

# The Visitor

Rev. Karl J. Koeppen,  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Roger A. Drinnon,  
Associate Pastor

Mr. Brian P. Porter,  
Principal

Rev. David Baker,  
Missionary to Mongolia

## April/May 2026



ST. PAUL'S  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH & SCHOOL

**#changinglives**

Please also see us online!

### Worship & Bible Study Opportunities

#### Traditional Worship:

Saturday 5:00 pm @ the Downtown Church  
located at 348 E. Merchant St., Kankakee, IL

Sunday 8:30 am @ the School  
located 1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais, IL

#### Contemporary Worship:

Sunday 11:05 am @ the School

#### Adult & Youth Bible Class:

Sunday 9:45 am @ the School  
Classes for Adults & 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade

#### Children's Sunday School:

Sunday 9:45 am @ the School  
Classes for Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade

#### Office Hours:

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday

Church & School Office: 815-932-0312

Church Website: [www.stpaulslutheran.net](http://www.stpaulslutheran.net)

Next Newsletter Deadline May 15<sup>th</sup>



### SPECIAL DATES

Maundy Thursday - April 2

Good Friday - April 3

Easter - April 5

National Day of Prayer - May 7

Mother's Day - May 10

Ascension of the Lord - May 14

Memorial Day - May 25

### HOLY WEEK - Downtown Church

**Maundy Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

7:00 pm



**Good Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

12:05 pm and 7:00 pm (Tenebrae)

**NO SERVICE on Sat., April 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 am, 9:00 am, and 11:00 am

HE IS RISEN  
alleluia



PLEASE NOTE: Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be confirmed at the late service on **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. This service will take place at the downtown church. The early service will be at the school as usual, however there will be no Sunday School or Bible Study.

### VOTER'S ASSEMBLY MEETING

The May Voter's Meeting is scheduled for **May 31<sup>st</sup> at 12:30 p.m.** in the school gym. The main agenda item will be voting on our new board directors and members. These positions are critical to the functioning of our church and its many ministries so if you are interested in participating on any of our boards, please email Pastor Drinnon at [rdrinnon@stpaulslutheran.net](mailto:rdrinnon@stpaulslutheran.net) prior to the meeting to add your name to the ballot.

Members of the congregation who are age 18 or older are eligible to become voting members and to participate in the decision making of the congregation. After attending at least two Voters' Assembly meetings in 24 months, a member is accepted into voting membership. Voting membership privileges then continue as long as you remain a member.

**“Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!”**

***“Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!”***

Four simple words. But they are far from being simple. They are packed with meaning. Those four simple words are a confession of faith - a confession we share with all Christians of all times and places. Sometimes we might think of ***“Christ is Risen!”*** as a relic - just a museum of the Christian faith that we just rehearse for a few weeks every year. But those simple words are in fact a living and active statement - a statement with which everyone in the world must contend.

† Jesus is either real or He isn't.

† Jesus is either risen from the dead or He's dead in the ground.

† If He is risen, then there really is a God who has died for our sins and risen for our justification. But if Jesus is not risen, then everything we believe and do as a Christian is ridiculous and futile.

St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Corinthians: ***“But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by man has come also the resurrection from the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.” 1 Corinthians 15:20-22***

You see, our confession of faith is a joyous confession!!

Because Christ is risen, we are forgiven of sin, are new creations in Christ, and have the hope of our own resurrection from the dead. And our confession of faith is one to share - to share these blessed realities with others who do not know or have not heard that Christ is risen indeed!

***“Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!”***

***“He Is Risen, Indeed, Alleluia!”***

Blessings in Him!

Pastor Karl Koeppen



**IF YOU HAVE NEVER TAKEN PART IN ALL OF THE HOLY WEEK SERVICES WE OFFER, I ENCOURAGE YOU TO TRY THEM OUT THIS YEAR - You have to go through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in order to get to Easter Morning.**

4/2 Maundy Thursday - 7 pm - We walk with our Lord and join Him at the Last Supper.

4/3 Good Friday - noon - We consider the suffering of our Lord.

4/3 Good Friday - 7 pm - TENEBRAE - A service of darkness as we contemplate the suffering and death of Jesus....

4/4 SAT - NO WORSHIP SERVICE

4/5 EASTER SUNDAY - 6 am , 9 am, 11 am - We celebrate our Lord's Resurrection!

**“DO NOT ERASE!”**

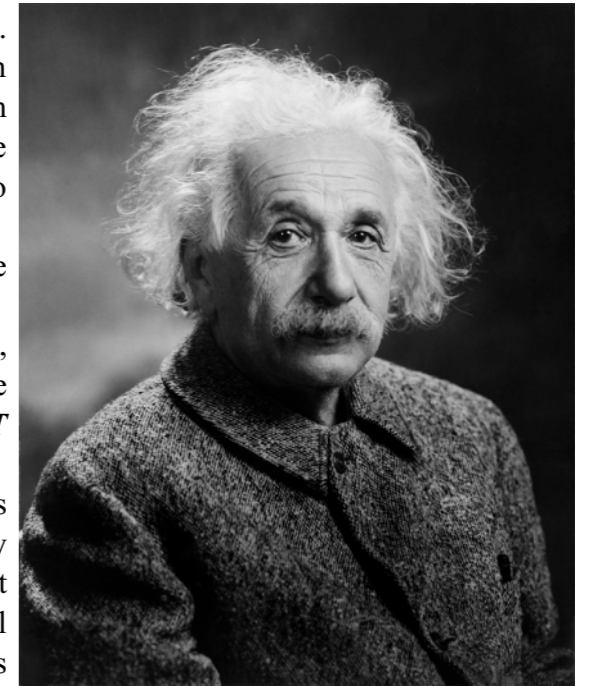
The story is told that one day, when Dr. Albert Einstein was teaching at Princeton University, he filled the blackboard with complicated equations. At the close of the particular class session he left instructions, also on the board, for the cleaning crew.

