

Living Waters

December 2021

Candles All Year Long

Deacon Christine

Much of our Advent and Christmas celebrations center around candles. During this season of darkness, we use candles each week during worship to slowly light our way around the Advent wreath toward Christmas, remembering the hope, peace, joy, and love of Jesus. On Christmas Eve, candles serve as a reminder of what we can create when we join together, spreading light throughout the whole sanctuary that far exceeds the light from our individual candle alone.

Candles remind us of the light of Christ that enters our lives in the form of a vulnerable baby, the Savior of the world. A God, Emmanuel, who is with us in the midst of our suffering and fears, our insecurities and anxieties. This poem by Howard Thurman reminds me that even though our world is not yet back to "normal," we still have light and love to share.

I will light Candles this Christmas;
Candles of joy despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,

Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all the year long.

May the candles of the season burn brightly for you, whoever you are, wherever you are, and whatever you are feeling. O Come, Emmanuel!



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Worship

In-Person

Sundays

Worship in the sanctuary at 8 & 10 am.

Online/Livestream

Watch the first service live on [YouTube](#), or anytime after that!

Communion Pick-Up

10:30 am–12 pm

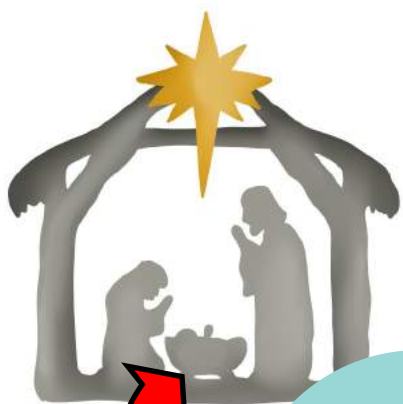
Wednesdays

Communion distribution has moved to 536 S. Cornell. Park in the driveway and knock on the front door. Home delivery can also be

Congregational Life...

Christmas Worship

Join us in-person or online for worship Sundays at 8 & 10 am as we journey through the Advent season, preparing ourselves for the birth of the Christ child. Also be sure to mark your calendars for our Christmas worship services:



Christmas Eve

December 24 at 5, 7 & 11 pm

Choirs and special music will highlight our 5 & 7 pm services. The 11 pm will be a contemplative acoustic-led service.

Christmas Day

December 25 at 9 am

Lessons & Carols

December 26 at 9 am (one service only)

**Help Light
the Way!**

Christmas Luminaria

Help light the way and beautify St. Paul! Join the Luminaria team and help welcome everyone to our church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We will meet to set up Luminaria on December 23, at 9 am. Luminaria takedown will be after church service on Sunday, December 26. Join us for this fun tradition! Contact [Mark Freedlund](#) if you can help.

ProJECT Forward

A lot is taking shape, both inside and out. The Day Care has settled into their newly renovated spaces downstairs and work on the upper level is really beginning to move quickly. Special thanks to all who made the Day Care move possible! The former parsonage at 540 S. Cornell has been demolished, crews are working hard to get the back parking lot completed before the snow flies, and the sanctuary is coming together with new floors, paint, and refinished pews. The North Wing is now in progress with demolition and asbestos abatement underway.

On January 16, Bishop Yehiel Curry of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod will be worshipping with us to help celebrate the dedication of our newly renovated facilities. Please plan to join us as well!

Lots of work remains ahead of us to move, clean, unpack, and organize in the weeks and months ahead. We appreciate your patience and support as we begin to think about transitioning back into our newly renovated spaces upstairs and downstairs. We will invite you to help once we have a clearer sense of when spaces will be available to us. Thank you for being so patient, generous and supportive in making ProJECT Forward a reality, and keep following construction progress on our [ProJECT Forward blog!](#)



...and More!

Christmas Ring-Sing

December 19, 9:15 am

Bring your friends to this joyful sing-a-long and celebrate the vibrant music ministry at St. Paul! Our Handbell and Chancel Choirs will lead us in singing our favorite carols and share special music in this upbeat preview to Christmas.



Beer & Hymns is Back!

December 17, 7 pm, [Manny's Ale House](#)

With more and more people being both vaccinated and boosted, there is an increased comfort level in meeting indoors. We miss singing together! So join us in the back room at Manny's Ale House on St. Charles Road to raise your voices in song – are you ready for Christmas carols? Masks will be worn while singing. Bring your own hymnal, if you have one. We are hoping to have a Zoom option for those unable to meet in person. Stay tuned for updated information, or contact [Bob & Doreen Fritz](#).

Greeters Needed: Maybe You?

