

Living Waters

July/August 2024

All Creation Sings

Pastor Zak Wagner

The above title is actually the name of the new purple-bound worship supplement printed by Augsburg Fortress in 2020. It contains two new liturgical settings, a variety of new prayers and two hundred new hymns (some of which we've been singing in recent months as denoted by "ACS" in our service folder). It would seem as though lately it feels as though "All Creation Screams" as we have welcomed our cicada friends from their nearly two decade slumber, and what an arrival it has been. I've gone through all of the stages of this experience, beginning with the curious anticipation, morphing into horrified disbelief, leading into general annoyance at the unrelenting buzz at all times. This is certainly a memorable experience as well as a reminder of the sheer wonder of God's creation and our unique place in it. While I sit here and complain about the destructive and disruptive force of these winged visitors, I am humbly reminded of our own alarming relationship with creation:

"Recent years have seen a rapid increase in awareness and alarm concerning the impact of human activity over the past two hundred years on this planet's ability to sustain the fragile balance necessary for the life God planted here, including human life. Each Sunday as God's people are gathered into and sent from worship, All Creation Sings reminds us how we are integrally part of the whole of creation, marvels at the gifts of creation, and gives thanks for the grace to join the rest of creation's song even as the cosmos joins ours."
(All Creation Sings, pp.5)

No matter your feelings during this "Summer of the Cicada," it is a humble reminder that it is by the grace of God that we are blessed to join our songs with the rest of God's creation. Likewise, it is our responsibility that we take seriously our responsibility, as stewards of that creation, to ensure that creation will continue to sing harmoniously for generations to come.

Memory Care Support Group for Caregivers & Families

St. Paul has partnered with Adult Christian Care in hosting a support group for those caring for someone with Alzheimer's or dementia. This group meets monthly on the first Wednesday of the month. We meet from 10:30am – 11:30am at either Epiphany Lutheran Elmhurst or St. Paul Lutheran Church. For exact dates and locations click [here](#). Join us for support and connection. YOU ARE NOT ALONE IN THIS JOURNEY. Connect with us for care and understanding. Space is limited – please call or text Jamie at 312/543-5158.



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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...

Event Photos

Over the last two months St. Paul has celebrated both Confirmation and Honor the Grads Sunday. While these events were mentioned in previous Living Waters, due to space restrictions we were not able to share the photos. We have the space this month and are pleased to share them with you.

Confirmation



Pastor Zak, Jillian Mikos, Anika Urbonas, Nick Bostian, Leah Barrington, Roxanne Doremus



The Urbonas Family and Pastor Zak



The Mikos Family and Pastor Zak



The Bostian Family and Pastor Zak

Honor the Grads



Pastor Zak, Vicar Katie, Sophia Pebenito, Maddie Wolf, Lauren Carson



Pastor Zak, Vicar Katie, Sophia Pebenito, Maddie Wolf, Lauren Carson

...and More!

Panera Bread Supports CROP Walk

You can support the CROP Walk (coming up Oct. 6th) by walking into one of your favorite restaurants and making a purchase! Make a note in your calendar for a casual meal on July 17th .

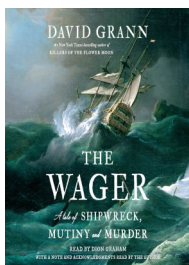
This fundraiser takes place from 4 – 8pm at Panera Bread on Roosevelt in Glen Ellyn (751 Roosevelt Rd, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137). See details in [this flyer](#). Show the flyer or a digital copy and Panera will donate 25% of sales to CROP Walk. Thanks!

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 is located in the Narthex. We will decorate carts at 9:00 and the parade steps off at 10:00am. The parade line-up area will be posted on VFW website 48 hours prior to the parade. Everyone is welcome to join us walk the 2-mile parade route. Contact Pastor Zak for more information.

Book Club—Summer Schedule

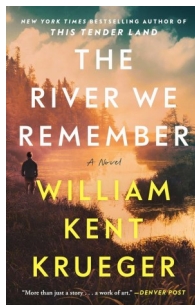
July



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.



May Numbers

Giving: \$34,638 (including online: \$22,100)

Expenses: \$36,452

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(25,858)

Other Statistics

| Date | Attendance | Viewers |
|------|------------|---------|
| 5/5 | 124 | 37 |
| 5/12 | 169 | 45 |
| 5/19 | 234 | 50 |
| 5/26 | 90 | 57 |

Come Ramble With Us!

