plank Rd., Elgin, IL 60124

Office: 12N268 Switzer Rd., Elgin, IL 60124

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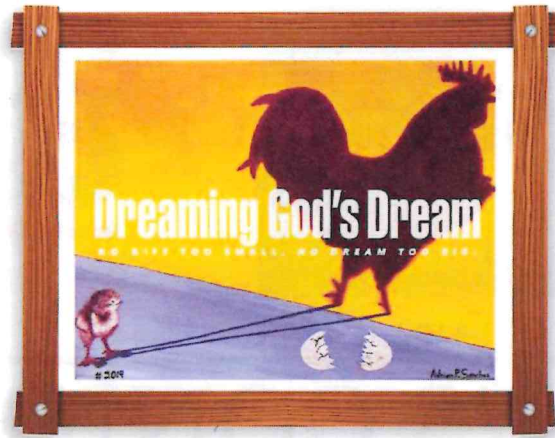
Phone #: 847-628-6118 / **Email:** stpauls4me@yahoo.com / **Website:** stpaulucelgin.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Rev. Liz Patz, Pastor

Sherry Severing, Administrative Assistant

Gay Bouwmeester, Pianist Jon Kobel, Choir Director



Feeding the 5000

All the Gospels tell the story of Jesus feeding 5000 people (John 6: 1-14) with only five loaves and two fish. But the Gospel of John focuses our attention on the role of a little boy. Faced with a crowd of hungry people, Jesus looked for help feeding them. The little boy stepped forward with a modest gift, improbably small when set against the size of the crowd.

Jesus blessed the small gift and distributed it to the crowd. As Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade observes, "Like the folk story of Stone Soup where travelers ask for a large kettle and a stone as a starter for the community stew, we might imagine Jesus calling for a basket to pass around the food. It may have looked comical to see such a tiny amount of food in such a large basket. But then something interesting happened. As he passed the basket to his disciples, suddenly more baskets appeared. Surprisingly, there was food in those baskets as well!"

We dream big in church. The Gospel moves us to imagine addressing poverty, stopping conflicts, reconciling enemies, and building the kingdom of God. Our gifts may seem small next to the big dreams of our congregation. But like the Feeding of the 5000, God's amazing work begins with our small gifts.

What might God do with what you have to offer?

Please join me and the Stewardship Ministry in dreaming God's dream this fall as we prepare our 2026 ministry goals and giving intentions.

Peace,
Pastor Liz

SAVE THE DATE
Stewardship Sunday
November 9, 2025

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Quinn, Emily, and Heather



Quinn Post

Quinn grew up in Downers Grove, IL and currently lives in South Elgin with Emily. He is a software developer for a company that makes insurance software. In his free time, he enjoys video games, reading, walks, dungeons and dragons, and hanging out with friends. An important church in Quinn's faith journey was Christ Church of Oak Brook.

Emily Streit

Emily grew up in Batavia, IL and currently lives in South Elgin with her fiancé, Quinn. She works as an Admin Assistant for St. Charles School District. In her free time, she enjoys painting, playing video games, participating in book clubs, and volunteering at her local library. An important church in Emily's faith journey was Rejoice Lutheran Church.

Heather Heinrich

Heather is married to Mike Heinrich, and keeps busy wrangling their five amazing children from one "homeschool" activity to another. Admittedly, they do "away-from-home" schooling more often than not. In her spare time, (ha ha ha!) she enjoys reading, gardening, spending time with horses, making music, scrapbooking and various other crafting.

Important churches on Heather's faith journey:

Somonauk UCC—where I was raised, baptized, and confirmed.

Mayfield UCC—A warm stop on our way to finding St. Paul's.

Sheridan Seventh Day Adventist Church was my late Grandma Morton's church; she had a profound influence on my faith throughout my life.

Joining St. Paul's Church, by Heather Heinrich

When Mike and I got married, one of the songs played at our wedding was "Whither Thou Goest," by Guy Singer. But I think I forgot at the time, that these words were said not to Ruth's husband, but to her mother-in-law.

