

Living Waters

November 2024

Giving Thanks

Pastor Zak Wagner

As we enter into the “Holiday Season,” things are about to get very busy. Before things begin get chaotic in the days ahead, I want to stop and give thanks for this beautiful community of faith-filled people at St. Paul. I have officially marked my 10 year ordination anniversary, and an overwhelming majority of that decade has been spent here, serving in this community. I want to thank you for the way you support my family in their lives through encouragement, friendship, and mutual care. Thank you for supporting me in all that we have been through together in the past years including a global pandemic, capital campaign, and multiple staffing transitions (sometimes all overlapping at the same time!). Thank you for your forgiveness when I disappoint. Thank you for your encouragement when we try new things, which don’t always work. Thank you for sharing your ministry with the wider church and for investing yourselves in the faith formation of future pastoral leaders. Thank you for loving me for who I was created to be, which is perhaps the greatest gift you have offered me. I have never once felt that I needed to be anyone other than myself in this place, which is such a relief and joy. I am thankful for the past decade of ministry as we look forward to what God has in store ahead of us. Thank you for being you, dear people of St. Paul!



In This Issue...

- p. 2 A Note—Vic. Nicholas
- p. 3 Group Updates
- p. 4 Youth/Family
- p. 5 Thanksgiving Worship
- P. 6 Elm Tree Update

St. Paul Awarded Lilly Endowment Inc. National Clergy Renewal Grant

The Mutual Ministry Committee is pleased to announce that St. Paul has received a grant of \$50,000 for Pr. Zak and our congregation to participate in the Lilly Endowment Inc. 2025/2026 National Clergy Renewal Program. St. Paul is one of almost two hundred congregations across the U.S. selected to participate in this competitive grant program. The theme for our grant was “Pastoral Renewal: St. Paul’s Best Idea”, which integrated themes of renewal through exploring the beauty of God’s creation, especially in our National Parks (“America’s Best Idea”). The grant allows Christian congregations to support their pastor with the gift of time away from the demands of daily ministry so that they can return with renewed vigor and enthusiasm. The program encourages pastors to involve their families in the activities and also provides opportunities for the congregation to participate in renewal activities. The National Clergy Renewal Program integrates key attributes of healthy congregations, including a mutual respect for the needs of both ministers and the congregations they serve. Additional information about the pastoral and congregational activities along with details of budget allocations will be shared at our November and January Congregation Meetings.

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

By the time this newsletter goes out, it will nearly be time for voting in local, state, and national elections. Soon we will all be able to a breath sigh of relief that we don't have to watch any more campaign ads or receive robo-calls or text messages attempting to sway our vote one way or the other. We don't know what the future will hold, if certain policies will change which could dramatically affect our country, especially those already marginalized. Regardless, may we continue to be a loving community that is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ where we respect one another and our neighbors in the surrounding community. As Paul says in Romans 15:12-4 *"Each of us must please our neighbors for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. For Christ did not please himself but, as it is written, 'The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.' For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."*

It is the values we live by and how we treat one another that will live on after we pass away, and on Sunday, November 3rd, we will have the opportunity to remember and pray for those in our lives who have passed away, be they beloved or complicated.

Pictures from October Under 105



Book Club November 4 7pm

St. Paul's Book Club will meet on Monday, November 4 at 7 p.m. in the Cafe to discuss *My Knotted-Up Life* by Beth Moore. In this thoughtfully written memoir by the founder of Living Proof Ministries, Moore tells her story of overcoming abuse and addictions in a church community that did not believe or support her. Her renewed faith has allowed her to embrace freedom from trauma. Please join us!

Under 105 November 21

The November Under 105 Luncheon is on November 21st. We gather at 11:30 in the Cafe and eat at noon.

Our program this month features live entertainment by Nora who will sing well known tunes.

The menu will be posted in future E-letters. RSVP to Merry Freedlund by Sunday, November 17th. Hope to see you there!

Altar Guild Calendar Meeting

The next 6-month calendar sign up has been scheduled. Please bring your calendar to either Thursday November 7th at 7:00 pm or Saturday November 9th at 9:30 to sign up for service. Both meetings will be in the cafe.

Hands & Feet November 3

Hands & Feet will be open on November 3 from 2-4pm. Thank you for your continued support!

...and More!

