

Living Waters

October 2022

Unpacking It All

Pastor Zak

Over the past few weeks I have spent a lot of my free time unpacking boxes and organizing as we settle back into the parsonage. I'm finding that there is a lot to unpack, and this is even after we donated countless boxes of items as we were preparing for the move. The idea is that everything carried over were the things that "passed the test" and were deemed worthy of taking with us. Clearly, I have a hard time "*separating the wheat and the chaff*" as it were. As I unpack things now, I cannot figure out exactly why I packed them in the first place. My guess is that nostalgia for the past is why I made the choices I made, and I am now dealing with the consequences.

As I pull items out of boxes, I cannot help but think about the history of these things. I found the shell casing from the military honors at my great-grandfather's funeral (he was a WWI veteran). I barely remember him as he died when I was young, but this little brass casing reminds me of him nonetheless. I found a coffee mug for the 80th anniversary of Christ Lutheran Church, my childhood congregation that closed as I entered seminary. I wasn't even alive at the time of the celebration, but it makes me think about the people who formed my faith growing up. I have come to realize that unpacking for me has become a kind of sacred act. It has provided space for me to think about the stories, and more importantly, people behind each and every item I've kept. As I prepare to teach and preach, I am finding more and more that my faith works in a similar fashion. I pull out a text I haven't preached on since it last appeared in our lectionary three years ago and how I unpack it theologically is different. Confirmation curriculum I taught years ago now look a little different in my hands as my understanding of my (Lutheran) Christian faith has changed. As I move throughout my daily life, I am reminded how important and sacred this work of unpacking really is.

2023 Annual Stewardship Appeal **"Love as God loves. Give as God gives."**

God's boundless love defines each and every one of our relationships. This love is given to us as a gift to share with each other and the world. This year you are invited to reflect on how God's love inspires you to love others through acts of loving generosity. Sunday, October 23 will kickoff our stewardship appeal as we look ahead to next year, and how it is that we plan to share our gifts, and God's love, with others. Our appeal will run through Sunday, November 13, with our "In-Gathering Sunday" as we bring forth our pledges in support of the ministry we share in God's name and love.



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Worship Information

In-Person

Sundays

Worship in the sanctuary
at 8 & 10 am.

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.

Congregational Life...



Native American Land Acknowledgement

On Sunday, Oct. 9, at 9:00 am, Joseph Standing Bear of Midwest SOARRING Foundation will join us as we hold a Native American Land Acknowledgement outside on the front lawn. Our worship services that day will also incorporate Native American liturgies.

This will be a new experience for most of us – but it comes out of the theology and social statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). In 2016, at its Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery. This doctrine grew from a decree by the pope in 1493 that any land not inhabited by Christians was available to be claimed and used by Christian rulers. This became the basis for European claims in the Americas, and for the western expansion in the United States. Essentially, the rights to the land was given to the European immigrants, without regard for the Native peoples who lived on the land.

In repudiating this doctrine, the ELCA acknowledged its complicity in the evils of colonialism, and seeks to practice reconciliation and accompaniment with native peoples. As part of that, the ELCA stated “We commit to begin the practice of land acknowledgements at all expressions of the church.”

A land acknowledgment is a spoken or written statement that acknowledges the people who were the first stewards and inhabitants of the land. They are used not only in the United States, but in countries around the world where indigenous peoples have had the lands taken from them.

Wine Women and the Word

Wine Women and the Word will **not** be meeting in October.

We will resume on Tuesday, November 1st at Judy Nuehring's home at 7 pm.

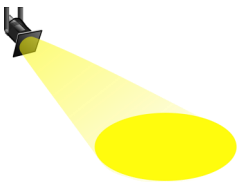
Book Club - October 3rd *How the Penguins Saved Veronica*

The St Paul book club meets on October 3rd at 7pm to discuss *How the Penguins Saved Veronica* by Hazel Prior. This is a novel about a wealthy, elderly woman who is estranged from her family.

Under 105 Club Nov. 3rd 11am – 1pm

Save the date! The next Under 105 Club luncheon will be held on Thursday Nov. 3. Join us in the Café at 11am; lunch will be served at 11:30. More details to follow.

