

Living Waters

June/July 2025

A Time for Renewal

Pastor Zak

Warmer weather has arrived and with it new opportunities to engage with the community and world around us. Summer can be so busy with all of the activities, vacations, and to-do lists, but it is also a sacred time for holy rest, Sabbath. I pray that this summer you are able to find space for that rest and renewal, wherever that may be. I am excited for my Pastoral Renewal this summer as I seek to find renewed energy through travels with my family and in the company of friends. We all look to different activities, places, and space for renewal and I hope that this summer you too are able to find your Sabbath rest, wherever you may be.

2025 Pastoral Renewal Plans

This summer I will be taking part in year one of my two-year Pastoral Renewal program, made possible through a generous grant from the Lilly Foundation. The grant process was aided by the Mutual Ministry Committee, and together we created a theme "Pastoral Renewal: St. Paul's Best Idea" (a play on Ken Burns's documentary *"The National Parks: America's Best Idea"*). This renewal will be national park-themed and take place over the course of 6 weeks (June 20 - August 1). During this time our family will explore a variety of National Parks (including, but not limited to Yellowstone, Theodore Roosevelt, Olympic, and Denali), finding rest in natural spaces. Our trip will also take us to Alaska to spend time exploring the natural beauty of the 49th state while spending time with some beloved seminary colleagues. These travels are meant to provide intentional time for renewal in order that I/we may better serve together for years to come.

The fun is not limited to my travels, since portions of the grant allow for the congregation to experience renewal as well. Group activities, celebrations, a National Parks themed VBS, and the Congregational Campout at LOMC are just a few of these activities planned for this year. While I am gone, I have a team of pastors and leaders, some familiar and some new, who will be covering pastoral duties in my absence. Vicar Nicholas and I have planned together to ensure that all areas of ministry are covered during my leave, a time during which I will not be in direct contact with the congregation in order to ensure true rest. I am thankful for these leaders that are helping to support you during my renewal, and for the Mutual Ministry Committee and church leadership who have worked to make this all work logistically. Most of all, I am thankful for your support as a congregation, encouraging me to find ways to care for myself and my family, that I may better care for you in return. I look forward to sharing my adventures with you when I return later this summer!



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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...

Community Corner

Here are the highlights of the upcoming opportunities to connect within our St. Paul family and reach out to neighboring communities:

- PRIDE is alive and well in parades, festivals, and special events across Chicagoland this summer. You are invited to celebrate in Lombard on June 1st at First Church and in Elmhurst on June 21st at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church or in other neighborhoods: <https://youth-outlook.org/events-fundraisers/pride-2025/>. Youth-Outlook's resources will be featured at Elmhurst's Family PRIDE Fest and they are the recipients of our "All are Welcome" t-shirt fundraiser.
- St. Paul will send Pastor Zak off on his "Renewal of Vocation" (RV), Part 1 with a reception on June 15th after the 9am service. Join us in the Café for refreshments and remarks about his plans and our congregation's opportunities to connect to God's Creation.
- St. Paul has participated generously in collecting Welcome Packs for local refugee families through Exodus World Service. "A Minute for Missions" at our June 15th service will include an invitation to participate in their "Engaging with Refugees: Cross-Cultural Training" hosted at St. Paul on June 26th. This training prepares volunteers to engage with refugees. It offers in-depth learning and activities to broaden understanding of who refugees are, how they get to the U.S., and what help they receive when they arrive. Learn about the culture(s) of many refugees who are arriving and how to navigate cross-cultural communication and friendship.
- The Caring for our World support group will continue to meet for dessert and conversation, to share resources, and to explore community partnerships. Future dates are June 12th and 27th, July 11th and 25th— at 7pm in the Cafe. All are welcome. Contact Jackie Wolfe to learn more.
- Once again St. Paul will participate in the annual July 4th parade sponsored by the Villa Park VFW Post 2801 to collect food and monetary donations for the Outreach House Food Pantry in Lombard. You are invited to participate by walking, pushing grocery carts, passing out candy – and cheering us on from the sidelines. Candy donations will be accepted starting June 15. Contact Marti Seaton to volunteer.

