

# Living Waters

April 2025

## Holy Week(s)

Pastor Zak

I love the anticipation of upcoming holidays and celebrations. I'm a sucker for an Advent calendar to count the days to Christmas or a running countdown to the end of a school semester (although now as a parent, it's a countdown to school resuming, but I digress). Before we know it, our 40 days (not including Sundays) of Lenten preparation will lead us into Holy Week. Together we will wave palms and shout "*Hosanna!*" Together we will break bread in celebration of Christ's own meal with his disciples. Together we will hear the Passion of Christ as we reflect on his death and our own complicity in sin. Together we will shout "*Alleluia!*" (I can type the word, even if I can't say it—I looked it up) as we celebrate the culmination of Lent and Holy Week in proclamation of Christ's victory over death on Easter.

While I'm looking forward to the movements of Holy Week, I cannot help but find myself considering how each week, day, hour, second is in itself "*holy.*" Every breath we take is an offering to God who breathed this breath of life into us in the first place. Every day is another opportunity to live and love the beauty of creation and the diversity of those who walk, crawl, swim, fly, and even slither—upon it. Holy Week itself is set aside for celebration, but I pray that you are also able to find holiness in every moment, every week. Celebrating the gift of life, and resurrected life, at all times. May you be blessed in this holy time, and also know the blessed holiness of God at all times.



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## Worship Information

### In Person

#### Sundays

Worship in the sanctuary at 8am and 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.



**Maundy Thursday  
Dinner Church  
April 17 at 5:30pm**

**Register Today to Attend!**

We are excited to announce the return of Maundy Thursday Dinner Church Service on Thursday April 17, 2025! Dinner Church, inspired by early Christian gatherings, centers around shared meals, fostering fellowship alongside worship with special liturgy. Enjoy a communal meal with friends and loved ones as we worship. From sacred readings, to the communal meal, every aspect mirrors the spirit of the Last Supper.

Registration for dinner church is strongly encouraged. Click [here](#) to register to attend or call the church office for assistance with registration.

# Congregational Life...

## A Note From Vicar Nicholas

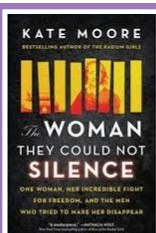
Beloved Community of St. Paul, spring is officially here, and change is in the air. At the time of this newsletter going out, we will be over halfway through Lent, and it has been so meaningful to worship together on Wednesdays during the Holden Evening services. It's been such a nice opportunity to slow down from the busyness each week with a good assortment of soups for dinner and a mid-week worship.

In addition to my responsibilities within our congregation, I've been engaged in the Presidential Search Committee at my seminary, the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. I have been serving as the student representative on this committee, and it's been a very educational experience to participate in the selection of candidates beginning with reviewing their CV's to taking part in first and second interviews with them. Thankfully, we have finally narrowed it down to three candidates, and we have invited them for on-campus interviews at LSTC with all of the students, staff, faculty, and board members that will take place in the coming weeks. Overall, it's been a good experience, but I won't be upset once it's all settled and we've selected the next president and they've accepted the role.

Whether we're electing new presidents or representatives to public office or into seminaries or determining how we should approach tithing as individuals and giving out benevolences as a congregation, may we remember the discerning words of Jesus, "for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Luke 12:34)

## Caring for Our World Over Pizza

We are offering a space for people to come, share pizza, and a discussion about navigating our changing world and the challenges it poses to our lives of faith. Join us on April 11 at 6:30pm in the Cafe. This is our first meeting to better organize ourselves and to better understand how we can support each other in conversation and our world in action. Please contact Jackie Wolfe for more information (630) 530-2510.



### Book Club April 7 7pm

The St. Paul Book Club will meet on Monday, April 7 at 7pm to discuss the non-fiction book, *The Woman They Could Not Silence* by Kate Moore, author of the popular book *Radium Girls*.