Families, Couples and Singles are invited to serve

Would you like to be a Greeter at a St. Paul worship service? It's a great way to meet new people! Bring your coffee or tea! Responsibilities include:

- Provide friendly, hospitable welcome to St. Paul
- Arrive at least 20 minutes prior to worship
- Invite people to sign in
- Distribute worship materials upon entry
- Be available to answer questions and assist guests as needed, sit close to door to welcome late arrivals, etc.
- No "ushering" responsibilities during the service

Please contact Cindy Johnson via [email](#) or send her a message at 630-991-3131.

We'd love to see you at the door!

Book Club

December 6, 7 pm

St. Paul Book Club is back to meeting in-person at the church. New members welcome; please contact [Marti Seaton](#) to be included on our email list. Please note that Book Club will not meet in January.



On **Monday, December 6** we will discuss *Next Year in Havana* by Chanel Cleeton, a novel of two love stories in Cuba in 1958 and 2017.

On **Monday, February 7** we will discuss *Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder*.

October Numbers

Giving: \$46,045
(including online: \$14,147)

Expenses: \$37,998

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$28,109

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Views	Viewers
10/3	87	75	58
10/10	82	97	75
10/17	88	64	57
10/24	85	84	67
10/31	97	71	58

Wine, Women and the Word

December 7, 7 pm via Zoom

Join us on Zoom to discuss the chapter on Deborah. Women of all ages are invited and welcome! Contact [Judy](#) for more information.

Youth and Family Ministry

Christmas Program from A-Z!

December 12, 9:15 am

We are excited to spread the good news of the Christmas story through a very special Christmas program this year. Pre-recorded video components by Sunday School children will be interspersed with in-person speaking components by middle and high-school youth, all complemented with congregational singing. Together, we'll tell the entire Christmas story from A-Z! Attend in-person or watch live on [YouTube](#).



Sunday Education Schedule

Sundays, 9-9:45 am*

Sunday School: meets in sanctuary

Confirmation Class & High School Hangout: meets at 536 S. Cornell

Youth Sunday: 3rd Sunday of the month

Youth Dates

Dec. 1: Registration open for Middle School Summer Trip

Dec. 11: Christmas Program Readers Rehearsal 10 am

Dec. 12: Christmas Program

Dec. 12: Christmas Party/Lunch 11:30 (Butterfield Park District)

Dec. 19: Youth Sunday

Family Fun Day

Date TBD

The challenges and realities of COVID make it difficult to gather together for our annual winter Family Camp. But rejoice! Plans are in the works for a "Family Fun Day" in the new year. We're working on ways to bring all the fun and excitement of a weekend away right here to Villa Park (think sledding, s'mores, games, bible study, and more)! Contact [Deacon Christine](#) or [Rachel Hauser](#) if you want to help plan this meaningful and special day for all St. Paul families to enjoy.

Prayers

Stewardship Thank You

Dear Siblings in Christ,

The annual stewardship emphasis "First We Give of Ourselves; Giving in Generosity," has come to a close. Once again, the generous hearts of the members of St. Paul have come through! To date, 59 pledges have come in supporting the many



ministries here at St. Paul. We are blessed by this response. Thank you for all that you do in the name of Christ in this place. May you continue to be blessed in His Holy Name.

If you have not yet been able to get your commitment in to the church office there is still time! You may do it [online](#) or bring it into church. There are extra commitment cards available at church if you have misplaced yours.

Thank you and God bless you for your generosity!

Stewardship Commission

Thank You

from Ron Ziemer's family

Thank you for all the cards, calls and prayers during the time of Ron's illness. We are especially grateful for all the thoughts and prayers we received after his death. Our families appreciate your support.

Erv & Winnie Ziemer, Marilyn & Marty Plinske

Fall Prayer Vigil Report

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Virtual Fall Prayer Vigil on October 29. We had a total of 63 viewers and 89 total views. We had at least two people viewing the live stream at all times.

Thank you to everyone who submitted prayer requests, which appeared on the screen during the vigil. Our prayers were lifted up by the community to the God who is always with us, wherever we are.

We plan to have the next vigil in person in April. Look for more news about that as we move forward. Blessings to all.

"Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and He will say: 'Here Am I'."
— Isaiah 58:9



Giving Thanks: The Under 105 Club Thanksgiving Feast!

