

Living Waters

May 2026

The Importance of Water

Pastor Zak

"April showers bring May flowers" feels almost like a threat this year. With the amount of rain we've seen this April, I am uncertain if there's enough room for such a bloom in my life. As much as I don't always love the rain, especially when it causes me to change my plans, I remember that rain, and water in general, is an integral part of God's plan for creation.

Through the waters of the flood, God renewed all of creation. Through the sea that swells with the rains, God led God's people forth to freedom. In the River Jordan, God opened an entirely new way of living through the waters of baptism shared throughout the generations, beginning with Jesus. Water flows from above to the earth and back again in an endless cycle of renewal and re-creation. Water connects us to the heavens and one another as it sustains life. I am excited to see what life blooms forth here in our community in the coming months as we witness life bursting forth all around us in this season of Easter renewal.

Hope Is All Around!

Vicar Lyndsay

This is one of my favorite times of the year, as our liturgical season in the church echoes the work of God's creation. He is risen! Spring has sprung! Hope is all around. I am looking forward to this season together as a community of faith, as we round out our program year together and shift to summer.

I also want to give a special thank you to everyone who participated in my internship project. Whether you signed up to be a pen pal, talked with your Sunday School child about what they learned about restorative justice practices, wrote an Easter card, or joined us outside Cook County Jail on Palm Sunday for the ecumenical prayer walk, I am grateful for the ways you lived your faith out in public and remembered our incarcerated siblings as Jesus so clearly calls us to do. With this aspect of my internship complete, I am now moving forward in my approval and first call processes and excited to celebrate graduation (alongside Vicar Nicholas!) in May.



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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...

Forward Together



Three years ago, we came together as a community to challenge ourselves to enter a time of visioning and renewal. Through the work of our Forward Together Capital Campaign we encouraged one another to generously support the mission of the church today with an eye-looking forward together. During this time, we have started new ministries, financially supported community partners, and reduced our own construction debt. As this campaign nears its end, we wanted to take a moment to thank you for your prayerful support and generosity, while also encouraging you to consider the possibility of making an additional contribution at this time. We are so grateful for you and the community we share!

-Forward Together Team



The Spirituality of Backpacking Forum

Join Vicar Lyndsay in the Sanctuary at 9am on Sunday, May 10 for a presentation on her experience of solo backpacking over 3,000 miles while in seminary. This forum is open to all who have ever had questions about what it takes to thru hike the Appalachian Trail or want to reflect on spending time in God's creation as a spiritual practice.



Mental Health First Aid Training May 9 at 9am

On Saturday, May 9 at 9am St. Paul will host a Mental Health First Aid Training with [NAMI Metro Suburban](#). Just as CPR helps you respond to a physical emergency, Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) equips you to recognize and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges. This evidence-based, interactive training teaches adults how to support friends, family members, and neighbors who may be struggling. Participants will learn how to identify early warning signs, offer initial support, and connect individuals to appropriate care, all while reducing stigma and building a more compassionate community.

Join us in strengthening our community's ability to care for one another. No prior experience is needed. Lunch will be served at the training. Registration is required as seating is limited. Click [here](#) to register to attend.

...and More!

Altar Guild Meeting Thursday, May 7th at 6:30 PM & Saturday, May 9th at 9:30 AM

Altar Guild will meet on Thursday, May 7th and Saturday, May 9th to sign up volunteers for June to December. Current and prospective volunteers need only attend one meeting. The meeting on Thursday will be held in the Café, and on Saturday we will meet in the ARK. Everyone is welcome to join the Altar Guild! New members are needed and training will be provided. And don't worry, new members are always paired with experienced members. If you have questions about joining, visit us during one of these meetings and we will be happy to explain the duties. We thank the members for their service!

