

Living Waters

March 2024

Starting at the Beginning

Pastor Zak

This is such a tricky time for me to write any kind of profound newsletter article. Where I sit today, I have the remnants of an ashen cross on my forehead, having just begun my annual foray into Lent yesterday. On the other hand, this article covers an entire month, the end of which will have already included Easter, which lands on March 31st this year. So many things will take place during this span of time, that it is hard to even know where to start. I've learned in life that the beginning is often a good place to start. Every season in the church year offers an opportunity for a new beginning, whether that be Easter, Lent, Advent, you name it. Luther would go even further to say that each day offers a new beginning as *"a new person daily comes forth and rises from death again."* In other words, the cycle of life - death - rebirth is not contained to a certain season of our liturgical calendar, but is instead an experience lived anew each and every day.

I tend to be a bit of a planner. I'm always looking ahead to the next opportunity, task, event, season or year, and I sometimes lose sight of what a gift each day truly is. At this moment I realize that I don't need to rush beyond Lent to encapsulate the perfect Easter greeting. Just as I don't need to limit my experience of Easter to a single moment each year, but instead new life and resurrection is celebrated every Sunday we gather, each day we rise. New beginnings aren't always easy, but they always contain a blessing. May you be blessed whenever it is that you read this!

Gathering In New Members

During the coming months we are looking to build deeper relationships with those new (or even not so new) to St. Paul. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of St. Paul, now is your chance. Please connect with Pr. Zak in-person, over the phone (630.832.5580), through email (pastor@stpaulvp.org), via carrier pigeon, or whatever works best for you to set up a time to talk.

These one-hour conversations provide a space for you to explore the community at St. Paul and to discuss the very simple process of officially becoming a member of the faith community. Join us as we engage in growing and serving in faith together!



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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...

Adult Christian Care Update

As I reflect back on 2023, I continue to be amazed at the kindness and faithful support for ACC from St. Paul Lutheran Church. All of us here at ACC wish we could find the perfect way to say thank you. We are so grateful for your generosity. A special thanks to Laura Albert, Marion Hammerel and Daniel Rubalcaba for their multiple visits to drop off these donations.

With many new members at St. Paul, I thought a little refresher as to who we are would be fitting. Adult Christian Care (ACC), is a not-for-profit memory care day program, located in Epiphany Lutheran Church in Elmhurst. The program is under the direction of a Certified Dementia Practitioner, bringing life enriching and therapeutic activities to seniors with memory/cognitive impairment. Adult Christian Care was established in 1978 to offer a safe, structured and stimulating alternative for seniors that have some form of dementia or Alzheimer's disease. Seniors that can remain at home, yet may be battling loneliness, have reduced physical activity, or who are bored, have the opportunity to engage in a full day of enriching activity and companionship. ACC also serves as a respite for caregivers and families who need to work, attend to personal business, or just relax.

Two members of our congregation serve on the Board of Directors, John Freidheim and Karen Egan. Karen also volunteers her time by playing the piano and creating sing-a-longs with our clients. And of course, Pastor Zak, who is always there to lend an ear and provide great ideas.

Lastly, I will be stepping down from the Director position to relocate to Virginia. We have hired a new Director, and her name is Jamie Basso, CDP. Jamie not only comes to us with experience in Long Term Care, senior living, and dementia, she adds a flare to our existing program with a background in economics, business development and marketing. Jamie is also a Certified Dementia Practitioner. I want to say thank you for the support, love, and kindness I received here at St. Paul. I am beyond grateful.

Many Blessings,
Outgoing Director
Kelli Comise, OTR/L, CDP

Book Club



Please join St. Paul Book Club on Monday, March 4th at 7pm in the Cafe when we share our thoughts about the popular book *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. Set in the 1960's, this humorous novel is about a gifted, but unrecognized woman scientist and her cooking show that is really a science class. Anyone can attend and bring a friend!

Women, Wine and the Word

Our next meeting will be at the home of Judy Nuehring on Tuesday, March 5th at 7pm. We will be discussing the poem *Finding Your Why* on pg. 76.

Hands and Feet

Hands and Feet will be open Sunday March 3 from 2:00-3:45. The items we need are winter or athletic shoes for adults and tissues, lip balm and dental floss. Thank you for your continued support of this ministry.

