

Living Waters

September 2024

Running the Race

Pastor Zak Wagner

“So then, with endurance, let’s also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let’s throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up...”-Hebrews 12:1 (CEB)

As the summer draws to a close, activity is beginning to increase all around me. School is back in session as we navigate new daily routines, after school activities and everyone’s favorite: homework. The program year is beginning at church as we return to more activities from choirs and Confirmation to Adult Education and expanded worship schedule (Reminder: 8am & 10am worship resumes September 8). Then there’s fall sports which are starting up as we try to fit in one more season before the seasons, and weather change. This time of year can feel like a marathon as we race around from one thing to the next. It’s in the midst of this chaos that I find endurance and reassurance from the community of God’s people at St. Paul. I enjoy the way that we are brought together once more in praise and prayer, fellowship and study. I am encouraged to *“not carry any extra baggage”* as I try to live a life centered in God’s love, no matter where I may find myself. Through grace I can set aside sin, especially those which bog me down in feeling like I am not doing enough for myself and others. In Christ we are more than enough. In the presence of the “cloud of witnesses” throughout time we have the confidence that we have all that we need to endure the race ahead. Blessings to you in this new season, as we leave behind the baggage from our trips and life to be free as God made us to be.

VITAMINS FOR TANZANIA

Many of us enjoyed an evening potluck with missionaries Dr. Steve and Bethany Friberg, on August 3. They shared many stories and spoke of the progress that has been made since their arrival in Tanzania in 1993. Over the years, St. Paul has supported them in a variety of ways including collecting vitamins. We would like to start another vitamin drive for the Maasai people who truly need them, especially during the dry season when food is scarce.

Our drive will be held during the months of September and October. Marked boxes will be in the church foyer. The Fribergs stressed that multi-vitamins and vitamin C are most needed but all will gratefully be accepted. Even expired ones and partially used bottles will be helpful. Please, no gummies, and at this time we are only asking for adult vitamins. (That could change.) Many thanks for all who contribute to this ministry!



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Worship Information

In Person

Sundays

Worship in the sanctuary at 8am & 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...

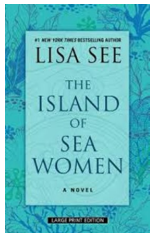
Wednesday Night Dinners Returning September 11th

Wednesday night dinners are back, beginning September 11. Please join us for a simple meal and fellowship! If you're coming for confirmation, wings choir, bell choir, or chancel choir please join us. Maybe you just don't feel like cooking—that's ok too. Everyone is welcome! The first, third and fifth Wednesdays of the month will be a potluck while the other two Wednesdays will be hosted by volunteers. There's always an opportunity to serve by setting up, cooking and preparing these meals, or cleaning up. We especially need help putting the table and chairs away and cleaning up the kitchen following dinner. All of this is done while continuing to have fellowship with your faith family. Meals will be served at 5:30 and clean-up is usually done by 6:45. Interested volunteers should sign up [here](#). We hope to see you there please contact Carol Freidheim at 630-327-6433 with any questions.

A CROP Walk Quiz

Take the CROP Walk quiz to see how much you know about CROP Walk. An remember, participation is a great way to learn more!
(See answers on page 6. Don't peek!)

1. Name the least 2 local food pantries supported by funds raised by the Great Prairie CROP Walk?
2. How much money raised stays local? 10%, 40 % or 25%
3. What happens to the remaining funds?
4. How many walkers participated last year? 43, 100, or 189
5. How many churches and organizations sent teams to the walk last year? It's a number from 5-25.
6. What are you doing at 1pm on Oct. 6?



Book Club Sept. 9 7pm

Kicking off our 20th year, St. Paul Book Club will meet on Monday, September 9 at 7 pm in the Cafe area, to discuss the novel *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. Set on a Korean island over several decades, the reader experiences a culture where women are the leaders and men care for the home and children.

Under 105 September 19 11:30am

Under 105 Lunches start up Thursday, September 19th at 11:30 in the Cafe. Programming usually ends by 2pm. Please RSVP to Merry Freedlund by the Sunday before each luncheon date to confirm your reservation.

Look for "Save the Dates" cards in the Narthex highlighting additional lunches and programs. More information will also be posted in the weekly e-news.

Women, Wine and the Word

Women, Wine and the Word will begin again on Tues., Sept. 3. at the home of Judy Nuehring at 7pm. We will continue to use *Remind Me Again* and the poem will be *Many Ways to Pray on pg.100*. All are welcome! Feel free to contact Judy with any questions.

