





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

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m.

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# ST. PAUL'S NEWSLETTER

## September 2025

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Visit us on our Website at [www.stpaulucelgin.org](http://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](http://www.stpaulucelgin.org) and click on the  
calendar link

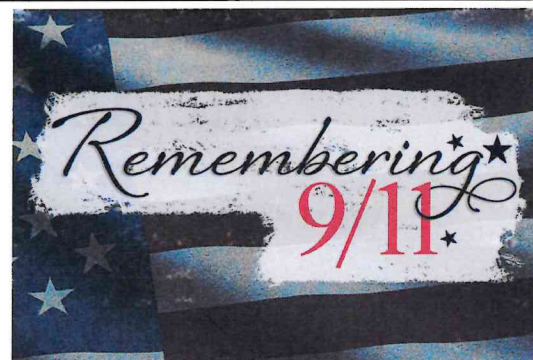
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### What's in this Issue:

- A Note From the Pastor
- Member Spotlight
- 150th Anniversary News
- Diaper Ministry
- Christian Education
- Crop Walk
- PADS Meal Ministry
- Upcoming Events at PADS
- Choir News
- Afternoon on the Fox
- Financially Speaking
- September Birthdays & Anniversaries



Sunday,  
September 14th



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

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

**Mailing:** P.O. Box 5598, Elgin, IL 60121

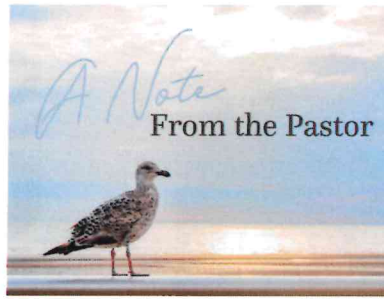
**Phone #:** 847-628-6118 / **Email:** [stpauls4me@yahoo.com](mailto:stpauls4me@yahoo.com) / **Website:** [stpaulucelgin.org](http://stpaulucelgin.org)

**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



Planning a special event is a labor of love that often feels like a labor of Hercules.

Will the guests enjoy the food? Will the centerpieces come together? Will the display and program capture the reverence and joy we intend? Will everyone have fun??



As our kick-off banquet (Oct 19) approaches, I'm thinking about our ancestors working together in 1875 to finalize *their plans to celebrate their brand new congregation*. I know in my heart that those first members were as thoughtful, creative, and anxious as our members planning for us today.

Working with our 150th committee, I am reminded that God's unfailing love is known to us because faithful people carry God's light from generation to generation. That is the motivation of our volunteer planners - illuminating 150 years of God's goodness and our faithful church life together.

Our year of celebrations will reflect St. Paul's deep and abiding love for God and for one another as disciples of Jesus. I hope you will attend the kick-off banquet on October 19th!

Peace,  
Pastor Liz

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Meet Eric, George, and Kristi

We welcomed Eric, Geroge, and Kristi into membership on  
Sunday, August 24th.

#### Eric Hayley

Eric lives in Elgin with his trusty sidekick Breck, a larger Siberian Husky. Recently retired from full-time dog training, but still works with dogs whenever possible. He enjoys photography (and dogs, of course), plus the blessing of being able to walk through Lord's park almost every day.

#### George Jacobs

George lives in one of the Shoe Factory Condos in Elgin. Very different from rural Southern Illinois. His kids are near him now. He likes to read. He has the family dog, so they get to walk a lot.



## Kristi Miller

Kristi lives in Gilberts and works in both Hoffman Estates and Algonquin as a Stretch Practitioner for Stretch Zone. She loves listening to audiobooks to and from work, diamond painting, and anything outside like tending to her flowers, golfing, or fishing.



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# 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

## Banquet RSVP

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



The Hospitality Committee has been working incredibly hard to make our 150th Anniversary Celebration dinner a truly special event for our entire church family. The committee is planning a wonderful afternoon of celebration and the perfect full-course meal. The dinner will be served family-style and include appetizers, salad, potato, vegetable and main course with a beef and chicken entree. And it wouldn't be a celebration without a festive cake to mark this incredible milestone.

Please make sure to **RSVP by September 22nd**, so we can plan accordingly.

It was important to the 150th hospitality committee to keep the banquet cost affordable for everyone. The \$10 per person cost is made possible by a generous donation as well as our budgeted 150th Celebration Fund.