Under 105

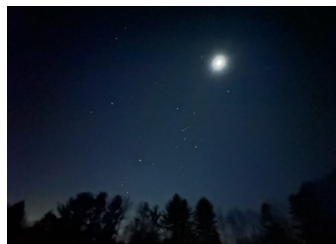
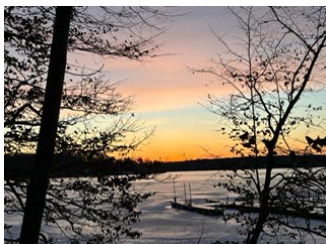
Join us on Thursday, March 21st at 11:30am in the Café for our next Under 105 luncheon. **Operation Support our Troops** will share with us what is provided to our military members and families during deployment and after their return home.

Lunch will include lasagna, bread, deviled eggs, broccoli/grape salad, garden salad, green salad, sugar cookies, chocolate Bundt cake, cheesecake bars, and a surprise! Please RSVP to [Merry Freedlund](#) by Sunday, March 17th.

...and More!

Lutherdale Family Retreat

St. Paul held the annual Lutherdale Family Retreat on President's Day weekend (February 16-18). Plenty of fun and fellowship was shared and a good time was had by all!



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.

January Numbers

Giving: \$36,412

(including online: \$23,214)

Expenses: \$46,582

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(10,169)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
1/7	94	51
1/14	85	44
1/21	132	60
1/28	170	34

Maundy Thursday Dinner Church Register Now!

Join us for Maundy Thursday Dinner Church on March 28th at 5:30pm. Dinner Church is a worship experience that celebrates the ancient tradition of early followers gathering around a meal for worship. All are welcome. Click [here](#) to RSVP and secure your spot.



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. Please sign-up [here](#) to reserve your flowers.

As a reminder, you are welcome to take your flowers home after the Easter Sunday service.

All Things Youth & Family Ministry

Upcoming Dates for Family & Youth Events

VBS Volunteer Meeting—March 10th

There will be a VBS volunteer meeting on Sunday, March 10th at 11am for anyone who is interested in assisting with VBS this June. VBS dates are June 24—June 27 from 5pm—7:15pm. This year's theme is *Hang 10, Riding the Wave of Faith*. Please contact [Roxanne](#) with any questions.

Pajamas & Pancakes—March 23

Join us for pajamas and pancakes on Saturday, March 23rd from 10am—Noon. Pancakes will start at 10am and they will be followed by an Easter egg hunt. This event is open to St. Paul families with children ages Pre-K to 5th grade. Please contact [Roxanne](#) with any questions.

Trivia Night—April 13th

Looking for a fun way to spend a Saturday night? Look no further! Join us on Saturday, April 13th at 6:30pm, 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! There's a place at the table for all family, friends and neighbors – all are welcome. Questions? See Doreen or Roxanne.



Youth Worship Sunday—April 28th

Sunday, April 28th is Youth Worship Sunday. Our middle school and high school youth will be leading worship at both the 8am and 10am services.



Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser—May 11th

The St. Paul high school youth will present “Murder at the Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball” on Friday, May 11th from 7-9:30pm. This dinner fundraiser is open to all adults and proceeds will go toward the 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Attendees will experience a Mardi Gras themed party where they will meet the suspects over mocktails & appetizers, and deduce the “who, what, where, why, and how” over dinner. Mardi Gras themed dress is expected but not required. This will be a catered event and details regarding cost and registration will be coming soon so be on the lookout!

Confirmation Sunday—May 19th

Confirmation will be held on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th and will take place at the 10am worship service. Please contact [Roxanne](#) with any questions.

Honor the Grads Sunday—June 2nd

St. Paul will honor graduates on Sunday, June 2nd at the 9am outdoor worship service. If you have questions please contact [Roxanne](#).

Worship & Prayers

Lenten Worship

Join us weekly on Wednesdays for Lenten Soup Suppers in the Cafe from 5:30pm-6:15pm. 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."*



Holy Week at St. Paul

Palm Sunday
March 24th
8am & 10am

Maundy Thursday
March 28th
Dinner Church
5:30pm

Good Friday
March 29th
12pm & 7pm

Easter Sunday
March 31st
8am & 10am

Upcoming Prayer Vigil Information

Please join us for the Prayer Vigil on Friday, March 15 from 7am to 7pm, for a time of silent meditation and prayer in the sanctuary.

- Sign up to pray, either in the Café or [online](#).
- Submit prayer requests by March 10, either in the Café or [online](#).
- Sign up to be a greeter, either in the Café or [online](#).

If you are not able to join us in person, there will be a virtual prayer vigil on Holy Saturday from 7am to 7pm. Join the live stream at any time on [YouTube](#).

