# THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



September 7, 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*Marie Breitenbach, *Lector*Kristen Anderson, *Deacon*Bev Hjorth, *Cantor*Andy Airasian and Dan Ries, *Ushers*Matt Carter, *Livestream Broadcast*Peter and Hollie Schmidt & Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild* 

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**

Les Langueurs-Tendres from Pieces for the Harpsichord, Book 2

F. Couperin (1668-1733)

#### 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



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

# **GREETING**

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

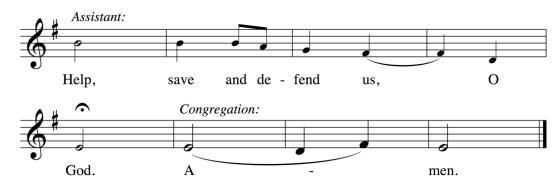
And also with you.

# \* 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

Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

FIRST READING Jeremiah 18:1-11

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Come, go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the Lord. Just like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel. At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it. And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it. Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the Lord: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 1



Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

Their delight is in the law | of the Lord,

and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that 'do not wither;

everything they | do shall prosper.

It is not so | with the wicked;

they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when 'judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council 'of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way ' of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall ' be destroyed.

SECOND READING Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier
Archippus, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

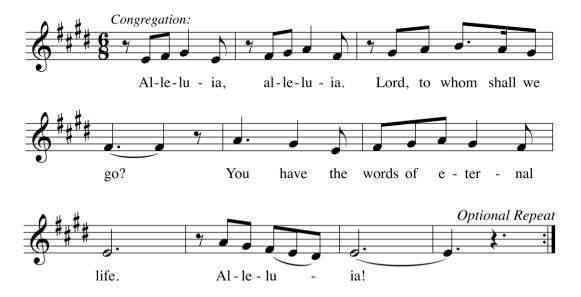
For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

# \* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

\* GOSPEL Luke 14:25-33

The holy gospel according to Luke.

# Glory to you, O Lord.

Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, "Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME

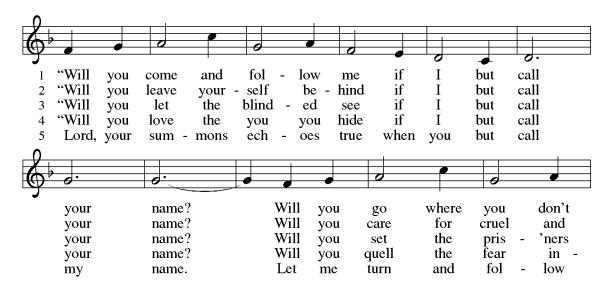
Vicar Sam Menapace

SERMON Vicar Sam Menapace

#### \* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Will You Come And Follow Me"

ELW 798





Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949 Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

### \* 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.

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace, **receive our prayer.** 

We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace, receive our prayer.

We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace, receive our prayer.

We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely, especially Bobby, Dan, Jim, Lynn, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, and Susan. May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace, receive our prayer.

We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace, receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints, especially Peter Claver. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. God of grace, **receive our prayer.** 

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

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

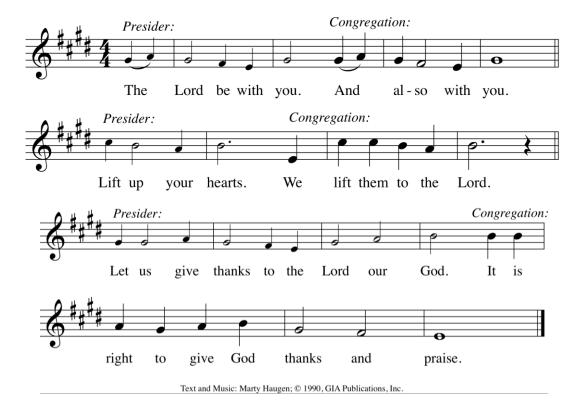
and our labor,

that we may work for the good of all;

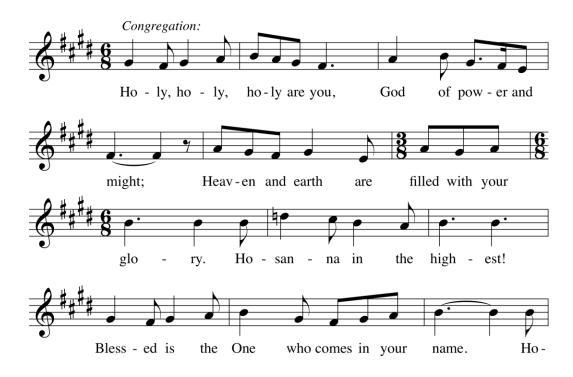
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

