

Living Waters

December 2024



Advent Greetings Pastor Zak Wagner

Advent is my favorite liturgical season. I love the anticipation that permeates each Sunday as we dance between apocalyptic events that resonate throughout time and space as we prepare for a baby. The light growing with each and every candle we light remind us that Christ offers us the light we desperately need as the daylight grows shorter. The hymns are contemplative and uniquely distinct from the unbridled

joy of Christmas hymns, although did you know that our hymnal considers "Joy to the World" to be an Advent hymn, and not a Christmas hymn? Crazy I know.

I love the opportunity to pair my blue plaid stole with my pair of blue Converse. More than anything, I enjoy Advent because it is so much calmer for me, as a pastor, than the Christmas season that follows. Advent is my opportunity to slow down and prepare, personally and pastorally, for Christmas. It is my opportunity to reflect on who God is in my life as the people in our scriptures do very much the same thing. It is my chance to focus on the hope, peace, love, and joy that are literally the reason for the season of Advent. I pray that this year you too can find the time and space to appreciate this time of peace and preparation, as the chaos of the world swirls around us. Advent blessings to you and your loved ones.

Thankful for Thankfulness!

My heart is so full with your words of kindness, support, and love in celebration of my 10 years of ordained ministry. My family and I are so blessed to be a part of this St. Paul community, and our time together on November 17th was a strong reminder why this congregation is so close to our hearts. Thank you to all who prepared the celebration, attended, shared kind words of support, written or otherwise.

Thank you!
Pastor Zak



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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.

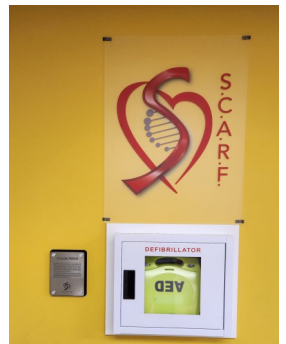
Congregational Life...

A Generous Gift Provides Extra Resources to St. Paul



Café
Near Restrooms

St. Paul now has two AED locations due to the generosity of S.C.A.R.F. and Suburban Dental Medicine of Elgin, IL. You might be asking yourself “what is an AED, who is S.C.A.R.F., and why should I care?” These are all very good questions that deserve an answer. An AED, or an automated external defibrillator, is a medical device that can help people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest. AEDs analyze the heart’s rhythm and deliver an electrical shock to help the heart re-establish an effective rhythm. These life-saving devices provide people experiencing sudden cardiac arrest the hope of survival.



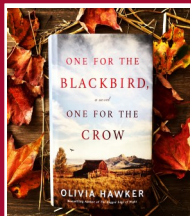
Fellowship
Center

Who is S.C.A.R.F.? S.C.A.R.F. stands for Sudden Cardiac-Death Awareness Research Foundation. It is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating communities about the signs and prevention of sudden cardiac death/arrest. If you click on the underlined letters above you can go directly to the S.C.A.R.F. website and read more about the organization and their important mission.

Why should I care? Well, did you know that sudden cardiac death is the leading cause of death within the United States? Having access to devices like an AED can potentially save a person from sudden cardiac death. Cardiac events happen in people of all ages. This is why we have placed these machines both upstairs and downstairs. And finally, AED’s are expensive, ranging anywhere from \$1,400 to \$2,500 per device, and can be cost prohibitive for organizations like St. Paul. Through the generosity of Suburban Dental Medicine and S.C.A.R.F., St. Paul is now better equipped in the event of a cardiac emergency.

Rachel Circle

A reminder that Rachel Circle will not meet in the month of December. Programming will resume in Jan.



Book Club December 2 7pm

The historical novel, *One For the Blackbird, One For the Crow* by Olivia Hawker, is set on the Wyoming prairie in 1870. It is a story of struggle of 2 families and how they survive with forgiveness, redemption and resilience.

Join St. Paul’s Book Club on Monday, December 2 at 7pm in the Cafe for a great discussion.

Under 105 December 12 11:30am

Join us on Thursday, December 12th at 11:30am in the Sanctuary for special songs by Elm Tree Christian Child Care singers. We will also hold a raffle as part of our holiday celebration! On the menu are appetizers, a meal catered by C.O.D., and assorted desserts. Please R.S.V.P. by Sunday, Dec. 8th, to Merry Freedlund. Hope you can join us for holiday fellowship!

Women, Wine, & the Word—December 3

Women, Wine, the Word will meet Tuesday Dec. 3 at the home of Judy Nuehring at 7 pm. We will be discussing *Good Neighbor* pg. 53. All are welcome.