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

Shirley May Byrnes (Friend of Jane Plass), John Semprini (Father-in-law of Laura Semprini), Jan Finney (Friend of the Freidheims), Ed Homeier (Friend of the Freidheims), Zack DiLillo, Melinda Brent, Margaret Golden, Arlene Jensen, Nan Marcum, Sandy Robersshaw, Tommy Shallcross, Jim Sherlock (brother of Diane Sherlock), Steve Swanson, Karin Welsh, All Caregivers

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Alex & Janell Laskero (married November 6)

Prayers for the Bereaved

Family & Friends of Ron Kimble and Ron Ziemer

December 2021

All events subject to change. Items in *italics* are **in-person** events; all other events are virtual. **View the calendar at www.spaulvp.org** for more information and Zoom links, or contact the church office.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A Communion 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir	2 7:00P Youth Com	3	4
5 8:00A Worship 9:00A Education 10:00A Worship 10:45A Wired Word NO HANDS & FEET	6 6:30P Finance 7:00P Book Club 7:00P Logos 7:30 Exec Council	7 10:00A Staff Mtg 7:00P WWW 7:00P WMA	8 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A Communion 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir	9	10	11 10:00A Youth Xmas Rehearsal
12 8:00A Worship 9:15A Xmas Program 10:00A Worship 10:45A Wired Word 11:30 Youth Lunch	13 7:00P Logos	14 10:00A Staff Mtg 3:00P Rachel Cir 7:00P Council	15 LIVING WATERS DEADLINE 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A Communion 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir	16	17 7:00P Beer & Hymns	18
19 8:00A Worship 9:00A Education 9:15A Ring-Sing 10:00A Worship 10:45A Wired Word	20 10:00A Staff Mtg 6:30P DayCare Bd	21	22 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A Communion 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE OFFICE CLOSED 5:00P Worship 7:00P Worship 11:00P Worship	25 CHRISTMAS DAY 9:00A Worship
26 9:00A Lessons & Carols 10:45A Wired Word	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE OFFICE CLOSED	

Community and World



Day Care and Kindergarten News

We're back in our spaces with bright, shining faces! The Day Care families and staff are thrilled with the newly remodeled rooms in the center. We have passed all the inspections and are waiting for the final permission from DCFS to re-open.

It seems so appropriate to be fully moved in during the week of Thanksgiving! We are truly grateful to be a part of the ProJECT Forward campaign and have received so much support from church leadership and members. Thank you to the many who volunteered to help us move, unpack, clean and organize. We feel blessed to be so valued and extra appreciation goes to Pastor Zak, Deacon Christine, and Joel Johnson who were with us to help solve the problems that arose as well as Schramm Construction and architect, Tim Berneche. Continued prayers to find additional staff is our challenge! Thank you, again, to the wonderful St. Paul community!



Love INC Volunteers

Love INC is a Christian ministry helping church members put their faith into action to serve the community in the name of Christ. For 36 years, Christian churches from all denominations have been working together to address the needs of the local community. Volunteer instructors are needed to support the new Moving Forward Together classes to be offered in 2022: Self-Awareness, Boundaries, Parenting, Coping with Isolation, Conflict Resolution, Socialization, Interpersonal Relationships. Please consider volunteering if you have topical familiarity and facilitation experience; all course materials will be supplied. Call 630-512-8673 to register or receive additional information. www.love-cc.org

Annual Reports & Church Office Hours

Please submit all reports and information for the 2021 Annual Report to [Deacon Christine](#) by Monday, January 3. The Annual Report will be distributed in advance of our Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 30; time and format TBD.

The church office will close on Christmas Eve and reopen on Monday, January 3. Thanks for giving St. Paul staff a much-needed opportunity to rest and recuperate during this busy season!



545 S. Ardmore Ave. Villa Park, IL 60181
630-832-5580 | www.stpaulvp.org

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

St. Paul Leadership

Church Council

President: Mark Freedlund
Vice President: Tom Pfenning
Treasurer: Glen Hoyle
Secretary: Katie Briseno
Financial Secretary: Cathy Caron
Caring Commissioner: Laura Albert
Congregation and Community Commissioner: vacant
Education Commissioner: Rachel Hauser
Property Commissioner: Joel Johnson
Stewardship Commissioner: John Freidheim
Worship, Music, and Arts Commissioner: Cindy Johnson
Youth Commissioners: Cheryl Wolf and Wendy Biggs

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Zachary Wagner
Deacon of Ministry: Christine Yucha
Director of Music: Cynthia Viise
Director of Youth Ministry: Judy Nuehring
Administrative Assistant: Alice Ramsay
Worship & Technology Assistants:
Fiona Kordyban and Andrew Speidel

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

Phone: 630-832-5580

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

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

[Sign up for our email list](#) to receive the latest news and information from St. Paul!

