

Living Waters

November 2023

Celebrating with the Saints

Pastor Zak

In the coming months, we will be preparing once more to celebrate the holidays. This is a time when we gather with family, friends and loved ones to give thanks and prepare for the birth of our Savior. This is a busy time, to say the least, as we're rushing all over to prepare meals, purchase presents and gather for a myriad of parties. Before we get to this holiday rush, the church has set aside the first Sunday of the month to gather the community alongside the saints of all time. All Saints Sunday is an opportunity for us to gather as a community to share in our collective grief as we remember all who have entered into the Kingdom of God before us. Our actions breathe life into these relationships we hold dear as we toll bells to recall those who have died in the past year. We light candles in remembrance of the saints past and present. We gather at Christ's heavenly banquet, in the presence of the saints of all time, as we share in communion with the saints once more.

All Saints is a difficult Sunday for so many, as the wounds of grief are publicly acknowledged, and yet it is also a time of consolation, comfort and promise. This particular Sunday is one I treasure deeply as your Pastor, because it is our opportunity to share the stories of our loved ones as we also share in the story of God's liberating work, destroying death itself through Christ the Lamb: *"for the Lamb at the center will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to the springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes"* (Revelation 7:17). I am privileged to walk with all of the "Saints of St. Paul" as we gather as a community to mourn and celebrate our promise in Christ. Blessings to you this holiday season and all that it may bring.



Stewardship 2023

Our church is good at making joyful noises! Playing musical instruments, singing in choirs, participating in family events,

Sunday services, work days, and many more activities show how we give to each other and praise God.

November 5th is the start of our Stewardship Campaign with the theme, "Make a Joyful Noise." We are grateful for the amazing monetary gifts given in 2023 and hope this momentum continues in 2024. Pledge cards will be available at the church entrance and on-line beginning that Sunday. Our final gathering of pledges will be November 19th. Thank you, in advance, for making this commitment as we each make a joyful pledge and continue sharing God's Word and work.



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Worship Information

In Person

Sundays

Worship in the sanctuary at 8am and 10am.

Online/Livestream

Watch the service live on [YouTube](#), or anytime after that!

Altar Flowers Sign-Up

Sign up now using our [digital sign-up](#)! Two bouquet slots available for each Sunday; each bouquet is \$30.

Congregational Life...

Indigenous Peoples' Events



Pumpkin Carving



Elm Tree Child Care Sunday

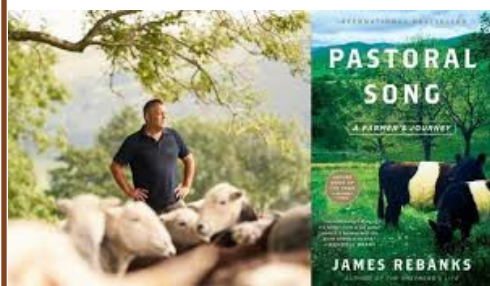


You've Been Pinked!



Book Club

Please join St. Paul Book Club on Monday, November 6 at 7pm in the Cafe when we discuss the book *Pastoral Song: A Farmer's Journey* by James Rebanks. This is an engaging book of non-fiction that explores the obstacles facing small farms and the restoration of the land to its past glory.



Hands & Feet

Hands and Feet will be open on Sunday, Nov. 5th from 2pm - 4pm.

Wine, Women & the Word

Wine, Women & the Word will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 7th at 7 pm in the home of Judy Nuehring. The poem we will be discussing this month is "Advent of Hope" on pg. 73.

Under 105 Luncheons

Under 105 will start at 11:30 so that we have time to chat before lunch. This month is featuring live vocal concert by Nora. **Please RSVP by Sunday, November 12th, to Merry Freedlund at 630-258-0291.**

Menu:

Beef Chili + Toppings
White Chili + Toppings
Moroccan Stew (meatless)
Corn Casserole
Cornbread
Assorted salads (Waldorf, Kale...)
Relish Tray
Assorted Desserts
Hope you can join us!

...and More!

Stewardship Spotlight

The Sunday School children are being encouraged to bring a box of cereal on the first, second or third Sunday of November. On Nov. 19 they will gather them together and create a fun activity. You might want to stop by and see what they'll be doing! After that the boxes will be delivered to the Outreach House in Lombard. What a great way to share what they have with others less fortunate!

New Educational Experience By Heart: Conversations with Martin Luther's Small Catechism

Embark on a deep dive into the rich tapestry of Lutheran faith through our upcoming educational experience, titled "By Heart: Conversations With Martin Luther's Small Catechism." Over the course of seven engaging weeks, participants will delve into the teachings of Martin Luther, delving into their historical significance and exploring their relevance in our modern lives. This immersive study will encourage your faith with a deeper understanding, connect you with fellow community members in our shared spiritual wisdom, and enrich our relationship to God. Join us for this study, starting on Sunday, October 29th and concluding on December 10th, every Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 am, in the warm and inviting ambiance of Cafe Meeting Room A. We eagerly anticipate your presence as we begin this study together!

Beer & Hymns Next Meeting - Dec. 15 Save the Date!

