

# THE LETTER OF ST. PAUL

September, 2024

Volume 62, Number 9



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
4660 W. 94<sup>th</sup> Street  
Oak Lawn, IL 60453  
(708 423-1040)

[www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org)

## THE MISSION OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

By God's grace, we exist to prepare hearts, minds, and souls for life in the world and in eternity.

Pastor Samuel Clay is declining the call we had sent him to be our pastor. Please read the update in the Call Committee's message.

The missionaries we support, Rev. David and Joyce Erber thank you for your financial support and prayers for their work in Africa and throughout the world.

Thank you for the memorials and thankofferings to St. Paul. Your gifts help us to accomplish more than we could imagine.

Our homebound members and friends appreciate our prayers for them. See the attached list.

## *SUMMER AT ST. PAUL*

### *Our Beautiful Gardens and Parking Lot Party*



# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4660 W. 94<sup>th</sup> Street, Oak Lawn, IL 60453  
(708) 423-1040 ~ [www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org)

**Pastor:** (Vacancy)

**Director of Music:** Mrs. Ruth Sievers ~ [ruthsievers@att.net](mailto:ruthsievers@att.net)

**Church Administrative Assistant:** Mrs. Michelle Simonson

(for Mrs. Sandra Barry)~ [sbarry@stpauloaklawn.org](mailto:sbarry@stpauloaklawn.org)

**Office Hours:** Mon.-Thurs., 9-1pm; Fridays 9-2pm

To view our Sunday services, calendar, and newsletter, visit [www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org)

The deadline for placing articles in the newsletter is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month.

Send submissions to [sbarry@stpauloaklawn.org](mailto:sbarry@stpauloaklawn.org).

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## **OFFICIAL ACTS**

### **BURIALS:**

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of *Judith Anderson*, called to eternal rest with Jesus on July 30, 2024. Services were held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 76<sup>th</sup> and Dorchester Ave., Chicago, on Saturday, August 3, 2024.

### **CALL EXTENDED**

....by unanimous vote on Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> to The Rev. Samuel Clay, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Statesboro, GA. (Pastor Clay declined the call on August 29, 2024.)

### **SERVICE TIME CHANGES FOR SUNDAYS – SEPTEMBER 1 AND SEPTEMBER 8**

To accommodate our guest pastor who needs to be at his own church for a 10:30 am service, our services on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of September will begin 15 minutes earlier, at **8:45 am**. Services return to our usual 9:00 am time on Sunday, September 15. Thank you for understanding that we might need to adjust our usual schedules as we secure pastoral help during our vacancy.

### **GROW IN CHRIST ~ SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT BIBLE STUDIES**

Sunday School begins again after services on Sunday, September 15th! Teens and adults are also invited to gather together to study God's Word after the Sunday service in the Timothy Room. The present study is on the Parables of the Bible. Grab a cup of coffee or juice, something to eat and join us! The Friday evening Bible studies have been temporarily suspended until further notice.

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING COMMUNION SERVICES**

Our Wednesday evening communion services have also been suspended until we are able to again have a pastor to lead them.

### **WHEN YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED**

Please call the church office to let us know when you or a member of your family has been admitted to the hospital. We want to include you in our prayers.

### **REMEMBER IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS**

**OUR MEMBERS:** Sandy Barry; Betty Beegle; Karen Bidus; Vic and Marty Both; Jan Briede; Nancy Bundley; Delphine Cherry; Mike Degidio; Loretta Frank; Louis Clayton Frank; Jennifer Garcia; Arthur Gerth; Amanda Greene; June Hagberg; Katherine Hice; Kevin Hickey; Roy Hodgeman; Herta Iversen; Graham Jackson; Janice Janiszewski; Flora Jones; Ron Klingensmith; Betty Kruckow; Elaine Lebron; Jan Leise; Ingrid Lesko; Bob Marcinkowski; Warren A. Miller; Regina Nordquist; George Oberg; Dorothy Pavella; Barbara Prendergast; Janice & Rich Przybycien; David Purdy; Rosa Richardson; Dawn Schumann; Kurt Seehofer; Beverly Sellers; Norma Silinski; Carol Small; Melva Smith; Bill Volk; Sarah Weber

