

Living Waters

November 2022

Celebrating With The Saints

Pastor Zak

As a pastor I am always looking to my peers and predecessors for insight and advice. It is such a unique vocation that I am always curious to hear about the experiences of others in ministry. One of the most consistent pieces of advice I have received over the years was this *"You'll prefer presiding at funerals over weddings."* First off, this is a glimpse into my reality as a pastor, as I have the privilege to walk with individuals, couples and families through major life events. But also...really?!? Weddings are (literally) a giant party, while funerals are a somber gathering (or so I thought). Having presided over dozens of weddings and countless more funerals, I must say this advice was quite accurate. While I love working with couples in planning their "big day", I cannot help but find a much deeper and profound connection planning a day to celebrate their loved one.

I find myself writing about funerals because soon enough we'll be gathering to celebrate All Saints Day. A day where we ring bells, light candles and read the names of those who have died in this past year. It is simultaneously a difficult day of remembrance as well as a celebration of the people who we have loved in this life. The greatest joy of the day is in the name itself "All Saints", wherein we are reminded that no matter how complex and complicated our lives and relationships may be, that in God's eyes we are all saints. Being a saint is not reliant on the miraculous, but quite the contrary, revealed in the mundane. It is in our day-to-day lives that we share ourselves with others. Relationships are formed and memories are made. Perhaps that is what I appreciate most about my work accompanying the dying and bereaved, sharing in the stories of life. Reflecting on the memories of what was, while finding comfort in the knowledge of what will be in the resurrected life. I am blessed in my vocation and continue to give thanks for all of the saints at St. Paul.



**Love as God Loves.
Give as God Gives.**

We would like to invite you to prayerfully consider how you may be able to financially support our shared mission of Christ-like love in the year to come. Take a moment to fill out the 2023 commitment card and plan to return it during our "In-Gathering Celebration" on Sunday, November 13, 2022. You can also submit a virtual commitment card through our secure [website](#). God's love comes in all shapes and sizes, and together we share those gifts with the world. Thank you for your ongoing support now and always.



In this issue...

Land Acknowledgement	
Photos	p. 2
Ministry Spotlight	p. 3
Youth Activities	p. 4
Upcoming Services	p. 5
LSSI Update	p. 6

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...

2022 Land Acknowledgement Ceremony

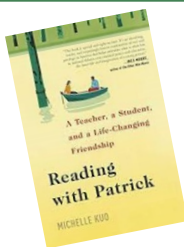
On October 9, 2022 St. Paul welcomed Joseph Standing Bear of Midwest SOARRING Foundation to join us in a Native American Land Acknowledgement ceremony. Below are some pictures from that event.



Wine Women and the Word

Wine Women and the Word will meet Tues. Nov. 1st at 7 pm at the home of Judy Nuehring. We are using the book *The Bible in 52 weeks: A Yearlong Bible Study for Women* and will be discussing Exodus 1-3.

Questions or if you wish to join us contact [Judy](#).



Book Club November 7th 7pm

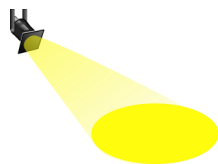
The St. Paul book club meets on Monday November 7th at 7pm in the Cafe Room A. We will discuss a memoir, *Reading with Patrick: A Teacher, A Student and a Life Changing Friendship* by Michelle Kuo. The author was a Teach for America volunteer in a very poor county in Arkansas. All are welcome!

Under 105 Club Nov. 3rd 11am – 1pm

The Nov. Under 105 Club lunch will be held on Thursday Nov. 3rd. Join us in the Café at 11am; lunch will be served at 11:30. RSVP to [Liz Chitester](#) by Nov. 1.

Save the date for December! Join us in December for cookies and coffee. We will meet in the Café on December 1st from 1-3pm. A white elephant exchange will take place for those who want to participate.

...and More!



Ministry Spotlight - WMA

Ministry Spotlight is a monthly feature that focuses on one of the many ministries at work at St. Paul. This month we focus on Worship, Music and Arts.

