

# Living Waters

March 2026

## Bread of Life

Pastor Zak

My life has centered around bread lately. A few weeks back I attended a Bake and Pray retreat at the St. Francis Springs Prayer Center (Rockingham County, NC). I baked my first loaf of bread and was amazed how four simple ingredients (flour, water, salt, yeast) and a little bit of time could be so delicious. Back here at St. Paul we welcomed Ron and Sue Ann Glusenkamp for a “Midwinter Blessing” baking weekend. From pretzels and gluten free communion bread to hot cross buns, we baked in community. As it turns out, baking is a communal act. Pr. Glusenkamp reminded us that *“Bread isn’t bread, until it is shared.”*

Luckily, every Sunday we come together as a community in worship and we take time to share bread. More specifically, we share the “Bread of Life,” the very gift of Jesus’ body and blood, broken and poured for the forgiveness of our sins. This gift, like the ingredients therein, are simple and yet life-sustaining. We need bread to survive, but we need the “daily bread” of Christ to truly live, and thrive. As we spend the coming weeks in preparation for Easter, we celebrate the hope of Easter already now, in bread baked, broken, and shared.



## Sunday School Artists Decorate the Sanctuary

The Sunday School children are painting the four windows at the back of the Sanctuary as part of a project for Lent. Using the children's drawings, four Lenten themed “stained glass” windows have been designed. Be sure and check out our young artists’ creativity!



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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...

## Letters from Vicar Lyndsay

Beloved St. Paul community, I want to take a minute to thank you for all the ways you have supported me in the past month. I am grateful for the conversation my sermon on February 1 sparked, and even more grateful to gather in worship with you all every week, especially as we begin the season of Lent. Soon I will turn toward the approval process, one of the final steps in my path toward ordination, and I look forward to the ways I will be able to share with my candidacy committee how meaningful this internship year has been for me so far.



My project relating to prison ministry is a crucial step in my ordination process, and I am overjoyed with our collective response to it so far. A number of people have signed up to be pen pals (and if you would still like to take part in that ministry, it is never too late!) and the Sunday School kids did a great job with their arts and crafts project, adding to Kolbe House's mural of outstretched hands for people to see when first walking in the door after having been recently released from jail or prison.

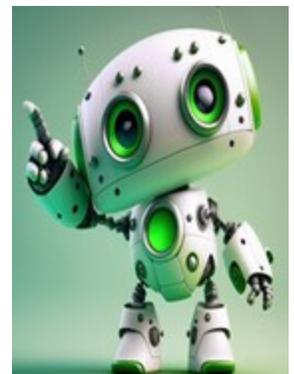
My project will culminate the afternoon of Palm Sunday (March 29), when we will carpool together to Cook County Jail for Kolbe House's annual ecumenical Palm Sunday Prayer Walk. Together we will walk outside five different divisions of the jail, connected to the stations of the cross, and sing and pray for those held inside as well as families of the incarcerated, victims of violence, and all impacted by the criminal justice system. This is a family-friendly event that I have been involved with planning for the past few years, and every year I hear people remark how meaningful of a start it is to their Holy Week. I can't wait to share it with you all. To sign up, please fill out [this form](#) so we know how many people to expect. If you have any questions, let me know!

### **VBS Registration Opens March 1st Operation Restoration: Repair. Renew. Re-Create Monday, June 15 - Thursday, June 18 5:00 - 7:00pm**

Join in the fun with Inventor/Scientist Professor Zak and his assistant robot R.O.S.I.E. (**R**estorations **O**perations **S**upport **I**ntelligence **E**ntity) as they share their inventions to repair, renew and re-create our planet and help people.

Activities will include crafts, music, service projects & outdoor games. Dinner will be served each night. Volunteers are welcome! Please see Roxanne for more details.

Click [HERE](#) to register!



...and More!

