

Living Waters

September 2025

God Is At Work

Pastor Zak



To say that this past summer has been a blur would be an understatement. During my six-week time of renewal, I did not sleep in my bed for twenty-seven straight days, certainly a personal record. We visited six National Parks, including a trip to Denali in Alaska. After a brief rest (four nights) I was back on the road for the High School Youth Trip to Minnesota's Boundary Waters. A week of camping, canoeing, and government latrines was how my time away from daily life in the

church ended, and I wouldn't have had it any other way. Am I tired? Yes. Am I sore? Yes. Am I strangely renewed and invigorated for the work ahead? Absolutely.

Something that I took away from this past summer was the impact of Sabbath rest, not just for the body, but mind and spirit too. Driving 5,000+ miles wasn't exactly restful for my back, but all we took in along the way renewed my soul. Experiencing God in new places and experiences made me appreciate even more the familiar ways and places I see God in my daily life and routines.

I am so thankful for the experiences this process has allowed, but I am even more thankful to return to this community in which I experience God in our daily life together. God is not just here or there, but all of God is everywhere. This is my greatest joy, knowing that God is here at work in this community, which I cherish so deeply.

Pastoral Renewal Recap Sunday, September 7th at 9am

Please join Pastor Zak and the Wagner Family in the Sanctuary at 9am on Sunday, September 7 for a Pastoral Renewal Recap. During this informal presentation they will share pictures and reflections from their journeys out West this past 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...

Screen Training Available

You are invited to a screen training session on September 21 at 11am in Meeting Room A! Whether you're a tech whiz or just starting out, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn how to effectively use our screens for displaying slides, videos, as well as for Zoom meetings. You can even bring your laptop so you can dive in and try it out for yourself. See you there!

Serving At St. Paul

It's easier than you think to be a part of our Sunday service. All you need to do is to go to St.Paulvp.org on your device. In the menu bar you will see spot that says SIGN UP. Click on it and you will see all the ways you and your children can serve during service. Click on the area that you would like to serve and follow the instructions. If you have any about the available sign-up options, please contact Carol Freidheim at Cfreids1@gmail.com or give me a call at 630-327-6433. Thank you for considering serving at St. Paul.

Wednesday Night Dinners Return September 17

Wednesday night dinners are returning to St. Paul on September 17 at 5:30pm. Elm Tree Christian Child Care is hosting our first gathering. Come help set up and enjoy fellowship with this amazing community. All are welcome!



Letters from Vicar Lyndsay

Greetings, St. Paul! I just wanted to take a moment to share with all of you what a joy it's been to start my internship year here. As I continue to get settled, I look forward to more one-on-one conversations and opportunities for fellowship—I am particularly looking forward to the campout at LOMC in early October. Overall, it's looking like this is going to be quite the fruitful year of learning and laughter. Thanks to you all for the warm welcome!

Book Club September 8 at 7pm

Join us on September 8 for our discussion of *Dream City Dreaming* by Cindy Angell Keeling.

On Monday, October 6 at 7pm, the St. Paul Book Club will meet in the Café to discuss the moving book, *The Seed Keeper*, a novel by Diane Wilson. This is a thought-provoking story of multi generations of Dakota Native American women and their struggle to preserve their way of life, land and heritage.

Wine, Women, and the Word Update

All are welcome to Women, Wine and the Word. Drinking wine is not necessary participate. We use this visual to keep us grounded in the Word. The symbolism of wine in Scripture, as a gift, a source of joy, and representation of deeper spiritual realities encompasses the vision for these gatherings. Our first meeting this season will be on Tuesday, Oct. 7th at 7pm in the home of Judy Nuehring. We will begin the year with a 4 session resource from the ELCA entitled *Serve: Living Faith in Daily Life*. Questions, contact [Judy](#).

Under 105 September 18

The Under 105 lunches resume on Thursday, September 18th at 11:30am. Be sure to pick up a "Save the Dates" card in the church foyer and mark your calendars. Reservation information is also listed on the card. You won't want to miss a one!

We look forward to seeing everyone on September 18th.

Cheers,
Planning Committee

...and More! (cont. on pg. 5)



Oktoberfest at St. Paul will take place on **Saturday, Sept. 20**. Join together with our neighbors in the East parking lot from 4-7:00pm. The Internationals' German Band will provide musical entertainment. Pastor Zak and his crew will serve as grill masters and mouth-watering sides and desserts will be served. Activities include crafts, games, contests, dancing and more. Come and join the fun and dress in your Oktoberfest best (if you like)!