Hands & Feet December

We are still in need of packages of 150 napkins (which can be purchased from the Dollar Tree or Dollar General) and all sizes of shoes. Thank you for continued support.

...and More!

Stewardship Spotlight

Here is a different version of the Advent Calendar. Together as a family, find a box and each day add the suggested item (or a substitute) to it. On Christmas Eve donate the contents to The Outreach House or another food bank.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package of pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - canned corn
- December 22 - can of mixed vegetables
- December 23 - canned carrots
- December 24 - canned green beans

Blessings for a joyous Christmas as we celebrate Christ's birth!

Fall Prayer Vigil Update

“And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.” — 1 John 5:14

The Fall St. Paul Prayer Vigil on October 25 had 29 participants (plus a group of kids and teachers from the Elm Tree Child Care) and 9 greeters. Thank you to everyone who participated! All the participants commented on how nice it was to come and pray peacefully in our sanctuary. Thank you especially to the Prayer Vigil Team: Linda Lange, Sandy Olsen, Chris Bard, and Alice Ramsay. We are planning our next Prayer Vigil for the spring, so stay tuned!

October Numbers

Giving: \$93,733 (including online: \$24,274)

Expenses: \$46,148

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$21,489

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
10/6	142	63
10/13	124	37
10/20	153	31
10/27	164	47



Beer & Hymns December 13 Manny's Ale House

Be filled with the Holiday Spirit by singing on Friday, December 13th from 7 -8 pm! Sing along with Christmas hymns interspersed with traditional wintertime classics.

In the “back room” at Manny's Ale House
- 683 St. Charles Rd., Elmhurst.

Bring a friend! Come early if you'd like to order dinner. We can order and eat in the back room as well.

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

All Things Youth & Family Ministry

Sunday School News

Collections for Area Agencies

Sunday School is collecting items for local agencies. The collection is from November 24th to December 15th. Items can be put in the bins in the ministry corner or clothing can be hung on the trees. Please contact Laura Albert with any questions

Sunday School Classes for December

We will be having classes on Sunday, December 1st and Sunday, December 8th. Sunday School classes will start again on January 12th.

Have a happy holiday season!

“A Glorious Night” Annual Christmas Program!

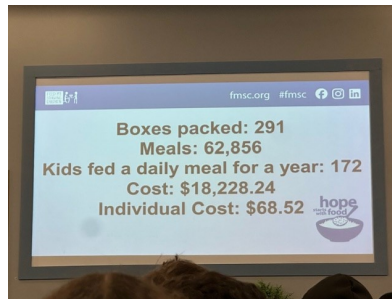
Join our children and youth in celebrating Jesus’ birth at the 10am service on Sunday, December 15th. This year’s re-telling of the Christmas story was inspired by the song, “O, What a Glorious Night” by Sidewalk Prophets. Practices will be held on Saturday mornings; December 7th & 14th @ 10am in the Sanctuary. Chimes practice @ 9:30am on both Saturdays. Please see Roxanne with any questions.

Middle School/Confirmation Winter Retreat

The middle school/confirmation winter retreat is scheduled for Friday, January 17 – Sunday, January 19th at Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center, Oregon, IL. The weekend will not only focus on formation of our faith, but relationship building with classmates in preparation of the summer service trip to Minnesota! Look for an email with registration, payment options and details. Deadline: December 21. Questions? Please see Roxanne.

Photos Feed My Starving Children

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Feed My Starving Children event on November 13th. Below are some pictures from the event:



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

Worship & Prayers

A Note from Vicar Nicholas

The Advent season is now upon us as we simultaneously anticipate the birth of Jesus Christ and await the Second Coming of Christ. This season offers us a time to linger in the waiting for things to unfold and be revealed, and there are freezing temperatures and less sunshine to boot. Unfortunately, this winter weather can lead to what is called “seasonal affective disorder,” causing symptoms of fatigue, depression, hopelessness, and social withdrawal. Therapists and Psychologists can offer expert advice and guidance on how to address these symptoms. On our end, here at St. Paul, we acknowledge the myriad of life circumstances and challenges in our community member’s lives, so we are offering grief support groups on Sundays in Room 3 from 11am-11:45am through the Advent season. It will culminate with an informal Longest Night service at 11am on 12/22.

As a faith community, we will continue to gather every Sunday sharing a sacred space together where all of your feelings, be they hopeless, anxious, grief-stricken, or filled with an eager joy and peace, are welcomed. Come as you are and worship the Lord!