Merry Freedlund and Marilyn Plinske
(Co-Chairpersons)

February 2026 Numbers

Giving: \$37,507 (including online:
\$24,013)

Expenses: \$52,991

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(34,088)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
2/1	127	76
2/8	166	41
2/15	206	45
2/18	100	7
2/22	165	53

Hands & Feet in May

Hands and Feet will be open on Sunday May 3 from 2-4pm. The donation for the month of May is **baby wipes**. We look forward to celebrating the volunteers and ministry of Hands and Feet on May 17th. On May 17th volunteers will be filling the leadership roles during worship and donations products or cash donations will be collected at both worship services and brought forward to be blessed. Watch for a display in the Cafe of needed items. Thank you for your continued support.



Book Club

You are invited to join St. Paul's Book Club on Monday, June 1 at 7pm in the Cafe when we share our thoughts about the satirical novel, *Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books* by Kirsten Miller. This humorous and provocative book looks at the complex issue of book banning through various characters.



Women, Wine, & the Word

Our final meeting before summer break is Tuesday, May 5th in the home of Judy Nuehring at 7pm. We will continue our study of the Bible with the Animate series. All are welcome.

Beer & Hymns

Beer & Hymns will meet Friday, May 15th. We have a large table reserved in the 2nd dining room - come join the group around 5:45. We head to the "back room" at 7 pm for some singing. Manny's Ale House - Elmhurst

Under 105

Under 105 Lunch Group meets at 11:30 on Thursday, May 21st for the final Spring luncheon. Vicar Lyndsay has graciously agreed to share her experiences during her year of service in Palestine. What a wonderful program opportunity for Under 105 to get a firsthand glimpse of life beyond our borders. The menu includes tacos, carnitas, toppings, taco salad, beans, rice, assorted desserts. Please R.S.V.P. to Merry Freedlund by Sunday, May 17th. A reminder, we will not meet June - August. Luncheons resume in September.

Family Ministry & Event Photos

Congratulations to Willowbrook High School 2026 IHSA Drama State Champions

The Willowbrook High School Theater was awarded first place when they presented the play “The Importance of Being Earnest” by Oscar Wilde during the 2026 IHSA drama state championships. Our very own Kasey Barnett was Algernon Moncrieff, North Luedtke was costume designer, and Henry Wolf, Evy DePasquale, and Ella Garcea were part of the stage crew. Congratulations to everyone who participated.



Murder Mystery Dinner Fundraiser Recap

“The Great Bake Down” took place on Saturday, April 11. 47 guest detectives enjoyed a delicious dinner wrapped in a baked murder mystery. We had 11 servers & kitchen helpers & 9 teens as the characters. *Whodunnit?* Clem Brule in Lennon Drizzle's trailer with a poisoned fruitcake! Thanks to adult volunteers: Mark Freedlund, Ginger Riccio, Emily Whitis, Betsy Fox, Peter Garcea and Vicar Lyndsay.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday School News

The last day of Sunday School is Sunday, May 17th. I would like to thank everyone for all the help during this Sunday School year—Laura Albert

Reaffirmation of Baptism

Sunday, May 31 at the 9:00am service. Faith Statements will be shared with the congregation on Sunday, May 17.

Honor the Grads Sunday

June 7 at the 9:00am outdoor service. If you have a child/ren graduating from high school, college, trade school or grad school please contact Roxanne!

VBS! Operation Restoration: Repair. Renew. Recreate - June 15 to 18, 5—7pm

Warning, Warning! Fun Times Ahead at St. Paul Vacation Bible School! What are Professor Zak and his robot assistant, R.O.S.I.E. (Restorations Operations Support Intelligence Entity) up to now? Join in the fun as Jesus teaches us how to care for each other and our planet! Registration is open now! Cost: \$10.00 per child, \$30.00 max per family. Volunteer help is needed.

Worship at St. Paul

Easter Worship at St. Paul

Easter Sunday services were filled with joy, meaningful worship, and a strong sense of community. All of the beautiful music added so much to the service. The pictures below capture some of the special moments we shared together.



Alleluia!



Alleluia!



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

Nell Shallcross, Arthur Fedro (friend of Angel Ludwig), Peg Schneider (sister of Judy Wagner), Carole Batek, Danah Boehmer (niece of Teri Fash), 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 Melinda Brent, Tom Shallcross Sr.

