

Living Waters

June 2024

Summer Break!

Pastor Zak Wagner

The time has arrived...summer break. The rhythms of the school year have drawn to a close and as a parent with three children, I can only pray that we find some kind of schedule in the coming months. This is truly a challenge as the kids find rest from their work, with the rigors of school a distant memory. Bedtimes are malleable as the days grow longer, and waking up at a consistent time is seemingly a mere suggestion.

The summer is intended to be a time for rest and relaxation, but so often I find myself just as busy as I always am, simply in new ways. My goal this summer is to take time to slow down and simply find sabbath. Create space in my daily and/or weekly schedule to slow down. Sure, I say this knowing we've got all kinds of summer activities planned from camping trips and birthday parties to sports and train spotting. This is why I know I need to be intentional about taking a break. This is why the church itself will be embracing this concept of Sabbath by restructuring how we schedule our Sabbath time.

Worshipping at a single service during the summer not only creates space for worship leaders and volunteers, but it also brings us together as an entire community in a unique way. It is impossible to take a break from the busyness of life, but this summer I hope to take a break from time to time to appreciate life itself.

Summer Worship Schedule

During the summer there is one worship service at 9am and the first Sunday of the month is outdoor worship. The nursery is available but unattended.

Family Assistance Fund

From time-to-time people within the larger community reach out to St. Paul as a resource in a time of need. The assistance requested can range from gas or grocery money, hotel room assistance, or paying utilities.

Due to higher demand this holiday season, the "Family Assistance Fund" could use replenishment. If you are interested in contributing, please designate on your gift (memo line, envelope, online) that it is for the "Family Assistance Fund." Last year more than \$1000 was given in small amounts which made a big difference. Thank you for your continued support of St. Paul and the wider community.



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Worship Information

In Person

Sundays

Worship in the sanctuary at 9am. First Sunday of the month is outdoor worship.

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...

Spring Work Day—June 2nd

Please join us for our Spring Work Day, Sunday June 2nd following Worship. Volunteers of all ages are needed. A list of tasks and supplies will be provided and a light lunch will be served. All are welcome!

Questions? See Dave Bard.

July 4th Parade

Join St. Paul for the Villa Park July 4th parade as we continue our tradition of collecting food for Outreach House food pantry. Last year was one of our best collections in recent memory! We need people to push shopping carts, collect money, and hand out candy. We could also use candy donations for the parade. A box for candy donations will be in the narthex starting June 9.



When: July 4. Decorate carts at 9:00; parade steps off at 10:00.

Where: Parade Line-up Area will be posted on VFW website 48 hours prior to parade

Who: Anyone able to walk the 2-mile parade route.

Contact Pastor Zak for more information. A signup sheet for parade walkers will be posted on the church website so participants can stay informed on the parade unit number and staging area.

Altar Guild Members

It is time to sign up for the times you can serve for the months of July to December. You can meet on Thursday, June 6th at 7:00pm in the Cafe or on Saturday June 8th at 9:30am in the Ark to choose the dates you can help. Please bring your calendars or phones to write down the dates you choose. We will answer any questions you may have and we welcome anyone who would like to join the Altar Guild. We appreciate your service!

Book Club—Summer Schedule

June

A novel by Shelby Van Pelt, *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, is the story of an unlikely friendship between a lonely and grieving mother and a giant Pacific octopus. Both unique and charming, this is a heartwarming story perfect for summer reading. We will meet on Monday, June 3 at 7pm in the cafe area. New members are always welcome.

July

Monday, July 1 the St. Paul Book Club will meet to discuss *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder* by David Grann. If you enjoy a good thriller, with some history on the side, you will like this retelling of the story of a British boat on a secret mission that goes horribly wrong. We will meet at 7pm in the cafe area. Join us!

August

The River We Remember by well-known author William Kent Krueger, will be discussed by the St. Paul Book Club on Monday, August 5 at 7pm in the cafe area. Set in Minnesota in 1958, this novel revolves around a mysterious death that elicits prejudices and the far-reaching effects of war on individuals. A well written story that will provide for a great discussion. All are welcome.

...and More!

Stewardship Spotlight

Caring about the earth, as the Bible tells us to do, is an essential lesson for our youth. They can be encouraged to think about **upcycling** as another opportunity to reflect on what God has provided. There are many ideas found online to challenge kids and parents to create artistic and/or useful items instead of just recycling. Even a “recycled sculpture” for the garden would be a fun challenge. It also provides the chance to talk about reusing, repurposing, and choosing sustainable options versus one-time use and disposable products.

