

Living Waters

August 2025

A Moment of Reflection

Vicar Nicholas

Greetings Beloved Family at St. Paul,

I'm finding it difficult to find the right words to convey how much it has meant to me to serve as your pastoral intern over this last year. All of you have taught me so much in so many different ways. Whether it was most recently in your dedication to serving the community at the 4th of July parade, during the Exodus World Service training where we learned how to welcome our new neighbors-refugees who are entering this country, or in warmly welcoming new guests into our church during worship. There have been countless moments where I've been blessed by your presence and knowledge, including the many Bible studies, adult education classes, and various church council and committee meetings.

It was your presence most of all that I cherished, especially in moments over coffee, a meal, or even a root beer float, where I was able to witness and hear stories from your life, about your families, and your journeys of faith. These conversations sometimes led to ministry projects like the Advent Grief Groups which grew into the Grief Lectionary Bible studies and my internship project, "Breaking Bread with Our Neighbors," an Interfaith dinner and fundraiser for DuPage PADS.

There have been countless moments where I have witnessed the work of the Holy Spirit moving among this community. I've seen how it calls all of you to continually grow deeper into the Gospel proclamation of embodying your declaration, all are welcome, so everyone may feel loved by God as the community grows, cares, gives, and shares in Jesus' name.

Thank you for this opportunity and for opening your hearts and minds to my presence and participation. It has been a wonderful opportunity, one that I will reflect on for years to come.

"I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8: 31-39)



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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...

CROP Walk 2025

This year's CROP Walk takes place on Sunday, Oct. 5, stepping off at 1pm from First Church in Lombard (at Maple and Main). Last year, walkers from all participating churches and organizations raised over \$22,500 for the hungry.

Each year, 25% of funds raised supports local food pantries. This year, **Community Table, Disciples Food Pantry, The Outreach House, United Community Concerns Association and Food for the Soul** will receive the funds. The remainder supports the global work and hunger initiatives of [Church World Service](#).

A team sign-up page is coming soon! Get details from Shirley Jensen. And if you're wondering...you will still have time to participate if you attend the LOMC activities that weekend.

Fourth of July Parade



Book Club—August 4 at 7pm

Everyone is invited to attend the August 4 St. Paul Book Club where we will discuss *The Music of Bees* by Eileen Garvin at 7pm in the Café area. Set on a honeybee farm in Oregon, this novel centers on a group of unlikely characters who form a family and find the courage to start over when things don't turn out as expected.

Book Club 2025-2026 Schedule

September 8	<i>Dream City Dreaming</i> by Cindy Angell Keeling
October 6	<i>The Seed Keeper</i> by Diane Wilson
November 3	<i>Isola</i> by Allegra Goodman
December 8	<i>The Art Thief</i> by Michael Finkel
January 2026	<i>No Meeting</i>
February 2	<i>James</i> by Percival Everett
March 2	<i>Dirt to Soil</i> by Gabe Brown
April 6	<i>The Maid</i> by Nita Prose
May 4	<i>The House in the Cerulean Sea</i> by T.J. Klune

Under 105

The Under 105 Lunch "Save the Dates" cards will arrive in August. They will include September to December and February to May dates, as well as speaker and program information for Sept. to Dec. We are looking forward to resuming our luncheons and seeing everyone soon!

Hands & Feet

The August donation item for Hands and Feet is 4-roll packs of toilet paper. Please leave your donations outside the Hands & Feet door in the Ark. Thank you so much for your generous support of Hands & Feet.

...and More!

