

Living Waters

February 2022

A Season of Epiphanies

Pastor Zak

This "Season After Epiphany" serves as our bridge from Christmas to Lent. It may be a short few weeks, but it is full of...well...epiphanies! Every week we see the glory of God revealed in new ways through the person of Christ. From a booming voice at baptism to the miraculous sign of water-to-wine at Cana, God's glory shines all around us.

The past years have certainly been difficult for so many of us as we begin year three of this pandemic. The inability to gather and share in community and fellowship has sometimes made it difficult to see God's glory, at least in the ways we are familiar. The loss of loved ones, work and routines has clouded the familiar ways of life, which are often a source of comfort.



the
**Light shines in
the Darkness**

During these difficult moments I recall the text we hear on Christmas morning from John, "*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it*" (John 1:5). This text was read in the glow of a fully lit Advent wreath, and although the candles have been packed away for now, the promise of that light still shines brightly, even in this moment. Just because the light of God's glory can sometimes become

obstructed by life's struggles, doesn't mean this promise is lost. God's light and glory shines brightest in the darkness. As the days slowly grow longer, I pray that you are able to glimpse the glory of God, and perhaps, even come to an epiphany of your own.



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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 pick-up has moved back to church. Park in the front parking lot and call the church office at 630-832-5580, or ring the doorbell at Door 2. We'll bring communion kits to you!

Congregational Life...

Our Lenten Journey: Worship and other Events

Ash Wednesday
March 2

Worship, 12 & 7 pm

We will gather together for services including holy communion and the imposition of ashes. Services will be available on [YouTube](#).

“Ashes-To-Go”, 7-10 am

Imposition of ashes will be available at the church from 7-10 am. Please park in the front parking lot near Door 2 and we will come out to you!

Wednesdays
throughout the
Season of Lent
March 9, 16, 23,
30; April 6

Midweek Lenten Services, 7 pm

Join us for *Holden Evening Prayer* in the sanctuary. All services will be livestreamed and available on [YouTube](#).



2022 Lenten Devotional

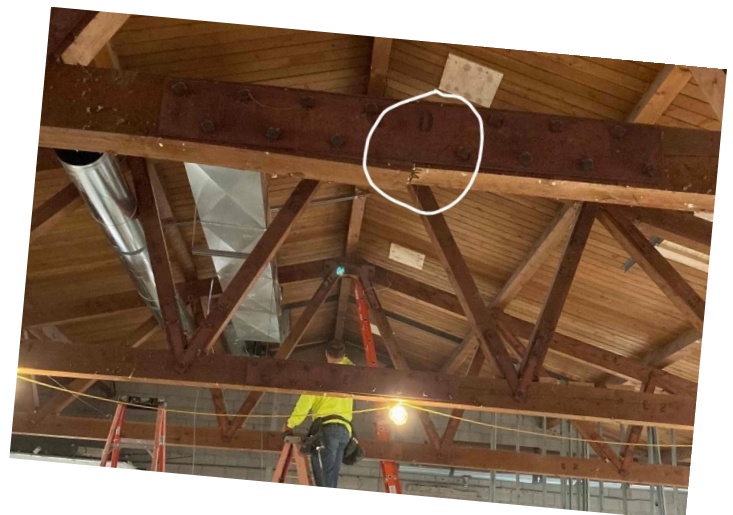
St. Paul's annual Lenten Devotional Guide will be distributed online again this year. You will find a daily devotional written by one of our St. Paul members in your email inbox each morning at 7am, beginning on Ash Wednesday. If you would like to add friends and family to the email contact group, please contact [Deacon Christine](#) or [Alice](#). Names added last year are already on the list, so no need to resend. An introduction to our theme, “Through Endurance to Hope,” and a list of the Bible translations used throughout the devotional will be included on the first day.

ProJECT Forward Update

Construction continues as the Lower Level slowly takes shape. The new East Entrance is receiving its final finishes and will hopefully be available for use soon. Likewise, the Sunday School rooms are gradually becoming available and will be ready for occupancy in the coming weeks.

The church office is now fully operational, even if it still feels like a storage space for the time being. As spaces begin to open elsewhere things will find their permanent home, but in the meantime the staff is thrilled to be working in their new space. Much work has been done, but there's plenty to still be done in the North Wing as the Cafe, meeting rooms, nursery, kitchenette, and restrooms have been paused due to pre-existing structural damage to a roof truss.

This has pushed our anticipated completion date back, but we are still moving forward together, and that's what matters!



...and More!

November Numbers

Giving: \$42,432
(including online: \$27,008)

Expenses: \$36,398

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$34,143

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Views	Viewers
11/7	112	82	75
11/14	87	65	66
11/21	96	101	101
11/21 7p	32	45	36
11/28	86	72	63

December Numbers

Giving: \$40,780
(including online: \$18,049)

Expenses: \$58,161

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$16,852

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Views	Viewers
12/5	111	92	70
12/12	130	78	64
12/19	91	71	55
12/24	213	218	165
12/25	20	68	50
12/26	38	75	58

Online Giving Updates

Our [online giving page](#) will have a new look soon, but rest assured! Your secure account information has not been changed. If you prefer to give through a mobile app, please note that our former app, GivePlus, is no longer supported. To use the new app, here's all you need to do.

