

Living Waters

March 2022

Christ's Journey

Pastor Zak

Lent is a unique time of year filled with penitence, prayer and silence. I've often heard Lent described as a "journey". Personally, I love the idea of going on a journey to see and experience new locations. A few years back we purchased a pop-up camper which has allowed our family to travel the country together. From National Parks to Disney Parks, train tracks and nature trails, we've gotten to see so very much together. As much as I appreciate a good journey, I think it is important to understand that during Lent it is Jesus, not us, that is making the journey.

"When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem." (Luke 9:51, NRSV). Jesus sets his sights on Jerusalem, where he will be taken up on the cross, up from the grave and (eventually) up into the heavens. The journey lasts nearly ten chapters and entails countless opportunities to experience new people and places as he prays, heals and teaches every step along the way.



While Jesus is the one going on a journey these next forty days, we ourselves certainly are here watching, waiting and praying each step of his way. Perhaps we deny ourselves the luxuries of life like chocolate or caffeine. Maybe we seek to deepen our life of prayer or even our willingness to share Christ's teachings of

love in charity towards others. Even if the journey itself isn't ours, it is clear that it is done on our behalf. Christ's journey leads us into the joy of resurrected life. That's our hope and promise this time of year and always.

COVID Update

COVID guidance is rapidly changing at the state and national levels, which means we anticipate changes to our mitigation approach at St. Paul as well. More information will be forthcoming from the Health & Safety Task Force in the weeks ahead. Updates will be shared in the weekly e-letter and worship announcements. Thanks!



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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

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. Services will feature reflections from the devotional *A Time to Grow: Lenten Lessons from the Garden to the Table* by Kara Eidson. All services will be livestreamed and available on [YouTube](#).



Every day
throughout the
Season of Lent

Daily Lenten Devotional: “Through Endurance to Hope”

Look for a daily devotional, written by a member of the St. Paul community, to land in your inbox throughout the season of Lent! Forward and share with your family and friends, or send their email to [Deacon Christine](#) to be added to the list.

**They're
Back!**



Easter & Altar Flowers Sign-Up

Sign up now for altar flowers, using our [new digital sign-up!](#) Bouquets are \$30 each. You can take your bouquet(s) home after worship or indicate that you'd like them to be given to someone else. Flowers can be given for any occasion, including the celebration of an anniversary, in honor of a loved one who has died, or simply because you'd like to beautify our worship space!

We are also taking orders for lilies and other assorted potted spring flowers (hyacinths, daffodils, etc.) for Easter Sunday. All flowers are \$10 each, and you can plant them in your garden this spring! Sign up [here](#) by April 3.

ProJECT Forward Update

Construction has been shifting gears as we near the completion of more of our interior spaces. In the lower level the new restrooms, hallway, meeting space and choir room are all taking shape as they receive their finishes. Speaking of finished, we have finally finished finding a solution for the truss issue in the North Wing, and work will be picking back up in that area. Over at 536 Cornell, construction has really taken off in the new parsonage as the interior has been demolished making way for the new floor plan and second story addition. Behind the scenes we continue to unpack (slowly) as we make plans for the next steps in this larger process. As always, thank you for your continued patience and support throughout this process. We are truly blessed as we continue to cast our vision for St. Paul inside and out! Keep following progress on our construction blog [here](#).



...and More!

LWR Personal Care Kits

Throughout the season of Lent, we will be accepting donations to make Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. These kits help share God's love and create a "season of hope" for our neighbors around the world. We will collect a different item each week; monetary donations will be used to purchase additional supplies. Contact [Laura Albert](#) for more information.

What to Buy and Donation Schedule

- March 6:** Nail Clippers (metal; attached file optional)
- March 13:** Combs
- March 20:** Toothbrushes (adult size)
- March 27:** Bars of Soap (4 to 5 oz., original packaging)
- April 3:** Bath Towels (light-weight bath-size, between 20" x 40" and 52" x 26", dark color)
- Anytime:** Yarn or Ribbon remnants

Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage. All items should be new and in good condition.