Hosted on the 2nd floor in Morreti's private event space, the banquet is for the entire family with fun and engaging opportunities for the children to enjoy the celebration as well.

Tickets are \$10 per person; \$5 for children 12 and under.

Payment can be made by cash, check (memo line: "150th dinner"), or online (choose "Other" and add "150th dinner" to the Memo/Note section. Be sure to let us know if you would like one of the FREE 150th car magnet logos to display on your car!

Any questions, please contact Karen Smith.



## MINISTRY NEWS

### **Diaper Ministry**

#### **September 7 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.

#### **Food Pantry/Diaper Distribution**

**Tuesday, September 9 at 3:00-5:00 p.m.**

We 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.

#### **Diaper Ministry Partnership**

We are so grateful that "The Basics of Greater Elgin" initiative and EPEL have created 500 labels for us to place on our diaper bags. There are QR codes in Espanol and English to direct families to St. Paul's diaper distributions and a QR code to connect families to "The Basics" learning tasks to do with their child(ren).

What a blessing and gift for St. Paul's to be involved in this amazing work in our community. Thank you for your support and monthly diaper donations so we can say, "YES" when we get a call to help families experiencing diaper insecurity.

EPEL (Enriching Partnerships for Early Learning) is a key partner in "The Basics of Greater Elgin" initiative, which aims to improve early childhood development in the Elgin area. The Basics of Greater Elgin focuses on five science-based key principles to foster early childhood development:

1. Maximize Love, Manage Stress
2. Talk, Sing, and Point
3. Count, Group, & Compare
4. Explore Through Movement & Play
5. Read & Discuss Stories



These fun, simple, and powerful principles are to help every child be happy, smart, and reach their full potential.

God's Blessings,

Karen Smith, Karen Snyder, & Barb Kamp



## **St. Paul's Diaper Ministry**

### **Ministerio de Pañales de San Pablo**



**"Changing" LIVES  
ONE DIAPER AT A TIME**



**español**



**English**



**Do you have a child ages 0 to 3?  
Sign up to get 2 FREE texts with learning  
activities to do with your child.**



**¿Tiene un niño de 0 a 3 años?  
Regístrese para recibir 2 mensajes de texto  
GRATIS con actividades de aprendizaje para  
hacer con su hijo.**



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



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## Summer Fun

Christian Education hosted VBS "Waves of Wonder" July 24th-27th at the church. It was a joy to have 13 wonderful children (ages 3-11 years old) attend and come together to learn about scriptures in which God provides water for plants, animals, and people. They discovered the wonders of God's love and creation through powerful Bible stories at the Bible Beach, crafts at Creators Coast, yummy sea snacks, and energetic seaside games.

We also had selfless volunteers who gave their time and talents to make VBS possible. God blessed us with an amazing team! A huge thank you to Pastor Liz, Karen Westerman, Susan Tyrrel, Ken Volkening, Tammy Rath, Alison Smith, Kylie Smith, Charley Heinrich, Ellen Volkening, Polly Russell, Janet Werner, and Ginny Mursewick.

VBS culminated after church on Sunday with lunch together at the Ministry House and a fun trip to the waterpark. We had a beautiful warm and sunny day and we shared lots of laughter and splashes together. We were truly blessed with God's goodness and glory!!!

The children had a great time learning about God through crafts this summer at the "Prayer" Ground in the sanctuary.

## *Waves of Wonder VBS Highlights*





## Sunday School begins September 7th

Sunday School officially begins on Rally Day Sunday, September 7th. Bibles will be given to: Benjamin Cowan, Iris Heinrich, Hayden Thielke, and Violet Westerman.

There is a place for all children to join us on Sunday mornings.

Sunday School Teachers and Classes:

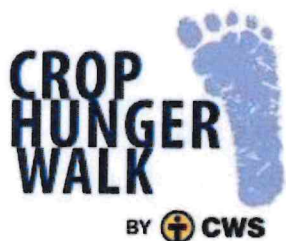
- \* Karen Smith: 3-7 year olds
- \* Karen Westerman: 8-11 year olds
- \* Ken Volkening: 12-16 Year olds

Nursery: All children welcome from birth—age 2. The nursery is unstaffed, but an audio of the church service is available. Stay tuned for a nursery makeover coming in January 2026!

