



WINTER 2025

Quarterly Newsletter of St. Paul Lutheran Church & School of Ann Arbor

## This Time For Sure!

By Steve Kemp

Some of you might recall an article that appeared in the Unity back in the fall of 2023 called "Why This? Why Now" which had to do with the proposed building project at our school. There was a sense of urgency, and then we had to pause, because – well – things happen. Those things, primarily relating to issues with the City of Ann Arbor, have now been resolved. On January 14, the Congregational Assembly approved going forward with the project, and now our campaign pledge drive is in full swing. This time for sure!

You've received a good amount of information through prior Unity newsletters about exactly what the project involves; those documents and plans are also available on our website, should you wish to look at them again. The purpose of this article, however, is to point out WHY we want to make this investment and for that I want to revisit the 2023 article and that beloved old hymn, "Hark the Voice of Jesus Crying." Most of us are very familiar with that hymn. The first verse asks a question, "Who will go and work today? Fields are white and harvests waiting, who will bear the sheaves away?" Loud and long the Master calleth, Rich reward He offers thee; who will answer, gladly saying, "Here am I, send me, send me?"

The next two verses offer suggestions: If you cannot speak like angels, if you cannot preach like Paul, you can tell the love of Jesus, you can say He died for all. If you cannot rouse the wicked with the judgment's dread alarms, you can lead the little children to the Savior's waiting arms (LSB 827).

The fourth verse is different still. It doesn't ask a  
*(cont'd on pg. 2)*



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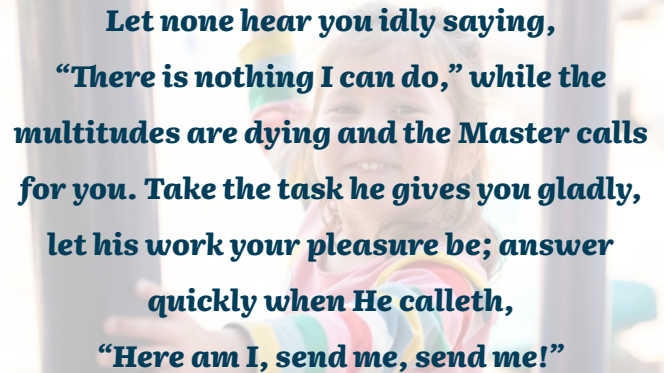
question or make suggestions. It's more of a warning – to us – the followers of Jesus: Let none hear you idly saying, “There is nothing I can do,” while the multitudes are dying and the Master calls for you. Take the task he gives you gladly, let his work your pleasure be; answer quickly when He calleth, “Here am I, send me, send me!”

Fellow members of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, the souls of men, women and children are dying all around us in Ann Arbor and Jesus is calling us to do something about it. And it's even worse than we thought. At one of the combined Sunday services at Concordia last fall, Pastor Randy Duncan told us that **67% of the people in the greater Ann Arbor community – our home – are unchurched**. Not just no Christian church, but no temple or mosque either. 2 out of 3 of the people all around us every day! You know what? Good thing we're here! Because this is a pandemic – and we have the cure. We just need to continue to be part of the distribution effort – and there are lots of patients.

God, as He is prone to do, provides us with opportunities to witness for Him. One of them is through our pre-school. This is a program that St. Paul did not set out to start. God's fingerprints were all over it though. Our school unexpectedly had extra space about 17 years ago and so had the room for a preschool. Our sister church, Divine Shepherd, had a pre-school program but could no longer continue supporting it. The result was that it was moved to our school and has been running (and growing) ever since. “Suffer the little children to come to me.” Our own members use this program of course, but over the years it has been a beacon that has attracted children of unchurched families – providing us with an opportunity to witness, and not just to these precious little ones, but to their families. And now we want to do more.

There have been many additions of St. Paul Ann Arbor over our 117 years of representing our Lord and Savior. The 2020's St. Paul has the opportunity to provide space for additional pre-school students. To introduce them to Jesus Christ. To touch their families with the Gospel. To win new souls. We also have the opportunity to continue to enhance the education of our grade school students with a new library/media center. Our school needs to continue to provide an excellent education in all areas: science, math, technology, language, the arts and most importantly, Jesus Christ. A bigger pre-school will be a bigger feeder for the upper grades. A quality school will not only wonderfully equip the children of our congregation but also the children of any unchurched families that send their children here – and who will learn about Jesus along with science and math. And, oh yes, parking. We need to maintain our assets; not

*Photo on Cover: In January, SPAA celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week! (Chapel families made eye glass cases for MOST Ministries)*



**Let none hear you idly saying,  
“There is nothing I can do,” while the  
multitudes are dying and the Master calls  
for you. Take the task he gives you gladly,  
let his work your pleasure be; answer  
quickly when He calleth,  
“Here am I, send me, send me!”**

exciting sometimes but also part of being good stewards!