For a long time, I hesitated to join a new church because I couldn't imagine giving up membership in the church I was raised in. It's a church very similar to St. Paul's, full of mothers and grandmothers and fathers and grandfathers that treat all the "children" as if they were their own.

I started looking for a church around 2017, because I was living so far from my first church, and I didn't know how to reach out to a community that I wasn't living in, to help the church grow and thrive. I felt that we needed a church where one of my neighbors might actually accept an invitation to church because it wasn't an hour away. But it also needed to be a place where my children felt at home, and wanted to go to.

I first got that sense shortly after we attended our first "Grandparents" Sunday. We were also visiting another lovely UCC church at the time, but the kids really enjoyed visiting Grandma and Grandpa's church. And then when COVID kept us all at home, they enjoyed visiting with you all over the computer.

They have made friends here. They have asked to be baptized here. They are encouraged to be their authentic selves and share their gifts here.

When I told a friend about Pamela's weekly interpretive dance, she said, "Wow, that must be a really special place."

And it is. A place where she is not only allowed to dance, and be herself, but where it is encouraged and celebrated. I feel so lucky to have been invited into and welcomed by a second family as wonderful as my first. Thank you all for being the hands and feet and heart of Jesus, and calling us your own.



150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Sunday, October 19th
3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Moretti's, Elgin

We are so excited to have over 100 people attending the 150th celebration dinner on Sunday, October 19th. **If you haven't turned in your RSVP, please do so no later than Sunday, October 5th.**

We look forward to a special time together honoring the faithful vision and work of our founding members by telling their story with an archival display. We also look forward to recognizing the leadership and Christ-light of our special guests: former pastors, staff, and mission partners.,

150th Church Directory

A friendly reminder that if you have not turned in your picture choice to be put in the directory, please do it by October 1st. You can either put it in the collection plate this Sunday or give it to Sue Huber, Sandy Volkening, Karen Westerman or call the church office. Everyone who has turned in their choice will have all their pictures sent out by email the week of September 30th.

Pictures can still be taken this Sunday in the gazabo before or after church. Please see Sue or Sandy. If you can't come to church for a picture, you can email your picture to stpauls4me@yahoo.com or call Karen Westerman at 847-727-9973.

Thank you,
150th Church Directory Committee
Sue Huber
Sandy Volkening
Karen Westerman



Calling all singers! In celebration of our anniversary year we are organizing a 150th Anniversary Choir of singers who will join with the core choir to sing four special anthems at different times throughout the year. The first one will be during our kick-off worship service on October 26. Then one in the Winter, one on Music Sunday in the Spring, and one at the conclusion of the year next October.

If you would enjoy joining in and lifting your voice for these special songs, please see Jon Kobel. Rehearsal times will be after worship on certain Sundays and all music will be provided. A link to listen to each anthem will also be provided.

MINISTRY NEWS

Diaper Ministry

October 5 Diaper Collection

The first Sunday of the month at St. Paul's is our diaper collection. We continue to collect **sizes 1-6** and the diapers can be dropped off in the narthex, to the left of the entry doors. Your generosity and dedication to the diaper ministry is truly appreciated.

We collected 708 diapers during the month of August. Thank you for your generous donations.



Volunteers Needed Monday & Wednesday

Diaper Distribution at EPEL

St. Paul's will be distributing diapers at EPEL's Connect and Play groups twice each month: the first Monday at Zion Church (330 Griswold, Elgin) and on the last Wednesday at Izaak Walton (899 Jay St., Elgin), from 11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Please prayerfully consider helping us distribute diapers to our littlest ones in the community. Sign-up sheets are available in the narthex. Diapers are packed and easily able to be transported in bags. Thank you for your willingness to serve and help families keep their little ones dry, healthy, and happy!

Blessings,
Karen Smith, Karen Snyder, and Barb Kamp

A Heartfelt Thank You from EPEL

St. Paul's received a very thoughtful thank you letter from Amber Peters, Executive Director of EPEL (Enriching Partnerships for Early Learning). Please read below:

Dear St. Paul's United Church of Christ,

I want to extend our heartfelt thanks from Enriching Partnership for Early Learning (EPEL) for your incredible partnership in funding and distributing diapers to families in our community. Your support has provided a lifeline of JOY and dignity for families who need it most.