Ministry Spotlight Prayers & Squares



Ministry Spotlight is a new monthly feature that focuses on one of the many ministries at work at St. Paul. This month we focus on Prayers & Squares, The Prayer Quilt Ministry.

Did you know...

- Prayers and Squares is an international interfaith outreach organization founded in 1992 at Hope United Methodist Church in San Diego, California. The organization consists of thousands of individual chapter around the world. St Paul is part of Chapter 710.
- The purpose of Prayers & Squares is to promote prayer through the making and use of quilts.
- Quilts have been made by our members for people with medical, emotional, or spiritual concerns, difficult family situations, personal crisis or grief.
- You don't need quilting experience to participate - only the desire to learn and pray.
- People who are interested in joining this ministry can contact Sandy Olsen. The next meeting is Oct. 3 at 10am.

...and More!

**St. Paul Fiesta and Rally Day!
September 10-11, 2022**



August Numbers		
Giving: \$38,896 (including online: \$21,388)		
Expenses: \$34,060		
YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$17,597		
Other Statistics		
Date	Attendance	Viewers
8/7	85	48
8/14	105	44
8/21	159	69
8/28	91	152

Meet Our New Members



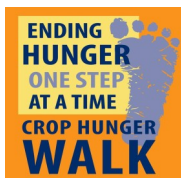
The Grant Family
Eric, Heather, Odin and Heidi



Sandy Giza, Mary Agrusa



Tim and Julie Frakes



**Step Up and Step Out
CROP Hunger Walk
October 2 at 1 PM**

Spend a great afternoon with great people for a great cause on October 2. The walk starts at First Church in Lombard. You can support food pantries in our community by participating in the CROP Hunger walk. Get more information, join the Walk or donate to a walker on [St. Paul's team page.](#), or contact Shirley Jensen. St. Paul always steps up for people in need!

And now, you have a delicious new way of supporting the event. Billy Bricks Wood Fired Pizza in downtown Lombard will host a fundraising event for the Great Prairie Trail CROP Hunger Walk on Tuesday, September 27th, from 11 AM to 9 PM. Bring in this [FLYER](#) or mention this fundraiser at the restaurant Sept 27 and 20% of your total will go to the walk. If you prefer to order carry-out online, please write "CROP Walk" in the order notes section.

Youth and Family Ministry

Jonamac Orchard

Family Outing to the Apple Orchard

Join the St. Paul community for a day at the apple orchard. We will be heading to Jonamac Orchard in Malta (near DeKalb, IL) on Saturday, October 8th. We will gather by the picnic tables for a group photo at 11:30 that morning. Can't come then? Come whenever you like and enjoy a day at the orchard!

General Admission tickets are \$7 per person, if purchased online in advance, and children 2 and under are free. Each family is responsible for purchasing their own tickets. Included in admission are the Tiny Town Play Area, Jumping Pillow, Petting Zoo, Daytime Corn Maze, Wagon Rides, and much more! If you would like to pick apples, ½ peck bags for apple picking are an additional \$15. Come join us for a day of family fun at fellowship at the Apple Orchard!

To purchase tickets, please use this link to visit Jonamac's website. <https://jonamacorchard.com/activities/>

Family Retreat to Lutherdale

Save the Date! St. Paul's Family Retreat weekend at Lutherdale is coming up January 13-15, 2023! This year we will be looking at "Beauty in Darkness." The winter nights may be long and dark, but there is great beauty and holiness to be found in darkness. Join us for a weekend of family fun as we explore our faith, which is formed and informed by God's wondrous acts in holy darkness.

Programming is geared towards families with children 5th grade and younger but all families are welcome to join us. Cost is \$40 per person or \$150 per family, scholarships are available upon request. More information will be coming soon!

A graphic with the text "SAVE THE DATE" in white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a dark red, slightly tilted rectangular background.

