ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



August 24, 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:

Taryn Walsh and Lydia Zuehsow, *Altar Guild*Taryn Walsh, *Lector Deacon*Peter Schmidt, *Cantor*Andy Airasian and Dan Ries, *Ushers*Hollie Schmidt, *Livestream Broadcast*Peter and Hollie Schmidt & Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild*

Today's cover art is a 2014 work by Sr. Barabara Schwarz, O.P.

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

Menuet in G minor, HWV 434/4

G. F. Handel (1685-1759) arr. Wilhelm Kempff (1895-1991)

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.

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.

Amen.

* GATHERING HYMN

"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven"

ELW 864



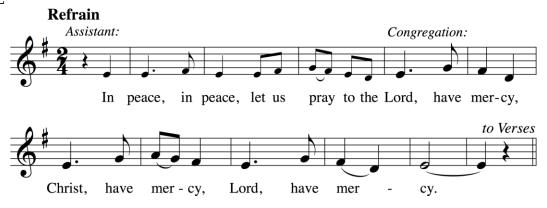
Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927–2005 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

* GREETING

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

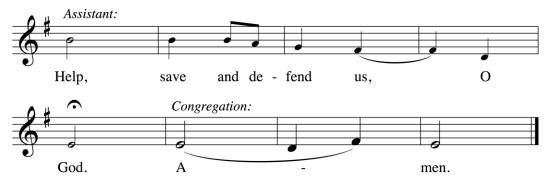
And also with you.

* 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

O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 58:9b-14

God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

Tf you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the Lord honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the Lord, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 103:1-8



Bless the Lord, ¹O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's ¹ holy name.

Bless the Lord, 'O my soul, and forget not 'all God's benefits—

who forgives | all your sins and heals all | your diseases;

who redeems your life | from the grave and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;

who satisfies your desires ' with good things so that your youth is renewed ' like an eagle's.

O Lord, you provide 'vindication and justice for all who 'are oppressed.

You made known your 'ways to Moses and your works to the chil- dren of Israel.

Lord, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

SECOND READING Hebrews 12:18-29

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

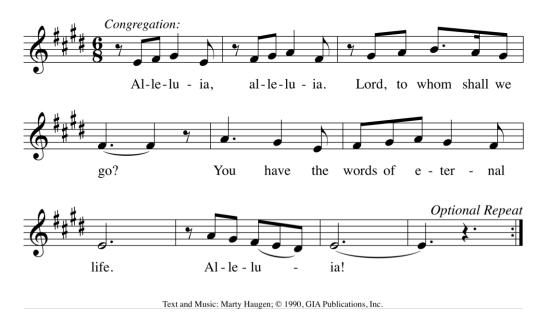
See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created

things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



* GOSPEL Luke 13:10-17

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day." But the Lord answered him and said, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?" When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

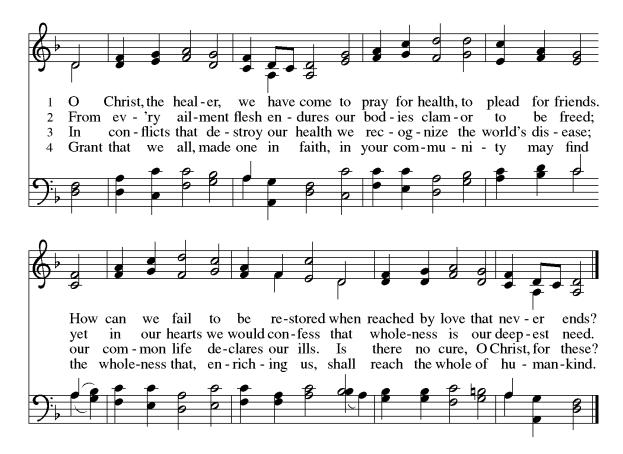
CHILDREN'S TIME Pastor Don Larsen

SERMON Pastor Don Larsen

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Christ the Healer, We Have Come"

ELW 610



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000 Music: DISTRESS, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

* 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

The leader will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read aloud the other prayers as they feel called.

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

A brief silence.

You call your church to proclaim liberation and freedom to all. Give wisdom to bishops, synod councils and staff, and congregation leaders as they pursue a more just and equitable church and society. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You work vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the resolve of world leaders and local officials in the way of love and mercy, so that all persons may experience abundant life. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness, especially Bobby, Dan, Irving, Jim, Lynn, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, and Susan. Manifest your healing presence in their midst. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You call us to delight in the sabbath. Invigorate worship planners and leaders with creativity to aid this congregation in fresh and faithful prayer and praise. Enable all who gather here to be nourished and renewed. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

You bless us with community. Use the gift of Camp Calumet to refresh and renew members of the St. Paul community who are at Calumet for the congregational retreat, and receive our thanksgiving for the ministry of Sarah Carter and Vicar Sam. Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With Bartholomew and all your apostles, prophets, and saints, we give thanks and bless your holy name. As they now rest from their labors, guide us by the witness of their lives to pursue your reign, which can never be shaken. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **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.