January Numbers

Giving: \$30,840
(including online: \$22,572)

Expenses: \$26,503

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(5,663)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
1/2	30	63
1/9	42	67
1/16	58	120
1/23	52	90
1/30	71	63

Online Giving Updates

Our [online giving page](#) has a new look! Contact [Alice](#) if you have any questions.

Wine, Women and the Word

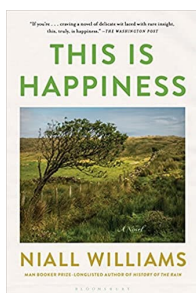
March 1, 7 pm via Zoom

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

Book Club

March 7, 7 pm, in person at church

St. Paul Book Club meets in person at church 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, March 7** we will discuss a novel set in a small town in Ireland, *This is Happiness* by Niall Williams.



On **Monday, April 4** we will discuss Brit Bennett's novel *The Vanishing Half*, the story of light skinned African American identical twins who leave home at 16 and separate.

Youth and Family Ministry

Youth Gathering Update

After much prayer and conversation, the ELCA Youth Gathering staff has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2022 Gathering due to the ongoing pandemic and public health considerations. This was not an easy decision and brings with it a time of grieving and disappointment. With the continued commitment of the ELCA to this event and our youth, planning for the next Gathering in 2024 has already begun.

If you have already donated via our [Gathering catalog](#) we appreciate your support and would like to announce those funds and future fundraising efforts will now support our new summer service adventure. After meeting with the youth and parents we have shifted our focus and will be spending a week at the Oaks Indian Mission and Eben Ezer Lutheran Church in Oaks, OK. The needs of our indigenous communities are ongoing so alongside our service projects, we will provide a community meal and share in opportunities to immerse ourselves in the Cherokee culture & history.

The youth are blessed by the St. Paul community and we are excited to share this new opportunity with your continued support.

Metro Chicago Synod Lock-In at Enchanted Castle

March 11, 9:30 pm–2 am

This event is for 6-12th grades and will take place on March 11 from 9:30 pm – 2:00 am. Cost is \$30/person. Deadline for registration is March 1. See [Judy](#) for more details and to register.

Register Now for Summer Camp

Summer camp is awesome! And registration is now open for the two Lutheran bible camps supported by St. Paul: [Lutherdale](#) (Elkhorn, WI) and [Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center](#) (Oregon, IL). Check out the variety of programs available and register your child(ren) and youth today. Both camps are also seeking young adult staff to serve as counselors. Register now for an unforgettable experience hiking, canoeing, team building, splashing, worship, playing, crafting, singing, and making friends!

Education Schedule

Sundays, 9-9:45 am

Sunday School: meets in Fellowship Center downstairs

Confirmation Class & High School Hangout: meets downstairs

Youth Sunday: 3rd Sunday of the month

NOTE: No classes on Sunday, March 27. Happy Spring Break!

Youth Ministry Portillo's Fundraiser March 14, 5-8 pm, Elmhurst Portillo's

You can enjoy a night free of cooking while dining out on March 14 at our Portillo's Fundraiser at the Elmhurst Portillo's on Rt 83. Please order between 5:00-8:00 pm and use code PORTILLOS3 or show [this flyer](#) (also accepted when shown on a phone!), then 20% of the night's proceeds will benefit our summer trips!



Prayers

Thank You, Panera!

After almost ten years, we have ended our bread pick-up at Panera. This collection was started after members of St. Paul traveled to Tanzania and discussed tangible ways of supporting ELCA missionaries Steve & Bethany Friberg and the people and communities they serve. The Panera collection has provided support for: Thomas Lemama, a student who needed funds to finish school; Naapok Bead project's building program; building and remodeling support for housing and training of Evangelists for the ELCT; and Ngopiro Papaai, a student in Accounting School to help his church and village.

A few years ago, the project decided to split the donated offering money with St. Paul Day Care to help fund tuition scholarships for Day Care families. This change was done to have both a local and global impact with donations. The Panera collection also facilitated a local partnership with Lombard Presbyterian Church, who would collect the bagels. All funds supported the LPC Youth Mission Fund, to help pay for youth mission trips to Appalachia. Leftover bagels were donated to the Lombard/Villa Park Food Pantry.



