

Living Waters

April 2024

Christ is
Risen!
Christ is
Risen Indeed!
Alleluia!

***"He is risen! He is risen
indeed! Alleluia!"***

Pastor Zak

During the season of Easter we greet each week with shouts of "Alleluia!" having resurrected the word of celebration previously buried for the season of Lent. Our careful preparations have led us directly into the Mystery of Easter, the wonder of physical resurrection and eternal life. Easter is such a great mystery that it cannot be contained into a single Sunday, and so it continues for six more Sundays. Our shouts of "Alleluia!" echo week after week as we encounter the risen Lord in new and amazing ways, including a seaside fish fry!

This time of Easter also prepares us for another mystery, that of Pentecost. A moment wherein the Holy Spirit, previously shared with Christ at his baptism, is now shared with the Apostles sent out to share it with the world (as they are no longer Disciples who simply follow). This is the same Spirit that leads us to this very day. The same Spirit that moves us beyond our own walls and into the surrounding community as we spread the Easter joy in our love, care, and invitation of others. This Easter season I invite you to boldly shout "Alleluia" as together we celebrate the promise and mystery at the center of it all, the resurrection. Happy Easter!

Gathering In New Members

On Sunday, April 21st we will be celebrating all of the individuals and households who are joining our faith community. Come and be a part of the celebration during worship as we pray alongside them that their faith be nurtured in this community, and stick around after the 10am service as we eat cake alongside them!



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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...

Recent Events at St. Paul

Families had the opportunity to gather at two very different events this month at St. Paul. The first was "Pajamas and Pancakes" held on March 23rd for families with children aged 5th grade and younger. The kids enjoyed a pancake breakfast and an Easter egg hunt.



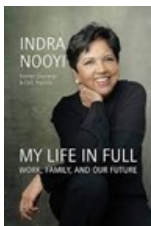
Twenty-two kids and their families enjoyed pancakes and Easter eggs on Sat. March 23rd.



On March 28th, a Maundy Thursday dinner church was held in the Sanctuary. Led by Vicar Katie Mueller, dinner church was a unique worship service that celebrated the ancient tradition of early followers gathering around a meal for worship. Over eighty-five people attended this special evening of worship.



Book Club



My Life in Full: Work, Family and Our Future by Inda Nooyi is St. Paul Book Club's choice for the April 1 discussion at 7 PM in the Cafe

area. Nooyi, a business leader, tells her unique story from childhood to middle age, reflecting on the difficulties and rewards of managing a demanding job and a family. The author makes a convincing argument for greater support of young families.

Women, Wine and the Word

Women, Wine and the Word will meet on April 2nd at the home of Judy Nuehring at 7 pm. The poem for this month will be *Show Up* on pg. 79.

Hands and Feet

Hands and Feet will be open Sunday, April 7th from 2-4 pm. This month we are in need of 4-roll packages of toilet paper and packages of napkins, preferably 150 count but no larger than 250 Count. Thank you!

Under 105

Join us on Thursday, April 18th at 11:30am for our next Under 105 luncheon. Our program, led by Pastor Zak, will be a look at Godly Play.

On the menu in April are chicken casseroles, vegetables, assorted salads, and assorted desserts.

Please R.S.V.P. to Merry Freedlund by Sunday, April 14th.



...and More!

Stewardship Spotlight

Spring is here, but it's too early to do plantings outside. Gardening is more than planting, however. It is also an opportunity to stop things from crowding out our choices (weeds and invasive species) and keep our grounds clean of litter and debris.

Gardening also helps us practice stewardship by respecting the life that is in those areas that need clean up. Pollinators and other beneficial insects are still in hibernation and as tempting as it is to rake the yard and garden on a nice day, we should hold off until temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees (usually mid-April). It is a chance to work on our patience, attentiveness, self-control and respect for what God has provided.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for matter under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

February Numbers

Giving: \$35,655 (including online: \$21,866)

Expenses: \$36,963

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(11,477)

Other Statistics

| Date | Attendance | Viewers |
|------|------------|---------|
| 2/4 | 141 | 44 |
| 2/11 | 159 | 48 |
| 2/14 | 76 | 24 |
| 2/18 | 107 | 40 |
| 2/25 | 165 | 51 |

Beer & Hymns

Choose your favorite hymns, and sing! **Friday, April 12th** at Manny's on St. Charles east of Villa Avenue. From 7:00 - 8:00 pm. We will explore some Veggie Tales songs, too!

