SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



July 27, 2025 ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are happy you have joined us for worship today. Wherever you are on your journey with or toward God, you are welcome here—you are a blessing to this assembly.

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socioeconomic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

Lutherans believe, teach, and confess that in, with, and under the bread and wine in Holy Communion we receive the true Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. All who are drawn in faith are welcome to join in this confession and receive the Sacrament.

We invite and encourage your full participation in our worship this morning. With this service bulletin you can follow and participate in this morning's liturgy.

New to St. Paul? If you have questions or want more information, please fill out a newcomer form with the QR code at the right. Questions about transferring membership from another Lutheran church, or for beginning the process for baptism, confirmation, membership, or transferring from one of the other Christian traditions, may be directed to the Church Office at 781-646-7773 or parishadmin@stpaularlington.org.



SUNDAY SERVICES

9:30am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave and Online 10:30am | Coffee Hour LIVESTREAMING Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY ARE:

Marie Breitenbach, *Altar Guild*Kevin Kreutter, *Lector*Sandy Walker, *Deacon*Marie Breitenbach, *Cantor*Andy Airasian and Dan Ries, *Ushers*Matt Carter, *Livestream Broadcast*Peter and Hollie Schmidt & Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild*



Today's altar flowers are given by Nancy Tiedeman and family in celebration of Mira Sharma's birthday. When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable. At the \boxtimes , you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism. The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the \pm Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us.
Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds,
and show us the path of life.
Amen.

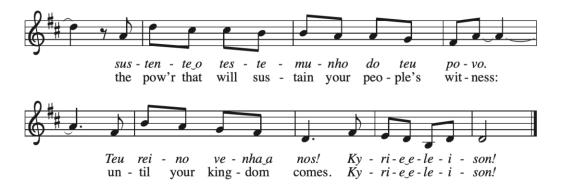
You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of + Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. Amen.

* GATHERING HYMN

"For the Troubles and the Sufferings"

ACS 1051





Text: Rodolfo Gaede Neto, b. 1951; tr. Simei Monteiro, b. 1943, and Jorge Lockward, b. 1965 Music: PELAS DORES DESTE MUNDO, Rodolfo Gaede Neto

* GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

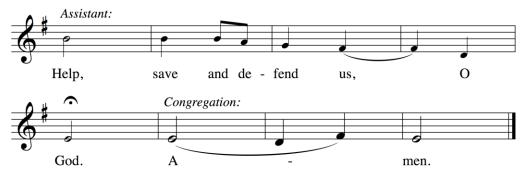
And also with you.

* KYRIE



Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)



Text and Music: Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

* HYMN OF PRAISE



Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950 Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING Genesis 18: 20-32

In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.

Then the Lord said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the Lord. Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" And the Lord said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 138



I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with 'my whole heart;

before the gods I will | sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast | love and faithfulness;

for you have glorified your name and your word a- bove all things.

When I called, you | answered me;

you increased my | strength within me.

All the rulers of the earth will praise 'you, O Lord, when they have heard the words 'of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways ' of the Lord, that great is the glory ' of the Lord.

The Lord is high, yet cares | for the lowly, perceiving the haughty | from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you 'keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right 'hand shall save me.

You will make good your pur- pose for me;

O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works | of your hands.

SECOND READING Colossians 2:6-19

The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that

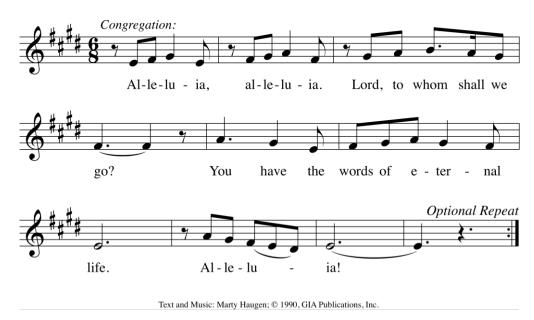
stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



* GOSPEL Luke 11:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Vicar Sam Menapace