Community



Elm Tree News

April was a month full of fun, celebrations, and a little bit of everything weather-wise! Between the rain showers and the hot-to-cold-to-hot Midwest rollercoaster, we still packed the month with so many wonderful memories with the children.

One of the biggest highlights of the month was finally celebrating our ExceleRate Illinois Silver Circle of Quality achievement the Elm Tree way! After working toward this milestone for over two years, we were so excited to celebrate properly with cake, balloons, a dance party, and a photo wall. The children and teachers had an absolute blast celebrating together. We are so proud of our amazing staff and grateful to our wonderful families who helped make Elm Tree such a special place. Silver is a huge accomplishment—and now we have our sights set on going for Gold!



April also brought us NAEYC's Week of the Young Child, which is always one of our favorite weeks of the year. The children enjoyed special themed days including Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday, Artsy Thursday, and Family Friday. We sang songs with our friend Ms. Talia from the Villa Park Public Library, created fun DIY snacks and "kid charcuterie boards," worked together on recycled art projects, and celebrated creativity through process art.

Speaking of art, we had a wonderful time celebrating Daycare Sunday on April 26th with our Elm Tree community. Thank you to all of the families who joined us! We hope you enjoyed the Recycled Art Show created by the children. One of our favorite parts was repurposing the old portraits that once hung on the church stairs into colorful new collages. Watching the children transform everyday materials into art is such a great reminder of the power of creativity and imagination.

At the beginning of the month, we also celebrated Easter at Elm Tree. The children were thrilled when we had a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny, who stopped by to say hello and spread some spring cheer!

Another exciting update—our classroom cows continue to grow!

• Ivy is now 420 pounds and 42 inches tall • Rizzo has reached 455 pounds and 48 inches tall
The children love checking in on how big they are getting!

We hosted Spring Picture Day, enjoyed several beautiful days on the playground when the weather cooperated, and continued our learning through Creative Curriculum and Handwriting Without Tears, focusing on building social skills, creativity, and school readiness.

We are looking forward to warmer weather, more outdoor play, and continuing to grow and learn together. Thank you for being such an important part of the Elm Tree community.



With gratitude,
Ms. Maggy and The Elm Tree Staff

May 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
					1	2
3 8a Worship 9a Adult Ed 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship 2p Hands & Feet	4 10a Prayers & Squares 7p Book Club	5 7p M.E.N.D. 7p Women, Wine, Word	6 9:30 Bible Study 12p Bunco 5:30p Confirmation 5:30p Wed. Dinner 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	7 6:30p Altar Guild—Cafe	8	9 9a Mental Health Training 9a Kiwanis Onion Pickup 9:30a Altar Guild—Ark
10 8a Worship 9a Backpacking 9a Sunday School 9a Wired Word 10a Worship	11	12 2p Rachel Circle	13 9:30 Bible Study 4:45 Wings Choir 5:30p Confirmation 5:30p Wed. Dinner 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir 8p VPYB	14 11a Chair Yoga	15 7p Beer & Hymns	16
17 8a Worship 9a Wired Word 10a Worship	18 6:30p Elm Tree Board Mtg.	19 6:30p Council	20 Living Wates Deadline—June/July 9:30 Bible Study 6p Handbells 7p Chancel Choir	21 11:30a Under 105 Luncheon	22	23
24 Summer Worship Begins 9a Worship 10a Wired Word	25 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	26	27 7p Chancel Choir	28	29	30 9a Spring Clean Up Day
31 Confirmation Sunday 9a Worship 10a Wired Word						



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Loved by God, we grow, care, give, and share in Jesus' name.

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Vice President, Doreen Fritz
Secretary, Sandy Giza
Treasurer, Kathleen Murphy

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Community Engagement, Marti Seaton
Faith Formation, Julie Frakes
Property, Dave Bard
Stewardship, Kristen Rosenwinkel & Gay Nass
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Youth, Ginger Riccio

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Coordinator of Sunday School: Laura Albert
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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

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