Thrivent Members

Calling all Thrivent members to unite and pool our resources together by using our action team of \$250 to use towards missions at church. Did you know that you can be making a greater impact at St. Paul without spending your own money? Think of how you can help our youth, Hands and Feet, Adult Education, Wednesday Night Dinners, and Worship. If you are a Thrivent member, please contact the [Carol Freidheim](#) to learn how to apply for those dollars.

Hands and Feet

Hands and Feet will be open June 1 from 2-4 pm. We will hold an open house in the Fellowship Hall following 9:00 worship for those interested in seeing how this ministry operates. We will be collecting both monetary and in-kind donations during worship. We are also excited to announce that Hands and Feet has been named as one of the recipients of a \$5,000 grant from the Fund for Mission of the Metro Chicago Synod. The money will be used to improve our ministry and services in the areas of technology, communication and community. Thank you to the Synod!

Wine, Women & the Word

June 3 at 7pm

We will gather at 7 pm Tuesday, June 3 in the home of Pat Bolin, 50 N. Princeton Ave. in Villa Park. We will be discussing *God Is...* on pg. 94. This will be our last meeting until we resume again in the Fall. We hope you can join us.

...and More!

Meet Lyndsay Monsen St. Paul's 2025-2026 Pastoral Intern



Hello, St. Paul! My name is Lyndsay Monsen (she/her), and I look forward to joining you this upcoming year as Vicar starting August 17. I am a final-year Master of Divinity student at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, preparing for ordination in Word and Sacrament Ministry. I also received a bachelor's in communication studies from Luther College in 2019. I grew up in Highland Park, IL but coincidentally have family in Villa Park and the surrounding areas, so I'm excited for this opportunity to spend more time in a community I've loved over the years. I'm particularly eager to dive into worship life and youth programming at St. Paul, and I look forward to getting to know the congregation through one-on-one conversations.

My ministry experience, prior to starting seminary, has mostly taken place outside the four walls of a church—on summer staff at Lutherdale Bible Camp in Wisconsin, serving with the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program in Palestine, and working in faith-based advocacy in Washington, DC—so spending this upcoming year in a congregation full-time will be new for me. It will be great to finally take what I've learned these past three years at LSTC about pastoral care, ministerial leadership, and the Bible into a ministry setting.

Down the road, I would love to do some sort of outdoor ministry, having thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail (over 2,000 miles from Georgia to Maine) prior to starting seminary. When I'm not planning my next big hike, writing a sermon, or reading the stack of books I've accumulated the past couple years, you can probably find me swimming in Lake Michigan, cooking for friends, at a concert, or spending time with my sweet 4-year-old chocolate lab, Maggie.

April Numbers

Giving: \$33,118 (including online: \$22,653)

Expenses: \$40,639

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(124,958)

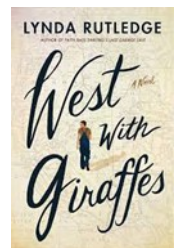
Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
4/6	143	53
4/13	198	62
4/17	95	N/A
4/18	94	9
4/20	417	123
4/27	132	53

Summer Book Club

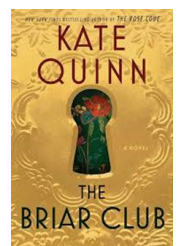
JUNE

On Monday, June 2 at 7pm the St. Paul Book Club will meet in the Café area to discuss the *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. In this historical fiction, adventure story, an elderly man recalls his unforgettable experiences transporting 2 giraffes across the country during the Great Depression. This is a book everyone will enjoy!