Please join the St. Paul Green Land Team on one of our monthly rambles!

July 20 – Salt Creek Woods Nature Preserve

August 24 – Morton Arboretum

September 21 – Lyman Woods

October 6 – CROP walk – Sunday 1:00p

Contact Emily Ishida with any questions.



Beer & Hymns Night July 12th

Come sing some favorite hymns, along with some old standby American folk songs. Singing begins at 7:00 - come early if you'd like to order some dinner. Join us in the "back room" at Manny's Ale House - 683 St. Charles Rd., Elmhurst. Come dressed and styled appropriately, if you wish!

All Things Youth & Family Ministry

Upcoming Events

Countdown to Kiss A Pig!



Who gets your vote to kiss Neville the pig - Pastor Zak, Cynthia Viise, Hannah Hull-Sansone or Roxanne? Cast your vote by donating online, on our website or via QR code in the bulletin. Results and the winner will be announced on Sunday, July 7th, after worship. Curious where candidates stand on the issue? Come to a "Candidate Forum" after worship on Sunday, June 30 in the cafe. Have some coffee, sweets & listen to why a candidate feels they should (or shouldn't) kiss a pig. All proceeds for this fundraiser go towards the HS Youth Gathering in July in N'Awlins. Thank you!

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

Stuff—A—Bus!

Help Tri-Town YMCA and Villa Park Early Childhood Collective Stuff-a-Bus! We have a drop box located in the Narthex, and we would love you to come by. Boxes will be picked up on July 22nd, 2024. Items needed include:

Index Cards (3" X 5", WHITE), Pencil Box/Bag, Pencils (#2), Pencil Sharpener, Pens (BLUE, BLACK, RED), Plastic Pocket Folders, Scissors (6" BLUNT), Spiral Notebooks (WIDE RULED), Sticky Notes (3M), Washable Markers (10 PACK), Water Bottles (SPILL PROOF), Backpacks, Colored Pencils, Crayons (24 PACK), Disinfectant Wipes (CLOROX), Dry Erase Markers (LOW ODOR), Erasers, Kleenex, Glue Sticks(.24 OZ), Glue (4 OZ LIQUID), Highlighters.



Wings Choir: Year in Review

The Wings Choir wrapped up our year with a Wings Celebration on Wednesday, May 22. We are grateful for the many opportunities we had to grow in numbers, to sing in worship services, and to learn and stretch our musical talents. Our year included the following: 34 Rehearsals; 16 Singers; 14 New Songs; 13 Worship Services; 150+ Prayer Requests for Family, Friends, and Pets; and Countless people encouraged by the sights and sounds of the Wings. Thanks to the congregation and staff of St. Paul for your encouragement and support during Choir Season! A special thank you to the Choir Parents for bringing your children to rehearsals and worship services, and for your flexibility and support!

The Wings will be taking a break for the summer months and will resume on Wednesday, September 4. Rehearsals are 4:45-5:30 pm.

If you know of any children who might be interested in the Wings Choir (open to grades K-8), please contact Margaret Colletti at margaret@stpaulvp.org or (630)253-9691. All are welcome!

"Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together." Psalm 34:3

Worship & Prayers



Welcome St. Paul's New Intern Nicholas Breining

Greetings St. Paul Community,

My name is Nicholas Breining (he/him), and I am looking forward to learning, growing and worshipping with all of you through this upcoming year. My roots are in La Crosse, Wisconsin where I grew up with my parents and sister. Later in life, during my time living and working on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota with the Oglala Lakota people, I felt the Holy Spirit calling me into the ministry. A strong part of my calling and academic studies has been a concentration on interfaith relations and antiracist ministry. I currently live in Hyde Park with my spouse Faye (she/they) and our cat Šóta.

Singers and Ringers!

Update your calendars now for restarts of choirs in late August and September!

Chancel Choir (High School – Adults)
Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 7pm

Handbell Choir (High School – Adults)
Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 6pm

Wings Choir (K – 8th Grade)
Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 4:45pm

Thanks again for ALL your joyful contributions to worship!
Summer blessings!

