

Living Waters

October 2025

In The Midst of Chaos

Pastor Zak

We have officially found ourselves in the rhythms of the fall as a community of faith. Classes are back in session, activities are filling up our calendars, and our worshipping body is back to its “usual” ways in two services. For all of the joy that settling into familiar rhythms can offer, I am finding myself increasingly unsettled with the realities of life, personal and pastoral. I feel as though I cannot hardly process one event before another takes place. Whether it be death as the result of gun violence or the death of parishioner, political unrest or upheaval within our Synod and the larger church. Things as of late feel so chaotic, but thankfully God knows a thing or two about chaos.

Since the beginning of time, God has dwelled in, and dealt with chaos, “*Now the earth was chaos and waste, darkness was on the surface of the deep, and the Ruach Elohim was hovering upon the surface of the water*” (Genesis 1:2, TLV). Creation is creating order in the midst of chaos. God chose to enter the chaos through incarnation, and experienced the realities of death, violence, and institutional change first-hand. Through the cross, God brought order and life out of death and destruction.

In this moment where I feel overwhelmed, I cling to the hope that I am not alone in the chaos. That God is ever-present in these chaotic times, inviting us to strive for the order of justice, peace, and love at all times and in all circumstances.

Letters from Vicar Lyndsay

As the leaves continue to change and programming continues to ramp up here at St. Paul, I am beginning to feel more and more settled in this delightful, chaotic, loving place.

Thank you all for the ways you continue to embrace me as your vicar for the year—whether that be in conversation over a cup of coffee, sharing an encouragement on a Sunday morning after I’ve preached, or in various meetings as we continue to look toward the year ahead together. Through all of these moments, both big and small, I have no doubt that this is where God wants me to be.

I look forward to sharing more of my ministry ideas with you soon!



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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...



Special Guest Rev. Marcus Lohrman October 19 at 9am

Join us in the sanctuary October 19 during Education Hour as we welcome Rev. Marcus Lohrman who will share about his new book *"Ptoxocracy: An End to Christianity"* (see description below). Rev. Lohrmann is a public theologian, author, Pastor of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (La Mesa, CA), and seminary colleague of Pr. Zak. Rev. Lohrman will facilitate a discussion centered around his writings and share in conversation regarding the intersection of faith, politics, and economics in the modern church. Copies of his book will be available for purchase during this event.

"To have a meaningful stake in the lives of the poor, argues M. C. Lohrmann, would change the ways in which governance of all types—national or local municipalities, denominations, religious judicatories, and non-profit boards—determines its focus. Lohrmann defines ptoxocracy (derived from the Greek ptoxi, the poorest of the poor) as "governance by the materially poor; a hybrid form of representative democracy whereby only persons of the lowest economic status are eligible for elected public office." This model, he contends, allows us to step back from the coupling of wealth and power created by myths of meritocracy and a rich ruling class to envision a system that works for the good of the whole."

Screen Training Available

You are invited to a screen training session on October 19 at 11am in Meeting Room A! 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!

Book Club October 6 at 7pm

We will meet in the on Oct. 6 in the Café to discuss *The Seed Keeper*, a novel by Diane Wilson.

In November we will be discussing *Isola* by Allegra Goodman. This historical novel is inspired by a real life 16th century French heroine. Born into nobility, orphaned and then abandoned on a deserted island by her guardian, Marguerite fights for her life. Please join us on Monday, November 3 at 7pm in the Café to discuss this story of faith, love and survival.

Women, Wine, & the Word—October 7

All are welcome to Women, Wine and the Word as we begin gathering again. We will meet on Tuesday, October 7 at 7pm in the home of Judy Nuehring. We begin the year with an ELCA resource which explores the faith practice of serving. Questions, contact [Judy Nuehring](#).

Hands & Feet

Hands and Feet will be open Sunday Oct 5 from 2-3:45pm. New volunteers are always welcome! The donation product for the month is body wash.

Under 105 October 16 at 11:30

Join us on October 16 for Under 105. We will be joined by Pat Motto from the Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants. Pat will share the needs of the immigrant community, services provided by ICDI, and how churches and individuals can assist. It's also "Chickenfest" with a variety of casseroles, a vegetarian option, roasted vegetables, dinner rolls, Jello mold, assorted salads and desserts. Please R.S.V.P, by Sunday, October 12th, to Merry Freedlund.

...and More!



A FUTURE
WITH HOPE

There is a sadness that comes with packing up our summer fun. Today I will take down and scrub out the hummingbird feeders hanging near my house. The hummingbirds, now headed south, haven't visited in a while, and I miss the show. Their aerial acrobatics are amazing. For the price of some sugar, we've had months of summer entertainment. Interestingly hummingbirds are exceedingly territorial. When one bird is at the feeder, it aggressively fends off all others. It will chase them down while chattering and scolding them for getting too close. There might be 3 or 4 birds, zooming this way and that, all vying for a sip of nectar. The human in charge of the feeder (me) is very amused by this. Each feeder has 4 or 5 ports for drinking; there are several cups of nectar within. This particular human will make more nectar as soon as the supply gets low. There is plenty for everyone. And yet, very rarely are more than one hummingbird feeding at a time. They don't seem to want to share.