Across all the complicated equations he wrote one word, **“Erase!”**

But in one small corner of the huge board, he wrote another equation, **“2+2=4”** and above this simple equation he wrote, **“Do NOT erase!”**

The significance of Einstein's instruction is profound! Though we may delve into many complexities and mysteries in life, we must never lose sight of the simple, foundational truths. And this applies to our faith-lives as well.

We've just come through the quiet and reflective season of Lent. We've celebrated with great joy and exuberance the grand and exciting Easter resurrection. And now we continue to rejoice in the hope of Easter as we face each new day. In the difficult days ahead we must remember to never “erase” the basics — because Jesus died and rose again we are forgiven



and will live forever.

The first Sunday of this month, we gather as we have for so many years, to celebrate the confirmation of faith by young men and women in our congregation. Einstein's admonition is one that is repeated many times with new confirmands - - **never** "erase the basics."

Don't forget them!

Remember the basics of the faith as you have learned and confessed them!

But doesn't that admonition need to be said to all of us as well? Many in our world are searching desperately to "find" themselves and their place in life. Even we Christians are sometimes plagued with the same complicated questions. Though the questions seem complex, we must never forget or overlook the simple and profound truths of our Christian faith.

We live with the awareness of our amazing God, who created and loves us, who gave His Son to die for our sins, and who calls us to loving service and Christian stewardship of life. Our purpose in life is no longer for ourselves, but to live for Him who gave Himself for us.

The challenge to all the confirmands this month is the challenge to all of us. . . . As you face the difficult questions of life, don't forget the basic answers God has given you. Remember His Love, His blessings, His grace, His mercy, His SON - Jesus given for our salvation.

Let us never forget . . . .

Blessings in Him!

Pastor Koeppen

## **PASTOR'S THOUGHTS - Part Two**

I have shared this before and thought it was good for us to hear again.

I saw this a while ago on Facebook and thought it was a good thing to share because I know that there are some that truly struggle on Mother's Day. For some, Mother's Day is wonderful, for others it is painful or sorrowful.

I pray these words are a blessing to you!

Pastor Koeppen

Mother's Day is wonderful for some and very painful for others. For many. This is for the ones hurting:

It's okay to be sad.

It's okay to miss your mom.

It's especially okay to hate cancer if it took her too early.

It's okay to mildly slam the cake you didn't feel like making into the oven.

It's okay to regret a failed or strained relationship with your mother or your adult child.

It's okay to mourn the babies you lost or only held for minutes after birth.

It's okay to weep over exhausting, expensive, and ineffective infertility treatments.

It's okay to weep when the mothers get single roses in church today when you will get none.

It's okay to be angry about the dreams of motherhood you have yet to see become real.

It's okay to celebrate being the 'meanest step mom in the world' as you wash their dirty laundry without even a Hallmark card.

It's okay to step into another room to compose yourself if the day is simply too much.

It's okay to mourn the first year without your mom. Or the first month.

It's okay to say no to having everyone over if what you really need is an afternoon to yourself.

It's okay to buy your own Mother's Day gift.

It's okay to wake up terrified how you'll get through the holiday.

And it's okay when you make it through.

You are either a mother or a daughter of one. And today I celebrate you. Messy, beautiful, extraordinarily loved by Jesus...you.

You got this because He's got you!

Pastor Koeppen

## Christ the True Temple and the Hope of the Resurrection

In recent weeks there has been renewed discussion about the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and speculation about the rebuilding of a temple. Whenever these conversations arise, it is important for Christians to remember what the Scriptures actually teach about the temple and the future God has promised His people.



Jesus Himself declared that the temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed, which was fulfilled in **A.D. 70** when the Romans leveled it (Matthew 24:1–2). Yet Jesus also revealed a deeper truth: the temple always pointed beyond itself to Him.

When Jesus said, “*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up*” (John 2:19), He was speaking about **His own body** (John 2:21). Jesus is the true Temple—God dwelling among His people. In Him the presence of God is no longer confined to a building in Jerusalem but comes to us in the flesh of the crucified and risen Lord.

Through Christ, something even more remarkable happens. St. Paul writes that **we ourselves have become temples of the Holy Spirit** (1 Corinthians 6:19). The living God now dwells among His people through Word and Sacrament. The church is not centered around a building in the Middle East but around the risen Christ who gathers His people everywhere.

Because of this, the hope of the Christian faith is not the rebuilding of a stone temple but **the resurrection of the dead**.

St. Paul writes: “But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep” (1 Corinthians 15:20).

Jesus’ resurrection is the beginning of something much greater. Just as the firstfruits of a harvest promise the rest of the crop, Christ’s resurrection guarantees that all who belong to Him will rise as well. Paul continues: “For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead” (1 Corinthians 15:21).

The center of Christian hope is not earthly structures, political events, or speculative timelines. It is the promise that **our bodies will rise from the grave when Christ returns**.

This is the clear teaching of Lutheran eschatology. Scripture warns us not to be led astray by sensational predictions about the end times. St. Paul cautions believers: “Let no one deceive you in any way” (2 Thessalonians 2:3).

Throughout history there have always been attempts to connect current events with detailed end-time scenarios. But the Scriptures direct our attention elsewhere. The focus is always **Christ—His cross, His resurrection, and His coming again in glory**.

On the Last Day, Jesus will return and raise the dead. Paul describes this glorious promise: “The dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:52).

Our bodies, now subject to weakness, sickness, and death, will be raised immortal and incorruptible. Death itself will be swallowed up in victory.

That is why Paul concludes with this triumphant confession: “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:57).

For Christians, the future is not uncertain or frightening. It is filled with hope. Christ has died. Christ is risen. And Christ will come again to raise the dead and give eternal life to all who believe in Him.

The temple that matters most is not one made with human hands. It is **the risen body of Christ**, and through Him we are being built into a living temple of God’s presence.