- Download the new **Vanco Mobile app** from either the Apple App store or Google Play store.
- Search the app for "St. Paul Lutheran Church" and select it.
- If you already have an online giving account, log in. Otherwise, create an account.
- From there you can select the fund, the amount, and the frequency of your gift.

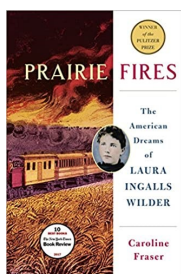


Please note that we are charged a processing fee for every credit or debit card transaction; consider giving monthly rather than weekly to reduce these processing fees. Contact [Alice](#) with any questions, and thanks for your faithful giving! Offering may also continue to be dropped in the mailbox outside Door 3.

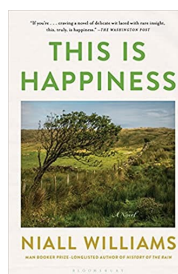
Book Club

February 7, 7 pm, [Zoom](#)

St. Paul Book Club meets on Zoom this month. Everyone is welcome to join a book club discussion, even as a one time visit! Please contact [Marti Seaton](#) to be included on our email list.



On **Monday, February 7** we will discuss *Prairie Fires*, an award winning biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder, by Caroline Fraser.



On **Monday, March 7** we will discuss a novel set in a small town in Ireland, *This is Happiness* by Niall Williams.

Youth and Family Ministry

Family Fun Day

February 19, 1-5:30 pm

Please join us for an afternoon of fun for the whole family! The challenges and realities of COVID make it difficult to gather together for our annual winter Family Camp, but we're going to bring all the fun and excitement of a weekend away right here to St. Paul for the afternoon (think sledding, s'mores, games, bible study, and more), plus some adult-only time for parents!



Please register by February 14 [here](#).

Pizza dinner at 5 pm is optional. Indoor and outdoor activities will all take place at church, with a possible sled outing to Jackson Middle School. Contact [Deacon Christine](#) or [Rachel Hauser](#) for more information.

Metro Chicago Synod Lock-In at Enchanted Castle

March 11, 9:30 pm–2 am



Registration is open to all students in 6th-12th grades; [Judy](#) will be sending information soon! Vaccinations are encouraged and each youth and adult leader are required to provide proof of vaccination or a negative test day of the event to be able to attend. Cost is \$30 and that covers \$20 worth of game tokens, pizza and all other attractions which will be open the entire evening.

We do need adults (over 21) to help, so if you're a night owl and want to hang out with kids, this is your chance!

Youth Gathering Catalog

Ten of our youth and four adult leaders are continuing to prepare for the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer in Minneapolis. We are excited to offer an opportunity for St. Paul to support our trip and also be a part of our trip. Check out the [St. Paul Gifts Catalog](#) for your "purchase" options. They are as diverse as a tank of gas for the van to purchasing a duck whose fun and activities will be shared with you throughout the week. The catalog can be accessed online [here](#) or by picking up a physical copy from Judy at church. Thank you for your support as we look forward to spending a week with many Lutherans from across the nation.



Sunday Education Schedule

**Sundays, 9-9:45 am
beginning February 6**

Sunday School: meets in Fellowship Center downstairs

Confirmation Class & High School Hangout: meets downstairs

Youth Sunday: 3rd Sunday of the month

Prayers

New Social Media Coordinator, Katie!



Katie grew up here in Villa Park and has a degree in marketing from Elmhurst University and accounting from Loyola University Chicago. After years working in the corporate world, she is back to pursuing her original passion in marketing, recently joining the family auto repair business and now as the Social Media Coordinator at St. Paul after years of volunteering behind the scenes! In her spare time, she enjoys reading, biking, camping and spending time with her husband, Alex, and kiddos, Abby and Jojo! Katie will be working to develop social media policies for St. Paul and increasing our presence on social media platforms. Contact Katie at katie@stpaulvp.org.

Hands and Feet February 6, 2-4 pm

Coming soon - our new and improved space within St. Paul church! Keep watching for updates. Until that time we will continue to distribute items on the first Sunday of the month by placing pre-packed bags into the trunk of clients' cars. We are not quite ready to accept donations yet, however, we are excited so many people are asking. Soon a collection bin will be available in the foyer for you to share those donations with us. We will have an updated list of items needed on our website soon, and look forward to welcoming you into our new space.



Joint 2021/2022 Council enjoys a laugh at the Jan mtg

Wine Women and the Word February 1, 7 pm via [Zoom](#)

All women are invited to gather and discuss the chapter on Phoebe from Joan Chittister's book *The Friendship of Women*. Contact [Judy](#) for more info!

