

Living Waters

October 2024

Changing Seasons

Pastor Zak Wagner

We are entering the “-ber” months as we prepare to close out the year (yes, I’m already planning through the end of the year). September saw us beginning a new program year as we find expanded opportunities for worship, fellowship, and faith formation.

October is prime “Spooky Season,” but there’s nothing scary about celebrating the overwhelming generosity of our community in a season of Stewardship as we learn more about our partners in ministry.

November is a season of giving thanks, whether it be for all of the saints who have walked before us (All Saints Sunday on 11/3) or the blessings of this year at our annual Thanksgiving Worship and Pie Social (Sunday 11/24 at 7pm).

December is...well...a busy time as we enter a season of preparation and a new church calendar in Advent. From concerts and candles to creches and a Christmas Program, there’s plenty going on as we close out the year. This all goes to say life is busy both inside and outside the church, and I would have it no other way.

Change is never easy, whether it be seasons, weather, or life circumstances, but it is a part of life. During this busy time of changing seasons, I pray that you find a moment to pause, take a breath, and give thanks for the fact that in this moment God has given you a breath of life to take. I cannot wait to gather with your and our faith community for the seasons of change ahead.

Stewardship Spotlight

As we approach our stewardship season, we will also be highlighting the benevolences we support at St. Paul. There are significant histories that our church shares with these organizations. We hope everyone will gain more understanding of them as representatives and/or information displays are shared on the following Sundays:

- September 29 - Missionaries Dr. Steve and Bethany Friberg, Global Missions
- October 6 - Lutherdale, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC)
- October 13 - Adult Christian Care and The Outreach House
- October 20 - Hands and Feet, Elm Tree Christian Child Care

Join us on October 27 for the In-Gathering and to celebrate Reformation Sunday.



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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...

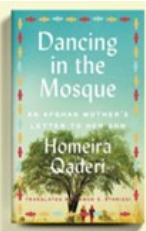
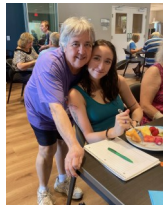
A Note from Vicar Nicholas

As the season of Summer closes and the time of Autumn begins, I can't help but feel my body, mind, and spirit start to slow down in preparation for the coming Winter. I've always enjoyed these times of transitions, for it's like a liminal space to contemplate the rhythm of my life and if I ought to adjust anything. The sense of walking slower and breathing deeper is what has been coming to me more and more. I feel the presence of the Holy Spirit in more profound ways when I'm not in a hurry or running down the list of tasks to get done. I invite all of you to take a few moments after reading this newsletter to contemplate this scripture reading and see where the Spirit is leading you at this time in your life.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

¹For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven: ²a time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³a time to kill and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up; ⁴a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance; ⁵a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶a time to seek and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to throw away; ⁷a time to tear and a time to sew; a time to keep silent and a time to speak; ⁸a time to love and a time to hate; a time for war and a time for peace.

Pictures from September Under 105



Book Club October 7 7pm

You are invited to join St. Paul's Book Club group to discuss *Dancing in the Mosque: An Afghan Mother's Letter to Her Son* by Homeira Qaderi, on Monday, October 7 at 7 p.m. in the Cafe area.

Qaderi's memoir of her remarkable and courageous life to become an activist for women and children under Taliban is bound to elicit an interesting discussion.

Under 105 October 17 11:30am

The October Under 105 Lunch is on the 17th. We gather at 11:30 and eat at noon. Our guest speaker is our very own, Franklin Ishida. He will share stories from his global work with the ELCA synod.

The menu will be posted in the coming weeks in the weekly e-newsletter.

RSVP to [Merry Freedlund](#) by Sunday, October 13th. Hope you can make it.

Women, Wine and the Word October 1, 7pm

Meeting at the home of Judy Nuehring, we will discuss "*Who is your Everyone*" (pg. 55) in *Remind Me Again* by Joe Davis. All are welcome.

Hands & Feet Ministry October 6, 2-4pm

We are in need of 150 packages of napkins and 4 roll packs of toilet paper- we are having trouble receiving these items from our distributor. We also need gently used adult shoes. The families we serve continue to be appreciative of the support of the congregation which makes this ministry possible.

...and More!



Save the Date!

Save the date as we prepare to celebrate Pastor Zak's 10th Anniversary in Ministry! Festivities are being planned for Sunday, November 17th at 11:00am (after the 10:00am worship service). More details to come so stay tuned!