And this good news is not just an idea to think about—it is a promise the Lord continues to deliver to His people. Every week Christ gathers us in His church to give us His gifts: the forgiveness of sins, the proclamation of His resurrection, and His very body and blood in the Sacrament of the Altar. There the risen Lord strengthens our faith and prepares us for the day when we too will rise.

For that reason, we invite you to **come and hear this good news**. Join us in worship as we gather around the living Christ who died for our sins and rose again for our salvation. In His Word and Sacraments the Lord who conquered death continues to meet His people and give them the sure hope of the resurrection.

Because Jesus lives, **we too shall live**.

God's Blessings,  
Pastor Drinnon

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### **Six-Week Bible Study: Understanding Islam**

In a world where Christianity regularly encounters Islam—both globally and in our own communities—it is important for Christians to understand what Muslims believe and how we can faithfully bear witness to Christ. Beginning **April 19<sup>th</sup>**, we will offer a **six-week Bible study on Islam** designed to help Christians think carefully, historically, and biblically about this major world religion.

This study will explore **the origins of Islam in pre-Islamic Arabia**, where a mixture of tribal religions, Judaism, and Christianity existed prior to the rise of Muhammad in the 7th century. From there we will trace the development of Islam through key historical moments including the early expansion of Islam, the Crusades, and the continuing interactions between Christianity and the Muslim world.

We will also examine **major theological expressions of Islam today**, including Sunni and Shiite Islam, reform movements such as Wahhabism, and the influence of modern political and religious movements in places such as Iran.

Most importantly, we will consider **how Christians have historically responded to Islam** and how we can **lovingly and faithfully witness to Muslims today**, always confessing the truth that salvation is found in Christ alone (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

#### **Week-by-Week Overview**

##### **Week 1 – April 19: Arabia Before Islam – The World of Muhammad**

We begin by exploring **pre-Islamic Arabia**, its tribal culture, and the religious environment

that included paganism, Judaism, and Christianity. This background helps us understand the world into which Islam emerged.

##### **Week 2 – April 26: Muhammad and the Rise of Islam**

We will study the life of Muhammad, the formation of the Qur'an, and the early expansion of Islam in the 7th and 8th centuries.

##### **Week 3 – May 10: Christianity and Islam in Conflict and Contact**

This session examines the historical interactions between Christians and Muslims, including the **Crusades**, the expansion of Islamic empires, and the theological debates that arose between the two faiths.

##### **Week 4 – May 17: Divisions Within Islam – Sunni, Shiite, and Reform Movements**

We will explore the major branches of Islam, the origins of the Sunni-Shiite divide, and later reform movements such as Wahhabism and their impact on the modern Muslim world.

##### **Week 5 – May 24: Islam in the Modern World**

This session examines modern expressions of Islam, including the role of **Shiite Islam in Iran**, contemporary Islamic movements, and how Islam shapes culture and politics today.

##### **Week 6 – May 31: Witnessing to Muslims – Confessing Christ in Love and Truth**

In our final session, we will focus on **Christian witness to Muslims**—understanding key theological differences and learning how to share the Gospel clearly, respectfully, and confidently with our Muslim neighbors.

This study is intended to **equip Christians with knowledge, clarity, and compassion** as we encounter Islam in our world today. Join us as we grow in understanding and in our ability to **bear witness to the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations** (Matthew 28:18–20).



## WEEKLY BIBLE CLASSES

I recently asked the Tuesday morning weekly adult Bible class to fill out a survey stating the reasons they like to attend a weekly class at the church. Of course, there are studies in homes on a monthly or biweekly schedule, which is also a great way to share God's Word and provides a few of the same benefits. Eight of the surveys said this about weekly Bible studies at church on Sundays or during the week:

- ◆ It is easier to think and listen in a classroom type setting.
- ◆ I enjoy learning the Word of God, which forms a foundation for my life.
- ◆ I want to spend time with others who share the same beliefs that I do.
- ◆ I am able to gain knowledge and there is always something new.
- ◆ I prefer going through a study verse-by-verse rather than using booklets or videos.
- ◆ It gives me the opportunity to gather with other believers.
- ◆ I feel God has blessed me in so many ways in strengthening my faith and knowledge, and I will continue as long as I am physically able to do so.
- ◆ The more, the better.

~ Roy Cordes

## “THE SERVING CHRIST: GOSPEL OF MARK”

Adult Bible Class continues every **Tuesday morning starting at 9:45 am in Fellowship Hall** at our downtown campus. A verse-by-verse approach and application to our Christian walk will continue through the end of June.

We are currently covering the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus in the area around Galilee. Our next section will move to three chapters on His ministry beyond Galilee. Known as a miracle worker by the massive crowds, Jesus spends time proving that He is the Son of God who is training His disciples to become apostles and missionaries after He goes back to heaven.

Mark uses half of his Gospel (8 chapters) to teach us about the Passion Story. It will be appropriate that, after experiencing Lent and Easter, the Bible class will discuss His appearance in Jerusalem and the road to the cross culminating in His glorious resurrection.

We serve coffee (half-caffeinated) and invite you to join our group of 10-15 for weekly Bible study under the direction of Roy Cordes. Every lesson starts anew so you can attend at any time and walk away with a spiritual principle that will lead you down the path to salvation. Join us!