I think people aren't so different from hummingbirds. We get pretty protective of our 'stuff.' We tend to forget that God has and will continue to provide everything we need. And there definitely is enough to go around. This fall, as we discuss our support of St. Paul Church during our stewardship campaign "A Future With Hope," we'll consider God's great abundance - that daily we are blessed with the love of family and friends, a vibrant and caring church community, a beautiful world in which to live and so much more. Our stewardship campaign will begin on Sunday, October 19th with our ingathering on Sunday, November 9th.

With joy and gratefulness,
Kristen Rosenwinkel, Stewardship

August Numbers

Giving: \$55,949 (including online: \$21,721)

Expenses: \$36,744

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(119,476)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
8/3	102	43
8/10	155	58
8/17	101	71
8/24	116	62
8/31	95	56

Beer & Hymns

October 17 at 7pm

The next Beer & Hymns event will take place on Friday, October 17 at 7pm at Manny's Ale House (683 St. Charles Rd) Join us for an evening of musical fun.

Bunco

October 1 at 12pm

A reminder that the Bunco group meets on the first Wednesday of the month in the Cafe at 12pm. Bring your lunch and \$1. Interested in joining, contact Sue Henkel at (630) 935-5929.

Prayer Vigil—Friday, October 24

Are you feeling overwhelmed by life? Come to St. Paul from 7am to 5pm for an uplifting experience where you can immerse yourself in individual quiet prayer for 20 minutes or more in the sanctuary. Come as you are and take this opportunity to recharge your spirit and find peace in the presence of God. Whether you're a long-time member or a newcomer, we encourage you to sign up to participate and/or submit prayer requests. Thank you for your participation and support!

- Sign up for a prayer time slot in the Foyer, [use our online form](#), or just drop in.
- Submit prayer requests in the Foyer or use our [online form](#).
- Additionally, if you are interested in serving as a greeter during the prayer vigil, you can sign up in the Foyer or [through our online form](#).

Family Ministry and Community Corner

Sunday School News

Sunday School

Sunday School is off to a great start. Sunday School starts at 9am and runs to 9:45. There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, October 12th. If you have any questions please contact [Laura](#).

Family Ministry Update

Family Pumpkin Carving

There will be a pumpkin carving event held on Sunday October 26 at 11:00am in the Fellowship Center. All families are invited to design and carve a pumpkin together for their family. It will be a “boo-ti-ful” time!

Save the Date! Annual Christmas Program on December 14

The annual Christmas Program is scheduled for December 14 at 10am. Join us for this special service where we will celebrate how “Love Has Come”. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.

Confirmation/High School

Confirmation Classes

Confirmation meets on Wednesdays at 5:30pm with a second class offering on Sundays during the Education Hour at 9am. Both classes meet in the Youth Room. The focus this Fall-Winter is on Lutheran history and theology (Small Catechism), with Lutheran worship in the Spring. Classes are taught by Pastor, Vicar Lindsey or Roxanne. This is for all 6th—8th grade students.

Espresso Yourself—Now on Mondays!

Espresso Yourself has moved from Monday to Sunday evenings from 5:30pm - 7:30pm. Meetings are held in the Youth Room. This is for all high school age students.

Community Corner

CROP Hunger Walk—October 5

The CROP Hunger Walk steps off from First Church of Lombard at 1pm on October 5. Join the [St. Paul team](#) of walkers or supporters. In addition to benefiting Church World Service, the Great Prairie Trail CROP Hunger Walk will benefit five local food programs: The Outreach House, Disciples Food Pantry, United Community Concerns Association Mobile Markets, Community Table, and Food for the Soul Food Pantry.

ICDI (Illinois Committee for Displaced Immigrants)

Patricia Motta, the ICDI Board's Vice President will be the guest speaker at the Under 105 Club luncheon on October 16. A portion of donations at that event will be shared with ICDI. A collection of in-kind items will be announced later in Fall. Their website offers information on their mission, work, resources, and opportunities to get involved. Contact Shirley Jensen for further information about St. Paul's partnership with [ICDI](#).

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) is one of 140 member churches of the Lutheran World Federation founded in 1947 and now in 79 countries, representing some 68 million Christians in the world. Sally Azar, daughter of bishop Sani Ibrahim Azar, was ordained in January 2023 by the church, in a ceremony at the Redeemer in Jerusalem, making her the first female Palestinian pastor in the Holy Land. You can find the latest news about this international sister to the ELCA on their website and [YouTube](#) channel.