Hands & Feet Ministry

Hands and Feet **will** be open on Sunday, Sept. 1st from 2-3:45pm. The two items we need most are napkins in 150-250 count packages and gently used shoes. Thank you for your continued support!

...and More!

Stewardship Spotlight

Who doesn't enjoy thinking about or may be even finding a hidden gem? Hidden gems can be all sorts of new discoveries. If you haven't heard of The Conservation Foundation located right in the middle of Naperville you're in for a treat. It's a wonderful hidden destination located on the 60-acre McDonald Farm (yes!). It was given to the foundation in 1992 by Lenore McDonald who wanted it protected from developers. Simply put, it strives to preserve and restore natural areas, open spaces, rivers and watersheds to promote the stewardship of our environment. There's that word stewardship, again! Consider making a visit and you'll be amazed at the wide variety of events, activities and opportunities they offer! There are great family activities, too! The Conservation Foundation 10S404 Knoch Knolls Road, Naperville
www.theconservationfoundation.org

"The earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Psalm 24:1



Community Fiesta! September 7th

Save the date for tacos! Our annual community Fiesta is Saturday, Sept. 7, from 5:00-7:00. It takes many hands to throw a party. We need people to set up (3:30), clean up (7:00) and help host during the event. Sign-up [here](#) to volunteer!

Beer & Hymns Returns Friday, September 6th

Return to your youth by remembering some songs you sang at camp. Singing begins at 7:00 and come early if you'd like to order some dinner. Bring a friend or two! In the "back room" at
Manny's Ale House
683 St. Charles Rd., Elmhurst

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

June Numbers

Giving: \$42,679 (including online: \$21,770)

Expenses: \$38,624

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(21,688)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
6/2	118	41
6/9	73	36
6/16	79	33
6/23	95	30
6/30	113	28

July Numbers

Giving: \$44,345 (including online: \$23,525)

Expenses: \$53,470

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(30,813)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
7/7	93	47
7/14	114	45
7/21	78	47
7/28	115	38

Come Ramble With Us!

Please join the St. Paul Green Land Team on one of our monthly rambles! Upcoming "Rambles" are as follows:

September 21 – Lyman Woods

October 6 – CROP Walk – 1:00 pm

For more information contact Emily Ishida.

All Things Youth & Family Ministry

Sunday School News

Sunday School begins on September 8th. We look forward to learning many new and exciting things. If you have not registered yet, you can do so [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact Laura Albert laura@stpaulvp.org. We look forward to seeing you on Rally Day.

Wings Choir Rehearsal Begins Wednesday, September 4!

The Wings Choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 4. Rehearsals are 4:45-5:30 pm in the Choir Room. We are always looking for new singers! If one or more of your children are interested in signing up for the Wings Choir, please complete this form. Wings Choir is open to children in grades K-8.

- Children who would like to check out a few rehearsals to see if this is a good fit for them are welcome to join us for 1-3 rehearsals before making a commitment.
- Anyone who can participate for only a part of our choir season is also welcome!

Please share this link with friends who like to sing! All are welcome! Questions? Contact Margaret Colletti at margaret@stpaulvp.org or (630)253-9691.

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

Pictures from New Orleans



Confirmation

NEW TIME/DAY FOR CONFIRMATION! Classes will be on Wednesdays, 5:30pm - 6:30pm. We'll take our dinner to the Youth Room to eat and have class. We are studying the New Testament with a new curriculum, *Echo the Story*. First class is 9/11. Teachers: Pastor Zak, Vicar Nicholas, and Roxanne.

Digging Deeper

Sunday Class, 9:00am - 9:45am, Youth Room. All middle school through high school youth are invited to join in the conversation! It's a chance to catch up on our week and "dig into" the lessons for the day! Starts on 9/8.

Family Adventures

GRANDPARENT'S DAY CELEBRATION, Sunday, 9/8, 11am - 12:00pm in Fellowship Center. Children will make a special craft/gift together for their grandparent(s) with treats afterwards.

WATERFALL GLEN, Saturday, 9/28, 10am-2pm. Let's go for a hike and enjoy a BYO sack lunch together! Meet @ church to caravan. Questions? See Ginger or Roxanne.

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

Worship & Prayers

Worship Schedule Changes September 8th

A reminder that we return to 8am and 10am worship times on Sunday, September 8th. During the 9 o'clock hour we will be offering educational and fellowship opportunities.

Sunday, September 1st is outdoor worship at 9am. Ice cream will be served following the worship service.