Sunday School Help Wanted

It takes many hands to run our Sunday School program and we would love some help! We usually start our Sunday School time with music before the kids are split into two groups. One group starts with the Godly Play story in one room and the other group starting with an activity in a different room. About halfway through Sunday School time, the groups will switch activities and rooms. We could use help with a few tasks: Godly Play story-tellers, and classroom assistants. All of the roles only require commitment to ONE Sunday at a time.

- Godly Play Story-Teller: The Godly Play story-teller will need to read a script and prepare to demonstrate the story for our children. We have the scripts and story materials on hand, as well as a schedule as to which story will be told when.
- Classroom Assistants: Our classroom assistants will serve as extra hands in our two classrooms. This includes monitoring the children during the story or helping with a pre-planned activity.

If you are interested in helping with either of these tasks, please sign up using these **links**.

Sunday School Assistants: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F48ADAD2CA4F5C52-sunday1>

Godly Play Story-Tellers: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0f48adad2ca4f5c52-sunday>

These roles require commitment to one week at a time, but you may sign up for as many as you would like! Please contact [Allison](#) in the office if you have any questions.

Youth & Family (cont.) | Prayers

Sunday School and Rally Day

We've had a great first few weeks of Sunday School! Our morning education time is filled with music, stories, games, activities, and fun! It is never too late to sign children up to join Sunday School!

Godly Play is open for children ages 3-5th grade, Confirmation is open for children 6th-8th grade, and High School Hangouts is open to our High Schoolers. All of these groups meet downstairs on Sunday mornings from 9:00-9:45.



October 2 - First Communion Instruction

October 2 - CROP Walk

October 8 - Family Orchard Outing to Jonamac (weather permitting)

October 9 - First Communion Instruction

Fall Prayer Vigil – Back in Person! Friday, October 28 from 7am to 7pm

Join us for our prayer vigil on Friday, October 28 and come in person! The doors will unlock at 7:00 am and we will be open until 7:00 pm for you to come and pray silently in the sanctuary. Greeters will be there to help you get started and answer any questions. Take advantage of this time to set aside a part of your day to find peace and have a conversation with God.

How can you participate? Let us list the ways:

- Submit a prayer request by Sunday, October 23rd for each participant to pray for. Request cards will be available at church, or use our [online prayer request](#) form.
- Sign up for a 20-minute prayer time slot or more. Use our online prayer time [sign-up page](#), or contact [Alice Ramsay](#) by email or call the church office.
- Sign up to be a greeter, to help set up, or to help clean up. Use our online volunteer [sign-up page](#).

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.

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 and God's Presence

Sue Seger (friend of Chris Bard), Carol Davis (friend of Diane Sherlock), Tina Scrivano (friend of Sarah Friel), Amy Flesch (daughter of Debbie Flesch), Vince Fagin, Melinda Brent, Kristy Fash-Alvarez, Margaret Golden, Arlene Jensen, Nan Marcum, Joe Mottlow (nephew of Pauline Ares), Brian Peterson (brother of Donna Windmoeller), Sandy Robershaw, Tommy Shallcross, Jim Sherlock (brother of Diane Sherlock), Steve Swanson, Nina Thompson (daughter-in-law of Vince & Jacky Fagin), and All Caregivers

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Baptism of Bria McElligott on August 7; Baptism of Leilani Nguyen on July 31; New members Pat & Tim Bolin and Phil & Angie Hyssong, joined July 24; Marriage of Daina (Welsh) & Kyle Gordon on July 7; Birth of Margo Frances on June 21 (granddaughter of Bert & Judy Nuehring)

Prayers for the Bereaved

Karen Zack, Dorothy Kroeger (mother of Karen Arp), Brit Williams (father of Jamie Williams), and Mike Warns

Community and World



Elm Tree News

Welcome Amy Nass Clavio to our Outreach Board. Amy is an experienced early childhood teacher who will be a wonderful addition.

The children have been settling in to new routines and making friends. They recently enjoyed an exciting unit on the book, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*. Nature walks are a part of each week as everyone awaits the completion of our new outdoor play space. Thanks to all who have supported our “Help Us Play” project with river rocks painted by the children and staff. More are available in the cafe!



