

# Living Waters

*April 2022*

## Nurturing Hope

Pastor Zak

Truth be told, I have never been good at gardening, or even keeping a houseplant alive. What starts as a ritual of regular monitoring and watering quickly turns into planning a plant funeral. From Chia Pets to “low-maintenance” plants like succulents and cacti, I have found a way to ruin them all. In fact, to date, the only flowers that have survived their time with me have been made of LEGO. In this season of greening grass and growing flowers, I simply marvel at the beauty springing up all around, and the hands that make it possible. It’s not just hands that make flowers bloom but squirrels, dogs and bees, to name a few. Indeed, all of creation fits together perfectly in order to bring about new and beautiful life.



We are preparing to enter into the season of Easter, a season of new life and resurrection, not just for us, but for all of creation. Easter springs forth with life, beauty and hope. I write this letter with hope on my heart...

...hope for favorable weather this spring for those whose livelihood depend on green and growing things.

...hope for our community as we continue to gather together and seek ways to reconnect with new and familiar faces and spaces.

...hope for peace to take root in the midst of a brutal conflict unfolding in Ukraine and throughout Eastern Europe.

Hope is a beautiful gift that God places in our hands, but it is also something that needs to be nurtured with our own actions. It’s not enough just to hope for a better future, we must strive for that together. Just like it’s not enough to buy a plant, but we also must strive to meet its needs in order for it to flourish. The good news is that while our human hands may not always be up to this task, it is not a task we do alone. God has created us and called us to be stewards of that creation. I hope that you are up to that beautiful task we share in Christ, this day and always.



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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. We'll bring communion kits to you!

# Congregational Life...

## Join us for Holy Week!



**PALM SUNDAY:** April 10, 8 & 10 am

**MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP:** April 14, 7 pm

**GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP:** April 15, 12 & 7 pm

**VIRTUAL PRAYER VIGIL:** April 16, 7 am – 7 pm online (see p. 5 for details)

**EASTER SUNDAY:** April 17, 8 & 10 am

All services will be livestreamed on [YouTube](#). Face masks recommended.

## He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

### Midweek Lenten Service

April 6, 7 pm

Join us for this final *Holden Evening Prayer* in the sanctuary. Service will be livestreamed on [YouTube](#).

### Easter & Altar Flowers Sign-Up

Easter flowers deadline April 3

Sign up now for altar flowers, using our new digital sign-up (<https://tinyurl.com/stpaul-flower-signup>). Bouquets are \$30 each.

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



It has been nearly a year since the beginning of construction at St. Paul. The joy of the past months has been gathering together in our new (and somehow the same) spaces with new

(and many of the same) faces! In many ways the work within our church is entering into a new and exciting phase as we move from framing walls to building ministries. In the coming weeks and months there will be plenty of opportunities for you to get involved in the life of those ministries (like our April 30 Work Day).

In the meantime, we will see the work on our physical building slow down a bit as we await the arrival of the new ceiling trusses for the North Wing in the coming wing. Once those arrive we'll kick construction back into high gear for a few more months until that work is complete. That being said, it is a good reminder for us today that the work of the church and our congregation (namely to "Grow, Care, Give and Share" in Jesus' name) is never complete. The construction blog will take a temporary hiatus until work really picks up again, but we'll continue to post updates [here](#) as we have them!



### Work Day!!

April 30, 9 am-12 pm

At last! The moment we've all been waiting for... it's time to unpack and move into the Lower Level! We need all hands on deck to help move things from the various places they've ended up during the last year of construction. Heavy lifting and lighter unpacking tasks are all available. Come for the whole time or pop in and out as needed. RSVP to [Deacon Christine](#).

# ...and More!



## What will YOU do to serve?

These past years we have seen so many changes in the life of our congregation including not only the way we serve, but who is gathered to serve. This is a time of great opportunity for us to come back together and consider how we are called to participate in the work of the church. Please prayerfully consider how it is that you, and perhaps your family, will serve and grow in your faith as we grow as a community together by filling out this form: <https://forms.gle/oZxSZhxNPBJyJ3eb6>.