From 2021–2024, together you distributed 42,625 diapers to 3,510 families. And in just the first nine months of 2025, your partnership helped us reach even further—14,859 diapers distributed through Gail Borden Library, Learning on the Go, and Sherman Hospital/Mobile Food Pantries. Altogether, that's 57,484 diapers impacting 4,790 families. YOWZA!!

Your dedication at mobile food pantries, playgroups, community events, and family engagement activities exemplifies what it truly means to be the hands and feet of service. You are living proof that many hands make light work—and BIG impact.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the diaper ministry and for allowing us to be out in the community making a difference in the lives of families experiencing diaper insecurity.

Together We Can!

Join the Distribution Crew

Tuesday, October 14 from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Food and Diaper distribution will be at the Old Sherman Hospital Parking Lot distributing diapers and food with the Northern Illinois Mobile Food Pantry. Please consider serving with us. It is a great opportunity to help people in need. Sign up sheets are in the narthex.

We distributed 624 diapers at the Northern Illinois Mobile Food Pantry in the old Sherman Hospital parking lot on September 9th.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We celebrated Rally Day on September 7th and joyfully invited the children back to Sunday School. Benjamin Cowan, Iris Heinrich, Hayden Thielke, Jacob Volkening and Violet Westerman received Bibles.

We celebrated Grandparents Day on Sunday, Sept. 7th, as well. The children and grandparents had a wonderful time celebrating together with a puzzle theme. Reminding us that, "Family is like a puzzle and grandparents make everything fit together perfectly."

A special thank you to the hospitality committee for helping CE make the day a huge success.

Pamela Heinrich was baptized on Sunday, September 21st. Charley Heinrich and Isaac Volkening will be starting confirmation.

The children will pick pumpkins from their very own pumpkin patch on Sunday, October 19th during Sunday School. Farmer Dan will give us a wagon ride with all of our pumpkins. Extra pumpkins will be for sale the following week.

Save the Dates:

Sunday, November 30th following church will be the Advent Workshop

Sunday, December 7th at 4:00 & 5:00 p.m. will be St. Paul's Living Nativity

God's Blessings,

CE Ministry

Karen Smith, Council Representative

Karen Westerman, Ken Volkening, Kylie Smith, Janet Werner, & Ginny Mursewick



WORSHIP MINISTRY

Blessing of the Animals

The annual Blessing of the Animals outdoor worship service was held on Sunday, September 14th under a beautiful blue sky. We welcomed 10 four-legged friends. Many thanks to the people who helped with chairs, tents, and sound equipment before and after worship. Paper towels and Clorox wipes were collected for Starfish Animal Rescue in Geneva.



MISSION NEWS

Cleaning the Highway

Join us on Saturday, October 25th at 9:30 a.m. to help clean our section of the highway! We'll gather in the church parking lot before splitting into two groups. Your help makes a big difference—hope to see you there!

November Mission Project

Be on the lookout in the upcoming Weekly News for information about our November mission project!

Did you know the Heritage Fest is a CROP Walk fundraiser?
Get your tickets on Sunday mornings.

ST. PAUL'S **HERITAGE FEST** – JOIN US!



GERMAN DINNER

Sat, Oct 4th 3-7PM



\$18 ADULTS – \$5 12 & UNDER – FREE 5 & UNDER

PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE BURLINGTON-HAMPSHIRE CROP HUNGER WALK

Upcoming Events at PADS of Elgin

Join us for an unforgettable evening of your favorite Neil Diamond tunes performed by the incomparable Jeff "Doc Diamond" Silberfine. 100% of proceeds from Doc Diamond's performance will be donated to PADS of Elgin.

When: Friday, October 10, 2025 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Where: 10 N Water Street South Elgin, IL

This event is limited to 100 seats-- get your tickets while you can!

