

Living Waters

July - August 2022

Giving Thanks

Pastor Zak

"I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." -Philippians 1:3-6 (NRSV)

The first part of this text adorns the front of a package of thank you cards that I purchased late last year. One of my New Year's resolutions was to be better at thanking people, and I figured writing notes was a good way to hold myself accountable to that. Whether or not I have been "successful" in my commitment to thank you notes is hard to say— I can always do better. That being said, as I consider all of the upcoming staffing changes at St. Paul, I have a heart filled with thanks for those that have been my partners in ministry these past years.

We give thanks for Judy Nuehring and her many years of service in engaging the youth and families of our congregation in Christ's love. Her retirement is well-deserved and we look forward to her contributions as a non-staff member in the future. We give thanks for Deacon Christine Yucha, for her attention to detail and proclamation of the Good News in word and deed. Her move to North Carolina with her family will be a blessing to them and the new community of faith they enter.

I am most thankful for Paul's notion in his letter to the Philippians that the work of Christ is never truly done and carries on until the day of Christ's return. Even as we celebrate and give thanks for those who have served our community, we know that their work in service is yet unfinished, even if it occurs in a different way or new community. I am confident that there is much work to be done here at St. Paul, in the name of the gospel, but in the meantime, I give thanks in this time of transitions, as our namesake does here.

"I thank
my God
for you"



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Worship Information

In-Person

Sundays

Worship in the sanctuary at 8 & 10 am. We'll be outside on the last Sunday of the month over the summer!

Online/Livestream

Watch the first 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. Orders are placed a month in advance so sign up early!

Congregational Life...

Worship Updates

As we enter into the Green Season of “Ordinary Time” our worship together will continue to be anything but ordinary! We will begin our worship on the first Sunday of the month with a hymn sing, and will be worshipping outdoors on the last Sunday of the month throughout the summer (mark your calendars for July 31 & August 28). Our new set-up has lots of shade and ample parking if you’d like to remain in your car. Plus, do we need to mention lemonade, coffee, and ice cream?! Join us & invite a friend!

We will also be taking time to celebrate our community and the people who serve here (see below). Be sure to mark your calendar for our Building Rededication on Sunday, August 21. Bishop Yehiel Curry will be here to preach and help us celebrate the work of ProJECT Forward and the ministries it serves.

Staff Transitions

In the coming weeks we will be celebrating a variety of transitions on our staff. Join us as we...

...celebrate the retirement of our **Director of Youth Ministry**, Judy Nuehring, during worship and fellowship between services on July 24.

...bid farewell to our **Deacon of Ministry**, Christine Yucha, during worship and fellowship between services on July 31. Deacon Christine and her family are moving to Winston-Salem, NC.

...welcome **Allison Mikyska** as our new Director of Youth & Family Ministry, who will begin her work with us in early August.



Hello, St. Paul!

My name is Allison Mikyska and I am so excited to be joining St. Paul’s staff as Director of Youth & Family Ministry.

I grew up in the Chicago suburbs with my parents and older brother. In the spring of 2019, I graduated from Augustana College - Rock Island where I earned my Bachelor’s Degree in Religion and Nonprofit Leadership Development. I continued my studies at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and recently earned my Master of Arts in Ministry degree. I have always loved working with kids and am blessed to be working with such a wonderful congregation!

In my free time, I love to travel, hike, spend time outdoors, and visit with my friends and family. My brother (James), sister-in-law (Hannah), and 17-month-old niece (Leighton) live in Grand Rapids, Michigan. A lot of our “visits” happen on Zoom but we do get the occasional weekend together either in Illinois or Michigan.

One of the things I love about working in a congregation is getting to talk with and connect with other people. I cannot wait to meet you and start serving St. Paul together!



WOW! Allison's been to Wittenberg Castle in Germany!

...and More!

We need YOU to walk in the parade!

July 4, 9:00 am



Ready to celebrate, be neighborly, and restock the food pantry at the same time? Join St. Paul members in the Villa Park VFW July 4th parade. We will resume our long-time tradition of pushing shopping carts, generously borrowed from Pete's Market, to collect food for The Outreach House in Lombard. We are also seeking candy donations to hand out during the parade. A box for candy is in the Foyer.

WHEN: July 4. Decorate carts at 9:00 am; parade steps off at 10:00 am.

WHERE: Trinity Lutheran Church Parking Lot (300 Ardmore Ave)

WHO: Anyone able to walk the 2-mile parade route. We need folks to push carts, hand out candy, and collect money. All are welcome!

Contact [Emy Ishida](#) for more information or to please let her know she will not be pushing carts alone!