## “SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF PRAYER” BIBLE STUDY

*Teacher: Pastor Dave Bottorff*

*When: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays at 7 pm*

*Where: 1573 Surrey Dr., Bourbonnais*



On March 24<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Bottorff started a new home Bible study series on these Seven Principles of Prayer:

- 1) Get still before God.
- 2) Get into communion with God.
- 3) PRAY for God to develop your visions and dreams. We will look at how God used Bible heroes like Joseph, Abraham and the apostle John's visions and dreams to visualize how He would fulfill His promises to them. Then we will apply those same principles to how God will work out His promises from His Word in our lives today!
- 4) See God's authority over the devil in your circumstances.
- 5) Keep an accurate record of your prayer requests before God.
- 6) Thank and praise God in advance.
- 7) *"Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17)*

Call Pastor Dave Bottorff at 815-304-4553 to come to this Bible study at his home on the **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of April, May, September, October and November.**

## MEN'S BIBLE BREAKFAST



Pastor Koeppen will be leading the Bible Study "Life Lessons from Acts" on **Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> and May 23<sup>rd</sup>**. You are invited to join him at **7:30 am in the Riverside cafeteria** to study God's Word over coffee and breakfast.

## FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Everyone is invited to our monthly fellowship dinners. No commitment is expected and these evenings are very casual – just come as you are when you are able. Anyone who has come will tell you how much fun we have! We will be meeting on **Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>** at Oliver's in West Kankakee and on **Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>** at Beans & Barley Brews in Ashkum. Please join us! RSVP to Nancy Eden at 248-842-2837.

## EASTER BREAKFAST

The youth will be serving scrambled eggs, biscuits & gravy, pancakes, sausage, and fruit in Fellowship Hall from **7:00 to 8:30 Easter morning**. A freewill donation will be collected to help with the 2028 LCMS Youth Gathering expenses. Come celebrate our risen Lord in fellowship!!





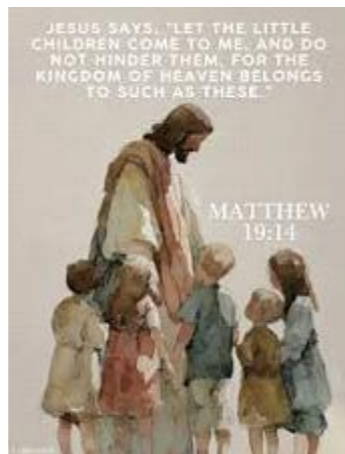
### CREATION MUSEUM & ARK ENCOUNTER TRIP

The Board of Outreach & Connections has planned a trip for our congregation to the Creation Museum and Ark Encounter in Kentucky. *We will depart the school at 1pm on Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup> and return late on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>.* The estimated cost per person (including transportation, hotel stay, exhibit tickets, and two lunch vouchers) is \$421.39 per adult for double occupancy or \$566.39 per adult for single occupancy. A deposit of \$100 is due right away but the balance is not due until June 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are interested, please contact Ruth Fabbro at [ruthfabbro1964@gmail.com](mailto:ruthfabbro1964@gmail.com) or 815-450-5665.



### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

If you have a child in Pre K - 5<sup>th</sup> grade, they are invited to join us for Sunday School **every Sunday from 9:45 to 10:45 am**. The children learn a Bible lesson and then do a game and/or activity that relates to the story. Preschoolers and kindergartners meet in the extended care room at the south end of the school. Elementary age children meet in the music room just outside of the gym. Children are rewarded for attending Sunday School with small prizes throughout the year.



### 2025-2026 YOUTH NIGHTS

This year, the St. Paul's Youth Ministry has been studying God's truths vs. Satan's lies. We invite youth in 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade to join us for our last Youth Night of the school year on **Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 6pm to 8 pm** at the school campus for fun, fellowship, and devotions. Bring your Bible and a friend!



### SENIOR SEND-OFF NIGHT

On **Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**, join us from **6:30 pm to 8:30 pm** to celebrate our graduating seniors and pray over them as they prepare for the next leg of their journey. Watch for more details.



### VBS 2026 - SAVE THE DATE!!

All children entering 4-year-old preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to spend a week with us at Vacation Bible School. Mark your calendars for **Monday, June 15<sup>th</sup> through Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>!**

*Rainforest Falls* promises a week of wonder as kids explore the powerful nature of God! Through life-changing Bible stories, the coolest animal buddies, and joyful worship, they'll discover who God is and how to stay rooted in His love.

### CALLING ALL VBS VOLUNTEERS!

VBS is not possible without our dedicated team of volunteers. Whether you serve as a crew leader or helper, lead a station, help with registration, photograph the fun, or help behind the scenes, we need you! Please prayerfully consider getting involved as a volunteer. All volunteers are asked to complete the VBS Volunteer Application by scanning the QR code below. Please also mark the following dates on your calendar and plan to attend:

**Volunteer Training:** (Please plan to attend one of the two sessions)

\* Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> 9:45-10:45 am

\* Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup> 9:45-10:45 am

**Volunteer Orientation:**

Sunday June 14<sup>th</sup> 12:30-2pm (lunch included) & 2-4pm set-up

**VBS Week:** Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> through Friday June 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-8:00pm (VBS Staff devotions will begin at 4:45pm.)

If you have questions about becoming a VBS volunteer or need assistance with the volunteer application, please contact Liz Lesch at 815-263-0537.



## **BE THE CHURCH 2026**

### **MISSION: BEST VBS EVER!**

This year for our *Be the Church* local mission project, we will be working together as a congregation to support the St. Paul's Vacation Bible School program, *Rainforest Falls*. VBS is far more than just a week in June. Lots of work goes into preparing for the week, and each of the students and volunteers involved in VBS need your prayers and support. Over the next few months, there are many ways to get involved and BE THE CHURCH! To sign up, scan the QR code or go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B44AFAC28A0FECE9-62976668-bethechurch>.



**VBS Giving Tree** - As a way for the congregation to support our VBS mission, we will be setting up a giving tree with leaves each containing an item needed for VBS.

**Be a VBS Prayer Buddy & Sponsor a Book of Psalms for a student!** - This year's VBS curriculum includes a Book of Psalms for students to mark our Sticky Scripture messages throughout the week and take home to share with their family. Prayer Buddies will help cover the cost of the books (\$3.99 each), write a message in

the book to the student they sponsor, and pray for that student during VBS week and beyond.