Beer & Hymns will celebrate Advent on Friday, December 15th at 7 pm at Manny's Ale House. A few Christmas songs may slip in there, too. *Come sing with us! Bring a friend or two!*

St. Paul Lutheran Villa Park and First Church of Lombard co-host this event -spread the word and bring your friends!

November Communion Assistants

8:00	10:00
11/5 Betty Hansen	Julie Frakes
11/12 Laura Albert	John Freidheim
11/19 Joelle Soefker	Gay Nass
11/26 Merry Freedlund	Julie Frakes

September Numbers

Giving: \$37,457 (including online: \$23,658)

Expenses: \$42,772

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(1,231.20)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
9/3	130	42
9/10	155	32
9/17	154	61
9/24	117	26

Q3 Giving Statements

Giving statements have been distributed for the 3rd quarter. Don't see yours in your email or mailbox? Contact [Alice!](#)

Fall Prayer Vigil Friday November 3, 2023

The Prayer Vigil is a special time when members of our community join in a continuous, individual, silent period of prayer from 7:00am until 7:00pm. Individuals come to the sanctuary for a 20 minute period (or longer). You may participate in this quiet, yet powerfully moving event in these ways:

- [Sign up here](#) or in the cafe for a particular time slot to pray, or just come when you can. When you arrive, a greeter will assist you.
- Submit prayer requests using our [online form](#), anonymously if you wish. You can also fill out a request card in the café. Let the community pray with you about your concerns. Submit requests through Sun., 10/29
- Finally, you can [sign up here](#) as a greeter or for set up and clean up.

All Things Family Ministry

Sunday School News

Cereal Box Collection- The Sunday School will be collecting boxes of cereal from Sunday, November 5th to Sunday, November 19th. The boxes will be donated to local food pantries.

Hat, Mitten, Scarf Tree- We will be collecting new hats, mittens, scarfs, and gloves. The dates for the collection will be Sunday, November 19th-December 10th. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

Just a reminder that there is no Sunday School on November 26th.

Thank you for all the help. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at laura@stpaulvp.org

Godly Play Retreat

There are a few spots left for our 3-day Godly Play Core Training retreat (December 1-3). Join us as we welcome Mary Hunter Maxwell of the Godly Play foundation who will lead in the work of sacred storytelling and play. This event is *free* for all St. Paul members, we simply ask that you consider sharing stories with the Sunday School as a gift to our community once you've been trained. No experience is necessary to attend this event, just an openness to engaging your faith in a new way. Please contact Pastor Zak for more information or if you would like to register.

First Communion Celebrations November 19th & November 26th

First Communion will be celebrated over two Sundays this fall. The following Sundays are First Communion Sundays:

November 19th at 10am: Madilyn Bodnar, Max Whitis, Adeline Reinecke, Katarina Dunkle, and Lucas Kuzminski

November 26th at 8am: Camilla Saurbaugh

November 26th at 10am: Rozalyn Hauser, Elin and Leighton Stemple

For each of these services the students will be baking and providing the bread offered during Communion. Please join us in celebrating this faith milestone with these students and their families.

Wings Choir News

The members of Wings Choir were excited to sing for the "Blessing of the Animals" service on Sunday, October 1st. We are also scheduled to sing on Reformation Sunday, October 29th. And finally, rehearsals have started for the Advent and Christmas Seasons! We always welcome new members—please join us!

Wings Choir is open to all children in Grades K-8. Rehearsals are held on Wednesday afternoons from **4:45-5:30 p.m. (NOTE: THERE IS NO REHEARSAL ON WED., NOV. 22)**. Wings members are encouraged to invite a friend—all are welcome! For more information, please contact Ms. Margaret at margaret@stpaulvp.org or 630-253-9691.

Worship & Prayers

Thanksgiving Worship Service

Join us as we gather with our friends at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (350 E. Madison, Lombard) to give thanks for all of God's blessings on *Tuesday, November 21 at 7pm*. Our choirs and leaders will be collaborating to lead this celebration. A special offering of non-perishable goods will be collected for the Outreach House (cash donations will also be accepted). Following worship, stick around for our traditional "Pie Social". Bring a friend, bring a pie!



Advent and Christmas Season at St. Paul

Sunday December 10th

8am & 10am Worship
Christmas Program at 10am

Sunday December 17th

8am & 10am Worship
9am Ring Sing

Sunday December 24th

Advent 4/Christmas Eve Worship 10am
Christmas Eve Worship at 5pm
Christmas Eve Worship at 11pm

Sunday December 25th

Christmas Day
10am Worship
(One Service Only)

Sunday January 1st

New Year's Day
9am Lessons & Carols
(One Service Only)

Prayer List

Names will remain on the prayer list for three weeks, or longer by request. To submit a prayer request please use the online [Prayer Request form](#), email prayers@stpaulvp.org, or contact the church office.