And now we've finally launched this ship. We might wish that St. Paul was a speed boat – zipping rapidly along the water on a thrilling ride. But we're more of a freighter: seemingly taking forever to get anywhere, hard to change course, plodding along. But the thing is, after the speed boat ride, what do you have, except wet clothes? The freighter eventually gets to its destination – and delivers the goods. That's us.

Please give generously, over and above your regular offerings, to help this project succeed financially. Please give your time and expertise when asked, to help get things done. And most important of all: please PRAY for this initiative. Not just that we can fund it and build it, but that ultimately we FILL it, and continue bringing the children to Jesus. Why this? To win new souls. Why now? Because the souls of men are dying all around us – right now – and the Master calls for us!

### We Invite You to Pledge Your Support!

Please consider submitting a pledge to support our Building Campaign! Pledge cards can be downloaded at the QR code here or picked up at any of our worship entrances and mailed to the church office or dropped in the offering plate.

Scan for all Building Campaign info!

**Please make sure  
all campaign  
donations are  
clearly marked for  
the “SPAA Building  
Campaign.”**



# Eyes on Jesus: Looking Forward to Lent

By Pastor Ted Hopkins

The last Sunday before Lent traditionally celebrates the Transfiguration when Jesus' clothing and appearance is changed, transfigured, before his apostles, and God the Father affirms Jesus as his Son. One verse of that text has always stood out to me. Peter, James, and John witnessed Moses and Elijah show up with Jesus, and they heard the voice coming out of the cloud. And then Mark writes these words, "And suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus only." They saw no one but Jesus only.

Friends, these words were also written for our instruction. We need to keep our eyes on Jesus, and Jesus only. Too often, our eyes get turned to other things. Sometimes, it's the obvious stuff; name your favorite commandment and its associated sins: pride, anger, lust, envy, selfishness, greed. Sometimes, it's our religious sensibilities that get us into trouble. We can start thinking too much about what I need to do in order to be part of God's people. We can start worrying too much about how much I need to pray or how much I need to give in order to be acceptable in God's sight. And our eyes slowly but surely turn away from Jesus, to the law, to our works, and to our own hearts. What we need is to turn to Jesus and keep our eyes focused on him, for he is the author and perfecter of our faith who endured the cross and its shame for our salvation (see Heb. 12:2). With eyes fixed on him, we will find the joy and peace of being God's beloved children, not by what we do but because of what Jesus has done for us.

The weekend worship series we will be exploring this Lenten season will follow the Gospel of Mark as we seek to keep our eyes on Jesus. We will follow different characters in the Gospel to look at Jesus through their eyes: the misjudging eyes of the disciples, betraying eyes of Judas, the denying eyes of Peter, the sleepy eyes of the apostles, the murderous eyes of the religious leaders, and the worldly eyes of Pilate. Of course, each one of these is also you and me. We too so often misjudge, betray, deny, and ignore not only others made in God's image but even God and his Word. As we explore these perspectives, we not only want to see through their eyes, but also to see through Jesus' eyes. And Jesus sees us not as sinners (though we are that too) but as beloved children of God because of what he has done for us. For a more in-depth study of this series, Lenten devotional booklets are available at all worship entrances.

We hope you'll be able to join us this Lent not only in Saturday & Sunday worship but also during our midweek



Lenten services. Beginning with Ash Wednesday (March 5th), we will have services each Wednesday for five weeks during Lent at 12:10pm and 7:00pm at our Downtown Campus (420 W. Liberty St). Note, we will not have midweek services on April 9th. In addition, we hope you'll join us for a meal and fellowship before each evening midweek service at 5:45pm. The Lenten season will culminate with the joy of Jesus' resurrection as we celebrate the resurrection with the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening and Easter Sunday morning services. This Lent, let's keep our eyes on Jesus! I'm praying that you will stay focused on him and him only.