**OUR MEMBERS IN CARE FACILITIES:** Betty Larson; Gloria Meyer; Lisa Polezoes; Delores Stegemann

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE CONGREGATION:** Lisa Anglin; Devon Apt; Barbara Apt; Carrie Aspan; Cathy Becker; Sue Berg; LeRoy Bitner; Henry Bonder; Sharon Bryant; Debby Cabera; Selma Carmichel; Frankie Coglinase; Judy Collins; Gabriella Conforti; Edward Cyga; Dana DeAngelis; Rudy DeAngelis; Bridget & Nick DeAngelo; Denise DeLaurentis; Shirley Demyres; Richard DeSaga; George Dodaro, Sr.; Georgiana Easton; Shirley Fairchild; Frank Fandl; Justin & Ashley Fasel; Emily Feehan; Triston Ferry; Mark Fishbaugh; Gloria Folsom; David Franzone; Jerry Gross; Ted Gross; Donald Hakanson; Shawn Harland; Charley Heitz; Ann Herold; Bob Hessert; Phyllis Hicks; Elaine Hoffstetter; Doreen Holford; Carl Hoppe; Vern Howe; Louise Hrynkow; Kyle Hughes; Rich Huscher; Ray Jackson; Cherenia Jones; Monica Kato; Dana Kahn; Julie King; Jimmy Kennedy, Jr.; Avery Kenny; Debby Kehrlie; Debra Kleeman; Herb Kleeman; Evelyn & Ron Konieski; Christopher Kosary; Dorothy Kroll; Ken Kruckow; The Kruski Family; The Lamberth family; Carol Loecherbach; Margaret Lundgreen; Ron Lunt; Ken Matz; Iris McCoy; Carol Jean and Tim McPhillips; Audrey Metes; Carol Milazzo; Andrew Mrochen; Daniel Musser; Roberta & Carlos Owens; Pam Palhegyi; Patricia Paulsen; Sandy Plath; Jackie Plichta; Barb Potter; Doris Potts; Fred Raddatz; Guillermo Rameriz; Raquel Rameriz; Rose Rohloff; Kimberly Rooney; Lauren Rossetti; Sophia Salus; Elmo Schultz; Rhonda Scott; Allyson Seehofer; Anika Seger; Linda Shuman; Al Silinski; Sarah Skelton; Kim & Shawn Skelton, Sr.; Del Smylie; Anna Stendic; Janet Trierweiler; Bernadette & Rich Trusk; Jose Urena; John Vega; Wayne Volk; Vicki Warren; Gene Wawrzynikowski; Katherine Zeleny

**THOSE IN THE MILITARY:** Mark Brown (son of Pam Brown and nephew of Beth Matusевичius) Navy Reserves/Great Lakes Naval Base, Chicago); Aurora DeAngelis (daughter of Michelle and Curtis Simonson), Ft. Leavenworth, KS; Peter Scialabba (son of Susan Scialabba and nephew of Sharon Helmbold) Special Forces; Adam Skelton (grandson of Rich and Jan Briede) stationed in Dover, Delaware; Christopher Skopec (son of Steven and Debbie Skopec) stationed in North Carolina; Sean Rosales (son of Ed and Mia Rosales) stationed in Washington.

**(Please let the church office (708) 423-1040 know when your need for our prayer list is over.)**

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Thank you to our flower chairperson, Terry Hornburg, for the beautiful floral arrangements she has been blessing us with each Sunday – either from her own garden or a bouquet ordered by one of our members to celebrate a special occasion or “just because”. To place an order, you may reserve a date on the flower calendar in the narthex and/or call the church office at 708-423-1040. Please make your check payable to *Terry Hornburg*.

