

# Living Waters

February 2024

## Lenten Rhythms

Pastor Zak

This month we venture into the season of Lent. As a pastor I love the rhythms and liturgical actions that punctuate this time of preparation. We begin with fire, smoke and ashes as we are marked with the cross of Christ once more, both as a reminder of our mortality as well as our rebirth in baptism. We adorn our sanctuary (and Pastor's feet) with purple as we gather weekly for worship and fellowship. The simple action of eating a simple soup supper affords us the opportunity to build community even as we deconstruct ourselves before God. Contemplative worship in Holden Evening Prayer and on Sunday mornings provides space for us to step away from the swirling chaos of our daily lives to focus on Christ at the center of our lives.

Holy Week is itself a time of movement. We gather for a parade of palms to welcome *"the one who comes in the name of the Lord,"* knowing that these palms will serve as our ashes when this cycle begins anew next year. From a parade to a meal, we will gather as disciples to hear the words of Jesus to his disciples, called to love and serve. On Good Friday, the sanctuary, barren as it may be, is focused on the cross at the center of Passion. It is a place where the intersection of the human and the divine comes to its apex. Saturday is a day of vigil (my Dad always called it "So-So Saturday," figuring it deserved a name in line with Good Friday). This gives way to the moment at the center of our faith, an occasion recalled each and every Sunday - Easter. Bright banners, flowers and triumphant music invite us to share the news that "He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" I invite you to find a place in these new movements and rhythms in the coming weeks as together we prepare to celebrate Christ's love and forgiveness once more, most fully known in the resurrection. Lenten blessings.

## Staffing Updates at St. Paul

This new year brings changes to our staffing structures. We give thanks for the work of Rachel Hauser who concluded her tenure as Interim Director of Youth and Family Ministry. Her work created a smooth transition for families and staff alike. Thank you! We also announce that we have two "new" staff positions effective February 1st. Laura Albert will assume the role of Coordinator of Sunday School. This role will allow us to continue to build our Godly Play/LEGO Sunday School program. Likewise, Roxanne Doremus has also accepted the new role of Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministry, allowing her the opportunity to continue to grow our programming that serves the children, youth and families in our congregation. We are so excited and blessed for these individuals and all staff who faithfully serve our community.



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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](#)! Easter flowers are now available; each bouquet is \$12.

# Congregational Life...



## Dinner Church on Maundy Thursday

Since announcing Maundy Thursday dinner church in the last Living Waters we have had several questions. Here are some frequently asked questions and their responses to help further clarify dinner church.

### ***What is Dinner Church?***

Dinner Church is a worship experience that celebrates the ancient tradition of early followers gathering around a meal for worship. It offers a unique blend of Christian worship and communal dining.

### ***When and Where is the Maundy Thursday Dinner Church?***

The Maundy Thursday Dinner Church service will take place from 5:30pm to 7:30pm in the sanctuary.

### ***Why Maundy Thursday?***

Maundy Thursday holds significance as it honors the Last Supper, a central event in Christian tradition. Dinner Church is distinct from a Seder as its focus is on the Christian Eucharist rather than the Jewish Passover.

### ***What's on the Menu?***

We've arranged for catered food from Jerusalem Cafe that will accommodate various diets, ensuring there's something for everyone.

### ***Why Eat in the Sanctuary?***

Eating in the sanctuary serves as a powerful reminder of God's invitation for all into the house of worship, emphasizing the inclusivity of the divine feast.

### ***Who's Welcome?***

Everyone! Children, families, and individuals of all ages are welcome to join us.

### ***How Can I RSVP?***

Click [here](#) to RSVP and secure your spot at this special Maundy Thursday Dinner Church.

### ***What Can I Expect?***

Immerse yourself in music, community conversations, and a meaningful worship experience centered around the dinner table.

### ***We Can't Wait to See You There!***

Join us for a memorable Maundy Thursday Dinner Church as we come together to celebrate, share a meal, and worship in community.

...and More!

### Stewardship Spotlight

Letter writing is an art form. It represents a desire to communicate and the recipient knows time was taken to send that special message. Handwriting and/or artwork is a very personal way to show one's love to another. A letter can also become a cherished memento for years to come.

Technology has replaced much of hand written notes. But the effort to hand write a letter to someone really is important and also a form of stewardship. With Valentine's Day approaching, it's a perfect opportunity to take some time as a family and reach out to someone who would really enjoy receiving that special piece of mail.



### Beer & Hymns February 2nd @ 7pm

Our next Beer & Hymns gathering will be on Friday, February 2nd. Join us at Manny's on St. Charles east of Villa Avenue at 7:00 pm.

As people gather, we will start with a Name-That-Song competition using Songs of Faith and Joy. Winner will be provided with a beverage of their choice.