Tickets are \$20: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/padsofelgin/event/docdiamond>

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER**

18th



GINGERBREAD BAZAAR

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**ELGIN CAMPUS
NW CORNER**

**RANDALL RD & HIGHLAND AVE
ELGIN, IL**

CRAFTS BAKE SALE

LUNCH (for purchase)

FREE GINGERBREAD



JOURNEY OF HOPE
A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY

Financially Speaking

August 2025 Financially Speaking

The total 2025 fixed expenses through August were \$109,818.76. We are working well within our budget at 71.6%.

The total 2025 receipts through June were \$180,519.98 which includes giving for fixed expenses as well as charitable giving. See below:

Offering

\$112,542.00	Pledged Offering
\$15,541.00	Contributions (Non-Pledged)
\$2,881.00	Loose Offering

Denominational Support

\$5,200.00	OCWM (Illinois Conference)
\$315.00	One Great Hour of Sharing
\$20.00	Neighborhoods in Need
\$415.00	Strengthen the Church

Church Fund Support

\$9,850.00	Land, Building and Equipment Fund
\$577.00	Coffee Hour donations
\$627.80	General Fund
\$1,375.00	Scholarship Fund
\$576.00	"J" Dollars

Specific Ministry Support

\$190.00	Music Fund
\$1,165.00	Mission Projects
\$2,755.00	Diaper Ministry (Including May Community Drive)
\$200.00	Fellowship and Hospitality

Seasonal Giving

\$460.00	Easter Breakfast
\$2,796.00	Lent/Easter Offering

Church Project Support

\$2,000.00 Member Donation Toward Sanctuary Sound Equipment

Community Support

\$1,080.00 Pads 5K Sponsorship
\$122.00 Elgin Pride
\$2,360.00 Pads Emergency Appeal
\$1,640.00 Bienvenidos Emergency Appeal

Other

\$11,296.77 CD Interest
\$2,276.00 Memorial Giving
\$37.07 Miscellaneous
\$375.00 Easter Memorial Flowers
\$51.00 Initial Offering (Related to Giving Envelope)
\$420.00 150th Celebration Dinner
\$266.34 Donation to CE for VBS
\$1,000.00 Donation to CE for Confirmation

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this report or on your statements.

Karen Westerman,
Financial Secretary

The Best Gift for Your Pastor

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—a time to recognize and encourage those who faithfully shepherd our churches. But if you’ve ever asked a pastor how to show your gratitude, the answer probably isn’t a plaque or applause. More often than not, it’s simple: “Pray for me.”



Even the Apostle Paul didn’t ask for much personally, except for the prayers of fellow believers. In his letter to the Romans, he wrote: “Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company” (*Romans 15:30–32, NASB*).

This October—and every month—encourage your pastor by offering your prayers, support, and kind words. Ministry can be demanding, but knowing the church is lifting them up makes all the difference.



10/01 Alex Kaye
10/01 Dan Wayeshe
10/01 Janet Werner
10/02 Hayden Thielke
10/04 Lorrel Petty
10/08 Dave Kaye
10/09 George Bowers
10/10 Chet Westerman
10/11 Sally Rhymes
10/11 Karen Vollman
10/14 Judy Einwich
10/14 Stacy Gluchman
10/15 Fred Vollman
10/15 Karen Westerman
10/17 Axel Heinrich
10/20 Mark Kelly
10/21 Barbara Kamp
10/21 Robert Wayeshe
10/24 Claire Westerman
10/25 Karen Smith
10/27 Bill Toth
10/29 Daemon Volkening
10/31 Susan Huber



10/03 Brian & Kelly Cowan
10/05 Mitch & Serena Bryson
10/07 Daniel & Melissa Wiggin
10/14 Mike & Ginny Mursewick
10/22 Otto & Judy Einwich

****Please forgive any omissions. Please contact the Church Office by email or by phone at 847-628-6118 with corrections.**



Worship Online

Watch our Services live on YouTube every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. or watch them when you have time. Just go to YouTube and search St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Online Giving

Your gifts to the church provide for our ministries and programs. To make an online donation go to our website at www.stpaulucelgin.org and click on the give link.



November Newsletter Deadline: October 19th

If you have an article you would like included in the next Newsletter, please submit it to the office by emailing stpauls4me@yahoo.com no later than the deadline!