### **COLLECTION OF MISSION MATERIALS**

Thank you for your donations of mission materials! We are especially collecting Bibles (new and used), Hymnals, Devotion Books, Children Story Books, Portals of Prayer, and any Bible study materials you might have around your house. These materials are in big demand and are much appreciated by the missionaries around the world sharing the Gospel with those hungry to know about Jesus and His great love. Please bring your donations to church and put them in the “Mission Materials” white container bin in the Founders Room.

### **UP DATE CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please contact the church office (708-423-1040) or email [sbarry@stpauloaklawn.org](mailto:sbarry@stpauloaklawn.org) if you have recently moved, or if your phone number or email address has changed. We want you to be able to receive the news at St. Paul and also keep our records up to date. Thank you!

## **MESSAGES FROM OUR COUNCIL MEMBERS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PASTORAL CALL COMMITTEE:**

At a special voters meeting held on August 11<sup>th</sup>, our voters assembly, by unanimous vote, called the Rev. Samuel Clay of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Statesboro, Georgia to be the next pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oak Lawn. Pastor Clay was informed by e-mail and by telephone that he had been called to our congregation. Call documents were sent to Pastor Clay for his review later that week.

After prayerful consideration, Pastor Clay, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has declined our call. Please pray for Pastor Clay and his congregation at St. Paul, Statesboro.

Our call committee will reconvene to select candidates to be presented at a near future call meeting. The date and time will be announced by email and in our Sunday bulletins and services. All members, voters AND non-voters, are requested to attend. First – time attendees at the previous call meeting will be eligible to vote at this meeting.

God knows who our next pastor will be! Please continue to pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance, the call process and the future pastor of St. Paul!

## **MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS**

Dear Fellow Members of St. Paul Lutheran Church:

Summer is drawing to a close. It has been an exciting three months here at St. Paul. Our congregation conducted a search for a new pastor and issued a call to a man chosen for us by God. (We anxiously await that person's decision.) We planned a farewell service and luncheon for Pastor Moeller and Martha. (They will be greatly missed.) And we held a Parking Lot Party. (Plenty of fun, laughter, and good food.) In addition, we maintained our participation in numerous activities such as our food pantry. Thank God that the members of St. Paul are energetic, caring, generous individuals!

The Elders have been involved in several projects this summer:

1. We finalized the schedule for summer services and found guest pastors to lead these services.
2. We continued to support and strengthen Operation Barnabas, our military outreach program. We collected items for care packages to send to men and women in the military, and we assembled and mailed these packages. The Fall Veterans' Luncheon is planned for Saturday, September 21, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
3. Elder Curtis Simonson organized a once-a-week evening Bible study.

It is often tempting to worry about what the future holds for our congregation and for each of us as individuals. But that is a waste of time. God is in charge! I find comfort and guidance in many passages in the Bible. One of my favorites is Psalm 59:10—"My God is changeless in his love for me, and he will come and help me." We should also keep in mind Matthew 6:26—"Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" We can abandon ourselves completely to God's care. He knows best. He will bless us in many ways throughout our lives.

Sincerely,  
David Witkosky  
Board of Elders

## **MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

The St. Paul Adult Choir will begin weekly rehearsals for the coming season on Wednesday, September 11, at 7:00 pm to prepare songs and anthems for our worship services. If you enjoy singing, please consider joining us! We welcome new singers in every voice range. If you play an instrument, please let me (Ruth Sievers) know this also.

We are also looking for a director for the Celebration Ringers, our handbell players. I will be contacting several musicians who I think might be willing to direct, but am also open to suggestions from you. We want to continue to hear the beautiful music performed by our bell ringers!

Thank you again to our vocalists who serve by singing on Sunday mornings! You are much appreciated!