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

Winnie Ziemer, Heather, Ethan, Aidan, & Haley (daughter & grandchildren of Teri Fash), Rich Bradley (friend of Patrick & Karen Egan), Jack Coomans (grandson of Norma Coomans), Jayden Jewett (great nephew of Teri Fash), Bev Parks, Glenn Skobel (brother-in-law of Bev Parks), Josh Rimnac (friend of Marian Hammerel), Wendy Hull-Sansone, Jeanne Bartel Kowalski (daughter of Molly Bartel), Frank Fedak (father of Maggy Fedak), Judy & Karl Koeneman, George Alajoki, Carole Batek, Sheila Bowdish, Melinda Brent, Paige Cady (friend of Carrie Lavorini), Chris (Elm Tree employee), Kristy Fash-Alvarez (daughter of Teri Fash), Michael Glabicki (son-in-law of John & Carol Freidheim), Margaret Golden, Arlene Jensen, Evelyn Kimble,, Janice Peacock (friend of Carol & John Freidheim), Cal Root (father of Kevin Simberg & Keith Root), Daniel Rubalcaba, Kelsey Schneider (granddaughter of Molly Bartel), Steve Simberg (brother of Carol Simberg), Mark Szerzinski (father of Alex Szerzinski), Jim Thacker (brother of Cindi Thacker), Anita Zielske and All Caregivers.

Prayers for the Bereaved—Carole Wezeman, Bill Bartel

Community



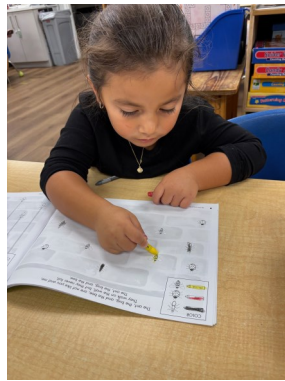
Elm Tree News

The month of November was certainly a busy one for all the staff and students at Elm Tree. We began the month with our annual vendor fair. A big thank you to everyone who participated in this event. We had a wonderful turn out, and hope everyone had a great time!

This school year we have “adopted” a cow named Vada through the Discovery Dairy Program. This has been a fun experience for the children because we get to learn more about our cow Vada, and the farm she currently resides in. She is from Berning Acres Farm in East Dubuque, IL. We get monthly updates about Vada and her farm. In addition to Vada, we also have a new farm pen pal through the IAITC (IL Agriculture in the Classroom) Program. We have a special visit planned in December to meet our farm writer, Macy!

Aside from Vada and Macy, we have spent the month learning about manners, Native Americans, and Thanksgiving! Ms. Carol worked hard to put together an indigenous people’s lesson plan, and teamed up with Mrs. Jude to make a menu to go with the theme. The children enjoyed chicken, wild rice, cranberries, and corn bread. We look forward to a few days off for Thanksgiving to spend time with our family and loved ones. On behalf of the staff and students: Happy Thanksgiving from all your friends at Elm Tree!!

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



December 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
<p>1</p> <p>8a Worship 9a Crash Course Sunday School Wired Word 10a Worship 11a 1st Communion 11a Grief Group 2p Hands & Feet</p>	<p>2</p> <p>10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club 7p Espresso Yourself</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7p M.E.N.D. 7p Women, Wine, & Word</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Confirmation 5:30p Wed. Dinner 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:45p Elm Tree Christmas Program</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7a Edward Jones Event 9:30a Chimes Rehearsal 10a Christmas Program Reh.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8a Worship 9a Crash Course Sunday School Wired Word 10a Worship 11a 1st Communion 11a Grief Group 11a Youth Comm.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30p Finance 7p Espresso Yourself</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30a Bible Study 1p 105 Setup 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Confirmation 5:30p Wed. Dinner 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir 8p VPYB</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11:30a Under 105 Luncheon</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7p Beer & Hymns</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:30a Chimes Rehearsal 10a Christmas Program Rehearsal</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8a Worship 9a Wired Word 10a Worship—Christmas Program 11a Grief Group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11a Beacon Hill Worship 7p Espresso Yourself</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30p Council</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Confirmation 5:30p Wed. Dinner 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Living Waters Deadline</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8a Worship 9a Wired Word 9:15a Ring Sing 10a Worship 11a Grief Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Timesheets Due 7p Espresso Yourself</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve 3p Worship 5p Worship 11p Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Christmas Day Office Closed 9a Worship</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9am Lessons & Carols</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>New Years Eve</p>				



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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: Ginger Riccio & Lisa Speidel

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

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.