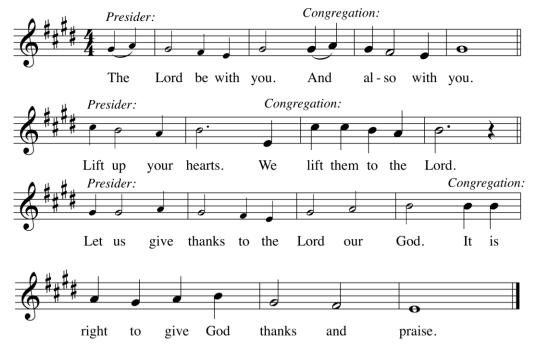
* OFFERING PRAYER

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 and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

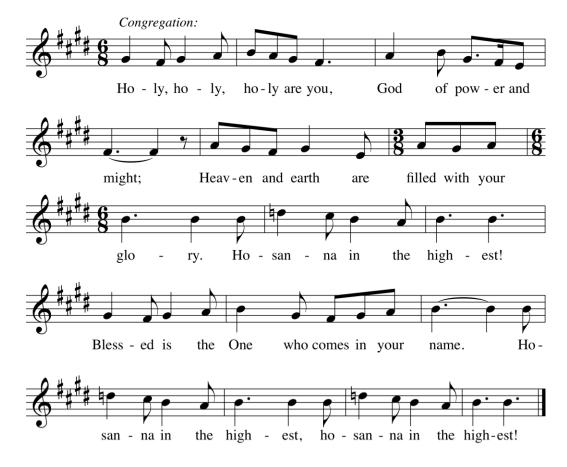
Amen.

* GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

It is our duty and delight that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ, who calls us to follow his way of humble service and love; and so with the church on earth, all creation, and the host of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

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.

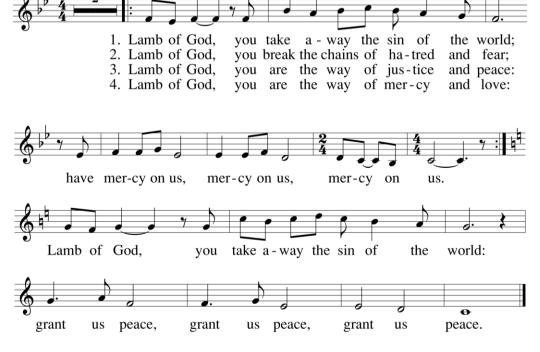
* LORD'S PRAYER

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.

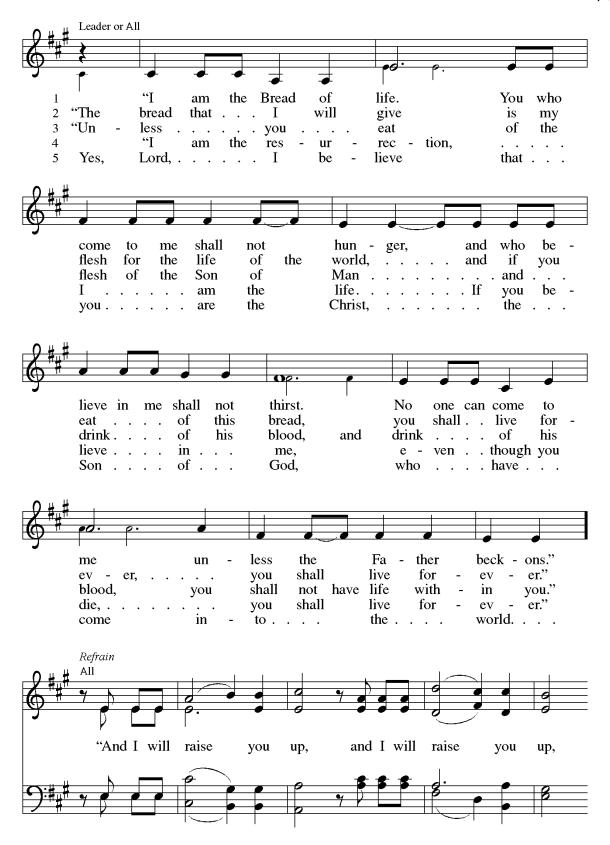
Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.

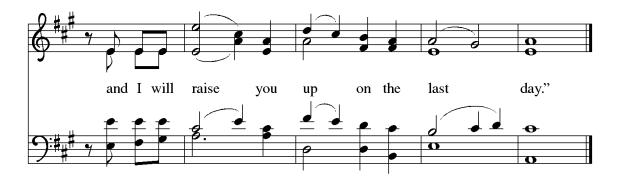


Text: ICET; additional text by Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc. Music: Now the Feast and Celebration, Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

ELW 485

"I am the Bread of Life"





Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6 Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM

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.

Amen.

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

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 \pm give you peace.

