



St. Paul Lutheran Church

EPISTLE NEWSLETTER

JUNE/JULY 2026

The Saint Paul Epistle Newsletter

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.” This apostolic greeting is common in Paul’s epistles as he opens his epistles to the ancient faith communities with words of grace and peace. It is with these same sentiments of grace and peace that

I welcome you to our “new” bi-monthly newsletter format - *“The Saint Paul Epistle Newsletter”*. Just as Paul wrote epistles to encourage the church in their faithful work, so too will this publication seek to do the same. In this space we will share news, updates, and schedules of the life of ministry at St. Paul while also taking time to highlight the impact of these ministries and those of the larger church. The ELCA is a church in three expressions: congregation, synod, and church-wide. These expressions are all interconnected and interdependent as the work we do locally has impact far and beyond our own doors and community. Our sincere hope is to use this space to share and celebrate the Good News of Christ being lived out in our ministry as a community of followers. May this publication be a way for you to experience God’s grace and peace in the work we share as the body of Christ at St. Paul and across the world.

UPCOMING EVENTS



JUNE 7

First Outdoor Worship Service
Parking Lot, 9:00 am

JUNE 15-18

Vacation Bible School
5pm - 7pm

JULY 4

4th of July Parade
Villa Park, 10:00 am

JULY 5

Wagner Family Send-Off
Cafe, 10:00 am

*Yours in faith,
Pastor Zak*

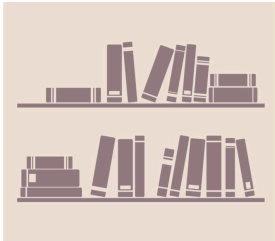
Letters from Vicar Lyndsay

As I begin to round out my internship year here at St. Paul, my gratitude overflows for our community of faith. While my last Sunday is not until August 23, I know the summer months will fly by between VBS, the youth trip, and everything in between. If you would like to connect once more over coffee/lunch or go for a walk, please be sure to reach out!

vicarlyndsay@stpaulvp.org



Vicar Lyndsay and Vicar Nicholas at their May LSTC graduation. Pictured with Pastor Zak and Tim and Julie Frakes.



Book Club

On Monday, July 6 at 7pm the St. Paul Book Club will meet to discuss the novel *In Falling Snow* by Mary-Rose MacCall.

During WWI a young Australian nurse works at a French hospital while looking for her brother who ran away to enlist. There are themes of friendship, family and sacrifice. We will meet in the Cafe.



Congregational Outing

The Congregational Renewal activity this summer will be a visit to [Kline Creek Farm](#) (1N600 County Farm Road, West Chicago), Sat. July 11, from 9am-12pm.

Activities include the house tour (at 10am or 11am), livestock viewing, beekeeping, blacksmithing, and a picnic. Timber Ridge Forest Preserve



Volunteer Opportunities

July 4th Parade volunteers are needed to push grocery carts and collect food and monetary donations along the parade route. Volunteers line up between 8:30-9:30 at Trinity Lutheran Church on Ardmore and step off at 10am from Park & Summit. The theme this year is "Stars, Stripes, and 250 Lights".

Etz Chaim has once again invited St. Paul to join them at the People's Resource Center in Wheaton for the Back-to-School packing event. This

[hiking trails](#) and Winfield Indian Mounds are nearby.

event will take place on July 28 at 5pm. Further details to come in the weekly e-letter.

Summer of Renewal

From July 6 - August 16 Pr. Zak and his family will be out experiencing together the second part of his pastoral renewal. As you may recall, last year the Wagners went on an adventure to experience renewal in wild spaces from Yellowstone and Mt. Rainier to Mt. Denali in Alaska. This year their adventures will take them to the “Mighty Five” national parks in Utah. Their trip is fully funded by a generous grant that was awarded through the Lilly Foundation. During this time of renewal Vicar Lyndsay, alongside other guest preachers and leaders, will lead our life of worship and provide pastoral care. This renewal is intended for pastor and congregation alike, so be on the lookout for different activities taking place this summer and fall as together we find time for spiritual renewal. Join us for a special send-off for the Wagner Family after worship on Sunday, July 5.



Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

From the Metropolitan Chicago Synod



The Metropolitan Chicago Synod of the ELCA will gather for its 2026 Synod Assembly on June 5–6 at the Q Center in St. Charles. Under the theme “Stronger Together,” clergy and lay leaders from across the synod will come together for worship, workshops, fellowship, and important church business. A major focus of this year’s assembly will be the prayerful election of a new bishop, as voting members discern the future leadership of the synod through the ELCA’s ballot process. More information, including schedules, and bishop election resources, can be found here: [Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly Information](#) and [Bishop Election Information](#)

Introducing Our New Intern Joining St. Paul Fall 2026

Hello, all! I'm Alexandra Clare (They/Them), and I'm so looking forward to learning with and from you during my Internship Year.

Click this [link](#) to read Alexandra’s complete bio.





Elm Tree Christian Child Care

As another wonderful school year ends at Elm Tree Christian Child Care, we are reflecting on what a fun, exciting, and emotional few weeks it has been. Our Pre-K friends recently participated in a special Bridging Ceremony as they celebrated their accomplishments and prepared to move on to kindergarten. While we are so proud of all they have achieved, saying goodbye is never easy. We will miss all the children and families who will not be joining us for the summer program, and we wish them nothing but success and happiness as they begin their next adventure in kindergarten.

This summer also marked the exciting launch of our “100 Books Before Kindergarten” initiative, which will continue through June 2028. Through this program, enrolled children will build their own home libraries while developing a lifelong love of reading and literacy. We are incredibly excited about the impact this initiative will have on our families and community.



Hands & Feet for June & July

Hands & Feet will be open the first Sunday of the month in both June and July. We are collecting donations of napkins for both months. Thank you for your continued support of the families in our broader community.

April 2026 Statistics

Giving: \$66,188 (includes online: \$24,479)

Expenses: \$55,767

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(47,978)

Date	Attendance	Viewers
4/3	94	13
4/5	352	84
4/12	162	55
4/19	130	53
4/26	172	45



June and July Calendar

For a full listing of events in June and July, 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



Wishing You a Wonderful Summer!

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

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