Vendor Fair

Elm Tree is sponsoring a Vendor Fair (after a hiatus) on Saturday, Nov. 5 from 9 am-2 pm. We invite everyone to attend and there are still openings for vendors to reserve a table (\$20 or \$25 w/electricity). It is a fun opportunity to see many creative artists and do some early holiday shopping. Please call Sarah at 630.832.0420 to reserve a spot.

The ELCA and the Wider World—Indonesia

Franklin Ishida

Sometimes what we know of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, of which we are one of nearly 9,000 ELCA congregations, may be relatively surface level. The ELCA is a large church body, after all. And what we know of the ELCA in the world may be even more limited: ELCA is one of 148 member churches of the Lutheran World Federation, with some 78 million members worldwide; and with a total of some 81 million Lutheran adherents in the world.

This monthly column will feature, with various Lutheran points of interest, both domestic and global concerns, that place us in the wider context of who and what we are.

The most populous Muslim country in the world is Indonesia, with India coming in second. Meanwhile, Indonesia has some 5.7 million (some say more than 6 million) Lutherans spread across 13 Lutheran church bodies, coming from various language groups and traditions. The largest of these is the Batak Protestant Christian Church with 4.1 million members (that’s larger than the ELCA!) Lutherans represent a majority of Protestants, which are 7.6 percent of the Indonesian population.

Among Indonesia’s 1,340 ethnic groups, the Batak people, who are predominantly from North Sumatra, are mostly Lutheran. Other Lutherans are on the western islands of Nias and Mentawai. Lutheranism arrived in Indonesia only in 1828 under a German mission (Indonesia was a Dutch colony, though). One can see the great growth of the church there in less than 200 years. Socio-religiously, Indonesia is going through some intense “Islamization.” To this, one church leader has said that the key factor is not about how to grow the church, but what does it mean to be Lutheran in a changing society and world.

And this may be our learning point. What is our Lutheran identity in our own context? How do we live in our place, seen locally and in our world, with a strong confession of our faith, and a faith in action?

October 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 8A Worship 9A Wired Word 9A Sunday School 9A Confirmation 9A High School Hangout 10A Worship 11A First Communion 1P CROP Walk 2P Hands & Feet	3 10A Prayers & Squares 7P Book Club 7P Logos at Starbucks	4 10A Staff Meeting	5 9:30A Bible Study 5:30P Wed Dinner 6P Handbells 7P Choir	6	7	8 11:30A Jonamac Orchard Trip
9 8A Worship 9A Land Acknowledge 9A Wired Word 9A Sunday School 9A Confirmation 9A High School Hangout 10A Worship 11A First Communion	10 Indigenous Peoples' Day 6:30P Finance 7P Logos 7:30P Executive Committee	11 10A Staff Meeting 2P Rachel Circle	12 9:30A Bible Study 5:30P Wed Dinner 6P Handbells 7P Choir	13	14 10A Elm Tree Grandfriend's Day 1P Prayer Vigil Team	15
16 8A Worship 9A Wired Word 9A Sunday School 9A Confirmation 9A High School Hangout 10A Worship	17 6:30P Outreach Board 7P Logos	18 10A Staff Meeting	19 9:30A Bible Study 5:30P Wed Dinner 6P Handbells 7P Choir	20 Living Waters Deadline	21	22
23 Stewardship Kickoff 8A Worship 9A Wired Word 9A Sunday School 9A Confirmation 9A High School Hangout 10A Worship	24 7P Logos	25 10A Staff Meeting 7P Council	26 9:30A Bible Study 5:30P Wed Dinner 6P Handbells 7P Choir	27	28 7A to 7P Prayer Vigil	29 Elm Tree Trunk-or-Treat
30 Reformation Sunday 8A Worship 9A Wired Word 9A Sunday School 9A Confirmation 9A High School Hangout 10A Worship	31 Halloween 7P Logos					



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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
Director of Music: Cynthia Viise
Director of Youth & Family Ministry:
Allison Mikyska
Parish Administrator: Liz Chitester
Administrative & Computer Specialist:
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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[Website](http://www.stpaulvp.org): www.stpaulvp.org

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