

Living Waters

January 2023

Church on a Sunday?!?

Pastor Zak

At this point I am sure you are like me, and looking to find some much needed rest following the chaos that be the holiday season. I am the kind of person (read “pastor”), who is certain to play out the entire season of Christmas in its entirety, for twelve days, all the way through Epiphany on January 6. This is also a great excuse to leave up my Christmas decorations a bit longer because I, how do you say, am lazy this time of year?!?

This Christmas (again, the season is likely yet ongoing as you read this) was unique in that, for the first time since 2016, Christmas Day landed on a Sunday. This apparently sparked debate within many a congregation as to whether or not Christmas services should be held on a Sunday, or if communities should forego worship altogether this year (you can read out this more in the NY Times article entitled [O Come All Ye Faithful, Except When Christmas Falls on a Sunday](#)). While there are many sides to the argument, I think it misses the larger point, that no matter if/when/where/how we worship on Christmas, Emmanuel, “*God with us*” is born. We may have traditions like gift exchanges, fruitcakes and worship that may be a part of our celebration of this reality, but the truth that God became flesh is an unchanging reality (and has been for roughly the past 2,000 years). Without Christmas there is no Easter, and the Easter promise is something we celebrate every time we gather and receive grace in the form of bread and wine. Therefore, every time we gather we celebrate Christmas, a God who, to borrow Luther’s terminology, is “*really present*” with us.

Worship is not simply an act of compulsion, with layers of guilt mixed in when we don’t do it as we should. Instead, worship is our joyful obligation in responding to the reality that God took on our fleshly existence and died that we may live. Whether we crossed paths on Christmas morning doesn’t change that fact that the next time (and every time thereafter) we meet we will celebrate the Christmas reality of a God with us. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Worship Information

In-Person
New Year’s Day Worship
9am (one service only)

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.

Book Club No Meeting in January

Just a reminder that Book
Club will not be meeting in
January.

November Numbers

Giving: \$43,269
(including online: \$21,017)

Expenses: \$37,439

YTD Giving vs. Expenses:
\$13,444

Date	Attendance	Viewers
11/6	201	60
11/13	117	35
11/20	105	46
11/24	83	56
11/27	120	39

Congregational Life...

Annual Meeting Information

Be sure to join us for St. Paul's Annual Meeting. We are meeting in person with a Zoom link available for those who wish to view from home. Please note that voting will only be available in person.

Date: January 29, 2023

Time: 11am

Place: Café

Childcare: Nursery will be open for children 5 and under. For children age 6 thru 5th grade, a movie will be shown in Fellowship Hall during the meeting.

If you are planning on viewing via Zoom please use this [LINK](#). We hope to see everyone there!

Middle School/High School Holiday Party

Our Middle School and High School students are invited to a Holiday Party at St. Paul on January 8, 2023! Join us from 11am - 2pm for lunch, a White Elephant exchange, holiday games (with a special announcement), and shopping for Hands & Feet.

It is very important we have an accurate number of responses so we can purchase enough food for lunch. Please use this [LINK](#) to RSVP **no later than Dec. 31!**

Superbowl Sub Sale

In July 2023, our Middle School and High School students will be traveling and serving together on a mission trip! To help us raise money and prepare for our trip, we will be selling sub sandwiches! Order forms will be available soon! Sandwiches will be available for pickup on Sunday, February 12.



Confirmation Retreat

Save the Date! March 3-5, 2023, our confirmation students have the opportunity to attend a weekend retreat at Lutherdale! Included in the weekend will be worship opportunities, camp games and activities, all while diving deep into the life of Martin Luther! Cost is \$125 per person. Please contact [Allison](#) with any questions.

Godly Play Storytellers

We have had a fantastic start to our Sunday School year! Kids, families, and volunteers have enjoyed our Godly Play program. We have more stories scheduled for the second part of our program year and would love to have storytellers sign up for a week. Just a reminder, this is a commitment to one week at a time! Storytellers can sign up for as many or as few as they would like. Here is the [LINK](#). Please contact [Allison](#) if you have any questions or would like more information.

ST. PAUL 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

Glen Albano (friend of the Shallcross family), Paige Cady (friend of Carrie Lavorini), Joseph Brosnan (friend of Carol Simberg), Michael and Marge Hull (friends of Jude Hull-Sansone), Abby Schaudt (niece of Janet Gilbert), 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, Nina Thompson (daughter-in-law of Vince & Jacky Fagin), All Caregivers

Prayers for the Bereaved

Family and friends of Sheri Pantell (friend of Janet Gilbert)

January 2023

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
<p>1 New Year's Day</p> <p>9am Worship - Lessons & Carols</p> <p>2pm Hand & Feet</p>	<p>2 Office Closed</p> <p>Annual Reports Due</p> <p>10am Prayers & Squares</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10am Staff Meeting</p> <p>7pm Wine, Women & the Word</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6pm Handbells</p> <p>7pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	5	6	<p>7</p> <p>11am Simburg Baby Shower</p>
<p>8</p> <p>8am Worship</p> <p>9am Wired Word</p> <p>9am Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation, HS</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:30pm Finance Committee</p> <p>7:30pm Executive Committee</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10am Staff Meeting</p> <p>2pm Rachel Circle</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study</p> <p>6pm Handbells</p> <p>7pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	12	<p>13</p> <p>Lutherdale Family Retreat</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Lutherdale Family Retreat</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Lutherdale Family Retreat</p> <p>8am Worship</p> <p>9am Wired Word</p> <p>10am Worship</p>	<p>16 MLK Day</p> <p>6:30pm Elm Tree Board Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10am Staff Meeting</p> <p>6pm Youth Commission Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study</p> <p>6pm Handbells</p> <p>7pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	19	<p>20 Living Waters Deadline</p>	<p>21</p> <p>10am Youth Baseball Event</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8am Worship</p> <p>9am Wired Word</p> <p>9am Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation, HS</p> <p>10am Worship</p>	23	<p>24</p> <p>10am Staff Meeting</p> <p>7pm Council</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30am Bible Study</p> <p>6pm Handbells</p> <p>7pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	26	27	<p>28</p> <p>10am Youth Baseball Event</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8am Worship</p> <p>9am Wired Word</p> <p>9am Sunday School</p> <p>Confirmation, HS</p> <p>10am Worship</p> <p>11am Co</p>	30	<p>31</p> <p>10am Staff Meeting</p>				



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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 Attendants:
Nina Matthis & Riley Biggs

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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