## Mark Your Calendars! Congregational Meeting April 12 at 11am

There will be a brief congregational meeting on Sunday, April 12 in the Café following the 10am worship service. We will be holding the second vote on the constitutional changes that were outlined at the January annual meeting. Please plan on attending so we can finalize these necessary changes.



## January 2026 Numbers

Giving: \$32,561 (including online: \$22,904)

Expenses: \$51,165

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(18,604)

### Other Statistics

| Date | Attendance | Viewers |
|------|------------|---------|
| 1/4  | 137        | 49      |
| 1/11 | 148        | 47      |
| 1/18 | 137        | 57      |
| 1/25 | 182        | 69      |

## March Hands & Feet Donations



Each month a different product distributed by Hands and Feet is highlighted for donation. These collections help to keep our inventory stocked and ready to serve our community. **The products for March are feminine hygiene products.** We distribute both pads and tampons. Thank you for your continued support of the families in our broader community.

### Book Club March 2

A reminder that the St. Paul's Book Club will meet on Monday, March 2 at 7pm in the Cafe.

#### Looking Ahead...

St. Paul Book Club will meet on Monday, April 6 at 7pm to discuss the mystery book, *The Maid* by Nita Prose. Molly, a hotel maid turned detective after she finds a body in one of her assigned rooms, is a charming, quirky character who struggles with social skills. This is an entertaining and fast read that everyone will enjoy. Join us and feel free to bring a friend.

### Women, Wine, & Word March 3

Women, Wine and the Word will meet on Tues. March 3 at 7 pm in the home of Judy Nuehring. We will continue to study/discuss an overview of the Bible. All are welcome.

### Hands & Feet March 1

Hands and Feet will be open on Sunday, March 1 from 2-4 pm. In kind and monetary donations are always welcome as we support this ministry for our DuPage neighbors. \*\*Note we will NOT be open on Easter Sunday April 5.\*\*

### Under 105 March 19

The next Under 105 Luncheon is Thursday, March 19th. We are thrilled local author, Cindy Angell Keeling, will join us to share her "Perspective of Wonder: A Tour of the 1893 World's Colombian Exposition." We gather at 11:30am in the Café and lunch is served at 12:00pm. The menu includes Shepherd's pie, assorted salads, and desserts. The program begins at 1:00pm. Mark your calendar to travel back in time! R.S.V.P. to Merry Freedlund by Sunday, March 15th. See you there!

# Family Ministry & Event Photos

## Family Ministry Update

### Trivia Night

Join the youth of St. Paul on Saturday, March 21 from 5:30-8:30pm in the Fellowship Center for our annual Trivia Night. Categories have been selected and it's going to be a fun (and challenging) evening! The cost is \$10/person, with Mulligans priced at \$1.00 each with a maximum of 10/\$10.00. Teams are encouraged to dress up with a theme. **Traveling "Top Banana" Trophy** will be awarded to 1st place winning team along with Gift Cards for 1st place and the best "dressed" team theme!

## Save the Date

### Pancakes, PJs and Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Pancakes, PJs and Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 12 from 8:30am - 10:00am in the Cafe. All families & friends of our Short Wonders to 5th grade are welcome! Menu includes pancakes, sausage, fruit, lemonade &/or milk. See Roxanne for more details.

### Annual Murder Mystery Dinner

The annual Murder Mystery dinner will be held on Saturday, April 11! Doors open at 5:30pm with the mystery unfolding at 6:00pm. Cost is \$30.00 per person. This is a fundraiser for the middle school & high school summer service trip in Asheville, NC. Look for more details to come!

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### St. Paul Family Hockey Night—What A Night!

64 people had an awesome time together on February 21—from riding in the Pregame Fanboni, to "High-fiving" the team in the tunnel, to seeing our church on the Metrix Board, and meeting Skates the Mascot! Not to mention the game ended in VICTORY! Here are just a few of the memories that were captured.