**Help Design & Build the Set** - Join us on one of the following evenings at the St. Paul's Mission and Ministry Center VBS Prop room to design, build, and paint set elements including rocks, bridges, fallen logs, waterfalls, and more for our rainforest.  
**April 15<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm**  
**April 22<sup>nd</sup> 6-8pm**  
**May 4<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm**  
**May 13<sup>th</sup> 6-8pm**

**Family Fun Movie & Service Day: Friday, June 5<sup>th</sup> - 2-8pm** - Youth and adults of all ages, join us at the Bourbonnais School campus for a fun day of watching movies and creating our rainforest leaves, vines, flowers, and more! Come when you can and leave when you must. Pizza will be available at 5:30pm.

**Join the decorating crew!** - Help us transform the school into a rainforest adventure  
**Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 9-noon** - Decorate entryway & lobby  
**Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm** - Decorate hallways  
**Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2-4pm** - Set-up gym & classrooms  
**Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 9-noon** - Post-VBS clean-up

## **SHINE SERVICE DAY - JOIN US!**



Each spring, the LCMS Northern Illinois District invites churches to serve their communities through SHINE service projects. This year, St. Paul's will host a SHINE Service Day on **Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to noon at the downtown Mission & Ministry Center.** We'd love for you to be part of it!

There will be many service opportunities for all ages, so the whole family can join in. Some of the projects include: **Card-Making Workshop** - Create scrapbook-style cards for Phil's Friends care packages. **Sewing Project** - Help sew quilt tops that will become blankets for Phil's Friends. Fabric and thread will be provided, but donations are always welcome. **Coloring Projects** - Color care package boxes or make "Cards of Hope." **Outdoor Landscaping** - Help beautify the Mission and Ministry Center and courtyard (weather permitting). **Building Projects** - Cleaning, organizing the new VBS closet, and other helpful tasks.

Whether you can stay for the whole morning or just help with a project or two, there will be plenty of ways to serve. We're also inviting our sister churches in the circuit to join us for this special morning of service and fellowship. Come shine Christ's love through service. We hope to see you there!

## **RUMMAGE SALE HELPERS**

Anyone can help! We will especially need a few men for heavy lifting. **We are scheduling two-hour sessions for set-up help on May 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> and during the sale on May 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm.** If you are interested in helping, please call Carol Ginger (815-922-5525) or Pat Baker (708-772-0933). We thank you for your service and pray that God bless you for serving so faithfully.



## **RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

**April 6<sup>th</sup>** is the date for the Red Cross blood drive at St Paul's School. Please mark your calendars. This is truly a life saving event. To sign up to give blood, scan the QR code or call the church office. We will also need volunteers the day of the event. Contact Sylvia Burger at 815-343-3460 if you are interested.



## **CARD CART MINISTRY**



Do you have a minute (or two or five) to stop by this colorful cart in the cafeteria between worship services on Sunday to color and/or sign a Card of Hope to let those going through tough times know that they aren't alone?

## ANNUAL BENEFIT CAR SHOW



**Caleb's Prayer Foundation** was formed 12 years ago in memory of Caleb Hoggins, who lost his battle with cancer at 15. The mission of the foundation is to provide financial assistance to families in Kankakee and Iroquois counties that are coping with the effects of cancer. Since its inception, **Caleb's Prayer Foundation** has distributed over \$119,000 to local families, helping with groceries, transportation, utilities, housing, insurance, medical bills, and funeral expenses. The main source of income is an annual car show at Phillips Auto Group, Bourbonnais. This year's event is **Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** (rain date May 31<sup>st</sup>).

There are a multitude of ways you can help if you feel so inclined.

- Become a sponsor
- Donate a door prize
- Register your car or truck (see below)
- Simply show your support by coming to this FREE event to browse the beautiful cars

Registration for car entries is from 9 to 11 am and the entry fee is \$20. This event opens to the viewing public at noon and is FREE. Grilled burgers and hot dogs, chips, and drinks are available for purchase. 100% of the profit goes to local families. For more information, please contact Christie at [crahn@stpaulslutheran.net](mailto:crahn@stpaulslutheran.net) or 815-932-0312. We hope to see you there!

## BOOK COLLECTION REMINDER

St. Paul's will once again be doing a used book booth at Prairieview's Fall Festival on September 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> and **we are in need of books.** There are collection bins at both locations. At the school, you may place your books in the labeled red donation box. At the church, there are labeled containers in the atrium to the right of gym doors. If you have any questions, if you would like to arrange a time to drop off, or if you need to schedule a pick-up, please call Jeanne Vilt at 815-932-9855, call or text her at 815-216-0240, or call or text Nancy Campbell at 815-592-4273.



## PROJECT COMPASSION / GABRIEL'S CALLERS

Would you consider joining? Our only agenda is to share God's love and to care for the well-being of our members, especially our shut-ins, those grieving, or anyone with special needs. We meet quarterly, at which time we have devotions and prayer and we share our ministry over a meal. Don't worry about whether or not you have the skills; we will train you. Our next quarterly meeting will be at Monical's Pizza in Bourbonnais on **Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.** Anyone interested in becoming a visitor or caller is welcome to attend.



## SCHOOL MUSICAL

St. Paul's Lutheran School's Theatre Department is proud to present Disney's Lion King Kids! 46 students in grades K-8 will perform the show on **Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm** and **Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.** Tickets are \$5 at the door. Hakuna Matata!



## SHOP WITH SCRIP (a/k/a T.R.I.P.)

Don't forget about SCRIP as we head into spring! It's easy to make money for your child's or grandchild's school account and St. Paul's while paying face value for gift cards from over 750 retailers including Dick's Sporting Goods, Ace Hardware, Menards, Lowe's, Home Depot, Amazon, Walmart, and so much more! Stop by the church office or call or text Julie Dummer at 815-530-7320 to place your order. You can also order gift cards and download e-cards from the Raise Right app.