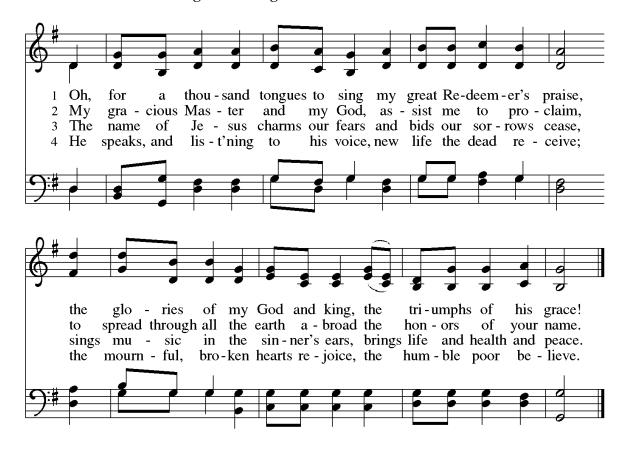
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING HYMN

"Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 866



- 5 Look unto him, your Savior own,O fallen human race!Look and be saved through faith alone,be justified by grace!
- 6 To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv'n by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Allemande from the Keyboard Suite in F minor, HWV 433 G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS at **SAINT PAUL**



TRANSITION TEAM UPDATE | Getting Ready for Next Steps!

Small Group Discussions: We are looking forward to launching small group discussions in September and October where we can consider how God is encouraging our ministry together. These groups will be hosted by members of our Transition Team and Church Council. There will be a variety of times and dates with the hope you can find one that works for you. Our hope is that everyone will participate in one or more of these groups. We will gather as a congregation late in October to review where we are and all we've discovered. **Stay tuned . . .** The schedule of these small group gatherings will be published in early September.

CAT Survey Results: We are offering two sessions to review the results of the **Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT)**:

Sunday, Sept. 7th - Following the 9:30 AM Service

Sunday, September 14th - During the Coffee Hour after the 10:30 AM Service

Transition is a time for our prayerful consideration when we listen to what God asks of us as we look toward our future.

The St. Paul Transition Team -

Peter Hedlund and Sandy Walker (Co-Chairs); Monique Airasian, Kristen Anderson, Josh Davis, Kerri Frick, Elizabeth Heichler, Norma Ofsthun, Pierson Oliver, Dan Ries, Nicole Rura

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS | Sunday, September 7th service

Blessing of the Backpack will be during worship. Our annual tradition in which we recognize and transition to a new school year for our members. Please bring a backpack or a bag (or picture) to worship on Sunday, September 7.

RALLY DAY | September 14

Join us for the start of the programming year on September 14th. We have a lot planned for the year, so we look forward to sharing that with everyone! More details to come!

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE RESUMES | September 14, 8:15 and 10:30 am Beginning on this Sunday, we gather each week for Holy Communion at 8:15 and 10:30 AM.

JOIN THE ALL AGES PICK UP CHOIR | Sunday, September 14, 9:45 am

Join the Pick-Up Choir – All Ages Welcome! Kick off the choir season with a joyful sound! All children and adults are invited to gather in the Sanctuary on **Sunday**, **September 14 at 9:45 AM** for a fun and uplifting pick-up choir experience. Contact email: anazecicjeffers@gmail.com, or simply come at the scheduled time.

ARLINGTON EATS AUGUST NEEDS

August Spotlight Items are below. Please place these items in the basket which is on the floor of the upper narthex.

- Jams & Jellies (low sugar is great)
- Oil (canola or vegetable smaller sizes appreciated)
- Gluten free items (mixes, snacks, pasta, soups, etc.)

In addition, items from the following list are always helpful:

- Shelf stable soup
- Soy Sauce
- Personal care items such as shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush
- Children's diapers (larger sizes are more in demand)
- Clean, grocery-sized, paper or reusable bags with handles

ST. PAUL SUMMER BIBLE STUDY | Thursday Evenings, 7-8pm by Zoom

All are invited to join our summer bible study! We will gather on Thursday evenings on Zoom from 7-8pm. Each week, we will study the upcoming Sunday's lectionary texts, which are the bible readings we hear in worship. To access the readings and Zoom link, please see St. Paul's Weekly Update email. If you are not a subscriber, you can sign up on our website or email Vicar Sam for the Bible Study Zoom link (stpaularlingtonvicar@gmail.com).



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

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Sarah Carter, Children, Youth and Families Director

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stpaularlingtonfamily@gmail.com parishadmin@stpaularlington.org

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Kerri Frick, President

Sandy Walker, Vice President

Eric Haugen, Treasurer

Elizabeth Heichler, Secretary

Mark Olson, Financial Secretary

Kristen Anderson

Eric Carlson

Dave Hering

Kathleen Kean

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Altar Guild Marie Breitenbach

Faith Formation Committee

Intern Committee Kristen Anderson

Social Ministry Committee

Janice Sniffen

Nomination Committee

Taryn Walsh

Worship & Music Committee

John Christiansen

Finance Committee

Eric Haugen

Audit Committee

Eric Haugen

Usher Committee

Transition Committee

Dan Ries & Andy Airasian Peter Hedlund & Sandy Walker





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