Stewardship Spotlight

Halloween is such a fun time of the year, no matter what your age is. There is joy in watching the children (and adults) get excited about dressing up in favorite costumes. It also gives us an opportunity to practice stewardship in a variety of ways. Here are a few:

- With the help of parents, children can share their candy with others such as neighbors, family, friends or anyone who is not able to get out very much.
- Compost pumpkins and gourds in your own bin or even just leave them out in the back yard (if you don't mind attracting nibbling wildlife). If you don't compost, research www.oursustainablejourney for their at home pick up program of food scraps.
- Consider donating candy to our troops www.soldiersangels.org/volunteer/special-campaigns/treats-for-troops/
- Send a homemade Halloween card to someone special and include a favorite Bible verse.

May you continue to be a blessing as you seek ways to practice stewardship.

Bible Journaling Class November 3

Engage with scripture on Sunday, November 3, 9-9:55am in the Ark, as we introduce Bible Journaling with guest expert Jean Jepson, from Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Naperville. Bible Journaling is a creative approach to reading the Bible. By using pens, markers, colored pencils, and other tools we meditate on God's Word as an expression of private devotion, worship, or simply as a way to relax. No previous experience or skills are needed. Supplies will be provided for the classroom experience.

September Numbers

Giving: \$32,386 (including online: \$21,342)

Expenses: \$37,735

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(31,095)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
9/1	115	46
9/8	142	46
9/15	137	54
9/22	141	47
9/29	163	47



Celebrating 10 Years in Ministry

Join us for Pastor Zak's 10th Anniversary in Ministry! Sunday, November 17th at 11:00am (after the 10:00am worship service)

Please join us as we celebrate this milestone in Pastor Zak's ministry with a light lunch of sandwiches and salads. A basket will be available for cards to share your warm wishes.

The fall congregational meeting will follow.

World Toilet Day—Sunday, November 17th

Join us as we commemorate World Toilet Day – an official United Nations international observance day that inspires action to tackle global sanitation problems. On Nov. 17 at 9:00am we will learn about sanitation challenges around the world, and how we can take action to support sanitation projects. Franklin Ishida will share some special insight! Each family attending church Nov. 17 will receive a roll of special toilet paper. Not only is this toilet paper green (either made from recycled paper or sustainable bamboo), but some of the profits go to sanitation projects around the world. We hope you join us for this important event!

Thank you

Molly Bartel would like to say "thank you" to everyone for the cards and well wishes!

All Things Youth & Family Ministry

Sunday School News

The Sunday School children have begun working on the music for the Sunday School Christmas Program. Please have the children at church on Sundays by 9:00am for practice.

Sunday School Collections

October 27th—November 10th: We are collecting items for the troops. A list of the items will be available on Sunday, October 27th. If you have any questions, please contact Laura Albert.

November 24th—December 15th: We will be collecting hats, gloves, scarves etc. and collecting items for the Adult Christian Care Center (a list of items will be available on November 17th).

Youth Sunday Worship Services

Join the St. Paul middle school and high school youth on November 10th as they lead worship at the 8am & 10am services. We look forward to seeing you there!

Feed My Starving Children

Families of 6th—12th graders please join in the fun at the 2nd Annual Feed My Starving Children Event, Wednesday, November 13th from 7:00 - 9:00pm. We will be packing food boxes for distribution. We will meet at their location—740 Wiley Farm Court, Schaumburg. See Roxanne to register.

Save the Date! Annual Christmas Program—December 15

Join us for this year's annual Christmas program "A Glorious Night"! Mark your calendars for the 10am service on Sunday, December 15th when our Sunday School, middle school & high school youth re-enact the story of Jesus's birth in song and scripture. According to Luke 2:1,3, "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. Everyone went to their own town to register." Others arrived in Bethlehem because they were following a heavenly occurrence - a Star that lit up the night skies. A Star that foretold the coming of a King. A King not only for the Jewish people but for "people" of all colors, shapes and origin. A Savior for you and me!

Practices will be held on Saturday mornings; December 7th & 14th @ 10am in the Sanctuary. Chimes practice will be @ 9:30am. Please see Roxanne with any questions.

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

Movie night for November will be on Friday, November 15. Join us in the Youth Room at 7pm. Movie nights are held the third Friday of the month from 7-9pm.

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

Worship & Prayers

Hope and Light Among the Grief and Darkness

As we approach holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas, which are usually associated with celebration, complex emotions can arise within us. In part, this could be due to ongoing or lingering grief from loved one's who have passed away/in the process of dying, or it could be related to lesser acknowledged grief in "living losses" like moving into a new community, school, or job. We would like to offer a series of Grief Support Groups that will meet on Sundays in the Ark from 11-11:45am through the Advent season. It will culminate with an informal Longest Night service at 11am on December 22nd. This is an offering for everyone, so feel free to invite friends or family beyond our St. Paul community. Any questions contact Pastor Zak or Vicar Nicholas vicarnicholas@stpaulvp.org

Thanksgiving Worship and Pie Social—November 24

Join us as we gather to give thanks for all of God's blessings on Sunday, November 24th at 7pm. A special offering of non-perishable goods will be collected for the Outreach House (cash donations will also be accepted). Following worship, stick around for our traditional "Pie Social." Bring a friend, bring a pie!