## **MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM/PARISH EDUCATION**

Summer is winding down and as the Board of Evangelism/Parish Ed has done the past three years, Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> was our third annual Parking Lot Party! Approximately 130 people attended the event. This was the first year we had a bouncy house/slide combination. The little ones had a fun time bouncing and sliding. We were entertained with great music by Dan Rovak. (You may remember him as he attended St Paul School and his mom Renee was the church secretary before Sandy.) Smiling for the camera was another attraction at the photo booth. Bingo, always a big hit! The hot dogs, chips, soda, water, and ice cream flowed freely. The face painter was busy all afternoon painting those cute little faces. We did ask for donations for the food pantry, and we are very thankful to those of you who donated. We certainly can't forget the volunteers. Without many hands, none of this would be possible. So, Thank you! We will be hosting it again next year, so please think about attending.

We will be starting Sunday School on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> from 10:15am to 11:00am for ages 3 through 10. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact the church office. We would love to see children's smiling faces. It is time to teach these young minds about Jesus and His love for us. While your children are learning about Jesus, there is Adult Bible Study and parents are welcome to attend. You know that old saying, "If you build it, they will come". We hope so!! That about wraps it up! We hope you stay safe and always blessed.

## **MESSAGE FROM OPERATION BARNABAS**

The following is a transcription of a note sent on 6 Aug 2024.

Dear St Paul Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful care package with candy, snacks, jerky, soup, and playing cards. The care packages have been distributed to the Marines and Sailors significantly increasing morale and making each feel a bit closer to home. We are truly blessed to have your continued support. Thank you for all you do and for making our jobs a little easier. Rebecca Bolz, LtCol. USMC, Combat Logistics Battalion 5

We will be adding 2 more care packages in September to 2 naval vessels preparing for deployment from the west coast. Remember, without your help, our care package program could not be showing our care and love to those deployed men and women of the US Military.

Our "Veterans Thank You" luncheon will be on September 21<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested in helping, give Rich Przybycien a call at 708-420-9525.

**Thank you and may GOD bless us all.**

## **MESSAGE FROM FAITH IN ACTION/SOCIAL MINISTRIES**

We are so **THANKFUL** for our food pantry partners. In August, we received over 2,953 pounds of groceries from our sponsors. If you want to know what those numbers look like, just come to one of our Wednesday pantry days and take a look. We could not fill our bags without our food pantry rescue teams: Bob Mulcahy with Panera, Brian Cottell with Operation Blessing, and Jayne Siou with “Put Your Hands Together” Immanuel, Hillside. Besides the produce and bread products, they support us with meat, dairy, & deli items, and so much more. They are constantly at our side with support. We received a special gift of frozen meat to fill our freezers from Elmhurst-Yorkfield Food Pantry; over 300#. Elsie’s Pantry @ Savior Divine in Palos Hills gave our food pantry a special pickup of deli items on our August 21st food pantry day, 400#. Thank you also to Charles Anderson @ Mead Electric, friend of Glen Hicks, for 30 pounds of smoked butt. Our St. Paul USPS mail carrier also surprised us with a gift of 142#s of shelf stable groceries this month. Linda Kosary, a constant blessing to our food pantry, gifted us with two cases of 192 rolls of toilet paper. God has truly blessed us!

**THANK YOU THRIVENT!** Thrivent again has blessed us with another \$250 Visa gift card, which we used to replenish the food pantry shelves during August. Thrivent also blessed us with another box of 25 more t-shirts. Where do all those t-shirts go? Our volunteers work everywhere, from working the food pantry, to watering and weeding the gardens, to working a food rescue team, to developing a food pantry food drive, and so much more. Our “Live Generously” t-shirts were even worn in the Dominican Republic mission trip with our “One Kingdom” young men. We gift every volunteer with a “Live Generously” t-shirt, so if you see someone wearing a “Live Generously” t-shirt, take the time to say thank you for serving others. If you have not received a t-shirt, please let us know, just call Michelle at the church office with your name and size. We are a team to serve the Lord. If you are a Thrivent member, and would be willing to develop an Action Team to help the food pantry or a service project of your own, Mike and I would **love** to help you get your project started. We are so thankful to Thrivent for supporting organizations like ours.