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

New Adult Education Opportunity

Beginning in April we are offering an adult education opportunity in the [Sanctuary Mental Health Course](#). Developed in consultation with mental health professionals, theologians, and people with lived experience, this course is intended to expand our understanding of mental health.

Ultimately our hope is for our church to become a sanctuary—a place where individuals living with mental health challenges feel safe, supported, and a sense of belonging.

This course will be offered Wednesdays 5:30pm-7pm, April 3-May 22. This course is open to anyone interested in exploring this important topic of mental health and wellness from a faith perspective. If you are interested in participating in these important conversations, please contact Julie Frakes, as there is a limit on the number of participants for this discussion. More information about the course can be found at sanctuarymentalhealth.org.

Spring Prayer Vigil Update

"And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us." — 1 John 5:14

The Spring St. Paul Prayer Vigil was held in person on March 15; we had 31 participants (plus a group of kids and 2 teachers from the Elm Tree Child Care) and 12 greeters. Thank you to everyone who participated! All the participants commented on how nice it was to come and pray peacefully in our sanctuary.

Thank you especially to the Prayer Vigil Team: Linda Lange, Sandy Olsen, Chris Bard, Shirley Jensen, and Alice Ramsay. We are planning our next Prayer Vigil for the fall, so stay tuned!

All Things Youth & Family Ministry

Upcoming Dates for Family & Youth Events

Sunday School News

Sunday School has been working hard and learning many great lessons. Just a reminder, the last Sunday we will meet is May 19th. A big thank you to everyone who helped make Sunday School a success!

-Laura Albert



Trivia Night—April 13th

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! Teams of 8—all ages are welcome! There's a place at the table for everyone – all are welcome.

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 6– 8:30pm. 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. The cost per person is \$30 and registration is required as space is limited. To register click [here](#) and to pay click [here](#).

Confirmation Sunday—May 19th

Confirmation will be held on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th and will take place at the 10am worship service.

Honor the Grads Sunday—June 2nd

St. Paul will honor graduates on Sunday, June 2nd at the 9am outdoor worship service.

Hang 10, Riding the Wave of Faith—June 24th thru June 27th VBS Registration is Open!

Are you ready for some summer fun? Join Pastor Zak, Squeeks the Otter, and the St. Paul VBS Crew for a week of fun you won't want to miss! Participants will dive into their faith and learn how Jesus rides the wave with us everyday through games, science projects, crafts, music and more. VBS runs June 24—June 27 from 5pm to 7:15pm nightly. Costs are \$10/child or \$30/family. Dinner is included. To register click [here](#). Payments can be made [here](#) or on our website under the “Give” page.



For questions on any youth or family related event please contact [Roxanne Doremus](#).

Worship & Prayers

Women of Faith Vicar Katie

Amidst Holy Week and the approaching Easter season, we reflect on the profound roles women play in Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. We remember the strength and faith of women; from Jesus' mother Mary, to Mary Magdalene, to the women who first encountered the resurrected Christ, women have played pivotal roles in God's redemptive plan.

Let us honor the invaluable contributions of these women as prophets, mystics, preachers, and servants; shaping our communities with wisdom and compassion. Their stories inspire us, symbolizing an expanding river of faith and resilience.

With gratitude for the many women who have shaped our faith and led us in service!

Come, oh stories of our mothers, of those women we've held dear.
Flow towards one expanding river, let its currents ripple near.
Cast on us waves of expansion where our bodies do not hide!
Where a life of joy and pleasure is embraced by every kind.

Sacred stories of our mothers, of the women God has blessed.
Ancestors who lived as prophets, mystics, preachers, and the rest.
God you've brought forth those forgotten songs of women we don't know!
So we come to listen closely to these waters deep below.