ProJECT Forward Update

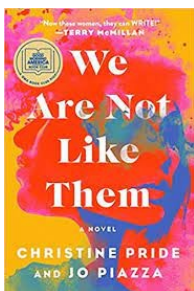
Work is beginning to wrap-up inside of the church and parsonage and we will need your help to get us across the finish line! Be on the look-out for summer opportunities to help us move, sort, landscape and paint (among other things). Thanks once more for your continued prayers and support as we look forward to serving together in these renewed spaces.

Keep checking updates on the construction blog [here!](#)

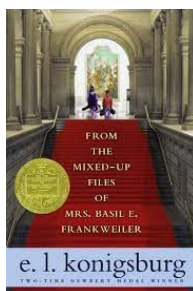
Book Club

July 11, 6:45 pm, Ruggard Gazebo

Book club will meet outdoors at the Ruggard Gazebo on the Prairie Path near Ardmore and Park Avenue over the summer. Bring your own chair and drink; newcomers always welcome!



On **Monday, July 11** we will discuss *We are Not Like Them* by Christine Pride and Jo Piazza, a novel about contemporary race issues. The two main characters and lifelong close friends, one white and one black.



On **Monday, August 1** we will discuss *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E. L. Konigsburg, a Newbery award winning YA novel about a sister and brother who run away from home and camp out at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

May Numbers

Giving: \$51,687
(including online: \$20,726)

Expenses: 31,661

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$21,790

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
5/1	108	36
5/8	59	40
5/15	90	35
5/22	98	50
5/29	77	51

Beer & Hymns

August 12, 7 pm, Manny's

Join us in the back room at Manny's for summer fellowship, beer, & singing!



Youth and Family Ministry

Youth Trips

With the continued support of the St. Paul community, our youth will be growing in their faith and service during July. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel and meet Jesus in different faces and places.

The Middle Schoolers will be headed to LOMC in Oregon, IL July 10-15 for a week of TEAM camp – they will experience canoe trips, campouts, campfires, Bible studies and communing with God through nature.

The High School group will head to Oaks, Oklahoma where they will spend a week participating in service projects around the Oaks Indian Mission and Eben Ezer Lutheran church located at the mission. They will also serve a free community dinner to all the residents of Oaks.



Confirmation



Mini Golf

Thank You

As my tenure as Director of Youth Ministry draws to a close, I wish to thank all of you who are a part of my village. You have graciously supported me alongside the youth & families of St. Paul with not only monetary support but many volunteer hours, prayers, encouragement and participation in fundraisers. My chosen life verse is 1 Timothy 1:12- "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service." And, for the last 36 years St. Paul has provided the platform for me to fulfill my passion through many facets of youth & family ministry, including leading Sunday morning classes, trips, retreats, service projects, VBS, family camp, and other activities like just hanging at Starbucks. I am humbled by the continuous outpouring of love and care for our youth and I look forward to this continuing in the years to come and where my new place in this journey will be. I pray for continued blessings for the youth and families in our midst and that St. Paul remains a welcome place for all.

In His service,
Judy

VBS 2022 Recap

Thanks to everyone who participated in and supported Vacation Bible School this year! Partnering with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, we had a great time exploring "Adventure Island" with approx. 50 kids each night, over 30 volunteers, and only one tornado warning! Our newly air-conditioned spaces are truly a gift. Thank you!



VBS 2022

Prayers & Community

You Can Be a Part of the Next In-Person Prayer Vigil

The last few St. Paul Prayer Vigils have been online, due to COVID restrictions and then the church building renovation project. The next Prayer Vigil is planned to be held in person on Friday, October 28.

The Prayer Vigil is a special time when members of our community join together in a continuous, individual, silent period of prayer from 7:00 am until 7:00 pm. Individuals come to the sanctuary for a 20-minute time slot (or longer, if they wish) to meditate, speak with, or just listen to God. While there may be others in the sanctuary with them, each person individually spends time with God. Outside the sanctuary, greeters are available to provide guidance and help participants feel comfortable. The idea is to have a continuous stream of prayer throughout the day.

There are two ways you can take part in this quiet, yet powerfully moving event. First, you are invited to come and pray with us during the Vigil. You can sign up for a particular time slot, or just show up when you can. If you haven't come to the Vigil before, no worries! A greeter will be glad to explain what to do when you arrive.

The second way you can participate is to join the Prayer Vigil Team. The Team is looking for new members to help with organizing, running, and publicizing the vigil to the congregation and to the neighboring community. Contact [Alice Ramsay](#) if you're interested (other team members include Linda Lange and Sandy Olsen).