**THANK YOU “ONE KINGDOM” FROM HICKORY CREEK CHURCH IN FRANKFORT!** We are so thankful for these 33 young men and their 6 adult leaders for their service to St. Paul on Thursday & Friday August 1st & 2nd. Take a look around St. Paul and you will see how these young men served the Lord with gladness. These men did a dynamic job tackling the weeds in the courtyard, cleaning up the brush and garbage around the fence line, flattening the mulch piles, filling in the low spots in the grove, and so much more. They worked for about 4 hours each day in 90° weather. If you have not already, take a look at St. Paul’s Facebook site. The young men and their leaders are featured there. We thank them for their service and pray that God will bless these boys with His Holy Spirit as they head into a new school year. Please pray for them as well; several of them have a passion for the ministry of becoming a pastor. God please bless them.

**THANK YOU KEVIN MCCARTHY!** We LOVE Kevin, and we are sad to say goodbye to this cheerful man that always took the time to add a positive spirit to his Panera donation delivery. We will miss him and wish him God’s blessings as he retires from delivering Panera donations. Kevin, thank you for your service to food pantries in the Chicago area.

**THANK YOU ST. PAUL CONGREGATION FOR YOUR SCHOOL SUPPLIES!** The project was a wonderful success! 478 items were collected and delivered to Worth Township to be used for their "Apple Tree Program" on August 5th. We thank St. Paul for their heart-given donations to the families in need.

**THANK YOU ST. PAUL GARDENING TEAM...TO GOD WE GIVE THE GLORY!** A big shout out to our faithful waterers that keep the gardens green. To the date of this writing, we have harvested 92.5#'s from the Oak Lawn Community Garden and 218#'s from the garden here at St. Paul; a grand total of 408.75#'s. It's interesting to watch the garden evolve as the summer progresses. While the cucumbers and zucchini are dwindling down to nothing, the butternut squash and tomatoes are bursting with fruit. We have some squash plants that seem to be on steroids, because they are spreading like crazy and have large beautiful butternut squash on them. Fresh basil and garden garlic was offered to our clients in August. They made the pantry smell like an Italian deli. We also offered fresh beets from the gardens; our clients even love the beet leaves. The perennial garden is also undergoing changes as the Joe Pye and Bee Balm/Bergamot have been cut back, but the asters are just beginning to bud. Please take a look at the beautiful colors in the perennial garden because God's paintbrush has been busy. We thank God for St. Paul to help support the food pantry through this project.

Respectfully submitted - Mike Will

Through you and our sponsors we have been blessed to serve those in need. **The August Food pantry** served 81 families, 219 individuals. **The BEDS cook team** cooked for 20 individuals. The August meal included ham, mashed potatoes & gravy, broccoli Normandy, Hawaiian rolls, salad, apples, milk, and Linda Fogarty's brookie bars. Thank you for your constant support of our missions. ♥ You are always welcome to join our team. Just call the church office and leave us a message (food pantry x18). Our first meeting after the summer will be Tuesday, September 3rd at 6:30 pm in the Founders Room.

### **MESSAGE FROM THE LADIES GUILD**

Bake Sale time is here again! Ladies Guild members will offer their delicious baked goods for sale on Sunday, September 8, after the 8:45 am worship service! Ladies who are baking should bring their items **PLATED** and **PRICED** to the sale table by 8:30 am. Please support the Guild and stop by to enjoy our delicious treats!

The next Ladies Guild meeting will be a free Welcome Luncheon, hosted by the Guild Board on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00 pm. All women are invited! Bring a friend and meet the ladies of the Guild! At a short business meeting following the luncheon, the Board will share their plans for the remaining 2024-25 Guild meetings. Please RSVP your intention to attend by signing the sheet on the counter in the narthex or calling Cheryl (773-445-1752) or Ruth (708-952-9902).