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## MISSION NEWS

Saturday, September 27th



Sign-up at church or click on the link below to walk with St. Paul's and help us fundraise to fight hunger. The CROP Hunger Walk is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger, provide clean water, and poverty in the U.S. and around the world. The walk also raises money for the Burlington-Hampshire Food Pantry. Our walk is a joint effort with local churches and also partners with the St Vincent de Paul Walk for the Poor.

Register to  
Walk



Seyller Park, Hampshire

9:30am Registration

10:30am Walk

Choose your route - 1 mile to 5 miles!

11:30am Celebration and raffles begin

Crop Walk  
Website



ENDING HUNGER **ONE STEP** AT A TIME.

Did you 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**

## PADS Meal Ministry

On August 5th, PADS served delicious Chicken Fajitas to 17 guests. On August 19th, PADS served a delicious meal of Pork Chops, Mashed Potatoes, and vegetables to 24 guests.

Thank you to everyone who generously donated the food that made these meals possible!

A few of us attended the National Night Out event hosted by PADS in Elgin. They expressed their heartfelt thanks to St. Paul's again and again for our ongoing dedication and support.

We want to pass that gratitude along with a **BIG THANK YOU** to each of you for the many ways you continue to make a difference!

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## Upcoming Events at PADS



### 2nd Chance Home Run 5K

Monday, September 22 @ 6:30 p.m.—Mt. Saint Mary's Park

Donation \$20 to PADS of Elgin, Inc. (additional donations always welcome!)

First 60 runners get a finisher medal. 100% of proceeds benefit PADS of Elgin.

Whether you're a seasoned runner or just starting your fitness journey, this event welcomes all skill levels. Every step you take helps provide a second chance to community members in need.

Ready to make a difference? Register today to secure your spot and help make a difference in our community, one stride at a time. Just scan the QR code.

Go to PADS website at <http://www.padsofelgin.org> to see what other fundraising events they have going on.







## Join The Choir

Choir rehearsals will start back up on Wednesday, September 3 from 6:30-7:45 p.m. and will meet every Wednesday. Questions, see Jon Kobel.

## 150th Anniversary Choir!

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.



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## Afternoon on the Fox

Many thanks to John and Marilyn Ziegler who organized our 2nd annual canoe outing on Sunday, July 20. After lunch at the pavilion, we launched from Voyageur Landing with canoes provided by Friends of the Fox River. Our youngest participants Charley and Wini brought their own kayaks! Thank you to Gary and his canoeing dog Marco for hauling the canoes and making possible a great afternoon on the river.



# Puzzle!

Use the words provided to complete the puzzle.  
Then write the numbered words in the correct blanks  
below to complete Psalm 67:6, NIV.

## WORDS:

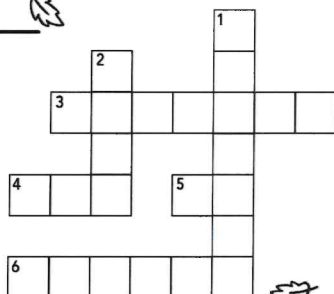
GOD, BLESSES, HARVEST,  
YIELDS, US, LAND

## ACROSS

3. Rhymes with farthest.
4. Rhymes with nod.
5. Rhymes with thus.
6. Rhymes with fields.

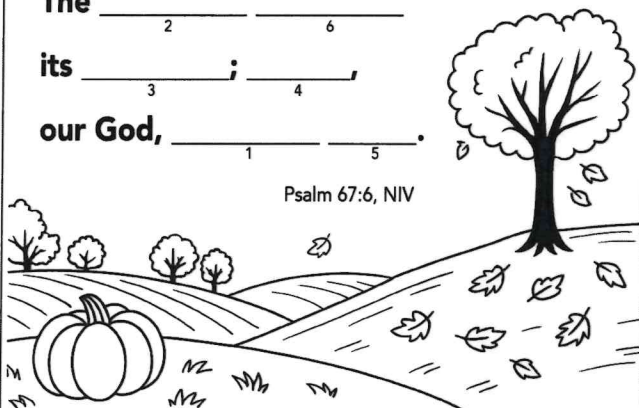
## DOWN

1. Rhymes with messes.
2. Rhymes with hand.



The \_\_\_\_\_  
its \_\_\_\_\_;  
our God, \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 67:6, NIV



