



St. Paul Lutheran Church

EPISTLE NEWSLETTER

August/September 2026

Dear St. Paul Community,

As I approach my last Sunday as your vicar on August 23, I want to take a moment to say just how abundantly grateful I am for all of you. This year has been so transformative for me as a budding faith leader and I could not have asked for a better, more supportive community for it.

Whether it was a comment about how a sermon resonated with you, a joke cracked during a committee meeting, or spending a week together in Western North Carolina, the moments I have shared with you all have touched me in deep, profound ways. I have no doubt

UPCOMING EVENTS



AUGUST 15

Forest Therapy Walk

AUGUST 23

Backpack Blessing
&

Reception for Pastor Zak
and Vicar Lyndsay

that I will continue to look back on this year throughout my career of ministry as one of truly meaningful relationships. Thank you for your steadfast example of what it means to faithfully live out the gospel daily. You have inspired me.

As for what's next, there isn't too much to share yet! I am actively awaiting my first call in the Metro Chicago Synod. As soon as I have more details on that—as well as my ordination—I will make sure you all know. In the meantime, during these last few weeks, I look forward to all of the small moments that make this community such a warm and vibrant place.

Peace,
Vicar Lyndsay

AUGUST 30

Reception for Vicar Alex

SEPTEMBER 13

Rally Day
&
Historical Display Opens

SEPTEMBER 26

Oktoberfest

Celebrating Our Pastoral Staff - August 23



Join with the St. Paul community to celebrate two special events at one time! After the 9am worship service on August 23rd, we will celebrate both Pastor Zak's return from his Renewal and Vicar Lyndsay's completion of her internship with a celebratory reception in the Cafe. Remarks, gifts, and thank-you messages will be included. Please plan to join us for this special time.



“Growing in Faith” Sunday School



St. Paul is excited to introduce our theme for this year's Sunday school “Growing in Faith.” Each week will provide a hands-on opportunity for kids to explore their faith. To register for the program year, click [here](#). On Sunday, September 13 at 9:00am we will kick off the Sunday school year with a special art project in the Fellowship Center and we need your help! All Sunday school families and friends are invited to join in the fun.

Wings Choir Rehearsals Resume

The Wings will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 2 at 4:45pm in the Choir Room. If one or more of your children is interested in signing up for the Wings Choir, please complete **Section 8** of the St. Paul Sunday School Registration form. Wings Choir is open to children in grades K-8. Children who would like to check out a few rehearsals to see if this is a good fit for them are welcome to join us for 1-3 rehearsals before making a commitment. Anyone who can participate for only a part of our choir season is also welcome! We are always looking for new singers. Questions? Contact Margaret Colletti at margaret@stpaulvp.org or (630)253-9691.

“Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together.” Psalm 34:3.



Youth & Family

Backpack Blessing Day is Sunday, 8/23 during the 9:00am worship service. Students of all ages, teachers, aides, helpers & principals are invited to bring their backpack for a blessing for this new school year!

Confirmation Class begins on Wednesday, 9/16, at 5:30pm in the Fellowship Center. This year will focus on the Old Testament! Dinner is included each week. Confirmation is open to all students in 6th – 8th grade.



Mental Health First Aid Training

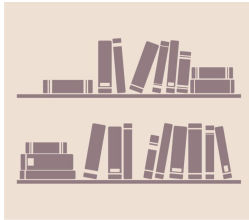
On Saturday, Oct. 10 at 9am St. Paul will host a Mental Health First Aid Training with **NAMI Metro Suburban**. This evidence-based, interactive training teaches adults how to support friends, family members, and neighbors who may be struggling. Join us in strengthening our community's ability to care for one another. No prior experience is needed. Lunch will be served at the training. Registration is required as seating is limited. Click [here](#) to register to attend.



Community Engagement

A Forest Therapy Walk with Deacon Christine is planned for Saturday, Aug. 15 at 9am at the Churchill Woods west picnic area. For full details click [here](#). Click [here](#) to register.

