

# Living Waters

May 2025

## He Is Risen, Indeed!!!

Pastor Zak

Once more we have navigated our way to the empty tomb as we move ahead through the season of Easter. The brass band, pastel outfits, beautiful flowers, and overflowing pews of Easter Sunday are now a memory of weeks passed, and yet the celebration continues all the way until Pentecost. Truthfully the joy of the resurrection cannot be contained within a single Sunday, or season for that matter, as we celebrate the resurrection every time we gather as God's beloved community to offer prayer, praise, and thanksgiving to the God of resurrected life. Truly embodying this resurrected lifestyle requires us to live the hope and promise of Easter every day of our life. I find this to be challenging at times as a Pastor who is exhausted by the time the Easter Sunday celebration is over, and cannot fathom such excitement without end. Yet, as I say this, I know that I draw on this resurrection promise not only in times of joy, but especially in moments of grief. As we face loss and death in our daily lives, whether it be a job, a relationship or a loved one, I find strength in the Easter promise, hope in the resurrection. If we contain the joy of Easter to a passing moment or season, we aren't necessarily *"keeping it special"*, but are instead limiting what makes it so special—the unbridled joy and promise that regardless of the hardship we face in our daily life *"Christ has risen, he has risen indeed!"*. A refrain and reminder that because Christ has lives anew, we do too.

## A Note From Vicar Nicholas

Greetings Beloved St. Paul Community,  
As part of my internship project, we are holding an interfaith fundraiser for DuPage PADS, an incredible non-profit organization that provides resources and housing for our neighbors who are struggling the most. If you are moved to join this fundraiser for DuPage PADS, please click this [link](#), or send your contribution to St. Paul Lutheran Church. If you are sending a check please be sure to write "DuPage PADS" in the memo line.

"I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'" (Matthew 25: 36-40)



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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.

# Congregational Life...

## Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday at St. Paul



### Book Club



St. Paul Book Club will discuss another timely novel by Jodi Picoult, entitled *Small Great Things*. It is a court room drama about a black neonatal nurse and a white supremacist couple and the death of a baby.

Everyone is invited to join us for a discussion on Monday, May 5 at 7 PM in the Cafe. Feel free to bring a friend.

### Wine, Women & the Word

Women, Wine and the Word will be meeting on May 6th at 7 pm at the home of Judy Nuehring. We will be discussing the poem *Wholly Water* on pg. 85. All are welcome.

### Hands & Feet

Thank you so much for your generous support of Hands & Feet. We currently are in need of gently used shoes of all sizes. Please leave your donations outside the Hands & Feet door in the Ark.

### Under 105

The next Under 105 Lunch is Thursday, May 15th. We meet at 11:30 in the Cafe for fellowship. Lunch is ready at 12:00. The menu includes something for everyone: pork carnitas, beef and shredded chicken tacos, meatless enchiladas, rice, refried beans, assorted salads, assorted desserts. The program is Emergency Preparedness. Andrew Caron will be sharing security in and out of one's home. R.S.V.P to Merry Freedlund by Sunday, May 11th. This is the final luncheon until we resume in September.

*...and More!*

## A Joyful Response to God's Goodness

Recently, my mind has been drawn back (decades and decades, mind you) to my confirmation classes. Something my pastor said at the time has really stayed with me. We don't inherit the kingdom of God because of our good works. Rather, our good works are a "Joyful Response" to the love and grace found in Jesus Christ. We are so well loved, so blessed, we cannot help but give back to the world around us.

What a beautiful thing, a Joyful Response, when we can't help but laugh, or cry, or sing, or hug someone, or pitch in, or donate to a cause.

Wait a minute....donate money? It might be challenging to think of donating money as a Joyful Response, but think about it. We are overwhelmingly blessed by the abundant and generous gifts God bestows. Even now, among political discord and crazy fluctuating markets, we have so very much. I pray that through it all, we are able to continue to love, to give, and to Joyfully Respond to God's great goodness.