We are looking for volunteers to help set up and/or clean up. We are also looking for a corn hole/bags set we can borrow for the afternoon. Please let Marti Seaton know by September 10 if you can volunteer or if you have a bags set. Don't forget to BYOC (Bring Your Own Chair) to sit and listen to the band.

July Numbers

Giving: \$32,775 (including online: \$24,811)

Expenses: \$44,760

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(138,681)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
7/6	78	50
7/13	90	47
7/20	114	55
7/27	100	61

Community Engagement Corner

- **Hands and Feet** will be open Sunday, Sept. 7 from 2:00—3:45pm. New volunteers are always welcome! The donation product for the month is paper towels.
- **Bill Kargas** will offer a workshop on "Putting Your Garden to Bed" at 11am on September 21 in the Fellowship Center. All are welcome.
- **The Native American Cultural and Environmental Center** at Churchill Woods will provide a forum speaker on Indigenous Peoples Sunday, October 12. Here's a [link](#) to their website.
- **Coping and Caring for Our World** support group members joined other St. Paul members at the "No Kings" March in June and the "Shine a Light on Due Process" Vigil in July. The group is on hiatus to reassess needs and opportunities. Contact [Jackie Wolfe](#) with questions or ideas.
- **Adult Christian Care** is seeking donations for the month of September. Items needed can be found [here](#). A collection box is located in the church foyer.
- **The Outreach House** is hosting a housewarming/ribbon cutting on September 12 starting at 3pm to celebrate the grand opening of its new location at 700 Springer Drive in Lombard, IL. All are welcome!
- **Bunco** meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Interested in joining, contact Sue Henkel at (630) 935-5929.

CROP Walk 2025

Join your St. Paul friends as we help end hunger locally and around the world by walking together in the Great Prairie Trail CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 5. We'll gather at First Church of Lombard (220 S. Main) around 12:30pm. The walk steps off at 1pm.

Find all the Walk details, team information and sign up here: [St. Paul's CROP Walk team page](#). Here you can set up your individual walker page and collect donations online (or do that in person!). If you can't walk, please donate any amount online at [St. Paul's team page](#). Thank you!

Locally, 25% of donations will support these pantries: Community Table in Lombard, Disciples Food Pantry in Villa Park, Food for the Soul in Addison, The Outreach House in Lombard, and United Community Concerns Association in Elmhurst. Donations also fund the programs of [Church World Service](#). Their goal: "building a world where there is enough for all."

All Things Family Ministry

Sunday School News

Sunday School begins on September 7th at 9am. We look forward to a wonderful year. Please be sure to use this [link](#) to register your children for Sunday School. If you have any questions please contact [Laura Albert](#). We will also celebrate Grandparent's Day on September 7th! Join the fun after 10am worship in the Fellowship Center downstairs. We'll be making a special craft together.

First Communion & Confirmation

First Communion classes with Pastor Zak will be held on Sunday, September 7 and Sunday, September 14 at 11am. Sunday, September 21 (at 9am) will be a make-up day in the event it is needed. We will celebrate First Communion during both worship services on Sunday, October 12. Please use this [link](#) to register your child(ren).

Confirmation is coming soon to a Youth Room near you! Confirmation for students in 6th—8th grade will begin on Wednesday, September 10 from 5:30—6:30pm in the Youth Room. This fall we will be focusing on Lutheran history and theology (Small Catechism), with Lutheran worship in the spring. Please register your child(ren) [here](#). Dinner will be provided from the Wednesday night community supper. A "recap" is held on Sunday morning in the Youth Room during the Education Hour.

Middle School Service Trip Two Harbors, Minnesota



We could never have done this trip without our two adult chaperones, Dave Clot and Ron Skoglund. We were a terrific team! A special shout out to Beth Mohr who made a goodie bag for each of the boys. Hugs to Roscoe Barnett, Luke Bostian, Jake Bugajsky, Benny Clot, Owen Mohr, Henry the Elder Pedersen, Athan Scheeler, Chase Skoglund, Max Skoglund, and Henry the Younger Wagner. I'd take you all on a trip again in a heartbeat! ~ Roxanne



Worship and More

The Return to Two Services

Sunday, September 7th marks the return to the 8am and 10am worship schedule. Both services will be indoors. ***The final outdoor worship will be September 28 at 10am only.*** We can't wait to see you!