Rainbow Pride Potluck and Movie Sing-Along June 9

Join us in celebrating Pride Month with a vibrant Rainbow Potluck and movie sing-along in the Fellowship Hall after the 9:00 worship service on Sunday, June 9. This is a joyous occasion for our faith community to come together, honoring the importance of Pride and the diversity that enriches us all.

Rainbow Jello will be featured on the menu – what colorful dish will you bring to share? Perhaps some green eggs and ham, fresh blueberries, or crunchy carrots? Let's fill our table with an array of bright and delicious foods!

During the potluck, Vicar Katie will lead an engaging conversation about the significance of Pride Month. Following this, we'll come together for a lively sing-along viewing of a special movie with a rainbow theme!

Everyone is welcome to participate in this celebration!

Volunteers are needed for set-up and clean-up. If you would like to help, please contact Vicar Katie.

Let's make this a memorable celebration of love, inclusion, and community spirit!

Under 105

Thanks to all who participated in Under 105 Luncheons this past September through December and February through May. Good food, fellowship and programs will resume in September.

Look for a “Save the Date” card in August.

Cheers!

April Numbers

Giving: \$45,138 (including online: \$23,013)

Expenses: \$56,368

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(24,043)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
4/7	124	57
4/14	139	31
4/21	202	31
4/28	285	45

Come Ramble With Us!

Please join the St. Paul Green Land Team on one of our monthly rambles*! In May we saw pink and white phlox, a jack-in-the-pulpit, a great blue heron, wood ducks, and a toad. What will we see in June?

Join us at the nature education center at Fullersburg Woods (3609 Spring Rd, Oak Brook, IL) on June 22 at 9:00 am. Our ramble, led by Karen Egan, will step off at 9:15. The rest of the Ramble Schedule is below.

June 22 – Fullersburg Woods

July 20 – Salt Creek Woods Nature Preserve

August 24 – Morton Arboretum

September 21 – Lyman Woods

October 6 – CROP walk – Sunday 1:00 pm

* According to the European Ramblers Association rambling is similar to hiking but may involve a more relaxed pace and may be more focused on enjoying the scenery and the outdoors rather than achieving a specific fitness goal.

All Things Youth & Family Ministry

Upcoming Dates & Recent Events

Hang 10, Riding the Wave of Faith—June 24th thru June 27th **Registration Deadline is June 10th.**

Join Pastor Zak, Squeeks the Otter, and the St. Paul VBS Crew for a week of fun you won't want to miss! 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. Registration closes on June 10th. We are also accepting donations of items to assist us in preparing for VBS. If you are interested in helping by providing a donation, please click [here](#) to see what is needed.



Kiss A Pig Contest! **Our Final Fundraiser for the N'Awlins Youth Gathering**

If you've ever wanted a certain someone to kiss a pig, now is your chance! Place your nomination in the Ballot Box in the Café from May 26th – June 9th. On June 9th, the ballots will be tabulated and the top 3 candidates announced.

Throughout the month of June until July 6th you can vote for your favorite candidate with a monetary donation. There are several ways to vote: visit our website, use the QR code in the bulletin or see the HS youth in the Café each Sunday. The winner will be announced on Sunday, 7/7 after worship. Neville the pig from Happy Hooves Therapy Farm, Elburn will be waiting!

Murder at the Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball Fundraiser

On May 11th, the St. Paul youth hosted 58 guests who were treated to an exciting evening of delicious food, fun and murder! Whodunnit, you ask? Why it was Mayor Pauly Tishon, played by our very own Henry Wolf!

Bravo to our talented teens who made this a night to remember: Jake Borho, Lauren Carson, Austin Clot, Ella Lopez, Norah Luedtke, Amelia Pedersen, Hallie Swanson, Maddie Wolf & Henry Wolf. My heartfelt thanks to Chef Laura Lerdal, Sous Chef Mark Freedlund, Kitchen Assistants: Kent Lerdal, Eamon Lerdal and Merry & Jon Freedlund.

Congrats to Our Recent **Confirmands—May 19, 2024**



Our recent confirmands are Leah Barrington, Nick Bostian, Jillian Mikos, and Anika Urbonas.

Willowbrook High School **Recognizes St. Paul Youth**

WBHS recently honored members of the Class of 2027 for their outstanding demonstration of excellence in the areas of academics, responsibility, respectfulness and engagement. Amongst those honored were our very own teens; Milo Barnett, Jake Borho, Austin Clot and Henry Wolf. Well done!

"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13

Worship & Prayers



Celebrating the Journey: A Farewell Announcement

Dear St. Paul Lutheran Church Family,

As the seasons change and the warmth of summer draws near, I reflect on the incredible journey we've shared this past year. It is with a mix of emotions that I announce my transition from my internship here at St. Paul Lutheran Church. My final Sunday with you all will be July 28th.