Your servant in Jesus,  
Pastor Ted Hopkins

## St. Paul Ann Arbor

Midweek Lenten Services:

**12:10pm & 7pm  
Downtown Campus**

*Join us for Lenten Dinners each week at  
5:45pm downstairs in Fellowship Hall*

**Ash Wednesday, March 5  
March 12  
March 19  
March 26  
April 2**

*[There will be no midweek service on 4/9]*

**Downtown Campus**  
420 W. Liberty St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

**Earhart Campus**  
495 Earhart Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

## Holy Week Schedule:

**Palm Sunday - April 13**  
8:30 AM Downtown Campus  
10:45 AM Earhart Campus

**Maundy Thursday - April 17**  
7:00 PM Downtown

**Good Friday - April 18**  
12:30 PM Downtown  
7:00 PM Downtown

**Easter Vigil Service - April 19**  
6:30 PM Downtown

**Easter Sunday - April 20**  
7:00 AM & 9:00 AM Downtown  
11:00 AM Earhart



# Hey, Pastor: “What’s a Sabbatical and Why Are You Taking One?”

By Pastor Aaron Roggow

Yes. You read that right. I’m taking a planned sabbatical this summer from the end of May to the middle of August 2025. After conversations with church staff, the Elders, and the Board of Directors, we determined that this would be the best time for me to take this opportunity with very little disruption to our ministry rhythms at St Paul.

## So, What Is a Sabbatical?

A sabbatical is an extended time to rest, which includes spiritual renewal and physical rejuvenation. The origins of this are found in God’s Sabbath rhythms for His people, tied even to the order of creation. He directs them to work six days and rest on the Sabbath. He also instructs them to work, plant, and harvest for six years, and rest in the seventh year. In these Biblical rhythms of work and rest, a sabbatical is intended to give a worker time to focus on connecting with God in his Word. Additionally, workers may spend time reading and studying. Studies have shown that regular sabbaticals result in greater longevity in a pastor’s career and reduce the likelihood of pastoral burnout.

## What Is St. Paul’s Sabbatical Policy?

For many years, St Paul has included a sabbatical policy in the St. Paul Staff Policy Manual:

*At the discretion of the Board of Directors, Ordained Clergy or the Principal may apply for a purposeful sabbatical leave. Application for a sabbatical, including a structured plan for the length and content of the sabbatical study, financial plan, and expected outcomes, should be submitted to the Board for approval six months in advance. (Michigan District Guidelines will inform*

*the response of the Board.) Costs of the sabbatical leave may be covered by grants, special gifts, or budget line items.*

My sabbatical proposal was submitted and approved by the Board of Directors in December. Funding for the sabbatical, primarily covering the stipends for guest preachers, has been granted by the Special Gifts Committee.

## What Will You Do On Your Sabbatical?

I have four major plans for this sabbatical: Spiritual Renewal, Theological Study, Reflection, and Experiencing God’s Creation.

### - Spiritual Renewal

I plan to focus on Sabbath rest through Bible study rhythms and a prayer retreat at St. Augustine’s House in Oxford, MI. During the sabbatical, my family and I will take the opportunity to attend worship with fellow Christians at other churches to be refreshed by others’ preaching and teaching, rejoice in the saints’ broader fellowship, and glean ideas for ministry. Daily, you, St Paul will continue to be in my prayers.

### - Theological Study

Guided by a (lengthy and overly ambitious) reading list, I intend to study various topics that will assist me in developing pastoral skills, foster spiritual renewal, and allow me to research topics of personal interest. I’m looking forward to reading in the areas of Spirituality, Discipleship, Theology & Practice, the Church, Personal Development, and Preaching.

### - Reflection

I plan to keep a daily journal on activities, readings, and insights learned during the sabbatical. The final week of the sabbatical will be dedicated to synthesizing the learnings and experiences from the entire period. This time will allow me to reflect on the insights I’ve gained, the spiritual growth I’ve experienced, and the plans for applying these learnings in my pastoral work upon my return.

### - Experiencing God’s Creation

I plan to spend two weeks traveling to National Parks in Colorado, Utah, and Arizona, as the opportunity allows, for a time of restoration and connection with family. If possible, my family and I also hope to get up to Camp Arcadia for a few days to be renewed in “body, mind, and spirit.”

## But You’re Still Going to Do Some Work?

Because of the timing of this sabbatical, I expect to still participate in two pastoral events. I’ll attend and participate in the Michigan District Convention which will be held on the CUAU campus from June 22 to 24. I’ll also chaperone the St. Paul youth attending the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA, from July 17-24. With these few exceptions, I plan to be away from pastoral duties for the sabbatical period.