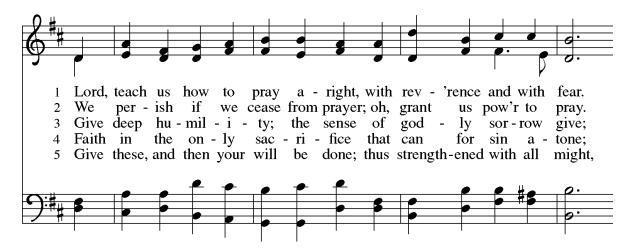
Vicar Sam Menapace

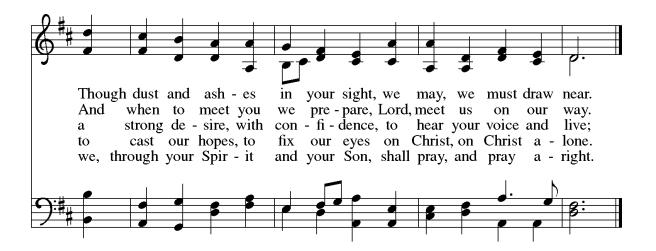
SERMON

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lord, Teach Us How to Pray Aright"

ELW 745





Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt. Music: SONG 67, Orlando Gibbons, 1583–1625

* APOSTLE'S CREED

In response to the gospel, let us confess the faith of the church:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Loving God, create in your church a desire for union with you in prayer. Raise up leaders to teach Christ's devotion to prayer and model Christ's way of prayer, until all people experience prayerful intimacy with you. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Reveal to humanity the sacredness of all creation. With the breath of your Spirit, realign the balances of nature. Grant persistence in prayer and action for the sake of the earth, our common home. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Teach rulers of the earth to sing of your ways, caring for the lowly and having no preference for the powerful. Direct the heart of every person to seek your will on earth as in heaven. God of grace, hear our prayer.

To all whose prayers are cries for help, give your good gifts, and satisfy their deepest needs. We pray especially for Dan, Irving, Jim, Lynn, Meredith, Paul, and Susan. Gather them to your constant, loving presence, that they may rest in the confidence of life with you. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Center the ministries of this assembly on prayer and service, especially during this time of discernment and transition. Guide our relationships in the wider community, being ready to assist those who seek help. In our questions and reflections, open our eyes and our hearts to the ways that the Holy Spirit is moving, working, and transforming the

world around us. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for all who have gone before us, especially Johann Sebastian Bach, Heinrich Schütz, and George Frederick Handel. May we trust your steadfast love and continue in hope until we are united with all your saints. God of grace, hear our prayer.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

* PEACE Keep your hands close together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.

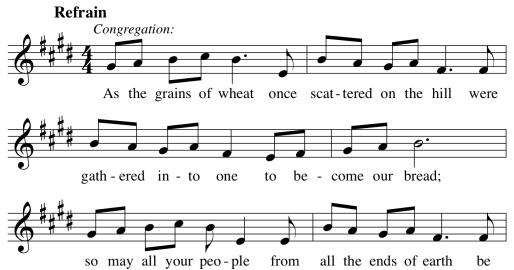
The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

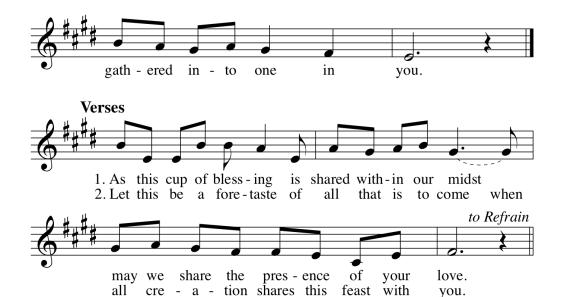
MEAL

OFFERING - remain seated

You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code:







Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

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you.