This year has been filled with significant moments of growth and connection. Each interaction, conversation, and shared experience has shaped me in ways I could never have imagined. From Pastor Zak and the entire staff, to each and every one of you, your warmth, support, and wisdom have and will continue to shape me.

Moving forward in my ministry, I am grateful for the opportunities ahead. I recently graduated with my Master's in Divinity, and I am now preparing for my approval interview—the last step before I begin interviewing for my first pastoral call. I will be working closely with my home synod, the East Central Synod of Wisconsin, as they guide me through this process.

While I eagerly anticipate the next phase of my journey, I'm deeply thankful for my time spent here at St. Paul. This church has provided a nurturing environment for my personal and spiritual growth, and I feel truly honored and humbled to have been a part of this community.

Looking ahead, my partner and I hope to remain in the Midwest area as I continue my ministry. Know that the relationships formed here at St. Paul will always hold a special place in my heart as I embark on this new chapter.

With love and blessings from God,
Vicar Katie

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

Karl Koeneman, Ruben Najera (friend of Cynthia Viise), Erv Ziemer, Janet Gilbert, Tiffany (friend of John & Carol Freidheim), Joe Cassaro (brother of Angel Ludwig), Harley (friend of Teri Fash), Dorothy Hadrava, George Alajoki, Bill Bartel, Carole Batek, Sheila Bowdish, Melinda Brent, Paige Cady (friend of Carrie Lavorini), Chris (Elm Tree employee), Kristy Fash-Alvarez, Margaret Golden, Arlene Jensen, Evelyn Kimble, Daniel Rubalcaba, Mark Szerzinski (father of Alex Szerzinski), and All Caregivers.

Prayers for the Bereaved

Karl Kuester

Community



Elm Tree News

Hello from Elm Tree!

We simply cannot believe that we are in our last month of school! It has been such a pleasure watching our 2023-24 class learn and grow so much during this school year. The end of the year is always very hard for the teachers, especially in Pre-K, because this means goodbye to our littles who are off to kindergarten next year! We send you off this Summer knowing you are all on your way to move mountains and achieve greatness- know that we are SO proud of each and every one of you!!

A little recap from the month of May: I wanted to start with a big thank you from the staff at Elm Tree! Everyone made Teacher Appreciation Week so special in the beginning of May! In regard to our classrooms, we spent our last month learning about flowers, insects, and a recap of everything we learned this school year. During the month we explored caterpillars (and watched them transform into butterflies!), the elusive 17-year cicadas, and planted in our garden beds. We hosted a St. Jude's Trike-a-thon this month, and learned all about bike safety. We had our hearing and vision checked by the DuPage County Health Department. Our reading log friends who completed all of their reading logs this year, as well as several teachers and their families went to the Kane County Cougars Game, as part of our reading program prize from this year!

We will end our school year with a ceremony celebrating our graduating Pre-K Students, as well as an ice cream social on the last day of school! We simply cannot wait to see what the Summer Program will bring to us!

Have a wonderful Memorial Day,
Ms. Maggy and the Elm Tree Staff



A Reminder...

St. Paul continues to accept collections for the Illinois Commission for Displaced Immigrants and SCARCE. Contact Shirley Jensen for more details.

June 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 Boesso-Frakes Wedding
2 Outdoor Worship 9a Worship 10a Spring Work Day 10a Wired Word 1p VBS Planning Mtg	3 10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club	4 7p M.E.N.D. 7p Property Mtg 7p Wine, Women & Word	5 10:30a ACC Group Mtg	6 7p Altar Guild Mtg	7	8 9:30a Altar Guild Mtg. 10a Baptism— Leo Bear Welsh
9 9a Worship 10a Wired Word 10a Rainbow Pride Potluck/Sing-Along 3p Mayer Recital	10	11 10:30a Elm Tree Mermaid Visit 2p Rachel Circle	12 8p Villa Park Youth Baseball Mtg.	13	14	15 10a HS Outreach House Volunteer
16 Father's Day 9a Worship 10a Wired Word	17 10:30a Elm Tree Children's Museum 11a Beacon Hill 6:30p Elm Tree Board Mtg	18	19 Juneteenth	20 Living Waters Due 7p Council	21	22
23 9a Worship 10a Wired Word	24 VBS Timesheets due 10:30a Elm Tree Bounce House 5p VBS 7:30p Finance	25 VBS 5p VBS	26 VBS 5p VBS	27 VBS 5p VBS	28	29
30 9a Worship 10a Wired Word						



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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

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

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