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

Carole Wezeman, Richard Shutt (stepfather of Brad Saurbaugh), Debbie Saterfield (friend of Nell Shallcross), Cathy Caron, Rob Sorenson (friend of Carol Simberg), Tammy Crismon (friend of Carol Simberg), Hannah Hodgson (friend of Keith Root), Bruce McKechnie (brother of Cary Tate), Earl Gerhard, Dan & Peggy Mulcahy (friends of John & Carol Freidheim), Bob & Charlotte Mark (uncle & aunt of Carol Freidheim), 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), Daniel Rubalcaba, Mark Szerzinski (father of Alex Szerzinski), All Caregivers.

Prayers for the Bereaved

Henry (friend of Ken & Toni Dornacher), Kris Carlisi (cousin of the Welsh family), Tom Shallcross Jr., Ida Jonusaitis (mother of Ruta PeBenito and Lydia Wiede), Linda Long (daughter of Evelyn Kimble).

Community



Elm Tree News

Love and kindness was in the air this February at Elm Tree! The teachers volunteered this month to help out at Hands and Feet. We then decided we would spend the month collecting items for Hands and Feet, and the Little Food Pantry on Washington. We collected many items for each outreach.

In the classroom we started the month off with a hibernation theme. During this theme we celebrated Groundhogs Day, and learned that since Punxsutawney Phil did not see his shadow, spring is coming early this year.

After learning about hibernating animals, we switched gears and learned about our arctic animal friends. To celebrate what we learned, we scheduled a fun day where we made arctic DIY stuffed arctic animals. We invited our new fluffy friends to our arctic picnic, where we enjoyed a blue and white themed lunch.

As we moved through the month, we talked about friendship, kindness, and of course, Valentines Day. We celebrated by bringing in cards to exchange, and had a party. A big thank you to the parents who came to help! In all of the excitement of Valentines Day, we also learned about Ash Wednesday. Many of our friends and their families stopped by to see Pastor Zak and Vicar Katie before coming into school.

To end the month we learned about African American history in the form of famous athletes and inventors. The children were amazed with how many uses George Washington Carver found for a peanut: 300! During this theme we also had a mini lesson on Presidents' Day. A big thank you to Diane Blair-Sherlock for sending each child a coloring book to celebrate the Presidents' Day theme.

The teachers ended the month going to the 43rd annual ILASCD conference in Schaumburg. We spent two days learning about new and current classroom ideas, and are excited to return in March and implement these new ideas in the classroom.

Much love, and many blessings,
Ms. Maggy and the Elm Tree Team



March 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	Friday 1	Saturday 2 2p Funeral for Linda Long
3 8a Worship 9a Sunday School, Confirmation 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 2p Hands & Feet	4 10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club 7p Espresso Yourself	5 7p Wine, Women & the Word 7p M.E.N.D.	6 9a Elm Tree Chapel 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Soup Supper 6:15p Holden Prayer 6:45 Handbells 7:45 Chancel Choir	7	8	9 10a Funeral for Tom Shallcross Jr.
10 Daylight Saving 8a Worship 9a Sunday School, Confirmation 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Youth Comm. Mtg	11 6:30p Finance Mtg 7p Espresso Yourself	12 2p Rachel Circle	13 9a Elm Tree Chapel 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Soup Supper 6:15p Holden Prayer 6:45 Handbells 7:45 Chancel Choir	14	15 7a Prayer Vigil	16 10a HS Outreach House Volunteer
17 St. Patrick's Day 8a Worship 9a Sunday School, Confirmation 9a Wired Word 10a Worship	18 6:30p Elm Tree Board Meeting 7p Espresso Yourself	19	20 Living Waters 9a Elm Tree Chapel 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Soup Supper 6:15p Holden Prayer 6:45 Handbells 7:45 Chancel Choir	21 11:30a Under 105 Luncheon	22	23 9a Asset Mapping Retreat 10a Family Easter Event
24 Palm Sunday 8a Worship 9a Wired Word 10a Worship	25 Timesheets Due 7p Espresso Yourself	26 7p Council Meeting	27 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	28 Maundy Thursday 5:30p Dinner Church Meal & Worship	29 Good Friday 12p Worship 7p Worship	30 7a Virtual Prayer Vigil
31 Easter Sunday 8a Worship 9a Wired Word 10a Worship						



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630-832-5580 | www.stpaulvp.org

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

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

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

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