# Worship and Prayers

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## Lent & Holy Week

### **Soup Supper and Holden Evening Prayer**

Weekly on Wednesdays - Soup Suppers in the Fellowship Center at 5:30  
Holden Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary at 6:15pm

### **Palm Sunday—March 29**

Worship services at 8am and 10am in the Sanctuary.  
Palm Sunday Prayer Walk - for more information see “Letters from Vicar Lyndsay” on pg. 2.

### **Maundy Thursday Dinner—April 2**

Maundy Thursday Dinner Church Service will be held on Thursday April 2. Dinner Church, inspired by early Christian gatherings, centers around shared meals, fostering fellowship alongside worship with special liturgy. Enjoy a communal meal with friends and loved ones as we worship. From sacred readings, to the communal meal, every aspect mirrors the spirit of the Last Supper. Registration details will be announced in the coming weeks.

### **Good Friday—April 3**

Worship services at 12pm and 7pm in the Sanctuary.

### **Holy Saturday—April 4**

A virtual prayer vigil will be held from 7am Saturday morning until 7am Sunday morning. You can join the vigil online at any time for meditation and prayer. Access information will be announced in the coming weeks.

### **Easter Sunday—April 5**

Worship services at 8am and 10am in the Sanctuary.

## 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**

Sarah Godzicki (friend of Maggy Fedak), Cary Tate, Lee Ann Ladewig (former member of Grace Lutheran), Pat Simberg (sister-in-law of Carol Simberg), Kristie Caron (sister of Rebecca Delgadillo), Amanda Jones (cousin of Rebecca Delgadillo), Sue Monsen (mother of Vicar Lyndsay), Tom Lane (husband of Lois Lane), Kelsey Schneider (niece of Judy Wagner), Carole Batek, Danah Boehmer (niece of Teri Fash), Melinda Brent, Paige Cady (friend of Carrie Lavorini), Kristy Fash-Alvarez (daughter of Teri Fash), Margaret Golden, Barb Schreck, Jim Thacker (brother of Cindi Thacker), All Caregivers

### **Prayers for the Bereaved**

Family and friends of Kathy McGough (mother-in-law of Dave Tankersley), Leonard Kopplin (father of Liz Chitester), Sheila Bowdish

# Community



## Elm Tree News

February has been a month filled with love, friendship, and meaningful learning here at Elm Tree Christian Child Care. Our classrooms have been busy exploring what it means to care for one another, show kindness, and build strong friendships — skills that are just as important as any academic milestone.

We celebrated Valentine's Day with a joyful party full of laughter, creative activities, and plenty of sweet moments. The children practiced sharing, exchanging kind words, and celebrating the special friendships they have built within our community.

Watching them express kindness so naturally is always a reminder of how powerful early relationships can be.

Throughout the month, we also spent time learning about Black History Month, introducing age-appropriate stories, discussions, and activities that celebrate important leaders, culture, and contributions. Even our youngest learners engaged in meaningful conversations about inclusion, respect, and appreciating the unique gifts each person brings to the world.

Groundhog Day brought plenty of excitement, and whether or not the prediction holds true, we are definitely looking forward to spring! After a long stretch of winter weather, our children and teachers alike have been eager to spend more time outdoors. Whenever the weather allows, we have been soaking up fresh air, movement, and the simple joy of being back outside together.

And of course — a cow update! Our beloved calves continue to grow at an impressive pace. Ivy is now 315 pounds, 39 inches tall, and 4 months old, while Rizzo has reached 352 pounds, 44 inches tall, also at 4 months old. The children love hearing updates and watching them grow, and it continues to be a wonderful connection point between nature, learning, and curiosity.

We are also thrilled to share some very exciting news — Elm Tree Christian Child Care has officially achieved our Silver Level of Quality through Excelerate Illinois! This recognition reflects the intentional work, dedication, and heart our teachers pour into their classrooms every single day. Earning Silver means we have met rigorous standards in curriculum, learning environments, family engagement, professional development, and continuous quality improvement. We are incredibly proud of our team for reaching this milestone, and grateful to our families and church community who support our mission. This accomplishment is not just a rating — it is a testament to our commitment to providing high-quality, nurturing, faith-centered early childhood education.