In 1860 a woman was committed to the Illinois Hospital for the Insane because society deemed her opinions unworthy. This is the true story of how she successfully won her release and advocated for others.

### Wine, Women & the Word

Women, Wine and the Word will meet Tues. April 1 at 7pm. This month we will be meeting at the home of Toni Dornacher, 509 S. Riverside, Villa Park and the discussion will be led by Lisa Speidel. We will be reading *Emotions Are Guests* on pg.26. All are welcome.

### Hands & Feet

Hands and Feet will be open Sunday April 6 from 2-4pm. There is still a continued need for products, especially napkins: 250 count or less.

### Under 105

The April Under 105 Lunch is Thursday, April 10th at 11:30 in the Cafe. Our guest speaker is Vicar Nicholas! He will share his experiences with the Pine Ridge Reservation.

The menu includes: ham, scalloped potatoes, zucchini casserole, cranberry relish, broccoli grape salad, fruit salad, Surprise salad, dinner rolls, assorted desserts.

R.S.V.P. to Merry Freedlund by Sunday, April 6th. Hope to see you there!

...and More!

## Sharing God's Abundance

Everybody expects their church to ask for money, but do you know your church gives it away, too? Well, lovely people of St. Paul, thanks to your generosity there is a sweet sum of money to be disbursed to worthy organizations this year.

In a recent reorganization of existing committees, the Benevolence, Mission Endowment and Memorial committees have aligned themselves into one new "Giving Committee," which resides under the umbrella of Stewardship. With this new committee, we hope St. Paul's outside donations will be more intentional and well-rounded, and that communication will improve between the committee, Finance Committee, Council and congregation.

Because of your generosity, there are four pockets of money from which the Giving Committee may allocate gifts. They are: budgeted benevolence gifts, ProJECT Forward tithe, rollover from 2024 surplus giving, and interest from the Mission Endowment Fund (Mission Endowment interest is designated at the end of the year, when the amount of accrued interest is known.) At their first meeting in early March, Giving Committee members were privileged to designate, and Council has approved:

From first quarter budgeted benevolence funds:  
\$750 to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (LOMC)  
\$2,050 to Lutherdale  
\$2000 to Missionary Sponsorship\*  
\$400 to Adult Christian Care\*

\* Ongoing commitments to be paid each quarter.

From the ProJECT Forward tithe (an amount of \$675 per quarter):

\$175 to Reconciling Works  
\$500 to Holy Family Ministries

From the 2024 Budget Surplus:  
\$1000 for roof project for new medical clinic in Tanzania

The Giving Committee will meet quarterly, and joyfully awaits sharing the abundance of God's blessings as received by St. Paul Lutheran Church.

With grateful thanks,  
Kristen Rosenwinkel & Gay Nass  
Stewardship Co-chairs

## February Numbers

Giving: \$50,355 (including online: \$21,286)

Expenses: \$42,080

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(102,440)

### Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
2/2	123	57
2/9	153	43
2/16	119	36
2/23	129	39

## We Only Have One Planet Home Earth Day--April 22

April 22 marks the 55th anniversary of Earth Day, a day when millions of people around the United States gather to march and advocate for better care of the earth, and started the green revolution. As a people of God, we are tasked with caring for Creation every day.

Take time this Easter Season to enjoy and celebrate creation, but also learn more about the history of Earth Day and explore ways that local resources can help us walk more gently on the earth. Learn about, and get involved with Earth Day activities in your local area or learn about initiatives the ELCA has that promote care for creation. [SCARCE.org](https://www.scarce.org) lists some pain free actions that will help the environment. Taking just a few of these steps and talking to others about them helps so much. Don't forget about our collections at the east cafe entrance. Click the links below to see other recycling events in the area:

[Westmont--April 5](#)    [Wheaton--April 12](#)  
[Elmhurst--April 26](#)

# All Things Family Ministry

## Sunday School News

This year has flown by and thank you all for everything. Just reminder there is no Sunday School April 20th and last day of Sunday School is May 4th.