PTL would like to thank everyone who supported our efforts to raise \$40,000 for technology and security for our school! Because of the generosity of our school families, our church members, and our community, we exceeded that goal and raised over \$64,500 at our **Boots & Blessings Auction** on February 28<sup>th</sup>! We thank God for His work in us, and for all those who diligently prayed for our team of parents and teachers who made this event possible.

If you made a donation (and did not receive anything in exchange for it), you should have received a thank you in the mail with an acknowledgment for your records. If you did not, please contact Christie in the church office. ♥♥♥

## SCORE RECYCLING CONTEST

The SCORE recycling contest is coming to an end in April so bring your cans before it's too late. We are currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> place out of 23 schools. Let's finish strong!! The more we collect, the more the school earns! You can also bring them directly to Belson. When you bring your ticket to the cashier, just tell them you'd like the points to go to St. Paul's. Thank you!!

**TABEA RUMMAGE SALE**

Spring is upon us, which means many of us will be spring cleaning! As you purge, please keep St. Paul’s in mind. We are now accepting donations for our semi-annual rummage sale. The spring sale will be **Thursday & Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>** from 8am to 4pm in the downtown gym. You may leave your donations by the gym doors on Saturdays before the 5pm service or schedule a time for drop off or pick up with Carol Ginger (815-922-5525) or Pat Baker (708-772-0933). Please DO NOT bring items to the school location. We respectfully ask that all donated clothing is clean. We cannot accept TVs or computers. The proceeds help purchase much needed supplies like candles, wine, wafers, robes and other necessities that help enhance all church services. Thank you for your donations! May God bless you for helping so faithfully.

**DO YOU SHOP AT MENARD’S?**

Springtime.....synonymous with home improvement projects, deep cleaning, and landscaping! If you make purchases at Menards and do not intend to mail in the rebate slip, please consider donating your rebate receipts to the church. Simply drop them off at the church office or put them in the collection plate. Our custodians and trustees shop at Menards regularly and your rebates would go to great use!

**FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**

Baptized .....	1805
Communicant .....	1331
Communing .....	304
Attendance Avg. Weekend Worship (as of the end of the month):	
Month .....	266
Year-to-date .....	260

**YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCES**

**(through February 23<sup>rd</sup>)**

**Thankofferings**

Receipts (Envelopes, Plate, Sunday School + Electronic): \$534,398.40  
Budgeted Amount: \$544,653.82  
% of Need: 98.12%

**Building Fund**

Receipts(Envelopes+Electronic): \$96,596.04  
Budgeted Amount: \$114,422.92  
% of need: 84.42%

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

Traditional SAT 5:00 pm - Downtown Campus (D)

Traditional SUN 8:30 am - Bourbonnais Campus (B)

Contemporary SUN 11:05 am - Bourbonnais Campus (B)

Sunday School/Adult & Youth Bible Class SUN 9:45 am - Bourbonnais Campus (B)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
			1		<b>2</b> 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship (D) 	<b>3</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 12:05pm Good Friday Worship (D) 7:00pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service (D)	4
<b>5</b>  6:00 am Sunrise Easter Worship (D) 7:00 am Easter Breakfast (D) 9:00 am Easter Worship (D) 11:00 am Easter Worship (D)	<b>6</b> <b>EASTER MONDAY</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 12:00pm Blood Drive (B) 7:00pm Lay Ministry Meeting (B) 	<b>7</b> 9:45am <i>The Serving Christ</i> Bible Study (D) 4:00pm Jr. Confirmation (B) 	<b>8</b> 9:30am <i>The Patriarchs &amp; Their Journeys</i> Bible Study (D) 5:00pm School Open House (B) 	<b>9</b> 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D) 	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:00am Shine Service Day (D) 5:00pm Worship (D) 	
<b>12</b> 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Assimilation Class (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 	<b>13</b> 4:00pm Oberweis Coolest School Fundraiser 	<b>14</b> 9:45am <i>The Serving Christ</i> Bible Study (D) 6:30pm School Board Meeting (B) 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D) 	<b>17</b> 6:00pm The Lion King Kids School Musical (B) 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner (Oliver's, Kankakee) 	<b>18</b> 2:00pm The Lion King Kids School Musical (B) 5:00pm Worship (D) 	
<b>19</b> 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Assimilation Class (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 6:00 pm Youth Night (B) 	<b>20</b> 7:00pm Church Council Meeting (B) 	<b>21</b> 9:45am <i>The Serving Christ</i> Bible Study (D) 4:00pm Jr. Confirmation (B) 	<b>22</b> 9:30am <i>The Patriarchs &amp; Their Journeys</i> Bible Study (D) 	<b>23</b> 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D) 	<b>24</b> 6:00pm Athletic Awards Banquet (B) 	<b>25</b> 7:30am Men's Bible Breakfast (Riverside Cafeteria) 9:30am Phil's Friends Pack Party (D) 5:00pm Worship (D) 	
<b>26</b> 8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Assimilation Class (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:45am <i>The Serving Christ</i> Bible Study (D) 7:00pm <i>Seven Principles of Prayer</i> (1573 Surrey, Bourb)	<b>29</b> 5:30pm K-8th Spring Concert & Art Fair 6:30pm Youth Ministry Senior Send-Off (B) 	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D) 	Communion is celebrated the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month 		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Communion is celebrated the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month 			1	2 8:30am Jr. Confirmation Breakfast & Practice (D) 5:00pm Worship (D) 
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>8th GRADE CONFIRMATION DAY</b>		<b>TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK</b>				
8:30am Worship (B) 11:05 am Jr. Confirmation (D) 	7:00pm Lay Ministry Meeting (B) 	9:4am <i>The Serving Christ</i> Bible Study (D) 4:00pm Jr. Confirmation Class (1st Year Confirmands Only) (B) 		8:00am Rummage Sale (D) 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D) 	8:00am Rummage Sale (D) 	9:00am Phil's Friends Work Day (D) 5:00pm Worship (D) 
10  8:30am Worship (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B)	11 7:00pm Church Council (B) 	12 9:4am <i>The Serving Christ</i> Bible Study (D) 6:30pm School Board Meeting (B) 6:30pm Preschool Spring Program (B)	13 9:30am <i>The Patriarchs &amp; Their Journeys</i> Bible Study (D) 6:00pm Project Compassion / Gabriel's Callers Quarterly Meeting (Monical's, Bourb)	14 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D) 6:00pm 8th Grade Banquet (B) 	15 <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b> 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner (Beans & Barley Brews) 	16 5:00pm Worship (D) 
17 8:30am Worship (B) 9:30am New Member Reception (B) 9:45am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:45am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B)	18	19 9:4am <i>The Serving Christ</i> Bible Study (D) 4:00pm Jr. Confirmation Class (1st Year Confirmands Only) (B) 	20 <b>LAST DAY OF 8th GRADE</b> 7:00pm 8th Grade Graduation (B) 	21 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D) 	22 <b>LAST DAY OF PRESCHOOL</b>	23 7:30am Men's Bible Breakfast (Riverside Cafeteria) 9:30am Phil's Friends Pack Party (D) 5:00pm Worship (D)
24 / 31 8:30am Worship (B) 9:50am Youth & Adult Bible Study (B) 9:50am Children's Sunday School (B) 11:05am Worship (B) 12:30pm Voters Meeting (B) [May 31st] 	25 <b>NO SCHOOL / OFFICE CLOSED</b> 	26 <b>8th GRADE CLASS TRIP TO WALCAMP</b> 9:4am <i>The Serving Christ</i> Bible Study (D) 7:00pm <i>Seven Principles of Prayer</i> Bible Study (1573 Surrey)	27 9:30am <i>The Patriarchs &amp; Their Journeys</i> Bible Study (D) 	28 <b>LAST DAY OF SCHOOL</b> <b>PTL PICNIC</b> 6:00pm Phil's Friends Walk-In (D) 	29	30 5:00pm Worship (D) 