a - tion shares this

* OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good

and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth

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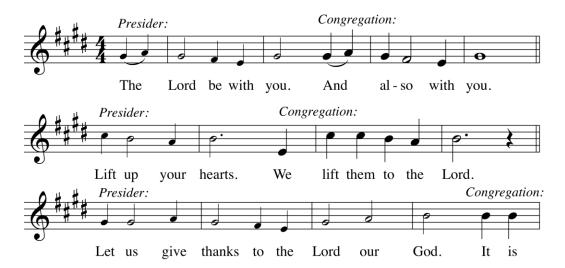
and our labor,

that we may work for the good of all;

through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

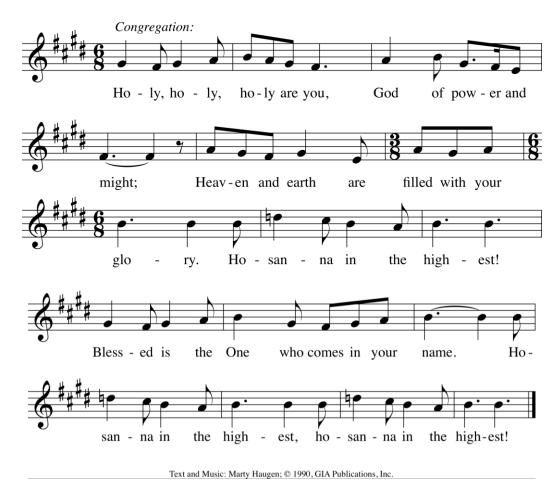
* GREAT THANKSGIVING





Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

* LORD'S PRAYER

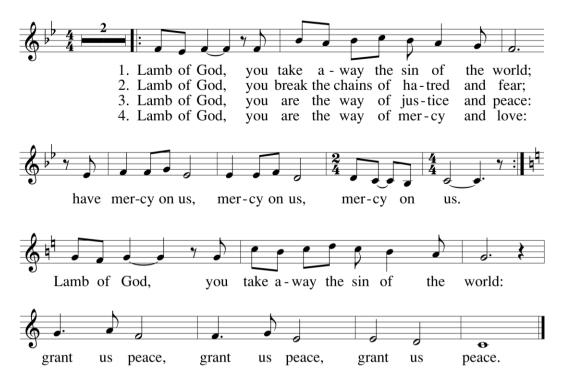
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

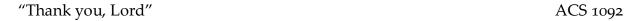
All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request. Both wine (red) and grape juice (white) are available in each tray.

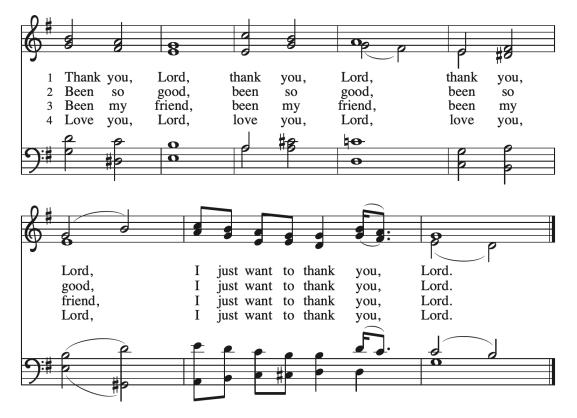
Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.



Text: ICET; additional text by Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

COMMUNION HYMN

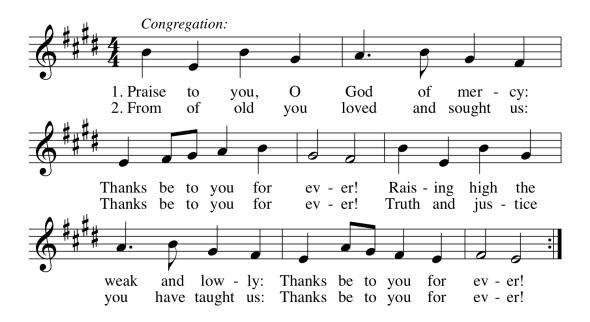




Text: Traditional

Music: THANK YOU, LORD, Traditional

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE





Text and Music: Marty Haugen; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

* BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in

his grace.

Amen.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Go My Children, With My Blessing"

ELW 543



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS at **SAINT PAUL**



ST. PAUL TRANSITION TEAM | July Questions for Prayer and Reflection

Our community of St. Paul is in a transition period during which we prepare for calling a new Pastor. It is a time that prompts us to consider what our life together as a community of Christians is like and ought to be like, to think about who we are, what we do and who we might be and do in the future.