JULY

The Briar Club by Kate Quinn, is a powerful novel of friendship and secrets that the St. Paul Book Club has chosen for their July 7th meeting. A unique collection of people in Washington DC form a friendship, sharing their experiences of paranoia during the McCarthy era. We will meet at 7pm in the Café area. Please join us and feel free to invite a friend.



All Things Family Ministry

Wings Choir: Year in Review

The Wings Choir wrapped up our year with a Wings Celebration on Wednesday, May 21. We are grateful for the many opportunities we had to grow in numbers, to sing in worship services, and to learn and stretch our musical talents. Our year included the following: 33 Rehearsals; 14 Singers; 9 New Songs; 11 Worship Services; 150+ Prayer Requests for Family, Friends, and Pets; and countless people encouraged by the sights and sounds of the Wings. Thanks to the congregation and staff of St. Paul for your encouragement and support during choir season! A special thank you to the choir parents for bringing your children to rehearsals and worship services, and for your flexibility and support!

The Wings will take a break for the summer months and will resume in September. Rehearsals are 4:45-5:30 pm on Wednesdays. If you know of any children who might be interested in the Wings Choir (open to grades K-8), please contact Margaret Colletti at margaret@stpaulvp.org or (630)253-9691. All are welcome!

Honor the Grads

Sunday, June 1st we will honor the grads at our 9am outdoor worship service. Please join us as we celebrate our most recent graduates.

Confirmation

Confirmation is Pentecost Sunday, June 8, at 9am. Come and celebrate Calvin Wolf and Henry Pedersen. They will present their Faith Statements on Sunday, June 1 at the 9am outdoor service.

VBS 2025

Wilderness Wonders: Trekking Through God's Creation



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.

"Death in the Desert" Murder Mystery Dinner Youth Fundraiser

Once again, this event was a banger! Over 50 people attended. The teens did such a good job that no one figured out who committed the crime. Laura Lerdal prepared a fabulous meal. Special thanks to Sous Chef, Mark Freedlund, assistant Kent Lerdal, Tim & Addie Freedlund, and Jon & Merry Freedlund who took care of all the kitchen logistics. Special shout out to our actors: Kasey Barnett, Leah Barrington. Austin Clot, North Luedtke, Zane Pedersen, Hallie Swanson, Henry Wagner, and Henry Wolf. Our terrific servers were Roscoe Barnett, Benny Clot and Owen Mohr.

The teens raised a total of \$1305.00 which means that each participant received \$118.63 for their summer trips. Woo-hoo—great job!



Vicar Nicholas & Prayers

A Note from Vicar Nicholas

On Sunday, May 11th my internship project culminated in an Interfaith Dinner and Fundraiser for DuPage PADS, a non-profit organization that provides resources and housing for people struggling with homelessness in our county. We hosted our interfaith partners from Congregation Etz Chaim in Lombard and the Islamic Foundation in Villa Park. Those present heard from speakers representing each faith community, Muslim, Jewish, and Christian speaking to our call in caring for and serving our most vulnerable neighbors. Together we raised a total of \$2,975 for DuPage PADS.



The deepest of gratitude to all who contributed monetary or food donations, offered prayers, those who attended the event, and the many volunteers and lay leaders who were the backbone of making it happen. Although we were only able to have a small cohort of St. Paul members attend, mostly church council members and members affiliated with PADS, there may be future opportunities for more interfaith engagement and volunteering at PADS. Stay tuned!



Summer Worship

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

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

Arlie Russell (sister of Jackie Wolfe), Vivian Marabotti (mother of Denise Zielinski), Bert Anderson (brother of Lana Pedersen), Kathe Rauenzahn (friend of Kathy Jones), Molly Bartel, 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 June Rollins (wife of Don Rollins), Joy DeCastro (friend of Teri Fash), Austin Luckett (friend of Alex Szerzinski), Mary Calhoun (friend of Rachel Lange), Delores Schweppe (cousin of Joel Johnson), Ester Zeiss (friend of many from Grace Lutheran), Ingeborg Hoffman (friend of many from Grace Lutheran)

Community



Elm Tree News

As we wrap up a wonderful school year, we are filled with pride and gratitude for all the incredible moments we've shared together. May has been a month full of reflection, celebration, and heartfelt goodbyes. Throughout May, we've been busy reviewing all the important skills we've learned this year. From recognizing letters and numbers to practicing our shapes, colors, and early writing, our little learners have grown in leaps and bounds! We've also strengthened our social skills (taking turns, sharing with friends, and using kind words). It's amazing to see how far they've come!