## Thank You!

I am grateful for the opportunity of this sabbatical. In addition to being an opportunity for rest, it will also serve as an opportunity for growth that will directly benefit my minis-

(cont’d on pg. 5)



# Celebrating 35 Years of Stephen Ministry at St. Paul

By Cherise Callahan

St. Paul is excited to announce the 35th anniversary of its Stephen Ministry! **To mark this significant milestone, a special weekend of celebration will be held on April 5 and 6, 2025.** Services will highlight the incredible work of Stephen Ministry, with participation from current Stephen Ministers. Following the Sunday services, attendees are invited to a reception with light refreshments.

**A brief history.** Stephen Ministry at St. Paul began in 1990, initiated by Rev. Parke Frederick and Ade Zielke, Director of Family Life Ministry. Betty Muecke, who was on staff at the time, served as the first Stephen Ministry Leader. Throughout the 2000s and 2010s, Esther Jurchen led the group until she retired and moved out of state. Jane Burch then took over, guiding the ministry through the pandemic.

In 2021, Cherise Callahan and Karen Baker joined Jane as leaders, expanding the group to eight members who provided Christ-like care to nine care receivers that year. In 2022, six new Stephen Ministers were added after completing 50 hours of training. The ministry also began sharing Grief Books and Cancer Books with members experiencing these challenges.

In 2023, Stephen Ministers dedicated a total of 129 hours ministering to 12 care receivers. In 2024, the group served six care receivers, giving 109 hours of their time. Some Stephen Ministers also volunteer to pray one-on-one with people after worship services. Last year, four additional St. Paul members completed 50 hours of training to become Stephen Ministers, and Lexie Brown, SPAA Director of Family Life Ministry, trained for 50 hours this past January/February to become a Stephen Ministry Leader.

God has blessed St. Paul with a strong and dedicated



Photo from L to R: Lexie Brown, Karen Baker, Cherise Callahan, Peggy Glahn, Erin Lahrman, Brenda Marshall, Jim Pulford, Greg Marshall and Brian Hoppe.

group of members who are excited to use their time and talents to care for people in the church and community. **If you are feeling overwhelmed, grieving a loss, or navigating a healthcare crisis, consider having a Stephen Minister.** Trained Stephen Ministers offer compassionate, confidential, and Christ-centered care, providing the support you need during these challenging times. Please call or text Stephen Ministry Leader, Cherise Callahan, at 734-395-8775 for a listening ear and a caring heart.

## “Hey Pastor: What is a Sabbatical...” *cont'd from pg. 4*

try at St. Paul. Through this intentional time away, I will return with a renewed heart, ready to serve with fresh insight and energy.

I will certainly miss seeing you weekly and working alongside our fantastic team. I am thankful that many have offered to fill in the gaps in my absence, to make sure we're able to continue Sowing Truth, Building Faith, and Shining Love through St Paul.



### Do you have a “Hey, Pastor” question?

We'd love to know!  
Just send your question to  
Pastor Roggow at:  
[aroggow@stpaulannarbor.org](mailto:aroggow@stpaulannarbor.org).



# Meet Our CUA A Students Serving at St. Paul!

By Lexie Brown, Director of Family Life Ministry

January 6th marked Epiphany, and the beginning of the new semester at Concordia University Ann Arbor. The Mission of CUA A is to "help students develop in mind, body, and spirit for service to Christ in the church and in the world." Despite everything that has happened at CUA A since February of 2024, this mission still continues and St. Paul is helping to make that happen! Did you know that there are 6 CUA A church work students serving in a STEPS, practicum, internship, or student teaching capacity alongside our church workers at St. Paul this semester? Continue reading to learn more about each of them and their roles!



## Abigail Landskroener

Abby is a student teacher in one of our kindergarten classes this semester. Her cooperating teacher (supervisor/mentor) is Lori Grulke. Abby is a senior at CUA A studying Elementary Education and Early Childhood (Lutheran Teaching Degree). She is originally from Toledo, Ohio. She went to school and worshipped at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Toledo! She started her student teaching in January and will be done at the end of April. After she graduates in May, she is getting married to her fiancée Ben, and they will move to St. Louis, MO. Abby hopes to be teaching at a Lutheran school in that area!



## Chad Abraham

Chad is a student teacher in Steve Schmit's 6th grade classroom. He is from Stockbridge MI and his home church is United Baptist Church in Stockbridge. Chad is a 5th year student at CUA A studying Primary Edu-

cation with an endorsement in Math. After graduating, he plans to try to get a teaching job online. He actually began his student teaching back in August of 2024, but had to step away due to health reasons. He is grateful to be back finishing up this semester. He will be done with his student teaching at the beginning of March.