Training is provided for all positions. Thank you!

## Altar Guild Meeting

April 28, 7 pm; April 30, 10 am

All people serving on Altar Guild are invited to attend a reorientation meeting to get familiar with our new sacristy and procedures. Bring your calendars; we'll develop a schedule for the rest of 2022. Contact [Merry Freedlund](#) or [Marilyn Plinske](#) for more info!

## Hands & Feet

April 3, 2-4 pm

We continue with drive-thru distribution in April, but Sunday, May 1 will be our grand re-opening in our new space within the St. Paul building, using the new East entrance for access. Thank you for your continued support and we are excited to be able to welcome clients to our new space.

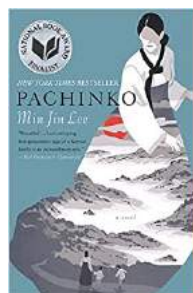
## Book Club

April 4, 7 pm

St. Paul Book Club meets in person at church. 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, 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.



On **Monday, May 2** we will discuss *Pachinko* by Min Jin Lee, an award winning novel which follows four generations of a Korean family living in Japan.

## February Numbers

**Giving:** \$37,485  
(including online: \$21,051)

**Expenses:** \$32,592

**YTD Giving vs. Expenses:** \$(751)

### Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
2/6	78	48
2/13	80	50
2/20	83	53
2/27	181	47

## Wine, Women and the Word

April 5, 7 pm via Zoom

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

## Prayers & Squares

April 4, 10 am

Calling all quilters! We are resuming our monthly gatherings at Sandy Olsen's home to work on prayer quilts and other projects together.



# Youth and Family Ministry

## Save the Date! Trivia Night!

May 1, 5 pm

The youth are excited to again host Trivia Night in our newly renovated Fellowship Center! Your teams of 8 will compete for “grand” prizes by answering questions from intriguing categories. Cost to participate is \$10/person and Mulligans are available for \$1 (limit 10 mulligans). All proceeds will go towards the summer trips to LOMC and Oaks, Oklahoma. Contact [Judy](#) for more details.



## 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 Easter Sunday, April 17.**

*St. Paul youth at the synod-wide Lock-In event at Enchanted Castle.*

## Vacation Bible School

**June 13-16, 5-7 pm**

Are you ready for adventure?!

St. Paul and Holy Trinity Lutheran Churches are partnering together to provide Vacation Bible School this year! [Registration is open](#) for children ages 3 years old-5th grade. The cost is \$10/child with a \$30/household max. Priority registration for St. Paul & HTL families; please register early to secure your spot!

This year's program will be held at St. Paul and will include a dinner each night.

We also need volunteers to help make this experience possible. If you (or someone you know) would like to help in any way please register as a volunteer. Kids and volunteers will embark on an exciting quest for God's great light with music, games, crafts, bible studies and more! Register [here](#)!



# Prayers

## Spring Prayer Vigil

April 16, 7 am-7 pm

**“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.” – Ephesians 6:18**



Please join us for our next livestream prayer vigil for Holy Saturday. The stream will become live at 7am and will continue until 7pm. Join any time and stay as long as you like. Join the [live stream](#) and find the [online guide](#) on our website [Prayer Ministries page](#). A link to the guide will also be in the livestream description. Help us fill these 12 hours with prayer.

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. Please return request cards to the office by April 10 so we can include your request during the vigil. Prayer requests will appear on the screen during the livestream.

This is a wonderful opportunity to spend some time praying in silence, enjoying that special connection with our God. And you are invited! Thank you for being a part of this special gift of prayer to our congregation, community, and the world.