One of the highlights of the month was our Grandparents Day celebration! We loved welcoming our students' grandparents into our classroom for songs, crafts, and sweet treats. The children were so proud to share their space and showcase what they've been learning. It was a special day full of hugs, smiles, and cherished memories.

This month, we were honored to take part in Daycare Sunday, a special time to recognize the role of early childhood education within our community and faith. The children shared songs and prayers during a joyful service, and we reflected on the blessings of learning, growth, and love. Thank you to all the families who joined us—it was a beautiful reminder of how deeply we're all connected in supporting our children's futures.

It's always bittersweet to say goodbye, especially to our Pre-K students who are graduating and moving on to kindergarten. We celebrated their accomplishments with a joyful graduation ceremony filled with songs, proud moments, and happy tears. We are so proud of each one of them and can't wait to see all the amazing things they'll do next! Thank you, families and friends of Elm Tree, for your support and for sharing your wonderful children with us. This year has been filled with learning, laughter, and love. We are so grateful to have been a part of your child's early education journey.

Wishing you all a safe and happy summer!

The Elm Tree Crew



June & July 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.

Worship in June & July is Sunday mornings at 9am - first Sunday is outdoor worship.
Wired Word meets on Sundays at 10am. See below for other scheduled events.

June

Sunday	June 1	10am	Grief Lectionary
		11:30am	VBS Volunteers Barbeque
		2pm	Hands & Feet
Monday	June 2	10am	Prayers & Squares
		7pm	Book Club
Tuesday	June 3	7pm	M.E.N.D.
		7pm	Wine, Women & the Word
Wednesday	June 4	12pm	Bunco Group
		6pm	Handbells
		7pm	Chancel Choir
Sunday	June 8	10am	Congregational Work Day
		10am	Stewardship Meeting
Monday	June 9	6:30pm	Finance Meeting
		7pm	Internship Committee Meeting
Tuesday	June 10	6:30pm	Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday	June 12	7pm	Altar Guild Calendar Sign Up Meeting
Friday	June 13	7pm	Beer & Hymns
		7pm	Caring for Our World
Saturday	June 14	9:30am	Altar Guild Calendar Sign Up Meeting
Sunday	June 15	10am	Send Off for Pastor Zak
Monday	June 16-19	5pm	VBS
		11am	Beacon Hill
Tuesday	June 17	7:15pm	Council
Thursday	June 26	6pm	Exodus World Cross Cultural Training
Friday	June 27	7pm	Caring for Our World

July

Tuesday	July 1	7pm	M.E.N.D.
Wednesday	July 2	12pm	Bunco Group
Friday	July 4	10am	Villa Park Independence Day Parade
Sunday	July 6	10am	Grief Lectionary
		2pm	Hands & Feet
Monday	July 7	10am	Prayers & Squares
		7pm	Book Club
Tuesday	July 8	6:30pm	Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday	July 9	6pm	Trauma in the Bible—Bible Study
Friday	July 11	7pm	Caring for Our World
Monday	July 14	7pm	Internship Committee Meeting
Wednesday	July 16	6pm	Trauma in the Bible—Bible Study
Wednesday	July 23	6pm	Trauma in the Bible—Bible Study
Friday	July 25	7pm	Caring for Our World
Wednesday	July 30	6pm	Trauma in the Bible—Bible Study



545 S. Ardmore Ave. Villa Park, IL 60181
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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

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Website: www.stpaulvp.org

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