## Alison Roehrig

Alison is completing her practicum at St. Paul this semester and is supervised by Lexie Brown. She is a sophomore at CUA A studying Family Life Ministry. For the Family Life Ministry Practicum, students spend 120 hours in a supervised volunteer position at a local non-profit agency that provides support for families. Alison began this role in January and will be done at the beginning of May. She is observing many areas of ministry including children's ministry and youth ministry. You'll see her a lot on Sunday mornings this semester. Alison is originally from Ohio, and her home church is St. John Lutheran in Stryker, Ohio. After this semester, Alison is transferring to Concordia Nebraska to finish out in the DCE program there.



## Leo Veatch

Leo is our STEPS student at St. Paul this semester and he is supervised by Pastor Hopkins and Pastor Roggow. STEPS is a student internship opportunity for pre-seminary, family life, and church music students to learn practical skills for ministry while in a church.

(cont'd on pg. 7)

## School Auction - You're Invited!

By Carolyn Steenstra

Please join us for the annual St. Paul School of Ann Arbor auction on April 12, 2025. The event will be held at Angel Food Garage in Belleville from 5-10pm and will include a plated dinner, silent auction, live auction, raffles, and giveaways. The cost per ticket is \$70 and that includes your meal and one drink ticket - discounts for teachers and staff available! At the 2025 auction, our goal is to raise \$125,000 to complete the funding for the new playground! The Special Gifts Committee has generously offered to match the auction proceeds dollar for dollar up to \$100,000. Help us maximize this exciting opportunity by supporting the auction! **You may make a donation and/or purchase tickets on the event website here: [https://onecau.se/\\_64z6e1](https://onecau.se/_64z6e1) or scan the QR code.** See you there!



### 2025 SPAA AUCTION Donation Match Opportunity

The Special Gifts Committee has offered to match the 2025 auction proceeds dollar for dollar up to \$100,000!



**YOUR GIFT WILL GO TWICE AS FAR!  
SCAN HERE FOR AUCTION WEBSITE:**



## Meet Our CUAA Students... cont'd from pg. 6

Students are paid through generous donors of CUAA while gaining skills and experience in ministry that can't happen in the classroom. Leo is a sophomore in the Pre-Seminary program at Concordia, with a double major in Applied Theology and Biblical Languages and a minor in Youth and Family Ministry. He grew up in Eastern Colorado, and is a member of Christ Our Redeemer in Bennett, CO. Leo started in this role at St. Paul in January and will be with us until the semester ends at the beginning of May. He is very thankful to St. Paul, and especially to Pastors Hopkins and Roggow for this opportunity to grow and serve over the coming semester.



### James Wilson

James is a junior at CUAA studying Family Life Ministry. He is technically a STEPS student at our sister congregation, University Lutheran Chapel (ULC), but because high school youth is his main area of focus and Tyler Seehafer oversees youth ministry for both our congregations, Tyler is his supervisor. James is originally from Shelby Township, MI and his home church and school is St. John in Rochester. He started helping Tyler with youth group in the fall of 2024 and will continue serving until May of this year. After this semester, James will be transferring to Concordia Wisconsin for his senior year.



### Jackson Miles

Jackson is a 5th year student (super senior) at CUAA studying Family Life Ministry. He is completing his CUAA internship this semester with ULC. The youth ministry partnership we have with ULC means high school ministry is part of his internship, so he also gets to be supervised and mentored by Tyler Seehafer. Jackson started assisting Tyler with high school youth ministry in August of 2024 and will be finishing up in April. He grew up in Hartland, Michigan and his church home is University Lutheran Chapel. After he graduates in May, he will be eligible to receive a call to be a Director of Family Life Ministry in one of our LCMS churches.

In addition to these 6 students, we have other CUAA students working as assistants in our preschool, running our before and aftercare programs for the school, and completing fieldwork and observations in our school. When I think about everything that has happened at CUAA since February of 2024, of course I am very sad. I am sad that so

many students will have to transfer and finish their studies elsewhere and that their college experience has been disrupted in this way. However, as I talk with members of the faculty and staff at CUAA, I get the overwhelming sense that everyone wants to give the students who remain the best experience possible in this final semester of the 2024-2025 academic year. I am very excited that St. Paul gets to be part of that and play an exciting role in the training of 6 CUAA church work students this semester. In a recent message to church workers in the Michigan District, President Dave Davis encouraged us to be praying in 2025 "that God would raise up additional faithful workers among us: congregational volunteers, teachers and other commissioned workers, pastors." and "that God would work good things out of our disappointment relating to Concordia, Ann Arbor." I believe God is already answering those prayers through the interactions we get to have with these CUAA students at St. Paul this semester. Your continued prayers for these students as well as all those who have been impacted by all that has been happening at CUAA are very powerful. God is working even in the midst of things we cannot understand. As President Davis frequently encourages us to do, let's keep our eyes on Jesus no matter what!