Community Engagement Corner

- The Congregation's Renewal plans are in full swing. Stop by the Café to work on a National Park jigsaw puzzle and see where the Wagner family is on their Renewal journey. Their Return Reception is Sunday, August 10.
- 19 St. Paul members walked in the Villa Park VFW 4th of July parade. A truckload of food and almost \$1400 were collected from our very generous community. St. Paul's parade entry was recognized as the most patriotic at the Village Board meeting on July 28. A tour of Outreach House's new HUGE facility at 700 Springer Road in Lombard was offered when the check was presented. (See pictures on pg. 2)
- The Family Movie Night on July 18th drew folks to enjoy popcorn and s'mores while viewing the spectacular scenery and thrilling adventures possible in our country's "best idea" – 400 National Parks. You can find this "National Parks Adventure" documentary on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3hGXlhK8wg>
- The ELCA Churchwide Assembly took place July 26-August 2. Two of the Church's social statements are recommended for approval:
 - Adopt the proposed social statement Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All and its proposed implementing resolutions. Creation of this statement was authorized by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.
 - Adopt proposed editorial changes to the social statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust in response to the memorial "Reconsideration of Social Statement on Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust," which was approved by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly.
- Sign up for a special ramble through Cantigny Park's gardens on Saturday, August 23. A master gardener will take us through the gardens, beginning at 10am. The entrance fee and tour are covered by the Renewal program, but space is limited to 20 participants so make your reservation with Marti Seaton soon!
- Learn how to "Put Your Garden to Bed" from our local garden guru, Bill Kargas, on Sunday, September 21 after the 10am service. We will meet in the Fellowship Center. You can also bring your gardening questions.

May Numbers

Giving: \$51,301 (including online: \$24,198)

Expenses: \$39,453

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(112,960)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
5/4	210	47
5/11	145	38
5/18	148	44
5/25	95	41

June Numbers

Giving: \$37,462 (including online: \$21,588)

Expenses: \$51,902

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(127,401)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
6/1	128	52
6/8	143	47
6/15	110	55
6/22	90	50
6/29	110	42

Tom and Nell Shallcross would like to say thank you to everyone for the prayers and well wishes! They feel the love and it has helped them very much.

All Things Family Ministry

Blessing of the Backpacks

Blessing of the Backpacks will be on Sunday, August 17 during the 9am worship service. All students, teachers, and aides are welcome to bring backpacks for a blessing and a gift. See you there!

Sunday School

We are inviting all children ages 3 to 5th grade to join us for Sunday School beginning Sunday, September 7th for Rally Day. More information to come in the weekly e-letter. Any questions, please contact Laura Albert laura@stpaulvp.org



Wings Choir Begins Wednesday, September 3!

WINGS is the St. Paul Children's Choir and is open to children in Kindergarten through 8th grade. The WINGS choir sings once a month in worship services and also participates in special Christmas programs and services. The WINGS rehearse every Wednesday from 4:45-5:30 p.m., beginning September 3.

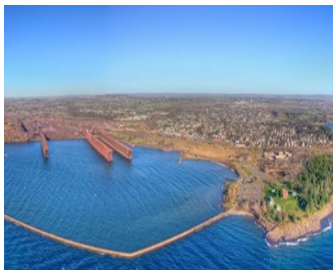
New members are always welcome to join! If your child would like to attend a few rehearsals to learn what WINGS is all about, feel free to try us out! Returning members—please invite a sibling or friend to join us!

A link to the WINGS registration form will be included in August editions of the St. Paul E Letter or please email Margaret@stpaulvp.org to register your child(ren).

For the 3rd consecutive year, the WINGS will sing at the Pet Blessing on Sunday, September 28. This is a really fun way to kick off our new choir season! We hope your child or children can join us!

Summer Student Trips

The high school boundary waters canoe trip will begin on Saturday, August 2. Five teens along with Pastor Zak, Vicar Nicholas, and Katie Clot will head up to Wilderness Canoe Base in Grand Marais, MN for 5 days and 4 nights of camping and canoeing. They will return home on Saturday, August 9. There will be a special prayer for the group during the Sunday, July 27 worship service.



The middle school service trip to Two Harbors, MN will begin on Sunday, August 3. Ten middle schoolers, along with Dave Clot, Ron Skoglund, and Roxanne Doremus will spend 4 days in northern Minnesota serving in various ways in the community. From working on a farm, to assisting at a nature center, and also providing trail clean-up, each participant will experience what it means to care for God's creation. They will be leaving on August 3 after receiving a blessing at the beginning of the 9am outdoor worship service. The group returns on Friday, August 8.

Please keep both groups in your prayers during this week. Thank you! Roxanne

All Things Family cont.

Wilderness Wonders: Trekking Through God's Creation Was A Blast!