- Worship, Music and Arts (WMA) is a large ministry comprised of many volunteers who support the various parts of our worship life at St. Paul. Many of the routine aspects of worship are performed by members of the WMA. WMA supports our Pastor and Music Director with logistics to help our worship services run smoothly.
- Altar Guild is one component of WMA. Altar Guild is involved in preparing the Sanctuary for each of our worship services. It takes many volunteers to set up and clean up communion, and to make the Sanctuary inviting for worship. Participating in Altar Guild gives volunteers the ability to prepare themselves and others for worship. If you are interested in learning more about Altar Guild or would like to be a part of this great group, please contact [Merry Freedlund](#) or [Marilyn Plinske](#).
- Another component of WMA is music. The choir and the handbells provide beautiful music for worship services and help to enhance the worship experience. If you are interested in participating in the music program please contact [Cynthia Viise](#).
- Art is also included in WMA. Our Arts director works with our Pastor in choosing appropriate banners, flowers and other liturgical needs throughout the year to make St. Paul a welcoming environment. Volunteers are always welcome to help when special events are planned. If you have an artistic flair or would like to know more about this group, please contact [Margaret Peterson](#).
- Greeters and Assisting Ministers are an important part of worship as well. Greeters are our first impression and a valuable resource for newcomers. It is a great way to meet new people and for families to participate in worship. What could be more welcoming than a family greeting newcomers! Assisting Ministers help Pastor during the worship service. Leading prayers and distributing communion are just a few ways they are involved in worship. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Greeter or an Assisting Minister, please contact [Cindy Johnson](#).

September Numbers

Giving: \$29,223 (including online: \$19,010)

Expenses: \$40,473

YTD Giving vs. Expenses: \$(29,335)

Other Statistics

Date	Attendance	Viewers
9/4	79	44
9/11	102	57
9/18	117	46
9/25	127	47

Beer & Hymns

November 18th

Manny's Ale House

Do you find yourself standing in the shower belting out show tunes? Do you fondly remember high school days when you might have been a part of a musical like "Sound of Music" or "West Side Story"? Do you secretly watch the Disney channel just so you can sing along with characters in shows such as "Beauty and the Beast" or "The Little Mermaid"? Well, fantasize no more. Join us on November 18th for our next night of singing. This month we are going to do both show tunes and songs of thankfulness. Maybe we're "Thankful for Broadway"? No doubt – join us for a fun evening of song.

CROP Walk Thank You

Our mighty St. Paul team of walkers had a good time and successful CROP Hunger Walk on 10/2. To date, the 2022 Walk has raised \$17,000. We can't thank you enough for helping Church World Service respond to hunger and disasters around the world and supporting our local food programs: the Outreach House, Disciples Food Pantry, Community Table and Addison Township.

Youth and Family Ministry

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. Please use this link to register your family. Registrations are due by November 30! <https://forms.gle/igumv4xbvxjem4Jb8>



Enchanted Castle Lock-In

St. Paul Middle School and High School students and their friends are invited to a lock-in at Enchanted Castle! This is a lock-in with our friends from the Metro-Chicago Synod! Join us November 11th from 10pm - 5am for pizza, drinks, arcade games, unlimited attractions, and more! This event is open to students currently in grades 6-12. Please use this link to register <https://forms.gle/TBA37iUGN2DoTJ939>

Autumn Activity Afternoon

We had a great afternoon on Saturday, October 22nd. Some of St. Paul's Youth came out for s'mores, games, pumpkin decorating, and other fun activities in St. Paul's parking lot. We will be planning more activities for our youth, so watch for details!



Pumpkin Decorating



Bags Match with Bobby Biggs

Worship & Prayers

First Communion Celebrations October 30th & November 6th

First Communion will be celebrated over two Sundays this fall during the 10am worship service.

The following Sundays are First Communion Sundays:

- October 30: Ari Rafacz, Alma Hellerman, Heidi Grant, and Odin Grant will participate.
- November 6: Noah Hauser, Abby Briseno, Jayden Bugajsky, and Edward Whitlock will participate.

For each of these services the students will be baking and providing the bread offered during Communion.

Please join us in celebrating this faith milestone with these students and their families.

All Saints - Sunday, November 6

We gather for this festive worship celebrating all of the saints we have known and laid to rest. Our worship will include the reading of the names of all of the saints that have joined the heavenly host this past year, and the lighting of candles in recognition of the saints of all time. Join us as we celebrate the saints of St. Paul (and beyond) together.



Sunday, November 20th at 7:00pm

Join us as we gather to give thanks for God's abundant blessings in our lives as we worship together with our neighbors from Holy Trinity (Lombard). We will be gathering a special canned good and monetary offering in support of the Outreach House. Plan to stay afterwards to share in a time of fellowship with our Pie Social. Bring a friend. Bring a pie!