Cynthia Viise, Director of Music

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

Kelly Fisher (granddaughter of Arlene Jensen), Solfrid Farkvam (friend of Carol Freidheim), Richard Hayden (brother-in-law of Rachel Lange Hayden), Joshua Michael Sanchez (grandson of Kris & Brad Lundine), Lisa Speidel, Beverly Parks, Molly Bartel, George Alajoki, Bill Bartel, Carole Batek, Sheila Bowdish, Melinda Brent, Paige Cady (friend of Carrie Lavorini), Chris (Elm Tree employee), Kristy Fash-Alvarez (daughter of Teri Fash), Margaret Golden, Arlene Jensen, Cal Root (father of Kevin Simberg & Keith Root), Evelyn Kimble, Daniel Rubalcaba, Steve Simberg (friend of Carol Simberg), Mark Szerzinski (father of Alex Szerzinski), and all caregivers.

Prayers for the Bereaved

Donald Hadrava (son of Dorothy Hadrava), Glenn Miller (friend of Carol Friedheim), Derek Host (friend of Cary Tate)

Community



Elm Tree News

As we enter our Summer Program, Elm Tree has taken off on a worldly vacation! We began our trip with a visit to Italy. We learned how to make our own pasta and pizza, visited the Leaning Tower of Pisa, and even visited Milan for a fashion show. The kiddos were most adorable during the fashion show, mixing fancy with a bit of their own style! The red carpet was extremely ready for the child fashions of 2024!

We continued with our flight to Poland. During this week we had a visit from the Mermaid of Warsaw (Windy City Mermaids) and had a run in with the Dragon of Krakow. Mrs. Jude cooked us up some delicious pierogi and smoked sausage as well! We really enjoyed learning about different polish traditions, such as making flower crowns when learning about Śmigus-dyngus and hearing different polish stories and folklore. Big thanks to Justyna Zucker for being a secret reader and reading to the kiddos in Polish!

After our trip to Poland, we flew to Ethiopia. We welcomed Bob and Doreen Fritz (also big thank yous to you guys!!) to host a clay class, to make clay jewelry (with the Ethiopian theme in mind!). The kiddos had a lot of fun with this, and the teachers did too! During the week we learned much about Ethiopian culture and tried our hand at making Ethiopian Honey Bread.

We end the month of July with our trip to Japan. We will learn about many Japanese traditions, including tea service and Kokeshi dolls. We will enjoy making sushi and will even have a ninja warrior bounce house. The Summer is going by quicker than we would like to admit, but we can't wait to see what July will bring us!

Also, don't forget to add Elm Tree's craft and vendor fair to your calendars! It will be set up outside, in the lot off Ardmore on Saturday July 20th!

Peace, love and many blessings!
Ms. Maggy and The Elm Tree Staff



July/August 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.

July

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Monday | July 01—10am Prayers and Squares 7pm Book Club |
| Tuesday | July 02—7pm M.E.N.D. |
| Wednesday | July 03—10:30am ACC Group Meeting |
| Sunday | July 07—8:30am Centering Prayer 9am Outdoor Worship 10am Wired Word 2pm Hands & Feet |
| Monday | July 08—7:30pm Executive Committee Meeting |
| Friday | July 12—7pm Beer & Hymns |
| Sunday | July 14—9am Worship 10am Wired Word |
| Monday | July 15—6:30pm Elm Tree Board Meeting |
| Thursday | July 18—7pm Council Meeting |
| Saturday | July 20—9am Elm Tree Vendor Fair |
| Sunday | July 21—9am Worship 10am Wired Word |
| Sunday | July 28—9am Worship 10am Wired Word |

August

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Saturday | August 03—4:30pm Friberg Potluck |
| Sunday | August 04—8:30am Centering Prayer 9am Outdoor Worship 10am Wired Word 2pm Hands & Feet |
| Monday | August 05—10am Prayers and Squares 7pm Book Club |
| Tuesday | August 06—7pm M.E.N.D. |
| Sunday | August 11—9am Worship and Baptism of Kendall Rose Peshel 10am Wired Word |
| Wednesday | August 14—9:30am Bible Study |
| Thursday | August 15—7pm Council |
| Sunday | August 18—9am Worship 10am Wired Word |
| Monday | August 19—11am Beacon Hill Worship |
| Wednesday | August 21—9:30am Bible Study |
| Sunday | August 25—9am Worship and Blessing of the Backpacks 10am Wired Word |
| Wednesday | August 28—9:30am Bible Study 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal |



545 S. Ardmore Ave. Villa Park, IL 60181
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: 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

Phone: 630-832-5580

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

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

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