Faithful Panera volunteers include Mark Freedlund, Jon Freedlund, Merry Freedlund, and Joelle Soefker. Each week (for almost ten years!) they picked up items from the Oak Brook Panera, brought them to church, individually wrapped them and put them in the freezer, put them out on Sunday mornings, and bundled them together for monthly distribution at Hands & Feet.

Together, we diverted these baked goods from the landfill and used your monetary donations to make significant change locally and globally. Thank you, all!

Spring Prayer Vigil Requests

Submit prayer requests for our Holy Saturday (April 16) online prayer vigil by April 10. Prayer requests for family, friends, or other concerns are welcome and encouraged. [An online request form](#) is available on the Prayer Ministries page or get paper request cards at our in-person worship services or when picking up communion kits. Prayer requests will appear on the screen during the livestream.

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

Rogers Freedlund (brother of Jon Freedlund), Harrison and Donna Cattel (friends of Kristina Bostian), Carol Magura, Glen Anderson (brother of Lana Pedersen), Vincent Fagin, Gary Wagner (Pastor Zak's dad), 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

Zachary DiLillo (baptized Feb. 27)

Prayers for the Bereaved

The family and friends of Andrew Koeneman (son of Karl & Judy Koeneman), Robert Myover, Rosemarie Anderson, Rev. Laura Hall-Schordje

March 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 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00A Ashes 10:30A Communion 12:00P Worship 7:00P Worship	3	4	5 9:30A Day Care Open House 4:00P Chipotle Fundraiser
6 8:00A Worship 9:00A Education 10:00A Worship 2:00P Hands & Feet 6:00P Wired Word	7 7:00P Book Club 7:00P Logos	8 10:00A Staff Mtg 3:00P Rachel Cir 7:00P WMA	9 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A Communion 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Worship 7:30P Choir	10 7:00P Youth Com	11 9:30P Lock-In	12
13 8:00A Worship 9:00A Education 10:00A Worship 6:00P Wired Word	14 10:00A Staff Mtg 5:00P Portillo's Fundraiser 6:30P Finance 7:00P Logos 7:00 Exec Comm	15	16 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A Communion 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Worship 7:30P Choir	17	18	19
20 8:00A Worship 9:00A Education 10:00A Worship 6:00P Wired Word	21 LIVING WATERS DEADLINE 6:30P DayCare Bd 7:00P Logos	22 10:00A Staff Mtg 7:00P Council	23 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A Communion 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Worship 7:30P Choir	24	25	26
27 8:00A Worship 10:00A Worship 6:00P Wired Word	28	29 10:00A Staff Mtg	30 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A Communion 6:00 Handbells 7:00 Worship 7:30 Choir	31		



Remember to "spring ahead"
on Sunday, March 13!

Community and World



Day Care News

February is always a fun month despite the cold. The teachers and staff did get out for a walk on the 21st which was most welcome. They were also been busy with Valentine activities, learning about Presidents, and honoring Black History Month. Jan Brett, a marvelous author and illustrator, was the focus at the end of the month.

Substitutes are still needed and we would like to extend an invitation to fill a vacancy on our board. Our belated thanks to Joelle Soefker who resigned in December. She made significant contributions with fundraising and helping with daily operations. Thank you, Joelle!!

Day Care Open House

March 5, 9:30-11:30 am

Interested in learning more about the St. Paul Day Care program? Want to check out the newly renovated Day Care areas? Anyone and everyone invited to attend!

Day Care Chipotle Fundraiser

March 5, 4-8 pm, Elmhurst Chipotle

Plan to support the Day Care by dining out at Chipotle, located at 83 and St. Charles in Elmhurst. 33% of sales will get donated to the Day Care. Use code WBBX97H or show [this flyer](#) when you order!

Do You Like to Cook?

Our Day Care cook, Jude, will need a substitute (paid position) for 2-3 months beginning March 24. It's a very short day, 9:30 am-12:30 pm and only involves light meal prep for snacks and catered food that's already prepared and delivered. One or two people could share the job. The only other requirement is a Food Handler certificate which is brief and Sarah can provide assistance with it. Please call Sarah at 630.832.0420 if interested.





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!