## *Serving our Lord in April*

<i>ACOLYTE SCHEDULE</i>		
<b>Thurs., April 2</b> <i>DOWNTOWN</i>	7:00 pm	Lana McHugh, George Morocho Loja
<b>Fri., April 3</b> <i>DOWNTOWN</i>	12:05 pm 7:00 pm	Emma Davis, MacKenzie Norton Luke Stirnaman, Quinn Styck
<b>Sun., April 5</b> <i>DOWNTOWN</i>	6:00 am  9:00 am  11:00 am	Micah Lundmark (crossbearer) Layna Rahn, Olivia Reardanz Dylan Blair (crossbearer) Dain Blair, Zachary Porter Kaden McDonald (crossbearer) Emma Davis, Nolan LaVoie
<b>Sun., April 12</b>	8:30 am 11:05 am	Mo Macari, J.P. Woods Ryleigh Reiniche, Claire Wilson
<b>Sun., April 19</b>	8:30 am 11:05 am	Brody Brinkmann, Nolan Freitas Hudson Bade, Dylan Nordmeyer
<b>Sun., April 26</b>	8:30 am 11:05 am	Nolan LaVoie, Max West MacKenzie Norton, Annie Schneider

<i>LAY READERS SCHEDULE</i>					
<b>Sat., April 4</b> <b>Sun., April 5</b>		<b>EASTER</b>	<b>Sat., April 11</b> <b>Sun., April 12</b>	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Ken Ebert Ruth Fabbro Karen Beatty
<b>Sat., April 19</b> <b>Sun., April 20</b>	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Diane Barber Bill Balgeman Melody Trudeau	<b>Sat., April 26</b> <b>Sun., April 27</b>	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Audra Taylor Lauren Lundmark Mellody McDonald

<i>TURN OVER FOR TRUSTEES SCHEDULE</i>		
<b>Thurs., April 2</b> 7:00 pm - Jeff Johnson	<b>Fri., April 3</b> 12:05 pm - Jeff Johnson 7:00 pm - Rob Wood	<b>Sun., April 5 (EASTER)</b> 6:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 9:00 am - Mike Callan 11:00 am - Rob Wood
<b>Sat. &amp; Sun., April 11 &amp; 12</b> 5:00 pm - Terry Treece 8:30 am - Mike Regas 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau	<b>Sat. &amp; Sun., April 18 &amp; 19</b> 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler	<b>Sat. &amp; Sun., April 25 &amp; 26</b> 5:00 pm - Mike Callan 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau



## *Serving our Lord in May*

### *ACOLYTE SCHEDULE*

Sun., May 3	8:30 am 11:05 am* * Downtown	Lucas Porter, Zachary Porter Mo Macari (crossbearer) Dylan Blair, Norah Callan
Sun., May 10	8:30 am 11:05 am	Lana McHugh, Quinn Styck Hudson Bade, Luke Stirnaman
Sun., May 17	8:30 am 11:05 am	Maddie Billingsley, Olivia Reardanz Norah Callan, Claire Wilson
Sun., May 24	8:30 am 11:05 am	Ty Luhman, George Morocho Loja Kaden McDonald, Annie Schneider
Sun., May 31	8:30 am 11:05 am	Layna Rahn, Grace West Jacob Kubal, Dylan Nordmeyer