Swimming in these vast new rivers God reveals a sacred sign.
Women long before our time have been expansive, trans, divine.
Though we limit these great currents, Spirit breaks down human dams.
So we all may swim in stories of the women in this land.

(Note: The attached text is a hymn composed by Vicar Katie for a special Eucharist service held at her seminary last year. Written to the tune of "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing," it was crafted to honor International Women's Day).

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

Olga Kissel (friend of Debbie Flesch), Bob Pfenning (uncle of Tom Pfenning), Evelyn Kimble, Karl Kuester, Wendy Hull-Sansone, Meredith Jordyn Passarelli (friend of Carol Simberg), Jan Novak, 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

Bill Zielske

Community



Elm Tree News

Greetings from Elm Tree!

We cannot believe how quickly March has come and gone. This month was jammed packed with lots of learning, new toys and fun events.

To start the month, we had a Dr. Seuss Spirit Week. We had fun, daily themes - and even celebrated with birthday cake, and singing Happy Birthday to Dr. Seuss! One of our favorite spirit days were "dress like you are 100." We had a family night during this theme, and made Oobleck, decorated cupcakes, and several other themed activities.

During our St. Patrick's Day and Rainbow theme, each classroom worked hard to craft different leprechaun traps. We set them, and waited to see if we would catch a leprechaun. During our large motor time, the naughty leprechauns came and made big messes in our classrooms! Although we did not catch the leprechauns, they did leave us big piles of chocolate gold!

We received many new items for our program through a Quality Improvement Grant, which will help us reach Silver Level ExceleRate Accreditation. ExceleRate Illinois is a statewide quality recognition and improvement system designed to make continuous quality improvement an everyday priority among early learning providers. The program establishes standards for helping infants, toddlers and preschool age children develop intellectually, physically, socially, and emotionally. It provides a framework for early learning professionals to identify opportunities for improvement, increase their skills and take steps to make positive changes.

This year our Pre-K class took part in the Prayer Vigil on March 15th. The children did a wonderful job participating, and observing silence during their time slot. As we prepare for Easter, we look forward to hearing the rest of Pastor Zak's Lenten Stories during chapel time.

We look forward to seeing what April will bring us. Many blessings and well wishes,
Ms. Maggy and the Elm Tree Staff



April 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 | Saturday |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| | 1 10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club 7p Espresso Yourself | 2 7p M.E.N.D. 7p Women, Wine & the Word | 3 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30 Wed Dinner 5:30 Sanctuary Class 6:45 VPYB Mtg | 4 | 5 | 6 11a Funeral for James Albert |
| 7 8a Worship 9a Sunday School, Confirmation 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 2p Hands & Feet | 8 6:30p Finance Mtg 7p Exec Mtg 7p Espresso Yourself | 9 2p Rachel Circle | 10 9a Elm Tree Chapel 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed Dinner 5:30p Sanctuary Class 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir 8p VPYB Mtg | 11 | 12 5:30p Seaton Private Event 7p Beer & Hymns | 13 6:30p Trivia Night |
| 14 8a Worship 9a Sunday School, Confirmation 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Youth Comm. Mtg. | 15 6:30p Elm Tree Board Mtg. 7p Espresso Yourself | 16 | 17 9a Elm Tree Chapel 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed Dinner 5:30p Sanctuary Class 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir | 18 11:30a Under 105 Luncheon | 19 Living Waters Deadline | 20 10a HS Outreach House Volunteer |
| 21 Child Care Sunday 8a Worship 9a Sunday School, Confirmation 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Youth Practice 1:30p Cub Scout/ Elm Tree Project | 22 8a Timesheets Due 7p Espresso Yourself | 23 7p Council | 24 9a Elm Tree Chapel 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed Dinner 5:30p Sanctuary Class 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Youth Worship Sunday 8a Worship 9a Sunday School, Confirmation 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 10a Baptism of Mateo Juan Garcia | 29 7p Espresso Yourself | 30 | | | | |



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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: Dave Bard
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

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