

St Paul's Ripples September 2026

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus!

The Vestry met with Mother Lauren in late July to do a little dreaming and to address something we overlooked. When a congregation calls a new rector, the rector and vestry are to write a Ministry Agreement. We missed it, Mother Lauren missed it. So, we are rectifying the error.



We have five items on our list of dreams. One is to be a more visible presence for the SDSU community. As a first step, we created a student portal on our webpage. A QR code takes the students right to the portal; a one stop shop for information about St Paul's. On August 24th, Erika, Janet, Connie and I were privileged to welcome the SDSU students back at their Fall Campus and Community Festival. We handed out "grandma candy" and information cards and talked to so many young people. We were there to introduce our new ministry "Home Away From Home." Actually, it's more formalizing a ministry you all have already been doing. St Paul's has long been caring for students from SDSU, whether it is through EYC, personal connections with church "grandmas" or even providing housing for some international students when the rectory was empty. Home Away from Home is a way to get the word out to students who may need a friendly face and someone to care that we are here for them. There is more information in the Skipping Stones.

Another item on our dream list is to review and revise our mission and vision statements. Ours was written (the Vestry thinks) about twenty years ago. How has our understanding changed of what God is calling us to do in this place and time where God has set us? How have we changed? How has our community changed? Watch for further conversation around our vision and mission. If you need a refresher, copies of the statements are available at the Event and Sign-Up Board in Thorburn Hall.

We are also dreaming up a lay pastoral care team! While pastoral visits from our priest are essential, we want our homebound members to feel the love of the entire congregation. Caring for each other is a ministry for all of us, not just the clergy. Stay tuned for details as we develop "Saints and Shepherds."

Jesus' love is truly rippling out from St Paul's. Help us make some waves!

Peace,
Mother Ramona

September Skipping Stones

Like skipping stones in God's hands, may we create ripples in our lives and the lives of those in our community!

Seasons of Creation is back. We join congregations of all denominations in taking time to remember our duty to care for creation during the month of September. All worship materials have been written and approved by the Episcopal Church USA and approved for our use by Bishop Jonathan.

And we're baaaack! Summer officially ends on Labor Day and all activities on summer hiatus begin again. Here's the schedule:

Daily Prayer is now Morning Prayer! livestreamed Monday -Thursday at 8am

Mother Ramona's office hours

Monday 11-1 at the SDSU Student Union (no office hours if no classes are held)

Tuesday

1st Chocolate from 1-4

2nd & 4th Kool Beans from 3-6

3rd Cottonwood on Main from 1 to 4

5th Mission Coffeehouse, from 11-2

Midweek worship Wednesday 1:30pm

1st, 3rd, and 5th at St Paul's in Thorburn Hall

2nd at Edgewood

4th at Peaceful Pines

Wine and Word, Tuesdays, 7pm at Mosaic Wine Bar

Pub Theology, 2nd Wednesdays, 7pm at The Bank Saloon (corner of 4th and Main)

See you September 8th!

Change Is In the Air! Our dedicated parish treasurer, **Bob Klein**, is getting ready to step down after many years of incredibly faithful service. His final day will be September 30, 2026. Bob has looked after our church finances with absolute care, integrity, and a quiet dedication that kept everything running smoothly. While he specifically asked for "no fuss, no plaques, and no grand gifts," we simply couldn't let him retire without showing him how much he means to this church family!! On Sunday, September 27, there will be cake during coffee hour to celebrate Bob's years of hard work.

Passing the Torch We didn't have to look far to find our new Treasurer. We are pleased to announce **Erika Klien** has agreed to fill her father's shoes. To make sure the transition is as smooth as possible, she is spending this month shadowing Bob to learn the ropes. Erika will formally take the reins on October 1, 2026. Please join us in thanking her for stepping into this important role!

Help Us Create a "Home Away from Home" for Local Students! St. Paul's has a proud, deep history with SDSU—counting generations of alumni, their children, and university faculty among our church family. As a new school year begins, hundreds of college students are settling down in Brookings—many of them living away from their families for the very first time. We want St. Paul's to be a sanctuary of warmth, comfort, and hospitality for them. We are launching the Home Away from Home ministry, and we need your help! **We are looking for individuals and families in our congregation willing to act as local "campus grandparents" or "campus family"**. If you have room in your heart to adopt a student this academic year, please pick up a paper volunteer form on the table in the back of the sanctuary, or contact Mother Ramona to get on the list.

Diocesan Convention is October 2nd and 3rd in Pierre. Our delegates for convention are Janet Griztner and Lynette Taylor (alternates are Peg Whalen and Connie Nelson). Please pray for safe travels for them

St Paul's Episcopal Church

Rooted in love. Open to all.

and for Mother Ramona (also attending the convention and the clergy day Oct 1), and for the entire convention as we discern the work God is calling us to do.

EYC September 16 at 5:30 We kick off the year on September 16th. Watch for details!

Vestry: The next vestry meeting is September 27th after coffee fellowship.

Save the Date! Our annual Pet Blessing is Sunday October 4th at 2:30 pm. Tell your friends!

Mother Ramona's September Schedule: Mother Ramona will be away for the SD Synod's Fall Theological Conference from noon on Sep. 3rd to late afternoon on Sep. 15th. She will be on vacation from Sep. 18-25. Finally, she will be at the Diocesan Clergy meeting and the convention from Oct. 1-3.

Weekly events

St. Paul's complete calendar is live on our website.

Day /Week	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
Monday	Mo Ramona Office Hours 11am-1pm SDSU Student Union	Mo Ramona Office Hours 11am-1pm SDSU Student Union	Mo Ramona Office Hours 11am-1pm SDSU Student Union	Mo Ramona Office Hours 11am-1pm SDSU Student Union	Mo Ramona Office Hours 11am-1pm SDSU Student Union
Tuesday	Mo Ramona office hours 1-4pm at Chocolate Wine & Word 7 pm at Mosaic Wine Bar	Mo Ramona Office Hours 3-6pm at Kool Beans Wine & Word 7 pm at Mosaic Wine Bar	Mo Ramona Office Hours 1-4pm at Cottonwood/Main Wine & Word 7 pm at Mosaic Wine Bar	Mo Ramona Office Hours 3-6pm at Kool Beans Wine & Word 7 pm at Mosaic Wine Bar	Mo Ramona Office Hours 11am-2pm at Mission Coffee Wine & Word 7 pm at Mosaic Wine Bar
Wednesday	Midweek Worship 1:30pm St Paul's EYC – 5:30pm	Midweek Worship 1:30pm Edgewood Pub Theology 7:00pm at the Bank Saloon	Midweek Worship 1:30pm St Paul's EYC – 5:30pm	Midweek Worship 1:30pm Peaceful Pines	Midweek Worship 1:30pm St Paul's
Thursday					
Friday					
Saturday					
Sunday	9am Book group 10am Worship 11am Pancakes	9am Book group 10am Worship 11am Coffee	9am Book group 10am Worship 11am Coffee	9am Book group 10am Worship 11am Potluck	9am Book group 10am Worship 11am Coffee

Mother Ramona's contact information: pastorramona@gmail.com, 605-850-8482 (cell phone)

Website: stpaulsbrookings.org **St Paul's email:** stpaulsbrookings1879@gmail.com