This is the fourth week in July, and we are inviting you to join us in prayer and reflection around provocative weekly questions we are asking ourselves and each other just as Jesus is asking us questions. Provocative questions can come in many forms and, while seeming simple, can be challenging, puzzling yet inspiring and confirming all the same. The questions may all be routed in a fundamental, underlying thought: "What does God want of and for us? What does our faith prompt us to trust in and do as we make choices collectively and individually about how to be in this world as followers of Jesus Christ?" We can explore these questions in many ways. We can do so in our private thoughts, personal prayers, collective prayers and in conversations. During this time of transition, we are called as a community to focus on what really matters, as, in the words of Paul, "we press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" Philippians 3:13-14.

We will continue our discernment throughout the Fall adding small group discussion around these questions and other focus topics to consideration about ourselves and our future. In August, Pastor Don Larsen also joins us full-time as our Transition Pastor and Vicar Sam Menapace continues with us after her intern year ends.

There are two questions for Weeks 3-4:

"How does God provide for you, our neighbors and the world?"
"What are some ways that God cares for us in the midst of sorrow or suffering?"

Thanks for your thoughtful participation in this important process.

THEOLOGY ON TAP | Summer Meeting, Sunday, July 27th at 4pm

Vicar Sam will continue to host monthly Theology on Tap gatherings at Mighty Squirrel (411 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham) throughout the summer. All are invited to grab a beer, coffee or seltzer (non-alcoholic options available) and spend time together outside of church on Sundays.

ARLINGTON EATS JULY NEEDS

We are officially into the summer season and EATS is busier than ever. Since Summer Lunches take place in July and August, we will collect things we need for that program in June & July. We also are asking for some items for the Market. Thank you for your support!

Summer Spotlight Items:

- Goldfish (1-1.50z packs) cheddar
- Pirate's Booty (0.50z packs)
- Granola bars Made Good (bars and bites) or Nature Valley
- Mac & Cheese Annie's
- Cereal Cheerios is a favorite
- Condiments (think summer BBQ)
- Soy Sauce

ST. PAUL SUMMER RETREAT WEEKEND AT CAMP CALUMET | August 22-24

Calumet Retreat! St. Paul Calumet Retreat. Weekend of August 22-24. This is an annual tradition to relax, reflect, and reconnect with each other in the beautiful environment of Camp Calumet on Lake Ossipee in New Hampshire. All are welcome to join us for this weekend! Register using this form: https://rb.gy/mi7doh

20 Upland Street, Worcester, MA 01607-1624 Phone (508) 791-1530 | Fax (508) 797-9295 office@nesynod.org | http://nelutherans.org

May 5, 2025

Samantha Menapace, Vicar c/o Ms. Kerri Frick, President St. Paul's Lutheran Church 929 Concord Turnpike Arlington, MA 02476

Dear Samantha,

This letter authorizes you to preside at the Eucharist at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Arlington, MA, on the following Sundays: May 25, June 1, June 22, June 29, July 6 July 13, July 27, August 10, November 2 and November 9, all in 2025.

Please put notices in the bulletins that you preside with my permission on those days.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Nathan D. Pipho, Bishop

New England Synod



www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

Staff

The Reverend Don Larsen, *Transition Pastor*Samantha Menapace, *Vicar*Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music*Paul Ricci, *Business Administrator*Sarah Carter, *Children*, *Youth and Families Director*Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator*Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

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Sandy Walker, Vice President

Eric Haugen, Treasurer

Elizabeth Heichler, Secretary

Mark Olson, Financial Secretary

Kristen Anderson

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Altar Guild Marie Breitenbach

Faith Formation Committee

Intern Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Nomination Committee

Worship & Music Committee

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Thichiee Committee

Audit Committee

Usher Committee
Transition Committee

nmittee

Dan Ries & Andy Airasian

Chairperson

Bev Hjorth

Janice Sniffen

Taryn Walsh

Eric Haugen

Eric Haugen

Kristen Anderson

John Christiansen

Peter Hedlund & Sandy Walker





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