Beer & Hymns Friday, September 5 at 7pm

The next Beer & Hymns gathering will be on Friday, September 5. Meet at Manny's on St. Charles Road at 7:00pm or come early to get some dinner beforehand. We sing for one hour. Newcomers are always welcome, and bring a friend or two! If you've not joined us before, we have both hymnals and a photocopied booklet of "old time favorites" to hand out, and people simply call out the one they'd like to sing. Bob Fritz and other keyboardists plunk away on the old piano, and other instrumentalists are welcome to play along. The more the merrier!

Wired Word

Wired Word is an online based curriculum centered on news topics, with Bible passages matched to the topics, and scripted questions to guide our discussion. Recent topics we've covered include the following: Ideas for peacemaking (based on the Israel/Gaza/Hamas situation); Death of James Lovell; Using excess church lands to build affordable housing; The increasing scarcity of caregivers for our aging population, and many more.



Are you curious about Wired Word, but don't want to give up your social time with church friends? Would you like to participate in Adult Education to stimulate your thinking and building new relationships? Maybe you are currently attending Wired Word but would like to take advantage of other Adult Ed classes? Wired Word would like to branch out to new times and new groups (while continuing the Sunday morning class). But we don't know the best times for interested people. Maybe after Wednesday night dinners? Or maybe in the morning during the week? Or are weeknights better? Please contact [Doreen Fritz](#), [Julie Frakes](#), or [Pastor Zak](#) to share your ideas about extending this class to a time that fits your interest and schedule.

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

Venus Cramer and Caleb Monroe, Allen Kanold (uncle of Kelly Saurbaugh), Jake Borho (friend of St. Paul Youth), 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 Jane Ramsay (stepmother of Alice Ramsay), Tom Linsenmeyer, Ed Hoyle, Gloria Ishida (mother of Franklin Ishida)

Community



Elm Tree News

Welcome Back to School, Elm Tree Family!

The halls are buzzing with excitement as we kick off another amazing school year at Elm Tree Christian Child Care! We are so happy to welcome all our students back, along with some brand-new friends who are learning the ropes and getting used to their new classrooms. Watching them explore, make new friends, and dive into fun learning activities has been such a joy!

As we turn the page to a new school year, we also want to take a moment to say a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who joined us for our 50th Anniversary Sock Hop Celebration! Your support means the world to us. Thanks to your generosity, the proceeds from the event will go directly into our Elm Tree Scholarship Fund, which we are excited to continue building this year to help more families access high-quality care.

This summer, we wrapped up our Superhero Summer program with tons of fun adventures, games, and learning. We laughed, we played, and we discovered the hero inside each of us! At the same time, we said heartfelt goodbyes to our friends heading off to kindergarten. We will miss them dearly but are so proud of all they have accomplished and can't wait to hear about their new adventures!

Now, as we say goodbye to summer, we look forward to all the growth, learning, and joy this school year will bring. We know it's going to be full of exciting opportunities, big milestones, and plenty of reasons to celebrate!

Here's to a wonderful school year, Elm Tree family—let's make it the best one yet!

Love and blessings,

Ms. Maggy and the Elm Tree Crew



September 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 Labor Day Office Closed	2 7p M.E.N.D.	3 9a Elm Tree Chapel 9:30a Bible Study 12p Bunco 4:45p Wings Choir 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	4	5 7pm Beer & Hymns	6
7 8a Worship –Indoor 9a Sunday School 9a Renewal Recap 9a Wired Word 10a Worship Indoor 11a 1st Communion 2p Hands & Feet 5:30p Espresso Yourself	8 10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club	9 2p Rachel Circle	10 9a Elm Tree Chapel 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30 Confirmation 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir 8p VPYB	11 10a Near West Conf. Meeting	12	13
14 Child Care Sunday 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a 1st Communion 5:30p Espresso Yourself	15 6:30p Elm Tree Board Meeting	16	17 9a Elm Tree Chapel 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30 Confirmation 5:30 Wed. Dinner 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	18 11:30 Under 105 Luncheon	19	20 Living Waters Deadline 4p Oktoberfest at St. Paul
21 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a 1st Communion 9a Screen Training 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Bill Kargas 5:30p Espresso 6p D&D w/PZ	22	23 6p Elm Tree Family Movie Night 6:30p Council Mtg.	24 9a Elm Tree Chapel 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30 Confirmation 5:30 Wed. Dinner 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	25 9a MCS Youth Meeting	26	27
28 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 5:30p Espresso Yourself	29	30				



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

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