Bible Study Returns September 4th

The Wednesday morning bible study returns on September 4th at 9:30 in the Café. Join Pastor Zak and Vicar Nicholas in person or online for a time of conversation and reflection and gain greater insight into the upcoming Sunday's lessons. This study is shared with members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Lombard.

A Study of the Book of James September 8th—29th

A study of the letter of the Book of James led by Vicar Nicholas will begin on Sunday, September 8th. Classes will be held at 9am in the Café. Attendees will gain deeper insight into the Book of James, which is our New Testament text Sunday mornings during September. All are welcome!

Welcome Vicar Nicholas Breining

We are excited to announce that Vicar Nicholas Breining joined the staff of St. Paul on August 12, 2024, as our 2024-2025 Pastoral Intern. Nicholas joins us from LSTC where he is currently a seminary student.



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

Jane Jepsen (sister of Judy Nuehring), 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, Evelyn Kimble, Beverly Parks, Janice Peacock (friend of Carol & John Freidheim), Cal Root (father of Kevin Simberg & Keith Root), Daniel Rubalcaba, Steve Simberg (brother of Carol Simberg), Jim Thacker (brother of Cindi Thacker), Mark Szerzinski (father of Alex Szerzinski), and All Caregivers.

Prayers for the Bereaved

Kay Walker (former member), Bob Bass (brother-in-law of Kathy Murphy), Gay Finke (sister-in-law of Art Finke)

Community



Elm Tree News

Greetings from Elm Tree!

While we say good bye to our last few friends leaving us to go off to Kindergarten, we are also so excited to welcome back familiar faces, and welcome new faces as we begin our 2024-25 school year. This also means welcoming a few new staff members to Elm Tree. Ms. Jen and Mrs. Tammy will both be joining the Preschool classroom this school year.

Our Preschool and Pre-kindergarten classrooms are very eager to get back in the swing of the school year, and ready to enjoy chapel time with Pastor Zak and Vicar Nicholas. We also have plans to have a farm pen-pal from Southern Illinois, a classroom cow (don't worry, it's all digital), and a few other tricks up our sleeves this school year.

We are in need of secret readers through out the school year, so if anyone would like to pop in and read a story to the children, please contact Ms. Maggy at: stpaulvpdirector@outlook.com

Enjoy the last few weeks of Summer!
Ms. Maggy and the Elm Tree Staff



CROP Walk Answers:

1. Outreach House, Community Table, Disciples Food Pantry and the Pantry at Elmhurst UCC.
2. 25% of money raised stays local. Last year, each organization received \$1749.
3. It goes to support [CWS hunger programs](#) around the world. Learn more by clicking the link.
4. 100 participants, but only a few from St. Paul! [Join this year's team](#)
5. 12 organizations from Villa Park, Lombard, Addison and Elmhurst, including St. Paul's team.
6. Participating in the Walk! Be at First Church on Main Street in Lombard at 1 PM, Oct. 6.

September 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 9a Outdoor Worship 10a Wired Word 2p Hands & Feet	2 Labor Day Church Office Closed 10a Prayers & Squares	3 7p M.E.N.D. 7p Women, Wine & Word	4 9:30a Bible Study 10:30a ACC Group 4:45p Wings 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	5	6 7p Beer & Hymns	7 5p Community Fiesta
8 Rally Day 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Grandparent's Day Celebration	9 7p Book Club 7p Espresso Yourself	10 2p Rachel Circle	11 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings 5:30p Wed Dinner 5:30p Confirmation 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	12 5:30p Elm Tree Family Night	13 1p Prayer Vigil Team Mtg	14
15 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship	16 11a Beacon Hill Worship 6:30p Elm Tree Board Mtg 7p Espresso Yourself	17 Elm Tree Dominick's Dine & Donate	18 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings 5:30p Wed Dinner 5:30p Confirmation 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	19	20 Living Waters Deadline	21 10a Waterfall Glenn Family Hike
22 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a HS Happy Hooves Work Day	23 Timesheets Due 7p Espresso Yourself	24 7p Council Mtg	25 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings 5:30p Wed Dinner 5:30p Confirmation 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	26	27	28
29 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship—Barth Baptism	30 7p Espresso Yourself					



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: Nicholas Breining
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 Attendant: Nina Matthis

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a Reconciling in Christ community.



Stay Connected

Phone: 630-832-5580

Email: office@stpaulvp.org

Website: www.stpaulvp.org

Sign up for our email list to receive the latest news and information from St. Paul!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.