Day Care News

This will be our final article in the Living Waters under the name St. Paul Christian Day Care. The Outreach Board unanimously voted to rename the center Elm Tree Christian Child Care. You may remember it was started in 1975 by Elaine Madsen and supported by Les, her husband. So their initials, ELM, were the inspiration for the name. We are excited to decide on a new logo soon and will have an Open House sometime in the fall to celebrate all these changes along with the new play space. Of course, we will be looking for a special variety of an elm tree to plant!

The summer program is off to a great start with many different themes, field trips and on-site events. The children's studies include outer space, farms, science/STEAM, famous artists and more. Our thanks to Alice Ramsay who provided wonderful lessons about the solar system. We are thrilled to welcome our own church member, Carol Simberg, as our newest teaching assistant. Carol comes to us with a wealth of childcare experience and she will be such a wonderful addition to our staff!

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 & God's Presence

Mary Beth Chambers (friend of Eva Brooks), Nina Thompson (daughter-in-law of Vince & Jacky Fagin), Ellie Nickell (granddaughter of Tom Pfenning), Marge Sarna (friend of Nell Shallcross), Bonnie Calfa (friend of Brigitte Thoreson), Jake Shallcross (nephew of Nell & Tom Shallcross), Melinda Brent, Kristy Fash-Alvarez, Margaret Golden, Arlene Jensen, Nan Marcum, Brian Peterson (brother of Donna Windmoeller), Sandy Robershaw, Tommy Shallcross, Jim Sherlock (brother of Diane Sherlock), Steve Swanson, All Caregivers

Prayers for the Bereaved

Brit Williams (father of Jamie Williams)

July 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
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					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:00A <i>Worship</i> 9:00A <i>Wired Word</i> 10:00A <i>Worship</i> 2:00P <i>Hands & Feet</i>	CHURCH BLDG CLOSED 9:00A <i>VP Parade</i>	10:00A <i>Staff Mtg</i>	9:30A <i>Bible Study</i>		10:00A <i>Pray & Sq</i>	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:00A <i>Worship</i> 9:00A <i>Wired Word</i> 10:00A <i>Worship & MS</i> <i>Youth Trip Commissioning</i>	6:30P <i>Finance</i> 6:45P <i>Book Club</i> 7:30P <i>Exec Comm</i>	10:00A <i>Staff Mtg</i> 3:00P <i>Rachel Cir</i>	9:30A <i>Bible Study</i>			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:00A <i>Worship</i> 9:00A <i>Wired Word</i> 10:00A <i>Worship</i>	6:30P <i>DayCare Bd</i>	10:00A <i>Staff Mtg</i>	9:30A <i>Bible Study</i>			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
8:00A <i>Worship</i> 9:00A <i>Celebrate Judy</i> 9:00A <i>Wired Word</i> 10:00A <i>Worship & HS</i> <i>Youth Trip Commissioning</i>		10:00A <i>Staff Mtg</i> 7:00P <i>Council</i>	9:30A <i>Bible Study</i>			
31						
8:00A <i>Outdoor Worship</i> 9:00A <i>Celebrate DC</i> 9:00A <i>Wired Word</i> 10:00A <i>Outdoor Worship</i>						

August 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 <i>10:00A Pray & Sq</i> <i>6:45P Book Club</i>	2 <i>10:00A Staff Mtg</i>	3 PF OPEN HOUSE <i>9:30A Bible Study</i>	4	5	6 PF OPEN HOUSE
7 PF OPEN HOUSE <i>8:00A Worship</i> <i>9:00A Wired Word</i> <i>10:00A Worship</i> <i>2:00P Hands & Feet</i>	8 <i>6:30P Finance</i> <i>7:30P Exec Comm</i>	9 <i>10:00A Staff Mtg</i> <i>3:00P Rachel Cir</i>	10 <i>9:30A Bible Study</i> <i>6P Handbells</i> <i>7P Choir Rehears</i>	11	12	13
14 <i>8:00A Worship</i> <i>9:00A Wired Word</i> <i>10:00A Worship</i>	15 <i>6:30P DayCare Bd</i>	16 <i>10:00A Staff Mtg</i>	17 <i>9:30A Bible Study</i> <i>6P Handbells</i> <i>7P Choir Rehears</i>	18	19 LIVING WATERS DEADLINE	20
21 BISHOP VISIT & BLDG REDEDICATION <i>8:00A Worship</i> <i>9:00A Wired Word</i> <i>10:00A Worship</i>	22	23 <i>1:00P Staff Mtg</i> <i>7:00P Council</i>	24 <i>9:30A Bible Study</i>	25	26	27
28 <i>8:00A Outdoor Worship</i> <i>9:00A Wired Word</i> <i>10:00A Outdoor Worship</i>	29	30 <i>10:00A Staff Mtg</i>	31 <i>9:30A Bible Study</i>			



545 S. Ardmore Ave. Villa Park, IL 60181
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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

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

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

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