

CHAPEL BELLS

St. Paul's U.C.C. - Erin



November, 2025



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

A quick glance at my November calendar and the word **BLESSING** all but jumped out at me. November 2nd is the celebration of our 185th Anniversary and 110th Anniversary of our Women's Guild. We are blessed to have so great a cloud of witnesses, 185 years worth, who build this church literally from the ground up. Every time I walk in through the "rooster" door, I am struck again by St. Paul's Founding Fathers - 1840 - Jacob Loew, John Loew, George Hoffman and Jacob Schneider. Those names are engraved in granite! Granite, according to the internet, is an igneous rock formed from the slow crystallization of magma deep underground. Up from the depths of the earth comes our

strong foundation.

There are no founding mothers on that rock, but of this I am certain, there were many! The Guild has a written history about the founding mothers who began the woman's guild 110 years ago. It was 1915. To put that into perspective, women did not have a first name until the late 1960's. The seven charter members were: Mrs. Henry Becker, Mrs. Matt Staus, Mrs. Peter Haass, Mrs. Oscar Loew, Mrs. Rudolph Ditter, Mrs. Carl Brietling, and Mrs. Julius Boelk. God blessed us with strong beginnings.

Sunday, November 9th, service will include a blessing of the Pledge Cards. Our Stewardship team has been actively reminding us of how blessed it is to give.

November 16th, is the Sunday we will celebrate the blessing of our Veterans. It is our way of thanking them for their sacrifice. Many thanks to Jodi S. and Debbie S. as well as our Mission Committee for their time and talents in organizing this service. This year's offering will be designated to the American Legion in Hartland.

Thanksgiving Sunday is the 23rd. Please pause and give thanks for the abundant blessings God has so generously provided.

The fifth week of November is the first Sunday of Advent. We begin Advent with the blessing of HOPE.

Finally, each and every one of you is a blessing to Jeff and I. Yes, God is good. All the time. I will be joining you to celebrate our 185th.

NOVEMBER	GREETERS	LITURGIST
2		Bernie C.
9		Jacquie B.
16	John & Lynn D.	Eugene D.
23		Kim K.
30	Mark & Kim K.	

WOMEN'S GUILD

Our October meeting began 2025 Cookie Walk and Christmas sale planning. It is coming up fast! The Cookie Walk will be on Saturday, December 6. Neighborhood flyers will soon be available to distribute to friends and neighbors. A cookie pledge sheet is included in this Chapel Bells issue to let us know what type of cookies you are baking.

Peggy A. will again lead cookie decorating on December 4. A sign-up sheet will be on the Fellowship Hall coffee table soon for anyone who wants to join us and learn some decorating techniques, enjoy a fun morning, and add to our cookie sale.

The Church's 185th anniversary will be celebrated on November 2, along with the Women's Guild 110th anniversary. A Guild history presentation is planned and an old-fashioned potluck dinner will follow the service. Everyone is invited to the potluck and asked to bring a food item to share—casserole, salad, dessert, ??—your choice. I wonder how many potlucks have been held in that fellowship hall in the past 185 years?

Guild members decided on 2026 financial designations. Hartland Veteran's group \$500, Sunday School \$1,000, and Mission Committee \$1,000.

On October 20th, seven Guild members drove to Oshkosh to meet Isabel H. and her son and daughter-in-law.



We enjoyed sharing news and catching up over lunch. Isabel's greetings to all!

The next Guild meeting will be on Thursday, November 20. All St. Paul's women are invited to join us. Bring a bag lunch at noon. Dessert will be furnished. Meeting follows.

The money used for the new garden benches came from the general Memorial Fund. The general Memorial Fund cannot be used in anyone's specific name.

**To
CLARIFY**

Vicki Dost

The Mission Committee 2025 Bundle Up Brown Street project will begin on October 26. The Christmas bags and instructions will be available to pick up in church that day. If you would like to participate but will not be in church on October 26, please contact Bernie Chase so she can hold out a bag for you.



Preparing the **BUDGET**

Committees or individuals wishing to request funds for inclusion in the 2026 church budget should submit their requests to Connie or the Council by November 9th. - Also the date to turn in your pledge cards.

The Altar Committee wishes to thank the family of Beulah Timm for donating the beautiful vintage altar cloths. Beulah's daughter, Sandy Striegel, found them among Beulah's treasures and has donated them to the church. We believe they were used at St. Paul's pre 1945 on a much smaller altar in the sanctuary. We will be thinking of Beulah as we use them from time to time on our communion table. The congregation will see them for the first time during our 185th celebration.



Thank You, Pastor Lois

Over the past five weeks, we have been truly blessed by your presence, your preaching, and your heart for God's people. Your words have inspired us, your prayers have strengthened us, your beautiful voice lifting up our familiar hymns—each note a reminder of God's grace and a reflection of the joy that comes from worshipping together, your kindness has touched every corner of our congregation.

This is not goodbye—it's *until we meet again*. May God continue to bless you with wisdom, joy, and peace in all that you do.