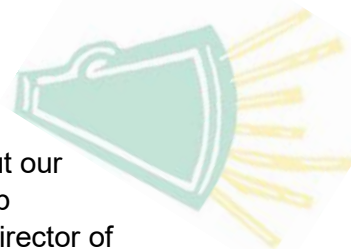
## LWR Personal Care Kits

Accepting donations thru April 3

Thanks to your astounding generosity, we have collected over 150 of every item needed for Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. WOW! [Monetary donations](#) will be used to purchase additional supplies. Monetary donations, bath towels (light-weight, bath-size, dark color), and any other supplies (nail clippers, combs, toothbrushes, bars of soap, yarn or ribbon remnants) must be received by April 3. Contact [Laura Albert](#) for more information.

## We're Hiring!

Help us spread the word about our two current job openings: a Director of Youth & Family Ministry and a Choir Accompanist! More information and application instructions [here](#).



## 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

Renee Jeske (friend of John & Carrie Lavorini), Jenny Stedman, Molly Bartel, Guadalupe Ocon (friend of Mark Freedlund), Celeste Aguzino (friend of Chris & Dave Bard), Donny Shallcross, Marge Sarna (friend of Nell Shallcross), Melinda Brent, Margaret Golden, Arlene Jensen, Nan Marcum, Sandy Robersshaw, Tommy Shallcross, Jim Sherlock (brother of Diane Sherlock), Steve Swanson, All Caregivers

# April 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	2
3 8:00A Worship 9:00A Education 10:00A Worship 2:00P Hands & Feet 6:00P Wired Word	4 10:00A Pray & Sq 7:00P Book Club 7:00P Logos	5 10:00A Staff Mtg 7:00P WWW	6 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A Communion 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Worship 7:30P Choir	7	8	9
10 PALM SUNDAY 8:00A Worship 9:00A Education 10:00A Worship 6:00P Wired Word	11 6:30P Finance 7:00P Logos 7:00 Exec Comm	12 10:00A Staff Mtg 3:00P Rachel Cir 7:00P WMA	13 10:30A Communion 6:00P Handbells 7:00P Choir	14 MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00P Worship	15 GOOD FRIDAY 12:00P Worship 7:00P Worship	16 HOLY SATURDAY 7:00A Prayer Vigil
17 EASTER SUNDAY 8:00A Worship 10:00A Worship	18 6:30P DayCare Bd 7:00P Logos	19 10:00A Staff Mtg	20 LIVING WATERS DEADLINE 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A Communion	21 7:00P Youth Com	22	23 9:00A Day Care Garage Sale
24 8:00A Worship 9:00A Education 9:00A Day Care Garage Sale 10:00A Worship 6:00P Wired Word	25	26 10:00A Staff Mtg 7:00P Council	27 9:30A Bible Study 10:30A Communion 6:00 Handbells 7:00P Choir	28 7:00P Altar Guild	29	30 9:00A Work Party 10:00A Altar Guild



# Community and World



## Day Care News

The children enjoyed a fun unit on dinosaurs for two weeks. This is always a popular theme. St. Patrick's Day was celebrated with activities and a party. The entire staff was able to attend the IL ASCD Pre-K and Kindergarten Conference for two days. It a great opportunity for their professional development and they always returned energized and eager to try new ideas.



## Day Care Garage Sale

**April 23 & 24, 9 am - 12 pm**

Need some new art supplies? Toys? Or maybe just interested in perusing for your next treasure that you didn't know you needed? Plan on shopping at the Day Care Garage Sale, held in the Fellowship Center on Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24. Everything you buy is one less item we need to find room to store in our newly renovated spaces, and all proceeds will go directly to support the St. Paul Day Care. Thank You!

## Do You Like to Cook?

Our Day Care cook, Jude, will need a substitute (paid position) for 2-3 months beginning immediately. 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](http://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: [office@stpaulvp.org](mailto:office@stpaulvp.org)

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

Sign up for our email list to receive the latest news and information from St. Paul!