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### Save the Date!

#### PJs, Pancakes & Easter Egg Hunt

Families of short wonders to 5th grade are welcome to join us on Saturday, April 12 from 8:30-10:00am in the Café for pancakes and an Easter egg hunt. Don't feel like dressing up—that's fine, pajamas are perfectly acceptable! Menu includes pancakes, sausage, fruit, lemonade &/or milk. Questions? See Roxanne.

#### Wilderness Wonders: Trekking through God's Creation—VBS 2025

It's that time of year to think about VBS! The theme this year is **Wilderness Wonders: Trekking through God's Creation**. Each day we will visit a different National Park including Acadia, the Great Smokies, Mesa Verde & Sequoia with Ranger Zak, Rio, and the rest of the VBS crew! Dinner will be provided each night. VBS runs from June 16-19 and is from 5:00-7:15pm. Registration opens April 1st and will be available on the St. Paul website. The link will also be provided in the weekly e-letter beginning April 3. Questions or interested in volunteering? See Roxanne.

#### Oh What a Night—Trivia Night 2025 Was a Huge Success!

On Saturday, March 15th the youth group hosted their annual Trivia Night event. There was a great turnout with 8 teams participating. The Jackson Jaguars came in 1st place with 952 points and were the recipients of the traveling "Top Banana" award! A special thank you to Dave Clot for being the MC and to planning committee members Doreen Fritz & Hannah Hull-Sansone for their participation. Proceeds from the event go to offset the costs for the high school boundary waters canoe trip. Five teens participated and earned \$142.00 each towards the trip. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this event a big success.



The winning Jackson Jaguars

# Worship & Prayers

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Palm Sunday  
April 13  
8am & 10am

Good Friday  
April 18  
12pm & 7pm



Maundy Thursday  
April 17  
Dinner Church  
5:30pm

Easter Sunday  
April 20  
8am & 10am

## Prayer Vigil - Friday, April 11

Join us for our Spring Prayer Vigil, where we invite you to come to our sanctuary for an uplifting experience. From 7am to 5pm you can immerse yourself in quiet prayer for 20 minutes or more contributing to a beautiful tapestry of continuous prayer that envelops our community. Whether you're a long-time member or a newcomer, we encourage you to sign up to participate and/or submit prayer requests.

- Sign up to pray in the Foyer, [use our online form](#), or just drop in.
- Submit prayer requests (anonymously if you wish) in the Foyer or use our [online form](#). During the vigil, individuals will lift up your concerns and joys.
- Finally, you can sign up in the Foyer or [here](#) to serve as a greeter. Thank you.

## Holy Saturday Virtual Prayer Vigil – April 19

The Holy Saturday virtual prayer vigil takes place on April 19 from 7am to 7pm. Please join any time on [YouTube](#) here for this time of meditation and prayer. Prayer requests submitted using the above listed ways will appear on the screen during this live stream event.

### 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](mailto:prayers@stpaulvp.org), or contact the church office.*

#### Prayers of Healing and God's Presence

Chuck Meinke (brother-in-law of Emy Ishida), Vivian Marabotti (mother of Denise Zielinski), Kurt Wagner (nephew of Pastor Zak Wagner), Olga Kissel and Judy Mitchell (friends of Debbie Flesch), George Alajoki, Carole Batek, Sheila Bowdish, Melinda Brent, Paige Cady (friend of Carrie Lavorini), Kristy Fash-Alvarez (daughter of Teri Fash), Margaret Golden, Evelyn Kimble, Wayne Kossow, 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), Jim Thacker (brother of Cindi Thacker), All Caregivers

#### Prayers for the Bereaved

Family and friends of Craig and Lori Nuhfer (cousins of Brigette Thoreson & Hanne Alajoki), Devon Collins (friend of Cary Tate), Beverly Parks, Anita Zielske, George Kikta (brother of Pauline Ares), Rosann Feldman (aunt of Cary Tate)