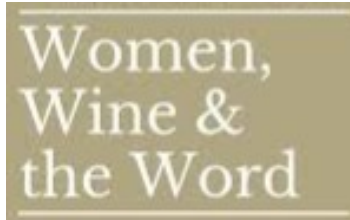
2nd Annual Oktoberfest is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 26, from 5-7 pm. Enjoy music from Wurst Case Scenario while we dine on delicious food. There will be activities for all ages. Bring the family and the neighbors for a fun-filled evening.



Book Club

For over 20 years St. Paul Book Club members have had great book discussions of titles from a variety of genres. New members are invited to join any or all the meetings for the upcoming year, which will be held at 7pm in the Cafe on the first Monday of the month, except where noted. Friends are always welcome.

For the complete list of books we will cover this year click [here](#).



Women, Wine & the Word

Women, Wine and the Word will begin meeting again on Tuesday Sept 7 in the home of Judy Nuehring at 7pm. Our discussion topics/curriculum for the year is yet to be determined. Women of all ages are invited to attend and drinking wine is not a requirement. Come, enjoy a casual time of study and fellowship with others.



Under 105

Under 105 Luncheons resume Thursday, September 17th. We gather at 11:30 in the Cafe. Our format is casual and full of fellowship, food and fun. Save the date cards, featuring the fall programs, will be available in August. We are looking forward to seeing you September 17th to kick off the start of another great year.



Get to Know Your Council Representatives

The Epistle is putting your council representatives in the hot seat! Not really, but to provide new members with an easy way to identify council members we are highlighting a member in each edition. For August/September, we feature your Council Vice President, Doreen Fritz. Click [here](#) to learn more about Doreen.

An Update from the Friberg Family Our Missionaries in Tanzania

As Steve and Bethany Friberg's time in Tanzania comes to an end, they are grateful for the support St. Paul has provided over their last 33 years of service. Their latest update provides more insight into the ongoing work in Tanzania. Click [here](#) to read their newsletter.



Benevolence at St. Paul

Do you ever think about how St. Paul fulfills its mission outside of the church walls? Each quarter the Benevolence Committee meets to determine which organizations will be recommended to our Congregation Council for their consideration. Suggestions by St. Paul members of non-profit organizations are welcomed and can be made [here](#). You may also request a hard copy by calling the church office.



Elm Tree Christian Child Care

As another unforgettable summer comes to a close, our hearts are full of gratitude. What an incredible few months we've shared together! One of our proudest accomplishments was launching our **100 Books Before Kindergarten** program. Watching our children build excitement around reading each week has been a joy, and we are incredibly thankful to the many community sponsors who have helped make this dream a reality.

As the new school year starts, we can't wait to welcome both familiar and new faces through our doors. There is still time to join the Elm Tree family! We currently have enrollment openings available in **both of our classrooms**, and we would love to welcome your family into our community.



Plates for a Purpose Hands and Feet fundraiser October 17 at 5pm

Join Hands & Feet volunteers for an evening of good food and good fun as they raise money for a worthy cause.

Dinner will be a BBQ style meal. Doors will open at 5:00 with dinner served at 5:30 pm. Cost for the dinner is \$10. Don't miss out on the silent auction! Baskets include a Taste of Door County, beauty basket from Ulta, gift cards from local restaurants, tickets to sporting events, and more. Tickets go on sale in the Cafe following services on 9/27, 10/4, and 10/11. Online ticket sales begin 10/1.

May & June Statistics

The attendance and finance information for May and June can be reviewed [here](#).

August and September Calendar

For a full listing of events in August and September, access the church calendar [here](#).

Get Connected at St. Paul

If you are interested in volunteering or would like help finding an opportunity that matches your interests and availability, please reach out to one of the ministry leaders listed below. They would be happy to answer questions, provide additional information, and help you find a meaningful way to get involved and serve within the community.

Community Engagement - Marti Seaton

Faith Formation - Julie Frakes

Property - Dave Bard

Stewardship - Kristen Rosenwinkel or Gay Nass

Worship Music and Arts - Carol Freidheim

Youth - Ginger Riccio



St. Paul Lutheran Church | 545 S Ardmore Avenue | Villa Park, IL 60181 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email & social marketing for free!