St. Paul School  
Ann Arbor

### PLAYGROUND UPDATE

- 2023-2024 SPAA auctions: Funds raised for Phase 1
- March 2025: Phase 1 construction to begin
- April 2025: SPAA auction to fundraise for Phase 2
- Special Gifts Committee will match auction proceeds dollar for dollar up to \$100,000
- Goal to complete playground project in 2026

**SPAA students and teachers are very excited for the new playground! Thank you for your support!**

Sowing **TRUTH**. Building **FAITH**. Shining **LOVE**.



# Youth Ministry at SPAA

By Tyler Seehafer

## Middle School

Hello, all 6-8th grade students! Our Lock-In is officially scheduled for May 16-17th. This upcoming lock-in promises to be an unforgettable night, filled with excitement and opportunities for students to bond in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. As the sun sets, the doors will open to engaging activities that foster camaraderie and connection. Students will be encouraged to participate in various games and team-building exercises that are fun but also aimed at teamwork and problem-solving. The night will invite everyone to put aside their daily routines and enjoy each other's company.

In addition to the fun, the lock-in will embrace a strong sense of fellowship and faith through meaningful discussions and activities centered on personal growth and spirituality. Participating in faith-based activities will deepen their understanding and create lasting memories. This blend of fun and spiritual growth will for sure be a night to remember for the students as they grow in their faith while having a lot of fun.



## High School

Attention High School Students! We would like to invite all high school students youth group every Sunday night from 6-8pm! Join us as we try to create an atmosphere where fun meets friendship. We know life can get busy, so whether you're a newcomer or a familiar face, there's always a place for you here! Every night we have anywhere from 8 – 25 students. We want everyone to know you are welcome and come when you can.

**Curious about what goes on in our high school ministry? Let me share.**



On Sundays, the youth house opens its doors to our high schoolers at 5pm before things kicks off at 6 PM. Our dedicated youth leadership team, made up of students, arrives early to help set up and brainstorm fantastic events. Plus, we have several awesome young adults on hand, ready to chat and encourage you in a relaxed environment.

Get ready for some pizza and refreshing drinks waiting in our fridge! Students start to arrive between 6 and 6:15 PM, and by 6:20 PM, we're diving into a game or activity! Then at 7 PM, we gather for an engaging Bible study session. Together, we'll explore short pieces of scripture, reflect on their relevance today, and discuss how we can integrate these lessons into our week ahead—ending with a prayer and a time for students to share their highs and lows from the past week.

But that's not all! We also host different events such as ice skating, trips to Washtenaw Dairy, karaoke nights, ballroom bowling, and so much more! Join us for relaxed nights and a community that feels like family! We can't wait to see you there! Questions about Middle or High School Youth Ministry? Contact Tyler Seehafer at [tseehafer@stpaulannarbor.org](mailto:tseehafer@stpaulannarbor.org)!



Exciting news! The planning for the National Youth Gathering is in full swing, and we've already had three productive meetings and booked our bus! We are thrilled to prepare our students and leaders

(cont'd on pg. 9)





# Youth Ministry at SPAA... *cont'd from pg. 8*

to go and grow in their faith at this inspiring gathering in July. We invite our congregation to join us in this journey of faith and support. Here are three impactful ways you can support us:

## Pray with us!

As we delve into Bible study, fundraising, and team building, your prayers are invaluable. Pray for our growth as a team, pray that we draw closer to God, and pray that we successfully raise the funds needed, lifting the financial burdens from our dedicated participants.

## Join our fundraising efforts!

Participate in our exciting upcoming fundraisers! Look out for our envelope board at the back of both worship sites, featuring envelopes numbered from 1 to 100. By taking one or two envelopes and returning them with the corresponding donation, you can help us reach our goal of raising \$10,100!

Mark your calendars for our **Trivia Night on May 9th!** We're

aiming to gather 200 people for a night full of excitement, trivia, fun, food, and fellowship. With exciting prizes and our famous chili cook-off (where you can win for the best chili!), it promises to

be a fantastic evening that you won't want to miss. Pricing details will be available soon.