64 campers participated and took the pledge to be "Wilderness Protectors." Each wilderness protector received a Smokey the Bear ranger hat to remind them of their commitment. Ranger Zak and Rio the River Otter (Vicar Nicholas) introduced a different national park each night and each protector had a passport book with fun facts about each park. None of this would have happened without the 28 volunteers who shared their time and talents with crafts, science, storytelling, games, music and suppers! St. Paul is truly blessed.



VBS 2025



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

Rick Bloemke (friend of Carol Freidheim), Nancy Coyne (friend of Carol Freidheim), Justin Botkin (nephew of Bert & Judy Nuehring), Isabel Montoya (friend of Ruth Sear), Patty, Kevin, Betty, & Arne Nyquist (friends of Carol Simberg), George Alajoki, Carole Batek, Danah Boehmer (niece of Teri Fash), Sheila Bowdish, Melinda Brent, Paige Cady (friend of Carrie Lavorini), Fred Eaton, Kristy Fash-Alvarez (daughter of Teri Fash), Margaret Golden, Evelyn Kimble, Cal Root (father of Kevin Simberg & Keith Root), Daniel Rubalcaba, Jim Thacker (brother of Cindi Thacker), All Caregivers

Prayers for the Bereaved

Family and friends of John Nyquist (friend of Carol Simberg), Sarah Marcukaitis (mother of Sherry Kossow), Wayne Kossow, Suzanne Birko (friend of Janet Gilbert), Janice Peacock (friend of Carol & John Freidheim), Vivian Marabotti (mother of Denise Zielinski)

Community



Elm Tree News

Superhero Summer at Elm Tree Christian Child Care!

We're soaring into an action-packed summer at Elm Tree Christian Child Care—and it's been nothing short of *super*! Our young heroes-in-training have been enjoying walking field trips to the Villa Park Public Library and splashing the days away at Lufkin Pool.

We've had some amazing visitors, including the Kiwanis Club and Officer Giesel with his incredible K9 partner, Tommy. And—hold onto your capes—Spider-Man himself even dropped by for a surprise visit, much to the delight of our little superheroes!

This summer, our gym classes have transformed into Superhero Training Camp, thanks to our friends at Overtime Athletics. From obstacle courses to strength-building games, the kids are having a blast developing their superhero skills!

We're also sending out a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported our Big Raise fundraiser. Because of you, we'll soon be making much-needed repairs to our playground. Once those updates are complete, we'll celebrate with a special ribbon cutting ceremony to mark both the improvements and our official membership in the Villa Park Chamber of Commerce.

And we're not done yet—Elm Tree is turning 50 this year! Come celebrate this big milestone with us at our 50s-themed Sock Hop Party on Saturday, August 16th from 2:00–4:00pm. There'll be a costume contest (best 50s look wins a prize!), a hula hoop showdown, snacks, a classic car show, fun raffles, and more! It's going to be a fantastic day full of fun, community, and celebration—we'd love to see you there!

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



August 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 HS Boundary Water trip begins
3 MS Service trip begins 9a Summer Outdoor Worship 10a Wired Word 2p Hands & Feet	4 10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club	5 6:30p Elm Tree board meeting 7p M.E.N.D.	6 12p Bunco Group	7	8 MS Trip Returns 1p Prayer Vigil Team meeting 7p Caring for Our World	9 HS Trip Returns
10 9a Summer Worship 10a Return/Sending Celebration 10a Wired Word	11	12	13 8p VPYB Meeting	14	15	16 Elm Tree Fun Fest— 50th Anniversary Celebration
17 9a Summer Worship 10a Congregational Meeting 10a Wired Word 6p D&D w/Pastor Zak	18 11a Beacon Hill Worship 6:30p Elm Tree Board Meeting	19 6:30p Council Meeting	20 Living Waters Deadline	21	22 7p Caring for Our World	23 10a Garden Walk at Cantigny
24 9a Summer Worship 10a Welcome for Vicar Lyndsay 10a Wired Word	25 Timesheets Due	26	27	28	29	30
31 9a Summer Worship 10a Wired Word						



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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
Vicars: Nicholas Breining and Lyndsay Monsen
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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[Email: office@stpaulvp.org](mailto:office@stpaulvp.org)

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