Christmas Season AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 15

"Oh Glorious Night" Christmas Program @ 10:00 AM Worship

Sunday, December 22

Ring Sing @ 9:00 AM

Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Worship @ 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM & 11:00 PM

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship @ 9:00 AM

Sunday, December 29*

Lessons & Carols Worship @ 9:00 AM

*Please note that this is the only worship service on this 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

Jayden Jewett (great nephew of Teri Fash) Judy & Karl Koeneman, Diane Riva Herron (friend of Lana Pedersen), Ed Peterson (cousin of Lana Pedersen), Bertha Thomas (mother of Alice Ramsay), 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.

Prayers for the Bereaved—Carole Wezeman

Community



Elm Tree News

October is one of our favorite months at Elm Tree! We love seeing the leaves start to change colors, feeling the air getting cooler, and learning about more Fall related themes! We spent two weeks this month learning about pumpkins. We used all 5 senses during this unit and were able to touch pumpkins inside and out, look at the bright orange color of a pumpkin, listen to the sound of a pumpkin as we carve and scoop out the insides, taste the seeds (and other pumpkin flavored items), and smell what a pumpkin smells like, before we add the spice. During this theme we also invited our grandfriends to come spend the morning with us! We made pumpkin cloud dough, a fun pumpkin wreath, and a special keepsake to send home with our loved ones.

Since October is fire safety month, we scheduled a visit with the Villa Park Fire Department to help teach our kiddos about fire prevention and safety. The kids were given a tour of the fire truck used in Villa Park. We also learned how to stop, drop, and roll and to call 911 in an emergency. Towards the end of October we were invited for Child Care Sunday at St. Paul. We performed three of the songs that we sing during our chapel time with Pastor Zak. We invited everyone to join us for our favorite song, "The P Song". Last, but certainly not least, we ended the month with our seasonal Halloween theme. We ended the month with a fun party and parade!

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



Welcome to America! Household Goods for Exodus World Service

Help extend a warm welcome to a brave refugee family. In partnership with Exodus World Service, we can transform an empty apartment into a cozy home. For the next two weeks, a sign up sheet will be in the Ministry Corner for you to select items to donate. Only new items please. Please drop off donations in the Ministry Corner by **Sunday, Nov. 10**. We hope to help a family move in late November. Thank you for your generosity. Questions? Can you help deliver? Talk to Shirley Jensen.

Thank You for Supporting the CROP Walkers

We can't say Thank You enough to the many generous donors who supported St. Paul walkers in the October 6th walk. Your donations supported local food pantries and Church World Service hunger fighting projects around the world.

November 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	2 9a Elm Tree Vendor Fair
3 Daylight Saving Ends 8a Worship 9a Bible Journaling Wired Word Sunday School 10a Worship— Gordon Baptism 11a 1st Communion 2p Hands & Feet	4 10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club 7p Espresso Yourself	5 Election Day 7p M.E.N.D. 7p Women, Wine, & the Word	6 9:30a Bible Study 10:30a ACC Group 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed Dinner Confirmation 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	7 5:30p Elm Tree Family Night 6:30p Finance 7p Altar Guild Calendar Mtg.	8	9 9:30a Altar Guild Calendar Mtg.
10 Youth Sunday 8a Worship 9a Crash Course Wired Word Sunday School 10a Worship— Simberg Baptism 11a Youth Comm.	11 Veterans Day 7p Espresso Yourself	12 2p Rachel Circle 7p Council	13 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed Dinner 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir 7p Feed My Starving Children 8p VPYB	14	15 7p HS Movie Night	16
17 8a Worship 9a Crash Course Wired Word Sunday School 10a Worship 11a Ordination Celebration 11:15a Fall Congregational Mtg.	18 6:30p Elm Tree Board Mtg. 7p Espresso Yourself	19	20 Living Waters Deadline 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed Dinner Confirmation 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	21 11:30a Under 105 Luncheon	22	23
24 8a Worship 9a Crash Course Wired Word Sunday School 10a Worship 7p Thanksgiving Worship Service and Pie Social	25 7p Espresso Yourself	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	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: 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.



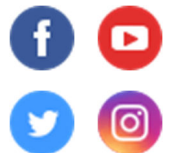
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[Website: www.stpaulvp.org](http://www.stpaulvp.org)

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.