## Direct donations are welcome!

If you prefer to support directly rather than through fundraisers, you can do that too! If you would like to make a gift to offset the costs of the Youth Gathering trip, please connect with Tyler Seehafer to make your contribution.

Together, we can make a difference and ensure that our youth are empowered to grow in their faith during this incredible experience! Thank you for your support!

# What is Visual Faith?

By Leigh Hollman

Let me ask you a question: How is your personal faith life going? Are you walking along a path totally in touch with God or are you on the path, but asking for His grace constantly because you just can't find the time for Him. Or are you in the group of people that just can't find the path, let alone find time to spend with Him? Life throws a myriad of distractions at us that tempt us away from spending time in the Word. That's where Visual Faith comes in.

Visual Faith is a group of simple practices that are designed to have an impact on your prayer life, your devotional life and your worship life. It is not separated out into three boxes. It is an interwoven and Spirit-led journey, tailored to meet you in a way that best meets the learning style that God has created in you. These simple practices help ordinary people like you and me focus on God's Word and prayer. They help us to:

**Slow down and focus**  
**Remove distractions**  
**Remember what you have learned**

Have I piqued your interest?

Visual Faith Ministry has four pillars:

- Remember what God has done for us.
- Trust Him.
- Disciple those around us.
- Share His love with the world.

These practices can be as simple or as in depth as you

want them to be. It could look like, highlighting a verse in your Bible, or scribing (handwriting a Bible verse in a simple notebook), creating a watercolor or calligraphy in the margins of a journaling Bible, and everything in between. All of these are Visual Faith practices. If you are interested in learning about Visual Faith practices, you can talk to one of three Visual Faith Coaches at St. Paul. A Visual Faith Coach is someone who is experienced enough with Visual Faith practices to teach and share



(cont'd on pg. 11)





St. Paul Lutheran Church of Ann Arbor

Sowing TRUTH. Building FAITH. Shining LOVE.

## Puerto Rico Mission: Team Members Needed

By Tyler Seehafer

We are excited to invite you to be a part of an incredible mission opportunity in Puerto Rico this November, serving alongside Rev. James and Deaconess Christel Neuendorf! Our goal is to build a dynamic team of 10 to 16 passionate individuals ready to make a difference.

If you've never been on a mission team before, this is the perfect chance to embark on your first journey! Serving in Puerto Rico comes with fantastic perks: no passport required, your phones will work just like at home, and you'll enjoy comfortable accommodations with beds, air conditioning, electricity, and hot water. Plus, we will have a fully-equipped kitchen and multiple bathrooms available in our guest house.

**Trip Dates: November 4-11, 2025**  
**Estimated Cost: \$1675 - \$1975**

Mission: Join us in partnership with local missionaries to support church members through various ministries, including:

- Bible Study
- Music Ministry
- Worship
- Relationship Ministry
- Children's Ministry
- Encouraging New Believers



If you feel called to this mission or would like to learn more, please don't hesitate to reach out to Tyler Seehafer at [tseehafer@stpaulannarbor.org](mailto:tseehafer@stpaulannarbor.org). We can't wait to share this amazing experience with you!

## Paper Peace Corps

By Ruth Schmude



Thank you so very much to all of you who contributed to the "Paper Peace Corps." An unusual number of Bibles and Commentaries have been donated. These

Bibles and Commentaries will go to Pastor Vaska Moses in India. These books are highly appreciated. Three boxes

have been sent to India! God bless you for reaching out to help in spreading the Gospel in this distant land.

You can help by donating any Bible or Catechism you may have or are not using. Please place them in the "Paper Peace Corps" box located in Brauer Hall (Downtown Campus) or in the "Paper Peace Corps" box at the Earhart (School) Campus located in the welcome center desk by the gym entrance. If you have any questions contact **Ruth Schmude at 734-483-7483**.



# What is Visual Faith?... cont'd from pg. 9

them with others. The three St. Paul members who are also Visual Faith coaches are Jessica Meier (jmeier@stpaulannarbor.org), Leigh Hollmann (jlhollmann@comcast.net) and Laura Schumacher. Any one of these three would love to share more with you about Visual Faith when you see them at church. Don't be afraid to ask them about it! You can also find tons of free resources to help you in your faith walk at the Visual Faith Ministry website (scan the QR code at right).



## You Are Following in These Footsteps

By Pastor Don Neuendorf



How do you know about Jesus? If it were not for others who came before you, what would you know about your Savior? And of all those people, one of the most important must be the Apostle Paul, for whom our congregation is named. Of the 27 books in the New Testament, 13 of them were written by Paul, and the Acts of the Apostles is mostly about Paul's work.