Answer: The land yields its harvest: God, our God, blesses us. Psalm 67:6, NIV

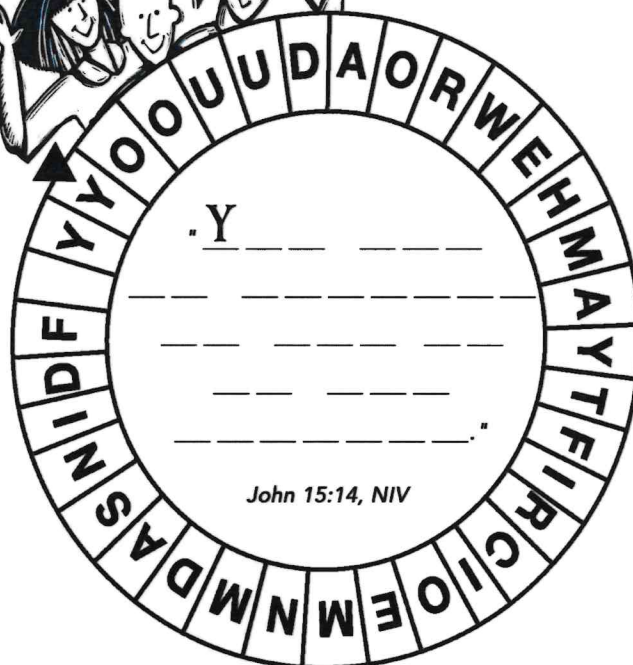


## WHO WERE JESUS' FRIENDS?

Jesus spent a lot of time with his friends. Whom did Jesus consider his friends?

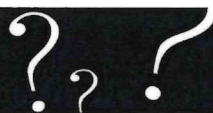


Beginning at the arrow and  
moving clockwise, write every  
other letter on the spaces below.

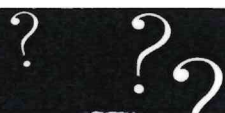


John 15:14, NIV

Answer: "You are my friends if you do what I command." John 15:14, NIV



## Bible Quiz



For years, King David showed special kindness  
to the son of King Saul's son Jonathan, because  
David and Jonathan had been dear friends.  
Which of the following statements is not accurate?

- A. The name of King Saul's grandson  
was Mephibosheth.
- B. He was lame in both feet.
- C. His feet had been injured when he was 5.
- D. He was injured while playing with his brothers.



Answer: D (See 2 Samuel 4:4; 9:1-7; 21:7.)



# Financially Speaking

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## July 2025 Financially Speaking

The total receipts for the month of July were \$17,378.00 which includes:

### Offering

\$13,919.00	Pledged Offering
\$1,138.00	Contributions (Those that don't pledge but give)
\$286.00	Loose Offering

### Denominational Support

\$405.00	OCWM (Illinois Conference)
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### Church Fund Support

\$1,020.00	Land, Building and Equipment Fund
\$69.00	Coffee Hour donations
\$50.00	General Fund
\$46.00	"J" Dollars

### Specific Ministry Support

\$415.00	Strengthen the Church
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### Church Project Support

\$

### Community Support

\$

### Other

\$30.00	Miscellaneous
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Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this report or on your statements.

Karen Westerman,



**9/02** Alyssa Garcia  
**9/02** Tenley Volkening  
**9/03** Jennifer Volkening  
**9/03** Mary Wilms  
**9/04** Kimberly Toth  
**9/05** Bill Wilson  
**9/11** Rita Rucker  
**9/16** Russell Gable  
**9/20** Lee Thielke  
**9/22** Florence Hansford  
**9/23** Judy Olsen  
**9/25** Otto Einwich, Jr.  
**9/27** Susan Wolfe  
**9/28** Tristan Volkening  
**9/28** Declan Wilson



**9/01** Paul & Gay Bouwmeester  
**9/04** Mark & Becky Kelly  
**9/18** Michael & Karen Westerman  
**9/21** Dave & Katie Kaye  
**9/27** Robert & Judith Reimer

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



### 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](http://www.stpaulucelgin.org) and click on the give link.

### 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



### Newsletter Deadline:

**September 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](mailto:stpauls4me@yahoo.com) no later than the deadline!