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

### December Numbers

Giving: \$70,767 (including online: \$28,620)

Expenses: \$52,700

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$21,579

#### Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
12/3	126	44
12/10	216	55
12/17	157	46
12/24	125	42
12/24 5pm	215	52
12/24 11pm	40	N/A
12/25	45	73
12/31	82	41

### Church Event Photos

Do you have photos from a recent church event you would like to share in the Living Waters? Send them to Liz at [office@stpaulvp.org](mailto:office@stpaulvp.org).

### Book Club

You are invited to join St. Paul's Book Club on Monday, February 5 at 7 PM in the Cafe area to discuss *Paradise Falls: The True Story of an Environmental Catastrophe* by Keith O'Brien. The book is the telling of a group of mothers who discovered poisonous chemicals were leaching into the surface of their community. Their work to save the Love Canal area was a springboard for the environmental movement.

March's book: *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

### Women, Wine and the Word

Women, Wine and the Word will meet on Feb 6th at 7pm at the home of Pat Bolin (50 N. Princeton Ave., Villa Park). The study will be led by Lisa Speidel.

### Hands and Feet

Hands and Feet will open on Sunday, February 4th from 2pm-4pm. A list of needed items can be found on the church [website](#). Thank you!

### Under 105

Join us on Thursday, February 15th at 11:30 in the Café for our next Under 105 luncheon. Karen Egan is sharing highlights from her trip to the Galápagos Islands.

The menu will include meatloaf, twice-baked potatoes, roasted vegetables, spinach salad, garden salad, fruit, Jello mold, and assorted desserts. To RSVP contact Merry Freedlund by Sunday, February 11th! We look forward to seeing everyone there!

# All Things Family Ministry

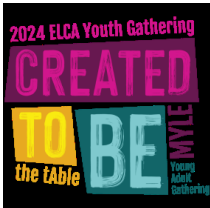
## High School Update

### Outreach House

We started something new this month! On the third Saturday of every month, we are volunteering at the Outreach House in Lombard from 10:00am – 12:15pm. Thanks to Maddie Wolf, Henry Wolf, Austin Clot and Lauren Carson for doing such a great job! Next date is February 17th.

### Escape the Room

Eight teens caught the bad guy, saved James Bond, and made it out of “The Agency” with 7 minutes and 4 seconds to spare! We had such an exciting time we are already planning our next adventure.



### “Created to Be” Naw’lins Youth Gathering

An exciting update for the teens going to New Orleans for Youth Gathering: we received our hotel assignment! We will be at the New Orleans Marriott on Canal Street (pray for a lower floor, lol). Look for announcement of a parent/teen meeting in March.

## UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

### Ash Wednesday Simple Soup ‘n Supper

On Wednesday, February 14, at 5:30pm in the Café the HS youth are hosting a simple soup supper prior to service at 7pm. All participating HS families are asked to bring something. We will need 5-6 soups (5 quarts each), salad fixings, dressings, and bread & butter. Set-up is @ 4:30pm. Families can sign up [here](#).

### Start the Party! Celebrate the Good News!

Lutherdale Winter Retreat is February 16th-18th. It’s our time to celebrate and Jesus is the life of the party. Cost is \$50 per person, with a maximum cost of \$185 per family. *Families of all ages are welcome (no one “ages” out and no adult has to stay home!)* Join us for a weekend of family fun, faith, friendship, belonging and abundance.

### Enchanted Castle Overnight

Save the date! Friday, March 1st – 2nd there will be an overnight at Enchanted Castle. More information to come.

### Trivia Night

Join us Saturday, April 13th at 6:30pm, downstairs in the Fellowship Center for an evening of trivia. BYO food & drink. This fun evening is hosted by the HS youth. There is no charge unless you want to purchase a mulligan—\$1.00 per mulligan, maximum of 10! Doreen Fritz has REALLY outdone herself this year – terrific categories from NASCAR to music! Teams of 8— all ages are welcome and will improve your chances of winning. There’s a place at the table for all family, friends and neighbors – all are welcome. Questions? See Doreen or Roxanne.





# Worship & Prayers

## Lenten Season at St. Paul

Soon we will be entering into the Lenten season as we prepare ourselves for Easter. Join us for all of the activities of this season:

- Ash Wednesday (February 14) we will gather for worship services at Noon and 7pm. There will be a Soup Supper hosted by the Youth at 5:30pm in the Cafe. Ashes-to-Go will be offered by Pastor Zak outside of Door #2 from 7:30am-9:30am.
- Weekly Soup Suppers will take place every Wednesday during Lent 5:30pm-6:15pm in the Cafe. We are always welcoming of additional soups, please sign-up [here](#) if you would like to share a soup. Following the supper, we will gather for candlelit Holden Evening Prayer in the sanctuary. This brief worship service will provide space for song, silence and reflection. This year's reflections will include selections from Lori Erickson's book "Every Step is Home".
- Mark your calendars for (Maundy) Thursday on March 28 as we gather for Dinner Church hosted by Vicar Katie as part of her internship project. See her article in this newsletter for more details.