# Community



## Elm Tree News

Happy Spring! We are now in that time of the year where we can encounter all 4 seasons on any given day! With that being said, we have been trying to get outside on nicer days and soak up some of the sunshine that has finally returned to us! March has proved to be a very busy month for us, here at Elm Tree. We began the month with two in-service days. These days allowed the staff to attend the IL ASCD Pump it up Primary Conference in Schaumburg, IL. The teachers attended two days of training and brought lots of new fun ideas back to the classrooms. It also allowed the teachers to do some team building and enjoying time together outside of the classroom.

We spent the next week celebrating Dr. Seuss! Since Dr. Seuss' birthday was in March, we spent the week having fun events to showcase some of his popular books, and we even sang Happy Birthday, and had cake. We had a quarterly Family Night—which was of course Dr. Seuss themed! I think one of the biggest highlights was Wacky Wednesday, because well, things got wacky!

We closed out the month with a study of color and rainbows. Unfortunately, we did not catch the leprechaun again this year, but he did leave us leprechaun gold hidden inside of some magic blarney stones. We look forward to see what April will bring us.

Love and blessings,  
Ms. Maggy and the Elm Tree Crew



# APRIL 2025

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, & the Word	2 9:30a Bible Study 5:30p Soup Supper 6:15p Holden Prayer 6:45p Handbells 7:45p Chancel Choir	3	4	5 9a Elm Tree Vendor Fair
6 8a Worship 9a Practicing Way 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Grief Lectionary 2p Hands & Feet	7 10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club 7p Espresso Yourself	8 2p Rachel Circle	9 9:30a Bible Study 1p Under 105 Setup 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Soup Supper 6:15p Holden Prayer 6:45p Handbells 7:45p Chancel Choir 8p VPYB	10 11:30a Under 105 Luncheon 5p Prayer Vigil Setup 7p Comm. Engagement	11 7a Prayer Vigil 6:30p Pizza & Social Justice	12 8:30p Family Pancakes 10:30a Robbie Welsh Visitation 11a Celebration of Life 12p Luncheon
13 Palm Sunday 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Youth Commission	14 7p Espresso Yourself 7p Internship Committee Mtg	15 6:30p Council	16 4:45p Wings Choir 6p Handbells 7p Choir	17 Maundy Thursday 5:30p Dinner Church	18 Good Friday 12p Good Friday Worship 7p Good Friday Worship	19 7a Virtual Prayer Vigil
20 Easter Sunday 8a Worship 9a Wired Word 10a Worship	21 6:30p Elm Tree Board Mtg. 7p Espresso Yourself	22	23 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Confirmation 5:30p Wed Dinner	24	25	26 10a Pilch Baptism
27 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Someone You Should Know 9a Wired Word 10a Worship—Tucker Baptism	28 11a Beacon Hill Worship 7p Espresso Yourself	29	30 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Confirmation 5:30p Wed Dinner 6:00p Handbells 7:00p Chancel Choir			



545 S. Ardmore Ave. Villa Park, IL 60181  
630-832-5580 | [www.stpaulvp.org](http://www.stpaulvp.org)

*Loved by God, we grow, care, give, and share in Jesus' name.*

## St. Paul Leadership

### Church Council

President, Dan Pedersen  
Vice President, Doreen Fritz  
Secretary, Marti Seaton (Acting)  
Treasurer, Kathleen Murphy

### Representatives

Community Engagement, Marti Seaton  
Faith Formation, Julie Frakes  
Property, Dave Bard  
Stewardship, Kristen Rosenwinkel & Gay Nass  
Worship Music and Arts, Carol Freidheim  
Youth, Lisa Speidel and Ginger Riccio

## 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](mailto:office@stpaulvp.org)

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