As you seek to know Jesus better, wouldn't it make sense to follow St. Paul more closely?

How many times have you looked at the giant mural in the school gymnasium and wondered about those buildings in the background? Our goal when we designed the mural was to twist the history so that the ancient characters from the story of Paul are situated in the modern context of Ann Arbor. Just as Paul stood on the hill above Athens and looked over the city and its people in need of Jesus, so at our school we stand with the Gospel on top of a hill overlooking the people of Ann Arbor who need Jesus.

On our trip in Paul's footsteps we will stand in Athens, on the Areopagus where he stood, and consider our own calling to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost. We'll

stand in Ephesus, where he challenged the dominance of the goddess Diana. And we will stand in Corinth where he shared the Gospel with the prostitutes who came down to the city from the Temple of Aphrodite.

Consider joining Pastor Don and Karen Neuendorf on a tour of the sites of Paul's ministry. Join us for 11 days of learning more about this amazing man and how the Lord used him to bring Gentiles, like us, into the Kingdom of God.

This eleven-day tour to Greece includes a 3 night cruise to Greek isles, airfare from Detroit, breakfast/dinner daily, lunches on cruise, some excursions, first class hotels and cabins, deluxe coaches, and port fees. The tour is from October 4-14, 2025, and the cost is \$6,475 (based on double occupancy). An optional 3-day extension to even more Pauline sites in modern day Turkey is available for \$2,069 per person. Register using linked forms, or online at [ittworld.com](http://ittworld.com) (code NeuendorfG25). Contact Carol Nelson for more information at [nelsons83@hotmail.com](mailto:nelsons83@hotmail.com) or 734-646-8610.

Brochures are available here (scan QR code below). Hard copies are available at worship entrances.



## Using the Talents God Gives Us



As members of St. Paul we all know that we are truly blessed in many ways. One of these is the blessing of beautiful facilities that provide a comfortable environment for us to gather for worship, to teach our children, and to warmly welcome others to join us and be a part of God's family. As you know, buildings and facilities require maintenance and care to fix problems when they arise.

Officially retiring last spring, I thought a way that I could use my talents would be to become a Trustee. We presently have a group of existing Trustees at St. Paul, fine gentlemen who we owe much gratitude for their years of dedication. They have used their talents taking care of these wonderful church & school facilities, flying under

the radar so to say, without asking for praise. We have lost some and some are physically unable now. We do need the wealth of knowledge that these men still want to provide.

Now, our congregation needs a group of able bodies to be new active Trustees. This might entail such things as maybe getting your hands dirty or putting minds together to come up with a solution to a problem. This could entail the frequency and amount of time that you have to offer. The gain could be feeling a sense of accomplishment and getting to know other good members of St. Paul.

I feel, and I hope some of you do too, that I need to use my time and talents to keep our facilities top notch and save money to be used for the mission and ministries of our congregation.

Thank you for your consideration and your support. Please contact me if you would like to be involved!

**Wynn Krzykse**  
Call/Text: 734-755-5652  
Email: [wynnsbase@comcast.net](mailto:wynnsbase@comcast.net)

## With One Heart - Worship with us at CUAA on March 16th!

St. Paul will be joining St. Luke in worship with our CUAA family on **Sunday, March 16th**. We hope to bless Concordia students and staff and honor the mission and ministry of Concordia University Ann Arbor through the years with worship together.

Discipleship Hour and Christ Connections will be held in the Kreft Center on those Sundays from 9:30-10:15am and we will have fellowship afterward (just outside the chapel). Worship will begin at 10:30am in the Chapel of the Holy Trinity. We will have a golf cart available to help bring people with less mobility from the parking lot to Kreft or the Chapel.

Please note: on CUAA Sundays, St. Paul will only have this one Sunday morning service. We will still have the Saturday evening service at 6:30pm at the Liberty-Downtown Campus.



To learn more about the ministries of St. Paul Ann Arbor visit our website at: [www.stpaulannarbor.org](http://www.stpaulannarbor.org)

If you would like to submit an article or news item for any of the St. Paul communications please contact Natalie Nesbitt, Media Outreach Coordinator at [nnesbitt@stpaulannarbor.org](mailto:nnesbitt@stpaulannarbor.org).



**We equip families and individuals to know Christ,  
to discover truth, and to create meaningful connections.**



St. Paul  
Ann Arbor