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

George Guzman (friend of Mary Agrusa), Frank Parks, Brent Menger (friend of Beverly Parks), Brian Ohama (friend of Zak & Katie Wagner), Juan Hernandez (friend of Delgadillo family), Melinda Brent, Kristy Fash-Alvarez, Margaret Golden, Arlene Jensen, Nan Marcum, Joe Mottlow (nephew of Pauline Ares), Brian Peterson (brother of Donna Windmoeller), Sandy Robersshaw, Tommy Shallcross, Nina Thompson (daughter-in-law of Vince & Jacky Fagin), All Caregivers

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Renee Nicole Dexter (daughter Cassandra Quam), baptized Sep 18 in Minnesota.

Prayers for the Bereaved

James Babka (uncle of George Batek), Rev. Steve Swanson, Larry Shaw (former member of St. Paul), Jim Sherlock (brother of Diane Sherlock), Ray Dornberger (uncle of Dave Tankersley), Bill Volland (father of Lori Corso).

Community



Elm Tree News

Grandparents' Day was a big success with many in attendance. A snack was shared and then the children enjoyed several projects with their family members. The girls and boys have also been learning about fall, apples and pumpkins.

Another highlight was adopting Shimmer, a dairy cow, from a farm in East Dubuque. Shimmer is a two month old Holstein calf owned by Farmer Natalie!



Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair is being rescheduled for the spring. A new date and time will be announced soon so be on the look out! If you are interested in participating and would like to reserve a table, please contact Sarah at sarahfriel83@gmail.com.

God's Work, Our Hands. Lutheran Social Services of Illinois Foster Care Program.

Tim Frakes

Lindsey Clark decided she wanted to adopt children when she was in high school. "The marriage part never happened and the older I got the more I was like, "Okay, I can't control that, but I can control the adoption part" Lindsey explained. As she researched adoption, Lindsey learned about the pressing need for foster care in Illinois. "The fear of what could happen was not a good enough reason to say no to that need," said Lindsey. That realization led her to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), one of the largest statewide social service providers representing the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

The main goal of LSSI's Foster Care Program is to help children who are often abused or neglected find their forever home, either by reunification with birth families whenever possible or through adoption. Foster parents play a key role and make a difference in the lives of these children.

Today Lindsey is a single foster parent with two preschool children in her small Naperville apartment. The kids are doing well and Lindsey is often run ragged. When asked what she would do if her time with the children ended due to family reunification Lindsey said, "It would be really difficult. But I need to be willing to have my heart broken so that their hearts can have a chance to heal." To those who support LSSI through their financial support Lindsey simply says, "Thank you. You probably will never see the difference you are making, but it is there."



November 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 for more information and Zoom links, or contact the church office.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 10A Staff Meeting 7P Wine, Women & the Word	2 9:30A Bible Study 5:30P Wed Dinner 6P Handbells 7P Choir	3 11A Under 105 Luncheon	4	5 10:30A Funeral for Rev. Stephen Swanson
6 All Saints Day Daylight Savings Ends 8A Worship 9A Wired Word 9A Sunday School 9A Confirmation 9A High School Hangout 10A Worship 2P Hands & Feet	7 10A Prayers & Squares 7P Book Club 7P Logos	8 Election Day 10A Staff Meeting 2P Rachel Circle	9 9:30A Bible Study 5:30P Wed Dinner 6P Handbells 7P Choir	10 6:30P Finance Meeting 7P Altar Guild Meeting	11 Veterans Day 10P Enchanted Castle Lock-In	12 9:30A Altar Guild Meeting
13 Stewardship In-Gathering 8A Worship 9A Wired Word 9A Sunday School 9A Confirmation 9A High School Hangout 10A Worship	14 6:30P Finance Committee 7P Logos 7:30P Executive Committee	15 10A Staff Meeting 6P Youth Comm. Meeting 7P Council	16 9:30A Bible Study 5:30P Wed Dinner 6P Handbells 7P Choir	17 5:30 Elm Tree Child Care Multi-Cultural Night	18	19 11A Funeral for Larry Shaw 12P Shaw Luncheon
20 Living Waters Deadline 8A Worship 9A Wired Word 9A Sunday School 9A Confirmation 9A High School Hangout 10A Worship 11A Fall Congregational Meeting 7P Thanksgiving Worship	21 7P Logos	22 Timesheets Due	23	24 Thanksgiving Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26
27 1st Day of Advent 8A Worship 9A Wired Word 9A Sunday School 9A Confirmation 9A High School Hangout 10A Worship	28 6:30P Elm Tree Board Meeting 7P Logos	29 10A Staff Meeting	30 9:30A Bible Study 5:30P Wed Dinner 6P Handbells 7P Choir			



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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
Nursery Attendant: Nina Matthis

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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