As we move forward, we are grateful for the love and support of our church community. Each day at Elm Tree is filled with small moments of discovery, compassion, and growth — and we feel blessed to share this journey together. We look ahead to the coming season with excitement, hopeful for warmer days, more outdoor exploration, and continued opportunities for children to learn through play, connection, and faith-filled community.

With gratitude,  
Ms. Maggy and The Elm Tree Staff



# March 2026

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                            |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>8a Worship<br>9a Confirmation<br>9a Adult Education<br>9a Sunday School<br>9a Wired Word<br>10a Worship<br>2p Hands & Feet<br>5:30p Espresso Yourself                      | <b>2</b><br>10a Prayers & Squares<br>7p Book Club   | <b>3</b><br>7p M.E.N.D.<br>7p Women, Wine & Word  | <b>4</b><br>9:30a Bible Study<br>12p Bunco<br>4:45p Wings Choir<br>5:30p Soup Supper<br>6:15p Holden Prayer<br>6:45p Handbells<br>7:45p Chancel Choir           | <b>5</b>                                   | <b>6</b><br>1:30p Prayer Vigil Team Meeting | <b>7</b>                            |
| <b>8 Daylight Saving Time</b><br>8a Worship<br>9a Confirmation<br>9a Adult Education<br>9a Sunday School<br>9a Wired Word<br>10a Worship<br>11a Youth Comm.<br>5:30p Espresso Yourself | <b>9</b><br>6:30p Elm Tree Board Mtg.—via Zoom<br>6:30p Finance Committee Mtg.<br>7:30p Executive Committee Mt. | <b>10</b><br>2p Rachel Circle                     | <b>11</b><br>9:30a Bible Study<br>4:45p Wings Choir<br>5:30p Soup Supper<br>6:15p Holden Prayer<br>6:45p Handbells<br>7:45p Chancel Choir<br>8p VPYB            | <b>12</b>                                  | <b>13</b><br>10a Elm Tree Grandfriends Day  | <b>14</b>                           |
| <b>15</b><br>8a Worship<br>9a Confirmation<br>9a Adult Education<br>9a Sunday School<br>9a Wired Word<br>10a Worship<br>5:30p Espresso Yourself  | <b>16</b>   | <b>17 St. Patrick's Day</b><br>6:30p Council Mtg. | <b>18</b><br>9:30a Bible Study<br>1p Under 105 Setup<br>4:45p Wings Choir<br>5:30p Soup Supper<br>6:15p Holden Prayer<br>6:45p Handbells<br>7:45p Chancel Choir | <b>19</b><br>11:30a Under 105 Luncheon     | <b>20</b><br>Living Waters Deadline         | <b>21</b><br>5:30p Trivia Night     |
| <b>22</b><br>8a Worship<br>9a Confirmation<br>9a Adult Education<br>9a Sunday School<br>9a Wired Word<br>10a Worship<br>5:30p Espresso Yourself  | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b><br>9:30a Bible Study<br>4:45p Wings Choir<br>5:30p Soup Supper<br>6:15p Holden Prayer<br>6:45p Handbells<br>7:45p Chancel Choir                       | <b>26</b><br>6p Elm Tree Family Game Night | <b>27</b>                                   | <b>28</b><br>8:30a PJs and Pancakes |
| <b>29</b><br>8 & 10a Worship<br>9a Confirmation<br>9a Adult Education<br>9a Sunday School<br>9a Wired Word<br>5:30p Espresso   | <b>30</b><br>6:30p Holy Band Rehearsal  | <b>31</b>   |   |  |   |                                     |



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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, Sandy Giza  
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, 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.



## Stay Connected

Phone: 630-832-5580

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

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

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God's work. Our hands.