Education and Prayers

Faith Formation Opportunities

New Class Starting October 26—Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer

During the Education Hour (between services) Oct. 26 to Nov. 23 we will be engaging with a 5-week long course entitled *“Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in a House Divided and a World on Fire”*. This course, from the Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania, explores Bonhoeffer's life, theology, and relevance as it pertains to issues of justice and Christ's place in the world today. All are welcome to join this faith formation opportunity as we explore the past to inform our future.

Pericope Bible Study—Wednesdays at 9:30am

Join Pastor Zak and Vicar Lyndsay online or in person in Cafe Meeting Rm A to gain a greater insight into the upcoming Sunday's lesson through study of the lectionary passages and engaging in group discussion.

Online access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/142240948>

The Wired Word

Sundays in Cafe Room B at 9am or 11am (varying in accordance with church activities and leader discretion) and Wednesday's at 6pm in the Ark (room near elevator) following the community dinner at St Paul. Contact Doreen Fritz to be added to the email list for upcoming discussion topics. How does faith figure into our daily lives? Each Wired Word discussion tackles different current event news topics and associated Bible passages.

Rachel Circle

The 2nd Tuesday of the month from 2-4:00pm in Café Meeting Rm A. Rachel Circle is a women's Bible study with material from Gather, the magazine of the Women of the ELCA. The topic for the Fall 2025 Series is *Receiving Grace: A Study of Ephesians* by the Rev. Heide Haverkamp.

Subscription to Gather is highly recommended, and can be purchased at: <https://gathermagazine.org/subscribe/>

For new subscribers, there is a 50% discount, costing \$9.95 for a year's subscription.

Women, Wine, and the Word

The 1st Tuesday of the month from 7-9pm. Location varies by month. Contact Judy Nuehring for more information and to be included in the group emails.

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

Gail Marcum, Finley Frakes (granddaughter of Tim & Julie Frakes), Linda Brady (mother of Melissa Kinney), 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, Barb Schreck, Jim Thacker (brother of Cindi Thacker), All Caregivers

Prayers for the Bereaved

Family and friends of Siri Peterson, Connie Hooper (mother of Madeline Hooper), George Alajoki

Community



Elm Tree News

The school year is off to such a wonderful start here at Elm Tree! We've had the joy of welcoming many new faces into our classrooms, while also celebrating the return of some familiar ones. September was all about settling into our routines, and we even started exploring our first Fall themes together. The children are already learning, growing, and thriving!

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our 50th Anniversary celebration! While the group was small, the love and support felt BIG. The kiddos absolutely *shined* as they sang their songs for the congregation—we couldn't be prouder. Thank you to all current, past, and future Elm Tree families who came to celebrate with us. And let's be honest... that cake was AMAZING!

We're excited to jump into all things Fall as October arrives—think pumpkins, leaves, and plenty of autumn fun. We can't wait to see where our themes take us this month! Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 8th—our Craft & Vendor Fair is back! It's the perfect chance to shop local, support small businesses, and kick off the holiday season. Word on the street is that a very *jolly fellow in red* will be stopping by for some photo ops—so get those cameras ready!

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



October 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 9:30a Bible Study 12p Bunco 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed. Dinner 5:30p Confirmation 6p WW & Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	2	3 LOMC Campout 1:30p Prayer Vigil Mtg.	4 LOMC Campout
5 LOMC Campout 8a Worship 9a Galatians Study 9a Sunday School 9&11a Wired Word 10a Worship 1p CROP Walk 2p Hands & Feet 5:30p Espresso	6 10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club	7 7p M.E.N.D. 7p Women, Wine & Word	8 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed. Dinner 5:30p Confirmation 6p Wired Word 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir 8p VPYB	9	10 10a Elm Tree Grandfriends Day	11 11a Elm Tree Trunk Treat Day
12 8a Worship 9a Galatians Study 9a Sunday School 9&11a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Youth Comm. 5:30p Espresso Yourself	13 6:30p Finance Mtg. 7:30p Executive Mtg.	14 2p Rachel Circle	15 9:30a Bible Study 1p Under 105 Setup 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed. Dinner 5:30p Confirmation 6p Wired Word 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir 8p VPYB	16 11:30a Under 105	17 7p Beer & Hymns	18 9a Funeral for George Alajoki
19 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Guest Speaker 9&11a Wired Word 10a Worship— McDonald Baptism 11a Screen Training 6p D&D w/P. Zak	20 Living Waters Due 11a Beacon Hill Worship 6:30a Elm Tree Board Mtg.	21 6:30p Council	22 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed. Dinner 5:30p Confirmation 6p Wired Word 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	23	24 7a Prayer Vigil	25 9a Property Work Day
26 8a Worship 9a Sunday School 9a Bonhoeffer Study 9&11a Wired Word 10a Worship 11a Pumpkin Carve 5:30p Espresso	27 Timesheets Due	28	29 9:30a Bible Study 4:45p Wings Choir 5:30p Wed. Dinner 5:30p Confirmation 6p Wired Word 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	30	31 Halloween 10a Elm Tree Halloween Parade	



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

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

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