With gratitude,  
Kristen Rosenwinkel  
Stewardship

## March Numbers

**Giving:** \$48,047 (including online: \$22,428)

**Expenses:** \$63,045

**YTD Giving vs. Expenses:** \$(117,438)

### Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
3/2	141	57
3/5	54	13
3/9	153	58
3/16	144	66
3/23	153	52
3/30	149	51

## Let's Ramble!

It's time to get outdoors and renew ourselves with a monthly ramble! According to the European Ramblers' Association, "Rambling is similar to hiking but may involve a more relaxed pace, and may be more focused on enjoying the scenery and the outdoors rather than achieving a specific fitness goal. Rambling is often done in groups, and may be part of a social or community activity." This describes the St. Paul Green Land Team Ramblers. Some of us have our eyes on birds overhead, while others identify wildflowers and others dig under rocks for crawling creatures.

We will meet at 9:00, and step off for our ramble at 9:15. Join us at Lyman Woods on May 17 to enjoy the birds and wildflowers. Trails are wild and rustic.

May 17 – Lyman Woods

June 21 – Fullersburg Woods/Graue Mill

July 19 – Swallow Cliff Woods (Meet at church at 8:30 to carpool.)

August 16 – TBD

September 20 – Waterfall Glen (Meet to carpool.)

## Chair Yoga with Kristen May 9 and 16

Interested in Chair Yoga? Kristen Rosenwinkel, who is just completing a yoga teacher training program, invites you to join her on two Fridays this month, May 9th and 16th, at 2 p.m. in the Cafe.

Yoga is all about cultivating stability and strength while calming the mind and focusing on the breath. Chair yoga is no different, but of course, we'll use a chair for support.

This is a beginner's level class, open to people of all ages. There is no charge, but a free will offering to the Family Assistance Fund is welcome. Wear comfy clothes. Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact [Kristen](#).



# All Things Family Ministry

## Sunday School News

The Sunday School year will be coming to an end on May 4, 2025. We will be doing an overview of VBS. Thank you for a wonderful year and enjoy your summer!

### **“Death In The Desert” Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser—Register Now! Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00pm – 8:30pm (doors open 5:30pm) Fellowship Center!**

Set in a remote desert excavation site near Mount Sinai in Egypt, archaeologist Professor Upmore and team have uncovered the tomb of lesser known Pharaoh, *Rah-mi Nu-dl*, who was said to have been cursed by the gods themselves.

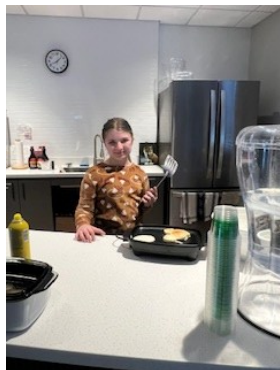
While exploring the tomb, a mystical seal is broken and a strange sickness befalls those at the unveiling. Tensions mount when Professor Upmore is found dead under mysterious circumstances. Was it the work of an ancient curse or a more earthly threat?

Dust off your pith helmets and Egyptian wardrobe and join us for a fun-filled evening! Laura Lerdal from College of DuPage is excited to return as our Chef. Cost is \$25.00 per person. Hosted by our High School and Middle School youth to assist in costs for their respective trips this summer. Registration is required. To register, click [here](#). Registration deadline is Sunday, May 11. 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. To register click [here](#) or go to the "Sign Up" page on our website. Questions or interested in volunteering? See Roxanne.



**A big thank you to Ava Riccio, Ginger Riccio  
and Laura Albert for making our  
2nd Annual Pancakes, PJs  
and Easter Egg Hunt a huge success!**

# Worship & Prayers



## Summer Worship Begins May 25th

A reminder that the summer worship schedule will begin on Sunday, May 25th. During the summer there is one worship service at 9am and the first Sunday of the month is outdoor worship.