Help the Hungry

**Join the Walk—Sunday, Oct. 6 at 1 PM
First Church, Lombard**

No one in this world should go hungry. The Great Prairie Trail CROP Hunger Walk is part of a movement, taking steps and raising funds that will provide meals for those in our own community who need them, and supporting programs that create greater food security in communities all around the world through Church World Service.

Locally, the Great Prairie Trail CROP Walk will benefit five local food programs:

- The Outreach House, Lombard
- Disciples Food Pantry, Villa Park
- United Community Concerns Association Mobile Markets, Elmhurst
- Community Table, Lombard
- Food for the Soul Food Pantry, Addison

Please join the fight against hunger. The steps we take and funds we raise will make a difference in the lives of others. [Sign up here](#) or in church. Talk to Shirley Jensen to get started. More details in the ministry corner. Thank you!

August Numbers

Giving: \$47,179 (including online: \$21,755)

Expenses: \$42,112

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(25,746)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
8/4	78	35
8/11	125	33
8/18	124	54
8/25	126	53

New Ministry Corner

Come check out the new "Ministry Corner" in the Foyer. This is your communication hub for all upcoming and ongoing events. Do you have an event you would like to advertise? Contact Liz in the Church Office, and she can help your ministry get added to the corner!

Communion Assistants Needed

We are looking for people who would like to assist with communion. It takes less than 10 minutes and I will train you. If you are interested, please contact [Laura Albert](#).

New Advertising & Messaging Guidelines

We are pleased to announce that the screens in the church are up and running and are capable of sharing event information with the congregation. We thought it would be a good time to update everyone on the advertising and messaging process for events and group meetings. Listed below are the available options for advertising and the parameters around each:

- Screen Slides and Bulletin advertising can be used for two weeks prior to an event date. For events that happen on a monthly basis the event will be listed on the Sunday prior to the event date.
- E-Letter advertising can be used for three weeks prior to an event date.
- Living Waters advertising can be used for the month prior to an event date.

If you are interested in advertising an upcoming event or group meeting, please send an email to office@stpaulvp.org with the details of the event you are promoting. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

All Things Youth & Family Ministry

Sunday School News

Sunday School is every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. for children Pre-K to 5th grade - all are welcome!

Collection for the Troops

We will be collecting items for the troops from October 27th - November 3rd. More details to follow. If you have any questions please feel free to contact [Laura Albert](#).

Confirmation

Confirmation Class & Supper

Just a reminder that Confirmation meets on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30pm in the Youth Room. We will eat dinner together while attending the class.

High School

Monthly Movie Nights

Our first movie night will be held on October 18th. Join us in the Youth Room at 7pm. Movie nights are held the third Friday of the month from 7-9pm.

Family Adventures

Pet Blessing Sunday, October 6—10am Outdoor Worship

All two-footed and four-footed animal relatives are invited to bring their “hooman” and receive a blessing. We will gather by the steps on the Ardmore side of the property.

Pumpkin Carving

Come join the fun, Friday, October 25, 6:00pm-7:30pm in the Cafe. Pumpkins and carving utensils will be supplied - you bring your ideas! Together, we'll have a “boo-ti-ful time!” Questions? See Roxanne or Ginger.

Trunk or Treat with Elm Tree Christian Day Care

Join the youth of St. Paul and Elm Tree Christian Day Care for “trunk or treating” Saturday, October 12 from 10am—Noon. The youth will host a few games or decorate cars in the back parking lot.

Pictures from Grandparent's Day



Worship & Prayers

Indigenous Peoples' Sunday October 6

On Sunday, October 6 we will honor Indigenous Peoples' Day with a special guest and events. At 9:00am Richard Gonzalez, a member of the Haudenosaunee ("Iroquois Confederation"), Onyota'a (Oneida) Tribe, and Turtle clan will give a presentation in the Cafe on the "Indian Boarding Schools" and the negative impacts they have had on Indigenous children, families, and communities. Learning about this topic will live out our commitment to "better understand Native American history."



After the 10:00 outdoor worship with pet blessing, all are invited to reconvene in the Cafe for a soup luncheon, and Mr. Gonzalez will be present to answer questions and engage in an informal conversation. Please join us for part or all of these events.