## **MESSAGE FROM SANDY BARRY**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Throughout my cancer journey, "How are you doing?" is the most often question I've been asked. So, how am I doing? Well, ... I'll tell you.

It's been 5 months since my leukemia diagnosis. During that time I experienced several rounds of chemotherapy, continuous nausea with plenty of throwing up, embarrassing diarrhea, extreme fatigue, dry eyes, mouth and throat sores that prevented me from eating, swallowing and even talking, my skin became drier than the desert, the first layer of my nails on both hands began to come off. Talk about PAIN!! I wore latex gloves for several months to prevent my nails from being torn off, and as expected, all my hair fell out. Sorry to be so graphic but I'm not sugar coating anything!

Then ... as many of you know, on June 19th I became a stem cell transplant recipient where I received 11 million life saving stem cells from my brother, Steve.

Once again, people asked ... "How are you doing?" Well, ... as a stem cell transplant recipient, I take 15 medications every day. There are also side effects from the stem cell transplant ... why of course there are!! These included severe rashes on my face (I looked a fright but the Lord saw me as beautiful), scalp rashes that itched like nobody's business, lower G-I problems caused by some of my medications whereby I was prescribed yet another medication to heal the gut. I developed a blood clot near my carotid artery and because of it I had to have my central line removed. Thank goodness I still had my port! I've been in and out of the hospital, had CT scans, Ultrasounds, X-rays, and EKGs. I'm happy to report that the result of these tests were all good.

I wish I had a dollar for every person who told me to "think positive" or "stay strong". If that were the case, I'd have no outstanding medical bills! Oh, and just for the record, thinking positive thoughts did NOT diminish any of my side effects. LOL

You may ask ... was going through all this worth it?? You bet it was! I am in remission! Praise the Lord!! I experienced days without sunshine but the light of the Lord was always present. I anticipated God's goodness and He flooded my heart with His love. He is greater than any temporary shadow that cancer casts so I have not been in despair. Though my body needs to rebuild its immune system, it is well with my soul. Make a joyful noise and sing praises to the Lord for He has done marvelous things for all of us!

It will still be some time before I'm able to resume activities and return to work but rest assured, as soon as I'm able, I'll be back! I am so looking forward to that day. Until then my friends, walk and live in the light of the Risen Lamb.

God's Blessings! Sandy

## MISCELLANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Southwest Lutheran Chorus is calling all singers to the first rehearsal of their fall season on **Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>** here at St. Paul Lutheran Church at 7:00 pm. Enter through the outside Timothy Room door. For more information, please contact their new director, Deborah Hochgesang at [dhochgesang@comcast.net](mailto:dhochgesang@comcast.net) or call 708-499-2866. We look forward to seeing you!

The Sunday worship video is now available each week on our website [www.stpauloaklawn.org](http://www.stpauloaklawn.org). To access the video, just click on the Sunday date – or church services - on the homepage.

If you would like to donate towards the added costs of Sandy Barry's recovery, there are information sheets available next to Sandy's mailbox in the narthex. Thank you for the cards for Sandy which are regularly given to her! She continues to improve following her transplant.

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund is offering investors term note rates of 4.5% (6 mos.) or 5% (18 mos.). If interested, flyers are available on the table in the narthex. Info is also on [lcef.org](http://lcef.org).

## MEMORIALS AND THANKOFFERINGS

### MEMORIALS

**Given by:**

Brenda & Phillip Burton  
Debbie & Mike Will  
Grace Kreten  
Dave Purdy

**In Memory Of:**

Brenda's Mother, Mary Lawson  
Judy Anderson  
Kathleen Maldre  
Ruth Purdy

**Designated for:**

General Fund  
Faith in Action  
Faith in Action  
Faith in Action

### THANK OFFERINGS

**Given by:**

Sandy Barry  
Debbie & Mike Will  
Janice & Bill Leise

**For:**

Remission Blessings  
Helena Hoffman's 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Bills' Birthday

**Designated for:**

Gen/FIA/Barnabas  
Faith in Action  
General Fund