Prayers of Healing and God's Presence

Kim Stack (aunt of Elm Tree student), Carole Batek, Joshua Brunner (brother-in-law of Rebecca Delgadillo), Bill Bartel, Melinda Brent, Paige Cady (friend of Carrie Lavorini), Kristy Fash-Alvarez, Sheila Bowdish, Margaret Golden, Arlene Jensen, Chris (Elm Tree employee), Linda Long (Evelyn Kimble's daughter), Daniel Rubalcaba, Tommy Shallcross, Laurie Stearns (cousin of John Lavorini), Mark Szerzinski (father of Alex Szerzinski), Nina Thompson (daughter-in-law of Vince & Jacky Fagin), All Caregivers

Prayers for the Bereaved

Laura Viise (sister-in-law of Cynthia Viise), Steven Kuffel (brother-in-law of Tom Pfenning), Nan Marcum, Rev. John Quam (father of Joel Quam)

Community



Elm Tree News

Fall Greetings!

We have spent the month of October learning about all things Fall at Elm Tree. The preschool class really enjoyed exploring our sensory table this month. We started the month with an apple cinnamon and spice dry oatmeal, cinnamon stick and plastic apple bin and ended the month with silk leaves/ real, laminated leaves. We discussed Fall and Fall Fam, and ended the month talking about pumpkins and of course, Halloween! The Pre-K class went on a special leaf hunt around the block and collected various types of Fall leaves for a project. The Pre-K class has also been working on a special project with Illinois Ag in the Classroom and has a new pen pal. The pen pal's name is Caity Heap, who is a farmer (and also used to be a teacher) from Southern Illinois! Caity plans to visit this Fall and share more about her farm life firsthand. Another highlight for the month of October was a visit from the Villa Park Fire Department to help learn more about fire safety. We plan to end the month with a Halloween theme party and parade.

Many blessings,
Ms. Maggy and the Elm Tree Staff and Kiddos



November 2023

All events subject to change. [View the calendar at www.spaulvp.org](http://www.spaulvp.org) for more information and Zoom links, or contact the church office.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 2024 Budgets Due 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed. Night Dinner 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	2 6:30p Endowment Committee Mtg.	3 7a –7p Prayer Vigil	4 10a Elm Tree Craft & Vendor Fair
5 Daylight Saving Time Ends 8a Worship 9a Luther Small Catechism 9a Sunday School, Confirmation 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 2p Hands & Feet	6 10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club 7p Espresso Yourself	7 7p M.E.N.D. 7p Wine, Women & the Word	8 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed. Night Dinner 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir 7p Nominating Mtg 8p VPYB Mtg	9 1p WMA 4p-8p Photo Sessions 5:30p Elm Tree Family Night 6:30p Finance Committee	10 1p Prayer Vigil Team Mtg 4p-8p Photo Sessions	11 9a Visitation for Nan Marcum 11a Celebration of Life for Nan Marcum 12p Luncheon
12 8a Worship 9a Luther Small Catechism 9a Sunday School, Confirmation 9a Wired Word 10a Worship	13 7p Espresso Yourself	14 2p Rachel Circle 7p Council	15 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed. Night Dinner 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	16 11:30a Under 105 Luncheon	17	18 9a-3p Photo Sessions 10a Hat & Mitten Tree Event
19 8a Worship 9a Luther Small Catechism 9a Sunday School, Confirmation 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Fall Congregational Mtg. 6p D&D w/Pr. Zak	20 Living Waters Deadline 11a Beacon Hill 6:30p Elm Tree Board Mtg. 7p Espresso Yourself	21 6p Youth Commission Mtg. 7p Thanksgiving Service at Holy Trinity Lombard w/Pie Social	22	23 Thanksgiving (Office Closed)	24 Thanksgiving (Office Closed)	25
26 8a Worship 9a Luther Small Catechism 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11am HS Waffle Brunch	27 Timesheets Due 7p Espresso Yourself	28	29 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed. Night Dinner 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	30		



545 S. Ardmore Ave. Villa Park, IL 60181
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Loved by God, we grow, care, give, and share in Jesus' name.

St. Paul Leadership

Church Council

President: Marti Seaton
Vice President: Gay Nass
Treasurer: Alex Szerzinski
Secretary: Chris Bard
Caring Commissioners: Shirley Jensen
Congregation and Community Commissioner: Emy Ishida
Education Commissioner: Julie Frakes
Property Commissioner: Joel Johnson
Stewardship Commissioner: Karen Egan
Worship, Music, and Arts Commissioner: Cindy Johnson
Youth Commissioners: Wendy Biggs

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Zachary Wagner
Vicar: Katie Mueller
Parish Administrator: Elizabeth Chitester
Administrative & Computer Specialist:
Alice Ramsay
Director of Music: Cynthia Viise
Assistant Director of Music: Margaret Colletti
Director of Children & Families (Interim):
Laura Albert & Rachel Hauser
Director of Youth (Interim): Roxanne Doremus
Social Media Coordinator: Katie Briseno
Worship AV Techs:
Fiona Kordyban, Tony Clavio, Keith Root
Nursery Attendants: Nina Matthis & Katie Priest

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Reconciling in Christ community.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Stay Connected

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[Email: office@stpaulvp.org](mailto:office@stpaulvp.org)

[Website: www.stpaulvp.org](http://www.stpaulvp.org)

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