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

Stephen Bache (brother of Vivian Quam), Cindy Serio (daughter of Marty & Marilyn Plinske), Soren Ramsey (nephew of Joann Ramsey), Melinda Brent, Margaret Golden, Arlene Jensen, Nan Marcum, Sandy Robershaw, Tommy Shallcross, Jim Sherlock (brother of Diane Sherlock), Steve Swanson, All Caregivers

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Leo John Fitzgerald (baptized Jan. 30), Miles Alexandar Rodriguez (born Jan. 17, great-grand son of Joann Ramsey), Leilani Mina Nguyen (born Jan. 5 to parents Nam & Leila)

Prayers for the Bereaved

The family and friends of Rosemarie Anderson

February 2022

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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 10:00A Staff Mtg 7:00P WWW	2 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A <i>Communion</i> 6:00 <i>Handbells</i> 7:00 <i>Choir</i>	3	4	5
6 8:00A <i>Worship</i> 9:00A <i>Education</i> 10:00A <i>Worship</i> 2:00P <i>Hands & Feet</i> 6:00P <i>Wired Word</i>	7 7:00P <i>Book Club</i> 7:00P <i>Logos</i>	8 10:00A Staff Mtg 3:00P <i>Rachel Cir</i>	9 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A <i>Communion</i> 6:00 <i>Handbells</i> 7:00 <i>Choir</i>	10	11	12
13 8:00A <i>Worship</i> 9:00A <i>Education</i> 10:00A <i>Worship</i> 6:00P <i>Wired Word</i>	14 7:00P <i>Logos</i>	15 10:00A Staff Mtg	16 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A <i>Communion</i> 6:00 <i>Handbells</i> 7:00 <i>Choir</i>	17 7:00P <i>Youth Com</i>	18	19 1:00P <i>Family Fun</i>
20 8:00A <i>Worship</i> 9:00A <i>Education</i> 10:00A <i>Worship</i> 6:00P <i>Wired Word</i>	21 LIVING WATERS DEADLINE 6:30P <i>DayCare Bd</i> 7:00P <i>Logos</i>	22 10:00A Staff Mtg 7:00P <i>Council</i>	23 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A <i>Communion</i> 6:00 <i>Handbells</i> 7:00 <i>Choir</i>	24	25	26
27 8:00A <i>Worship</i> 9:00A <i>Education</i> 10:00A <i>Worship</i> 6:00P <i>Wired Word</i>	28 7:00P <i>Logos</i>					

Community and World



Day Care News

The children are enjoying learning about arctic animals and hibernation. They had a pajama party and shared stuffed animals that hibernate. The children made a cave for them to sleep in during nap time! They've also enjoyed some wonderful fiction and non-fiction books about these kinds of animals. We continue to be thankful for our wonderful families who have been so understanding and patient with the COVID challenges and changes in schedules. We are still managing, but finding additional qualified staff is still our high priority. Substitutes are also needed.

Day Care Fundraiser

March 5, 4-8 pm

Plan to support the Day Care by dining out at Chipotle, located at 83 and St. Charles in Elmhurst. Flyer will be available soon that you can use while placing your order to ensure a portion of the proceeds gets directed to Day Care.

Adult Christian Care Reflects on 2021

Kelli Comise (OTR/L, CDP), Executive Director

As I closed out 2021 and looked back, I was amazed by the kindness and faithful support from St. Paul Lutheran Church. COVID limited opportunities to share our successes or provide updates in person, and new members may not even be aware of Adult Christian Care. With that said, who are we?

Adult Christian Care (ACC) is a memory day program located in the Epiphany Lutheran Church in Elmhurst. ACC is a safe, structured, and stimulating alternative for seniors with Alzheimer's disease, and other forms of cognitive impairment. The program provides a full day of companionship, a hot meal and therapeutic activities that can improve self-confidence, self-sufficiency, and promote social inclusion. Families benefit as well; the anticipation of regularly scheduled relief can be an emotional lifesaver, bringing comfort and peace of mind. Despite the challenges and "variants" these days, we continue to survive. Two of ACC's Board members are from St Paul: John Freidman and Karen Egan. Both provide ongoing support along with 5 other Board members from area churches. Pastor Zak is a blessing as he is always there guiding and providing support through the more challenging times.

St Paul's generous spirit has touched us in more ways than one. We may not completely restore our client's memory loss; however, because of your support we can stimulate the brain in new directions, unlock creativity, enhance communication, and give our clients a sense of self and purpose. Happy New Year!





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: Marti Seaton
Vice President: Gay Nass
Treasurer: Tom Pfenning
Secretary: Chris Bard
Financial Secretary: Cathy Caron
Caring Commissioners: Laura Albert
Congregation and Community Commissioner: Emy Ishida
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
Social Media Coordinator: Katie Briseno

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!