SOMETHING TO SHARE

This is a bit long, but it fits so well with remembering our founders, male and female. It comes from a Facebook group called, *Things that Make You Think*.

The day I watched a librarian tell a trembling old man he had to leave because he “wasn’t a paying customer.” I’m Malik, nineteen, freshman at community college. Most afternoons, I cut through the downtown library on my way home. Cheap heat, quiet tables, Wi-Fi that doesn’t cut out.

That’s when I noticed them. The “old folks table.” Four, sometimes five. They didn’t check out books. They didn’t scroll laptops. Just sat. Hands folded, eyes far away. One woman stared at the same obituary page like it was a prayer. One man tapped a rhythm on the table, like he was listening to music no one else could hear. Nobody talked to them. Nobody looked. People walked by like they were furniture.

One Tuesday, everything snapped. Mr. Alvarez - must’ve been pushing eighty - leaned forward on his cane near the magazine rack. A young librarian marched up, arms crossed. “Sir, if you’re not checking out materials, I’ll have to ask you to move along. These seats are for patrons.” Patrons. Like he wasn’t human.

He blinked, slow, confused. “I was...just warm here. My daughter works late.” His voice cracked on the word “warm.” The whole library kept typing, scrolling, whispering - like nothing happened. Except a group of teens by the printer. They started filming, giggling.

Something inside me burned hot. I stood up, palms sweaty, heart hammering. “He is a patron,” I said, louder than I meant to. “This library was built with his taxes before I was even born.” The librarian stiffened. “Sir, lower your voice.” “No,” I said, my voice shaking. “He fixed bridges. She —” I pointed at Mrs. Thompson, who was clutching her worn coat – “taught third grade for thirty years. They built this town. They don’t need your permission to sit in it.” The teens laughed nervously. Mr. Alvarez gripped his cane tighter, eyes wet.

I walked over, dropped my backpack, and sat down at the “old folks table”. Pulled out my granola bar, broke it in half, handed it to Mrs. Thompson. Her fingers trembled when she took it. “Bless you,” she whispered, like I’d given her gold. The librarian didn’t push it any further.

The next week, I brought cookies. Then tea bags. Sat down again. Mr. Alvarez told me about welding steel beams in the snow. Mrs. Thompson corrected my homework, her eyes lighting up like she was back in her classroom.

Word spread. Other kids sat down. One asked about vacuum tubes. Another about the old bridge by the river. Suddenly, that table wasn’t quiet anymore.

Nobody is a burden just for being here. Nobody’s story is disposable. Next time you see someone sitting alone - don’t walk by. Sit down. Offer a cookie. Ask their story.



October 12th we had a blessing of animals. There was a mixed array of very sweet pets eager for their blessing.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

We usually run out of cookies before shoppers, so....if you can bake extra, it would be great!

34th Annual Cookie Walk
Saturday – December 6, 2025
9 AM until Sold Out

"IF YOU CAN BAKE 'UM –
WE CAN SELL 'UM"

This will be the thirty-fourth annual Cookie Walk at St. Paul's United Church of Christ—Erin. We are asking each of you to bake a minimum of five (5) dozen cookies (all one kind, please). It would be appreciated if you could possibly make more than five dozen! The additional cookies can be of another kind. This is our best fund raiser and the more festive holiday cookies we have, the bigger the selection, and the more happy cookie shoppers we will have!

Please bring the cookies to church on Friday, December 5, 9 AM to noon, or between the hours of 5 and 7 PM. Be sure to have your name on your cookie containers so we can return them; also mark the name of the cookies. If you are unable to get them to church on Friday, please contact a Guild officer to make other arrangements. See contact info below.

Sign the bottom portion of this notice if you are willing to bake cookies and return (or email) to a Guild officer.

Carol Kaisler
262-628-0656
caroy4@gmail.com

Jill Paddock
262-408-1833
jill.paddock12@gmail.com

Bernice Dieball
414-378-0568
beafarmin@gmail.com

Lucy Krapfl
262-966-2447
lucykrpfl@gmail.com

Thank you for your donation and support!
St. Paul's Women's Guild

When you know what kind of cookies you will make, if you list the name/s on the slip below or give Carol the names, we can have name cards prepared to display with each cookie tray at our sale.

.....

Yes, I will bake and donate _____ dozen cookies.

I plan to make (kind/s) -----

Signed _____

November 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:30 Worship 185th Celebration & Potluck 	3	4 Seniors	5	6	7 Jo S.	8
9 9:30 Worship Blessing of Pledges	10	11 Janene K. Jerry & Vicki L. Anniversary	12	13	14	15
16 9:30 Worship Veteran's Tribute Norb B.	17 Dick A.	18	19	20 Women's Guild 12 Noon Bernie C. Karrie H.		22
23 9:30 Worship	24 Ron & Diane S. Anniversary Chapel Bell items due to Donna	25	26	27 Lucy K. 	28	29 Brock G.
30 9:30 Worship Susan M.						