## Spring 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 Spring St. Paul Prayer Vigil was held in person on April 11, with 8 greeters and 28 participants, including a group of children and their teachers from Elm Tree Child Care. The sanctuary, filled with a peaceful and reflective atmosphere, became a space that resonated deeply with all attendees as they came to pray in silence. Thank you to everyone who participated!

The Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil was on April 19, from 7am to 7pm. We had 99 views, with a peak of 6 concurrent viewers. Many people have expressed how valuable this is to people who are not able to make it to in-person vigils. Thank you to all who stopped by for this special online experience.

Thank you especially to the Prayer Vigil Team: Linda Lange, Sandy Olsen, Chris Bard, and Alice Ramsay.

## 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

Joy (friend of Teri Fash), Aidan (grandson of Teri Fash), Linda Kerkemeyer (aunt of, Cindi Thacker), Bert Anderson (brother of Lana Pedersen), Brenda Miller (friend of John & Carol Freidheim), Mary Orlando (friend of Mary Agrusa & Sandy Giza), Dave (friend of Mary Agrusa & Sandy Giza), Bill Zucker (friend of Mary Agrusa), George Alajoki, Carole Batek, Danah Boehmer (niece of Teri Fash), 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 Lucas Saurbaugh (nephew of Kelly & Brad Saurbaugh), Mary Wendling (mother-in-law of Ingrid Bard Wendling)

# Community



## Elm Tree News

April showers bring May flowers, and a little bit of cabin fever to our littles at Elm Tree! We are now entering the time of year where everyone is counting down the days until Summer! During the month of April we are learning about some very important themes, which include: Earth Day/ Recycling, Insects, and most importantly, Easter, and the resurrection of Jesus. We also enjoyed an unexpected visit from the Easter Bunny!

The children completed some activities to become more aware of our planet Earth.

Some of these activities included: a nature walk, where they spotted trash and helped to clean it up, learning the difference between trash and recycling, and becoming more aware on use of lights, water and crafting materials to create less waste.

A big thank you to everyone who came out at the beginning of April to support Elm Tree at the vendor fair. It was a fun day, and we had a great turn out.

We also would like to send out a "Save the Date" for Elm Tree's 50th anniversary celebration! We will celebrate in the form of a 50th Fab Fun Fest, and would love to see all of our alumni, no matter what the age! More details will be posted on our Facebook event page as they become available.

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



# May 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	2 10a Elm Tree Grandfriends Day	3 10am Hands & Feet Meeting
4 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Someone Class 9a Wired Word 10a Worship –Draus Baptism 11a Grief Lectionary 11a Youth Comm. 2p Hands & Feet	5 10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club 7p Espresso Yourself	6 7p M.E.N.D. 7p Wine, Women & Word	7 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Confirmation 5:30p Wed. Dinner 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	8	9 2p Chair Yoga With Kristen 7pm Caring for Our World	10 9a Kiwanis Onion Distribution
11 Mother's Day 8a Worship 9a Someone Class 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 5:30p Interfaith Dinner	12 7p 100 Women Who Care 7p Espresso Yourself 7p Internship Mtg.	13 2p Rachel Circle	14 9:30a Bible Study 1p Under 105 Setup 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Confirmation 5:30p Wed. Dinner 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir 8 VPYB	15 11:30a Under 105	16 2p Chair Yoga With Kristen	17 6p Murder Mystery Dinner
18 8a Worship 9a Someone Class 9a Wired Word 10a Worship	19 6:30p Elm Tree Board Mtg. 7p Espresso Yourself	20	21 9:30a Bible Study 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	22	23 7a Elm Tree Donuts with Grown-ups 7p Caring for Our World	24
25 Summer Worship Schedule Begins 9a Worship 10a Wired Word	26 Memorial Day *Timesheets Due *Office Closed *Elm Tree Closed	27 6:30p Council	28 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	29 6p Elm Tree Moving Up Ceremony	30 10a Elm Tree Last Day	31





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*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.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## Stay Connected

Phone: 630-832-5580

Email: [office@stpaulvp.org](mailto:office@stpaulvp.org)

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

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