### Quiet Prayer Time During Our Prayer Vigil Friday, March 15

The Prayer Vigil is a special time when individuals come to our sanctuary during 20-minute time slots (7am--7pm) for an individual, silent period of prayer. You may take part in this quiet, yet powerfully moving event in several ways:

- Come and pray during the Vigil. You will pray quietly in the sanctuary. Sign up [here](#) starting Feb. 18 for a time slot, or just show up when you can. Don't worry if you haven't come to the Vigil before. A greeter will gladly explain what to do when you arrive.
- You can also submit prayer requests by using our [online form](#), anonymously if you wish. What is on your heart? During the vigil, individuals will pray about concerns and joys. We'll also have sign-up sheets and prayer request cards in the Café.
- Finally, you can sign up [here](#) to serve as a greeter. Thank you!



### Spring Flowers for Easter!

Let's celebrate the joy of Easter Sunday with spring flowers to brighten our Sanctuary! We will be ordering a variety of spring flowers in 6" pots at a cost of \$12 each. You are welcome to take your flowers home after the Easter Sunday service. Please sign-up [here](#)!

## 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](mailto:prayers@stpaulvp.org), or contact the church office.*

### Prayers of Healing and God's Presence

Jean McFedries (friend of Karen Arp), Danae Martin (daughter-in-law of Karen Arp), Nancy McAleese, Rhonda Real (friend of the Shallcross family), Jan Novak, Diane Mottlow (sister of Pauline Ares), Pat Scott, Marge Johnsrud (sister of Cynthia Viise), Tom Linsenmeyer, Karl Kuester, Bill Bartel, Carole Batek, 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, Mark Szerzinski (father of Alex Szerzinski), All Caregivers.

### Prayers for the Bereaved

Friends and family of James Albert (father of Fred Albert), Cheri Lange (sister-in-law of Bob Lange)

# Community



## Elm Tree News

### Happy New Year from Elm Tree!

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season, and are staying warm this January! We began 2024 strong, as Pre-K celebrated 100 Days of School! With the extreme weather, the celebration was postponed a few days, but the kiddos enjoyed their celebration! We took advantage of Mother Nature's gifts, and currently have a snow man contest going on! The entries will be posted near the entrance of the daycare, so pop down to check them out! Cold weather means lots of time inside, so we have been enjoying working on large motor activities such as balance, obstacle courses, throwing/catching, and other big body movements. On these cold days we bring the snow inside to explore in our sensory tables and trays. We used snow and ice to paint with, and watched the snow melt and learned about the process of why this happens. When the weather is cooperating, we have been putting on all of our snow gear, and spending time out on the playground. We look forward to another month at Elm Tree, and will report back in February!

Many Blessings, Ms. Maggy and the Elm Tree Staff



## What can you do with used gift cards?

Did you receive gift cards over the holidays? Please drop off your used cards in the collection jars located in the cafe. Those cards will get punched into guitar picks for veterans involved with [Guitars for Vets](#), a program that helps relieve symptoms of PTSD and other health challenges through music. We also collect bread tags, buttons and keys for recycling or repurposing through [SCARCE](#). Drop off household batteries for recycling by the Cub Scouts.

Thank you for helping the planet!

# February 2024

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 1	Friday 2 7p Beer & Hymns	Saturday 3
4 8a Worship 9a Being RIC 9a Sunday School, Confirmation 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 2p Hands & Feet	5 10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club 7p Espresso Yourself	6 7p M.E.N.D. 7p Women, Wine & the Word	7 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed. Dinner 6p D&D w/Pr. Zak 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	8	9	10
11 8a Worship 9a Sunday School, Confirmation 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Youth Comm.	12 7p Espresso Yourself 7:30p Exec. Committee	13 2p Rachel Circle	14 Ash Wednesday 7:30 Ashes to Go 12p Worship 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Soup Supper 7p Worship 8p VPYB	15 11:30a Under 105 Luncheon	16 Lutherdale Family Retreat	17 Lutherdale Family Retreat 10a HS Outreach House 10a VPYB
18 Lutherdale Family Retreat 8a Worship 9a Sunday School, Confirmation 9a Wired Word 10a Worship	19 6:30p Elm Tree Board Mtg. 7p Espresso Yourself	20 Living Waters Deadline	21 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Soup Supper 6:15p Holden Prayer 6:45p Handbells 7:45 Chancel Choir	22	23	24 10a VPYB
25 8a Worship 9a Sunday School, Confirmation 9a Wired Word 10a Worship	26 Timesheet Due 7p Espresso Yourself	27 7p Council	28 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Soup Supper 6:15p Holden Prayer 6:45p Handbells 7:45 Chancel Choir	29		



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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: Kathy Murphy  
Secretary: Chris Bard  
Caring Commissioner: 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  
Coordinator of Youth & Family: Roxanne Doremus  
Coordinator of Sunday School: Laura Albert  
Social Media/ Wedding 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

Phone: 630-832-5580

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

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