Richard J. Gonzalez, whose Oneida name is Loliwayntati, "He Who Brings the Good Word," is a retired principal and educator with multiple degrees. Additionally, he is an artist, as shown above.



Prayer Vigil October 25—7am to 5pm

Please join us for the Prayer Vigil on Friday, October 25 from 7am to 5pm, for a time of silent meditation and prayer in the sanctuary.

- Sign up to pray, either in the Foyer or [online](#).
- Submit prayer requests by October 20, either in the Foyer or [online](#).
- Sign up to be a greeter, either in the Foyer or [online](#).

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

Howard Family (friend of Cary Tate), Donna Houllis, Bertha Thomas (mother of Alice Ramsay), Jean Jepsen (daughter of Erv & Winnie Ziemer), 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, Kelsey Schneider (granddaughter of Bill & Molly Bartel), Steve Simberg (brother of Carol Simberg), Mark Szerzinski (father of Alex Szerzinski), Jim Thacker (brother of Cindi Thacker), All Caregivers

Community



Elm Tree News

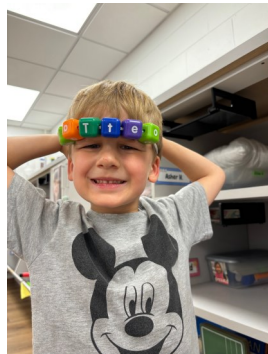
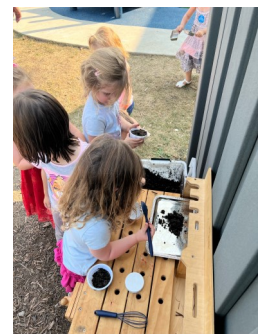
Happy September!

We have jumped into the 2024-25 school year with two feet and settled into our back-to-school routines in the classrooms. We welcomed September with our first bi-monthly family night. We designated our first family night to "Family Movie Night." We put together a concession stand, stacked the chairs movie theatre style, dimmed the lights and enjoyed The Paw Patrol Movie!

We spent much of September learning all about each other in "All About Me" units. We enjoyed learning new things about old friends and new friends alike. A highlight for Pre-K during this time is making their "All About Me" posters and sharing them with the class. Although we still have Summer temperatures, we shifted gears to start talking about Fall. We love beginning this part of the year talking about apples. The kiddos get to do apple taste tests, make applesauce, paint and make stamp art with real apples, and many other apple-related projects and activities. This is always a very engaging theme for all of the students, because of how hands on the theme is!

We wanted to thank everyone who participated in our Dine-Out Night at Dominick's Pizza. The event was pretty successful, and we wouldn't have been able to do it without your help! This year we are dedicating a big part of our fundraising money to start the second phase on our playground. As we move closer to October, we wanted to invite anyone who might be interested in decorating their trunk for the upcoming Trunk-or-Treat. If you are interested in joining us, please email Maggy at stpaulvpdirector@outlook.com.

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



October 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 7p M.E.N.D. 7p Women, Wine, & Word	2 9:30a Bible Study 10:30a ACC Group 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed Dinner 5:30p Confirmation 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	3	4 9:30a Elm Tree Grandfriends Day	5
6 8a Worship 9a Guest Speaker 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship—Pet Blessing 2p CROP Walk 2p Hands & Feet	7 10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club 7p Espresso Yourself	8 2p Rachel Circle	9 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed Dinner 5:30p Confirmation 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir 8p VPYB	10	11 7p Beer & Hymns	12 10a Elm Tree Trunk or Treat
13 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Youth Comm. Meeting	14 6:30p Finance Comm. Mtg 7p Espresso Yourself 7:30p Executive Comm Mtg	15	16 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed Dinner 5:30p Confirmation 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	17 11:30a Under 105 Luncheon	18 7p HS Movie Night	19 4p VPYB
20 Child Care Sunday 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship Living Waters Deadline	21 11a Beacon Hill Worship 6:30p Elm Tree Board Mtg 7p Espresso Yourself	22 7p Council Mtg	23 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed Dinner 5:30p Confirmation 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	24 12p Prayer Vigil Set Up	25 7a Prayer Vigil 6p Pumpkin Carving	26
27 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship Timesheets Due	28	29	30 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed Dinner 5:30p Confirmation 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	31 Halloween 10a Elm Tree Halloween Parade		



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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: 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.