### *LAY READERS SCHEDULE*

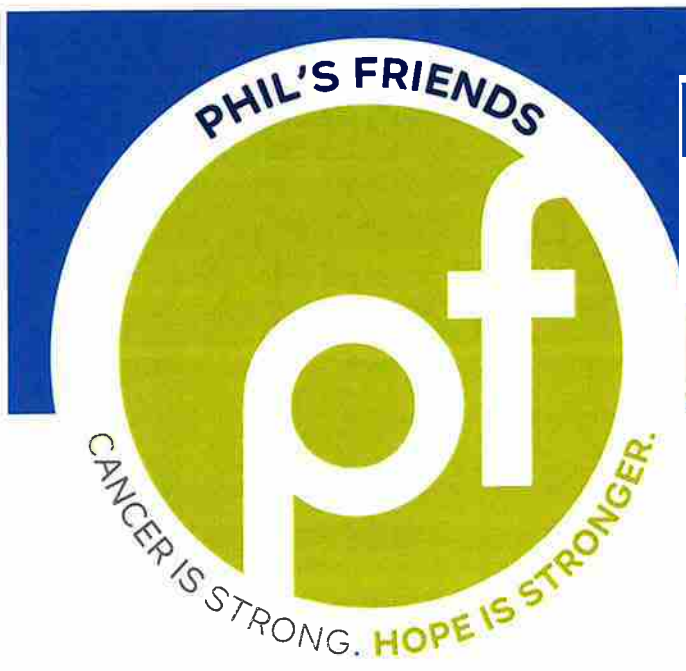
Sat., May 2 Sun., May 3	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Audra Taylor John Veers <b>CONFIRMATION</b>	Sat., May 9 Sun., May 10	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Rich Nordmeyer Nancy Eden Karen Beatty
Sat., May 16 Sun., May 17	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Diane Barber Dee Cordes Sharla Ronchetto	Sat., May 23 Sun., May 24	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Ken Ebert Roy Cordes Deb Turrell
Sat., May 30 Sun., May 31	5:00 pm 8:30 am 11:05 am	Pat Hatch Loree Yoakum Mellody McDonald			

### *TRUSTEE SCHEDULE*

Sat. & Sun., May 2 & 3 5:00 pm - Rob Wood 8:30 am - Barry Gadbois * 11:05 am - Mike Callan **	Sat. & Sun., May 9 & 10 5:00 pm - Terry Treece 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler	Sat. & Sun., May 16 & 17 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Tom Stirnaman 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau
Sat. & Sun., May 23 & 24 5:00 pm - Jeff Johnson 8:30 am - Mike Regas 11:05 am - Greg Wheeler	Sat. & Sun., May 30 & 31 5:00 pm - Mike Callan 8:30 am - Barry Gadbois 11:05 am - Jim Trudeau	

\* Trustee to open and close for early service only. There will be no Sunday School or Bible Class.

\*\* This is the Confirmation Service. Trustee to open and close downtown church.



# KANKAKEE HOPE CENTER

## APRIL - MAY

Phil's Friends is a non-profit organization that distributes **FREE** care packages and monthly Cards of Hope to cancer patients of all ages across the country. We deliver up to **300 Care Packages per week** and mail **over 9,000 Cards of Hope each month**.

As diagnoses increase and awareness of the Phil's Friends mission grows, we anticipate a continued rise in demand. The **Kankakee Hope Center** is a crucial part of this mission.

Join us in spreading hope by creating boxes, cards, and blankets or join us for a Pack Party where we assemble care packages.

The Kankakee Hope Center has **Volunteer Walk-in Hours** happen **every Thursday from 6pm to 8pm** and **one Saturday a month**, called a Work Day.

One Saturday a month is the **Pack Party** where a large number of care packages are prepared and shipped.

See the calendar for dates and times.

**Kankakee Hope Center**  
 240 S Dearborn Ave., Kankakee, IL 60901  
 Use the **blue door** under the Phil's Friends sign

For more information contact Sarah Cherry  
 sarahc@philsfriends.org (815) 651-6864

<b>THURS, APRIL 9</b>	<b>Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm</b>
<b>SAT, APRIL 11</b>	<b>Saturday Work Day - 9am to Noon</b>
<b>THURS, APRIL 16</b>	<b>Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm</b>
<b>THURS, APRIL 23</b>	<b>Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm</b>
<b>SAT, APRIL 25</b>	<b>APRIL PACK PARTY - 9:30 to 11 am</b>
<b>THURS, APRIL 30</b>	<b>Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm</b>
<b>THURS, MAY 7</b>	<b>Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm</b>
<b>SAT, MAY 9</b>	<b>Saturday Work Day - 9am to Noon</b>
<b>THURS, MAY 14</b>	<b>Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm</b>
<b>THURS, MAY 21</b>	<b>Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm</b>
<b>SAT, MAY 23</b>	<b>MAY PACK PARTY - 9:30 to 11am</b>
<b>THURS, MAY 28</b>	<b>Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm</b>
<b>THURS, JUNE 4</b>	<b>Walk-in Opportunity - 6pm to 8pm</b>





# Make St. Paul's the coolest school!

When: April 13 4-9 pm  
Where: Oberweis in Bradley

Join us for Oberweis' coolest school in Kankakee County fundraiser! Just stop in during the above time and mention St. Paul's at checkout and 20% of your total will automatically be donated to the school. But it gets better!!! If we make it into the top three sales from all schools 10% of the total from every school's amount will be donated to St. Paul's as well! Some of your favorite teachers and Staff members from St. Paul's will be there scooping ice cream for a great cause!

So come, chill, and show up for a sweet treat in support of the coolest school around!



**phil's friends**  
cancer is strong. **hope is stronger.**

NORTHWEST INDIANA

# GOLF 2026 OUTING

## Sandy Pines Golf Club

10527 Bunker Dr., DeMotte, IN 46310

*Register online at  
[philsfriends.org/events](https://philsfriends.org/events)*

**\$135/PERSON    \$500/FOURSOME**

- 10:00 - 11:25 am: Registration
- 10:00 am: Driving Range Opens
- 10:30 - 11:00 am: Putting Contest
- 10:30 - 11:25 am: Lunch Available
- 11:00 am: Welcome From Phil
- 11:30 am: Shotgun Start
- 4:30 pm: Dinner & Awards



92% of donations directly supports cancer patients and their families.



Scan to Register Online