### \* GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

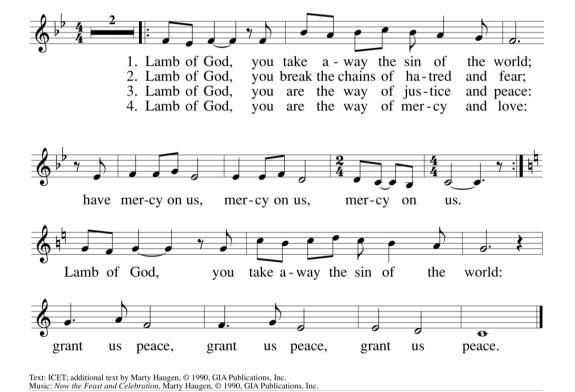
# \* LORD'S PRAYER

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.

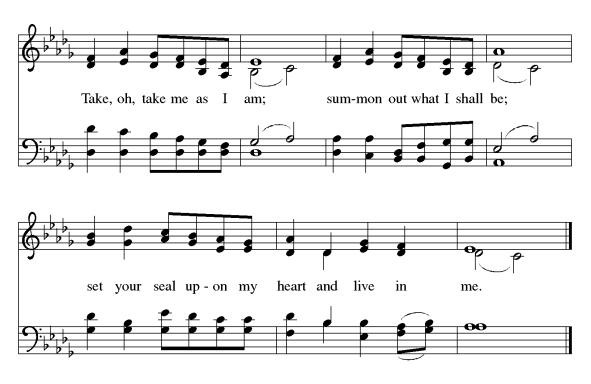
Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.



# **COMMUNION HYMN**

"Take, Oh, Take Me as I Am"

ELW 814



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949 Music: TAKE ME AS I AM, John L. Bell

# \* 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  $\pm$  give you peace.

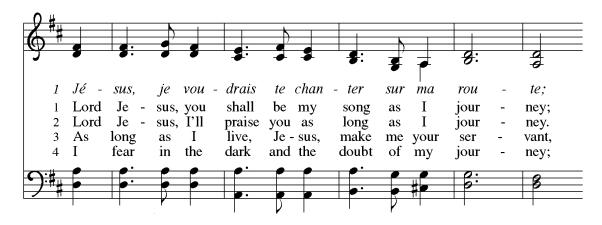
Amen.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### \* SENDING HYMN

"Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song"

**ELW 808** 





Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931 Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community

### **DISMISSAL**

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

# **POSTLUDE**

Les Barricades Mysterieuses from Pieces for the Harpsichord, Book 2

F. Couperin (1668-1733)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS at **SAINT PAUL**



# CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSMENT TOOL (CAT) REVIEW SESSIONS

The Transition Team will be hosting three (3) CAT Review Sessions to share the collective perspective from the CAT survey conducted in June 2025. The sessions are open to all:

Sunday, September 7th Following the 9:30 service in Goodman Fellowship Hall with Peter Hedlund Sunday September 14th Adult Forum Hour at 9:30am with Dan Ries Sunday, September 14th Following 10:30 service in Goodman Fellowship Hall with Sandy Walker

# **Everyone** is invited . . .

# St. Paul Small Group Discernment Discussions

As part of our ongoing discernment and prayerful reflection to consider our faith and ministry journey into the future, Church Council and the Transition Team are offering a variety of times and ways for us to gather in small groups. Together we will explore how God is working among us and in our community. This will be a time to get further acquainted and to share our thoughts on the CAT results, our personal perspective and how God is inviting us forward in our ministry together. We will gather all the ideas and themes that emerge from these groups. All of this will inform the development of the Ministry Site Profile and the Call Process set to begin in early 2026. Please join in one or more of the Small Group Discussions planned below. Just email the host indicating your interest and they will either send you a link for the Zoom or confirm the location and time for the in person gathering. Many of the sessions will be open for all topics. Some may have a focus topic for a portion of the time or a targeted group for that discussion.

Host	Contact	Date	Time	Location	Focus
	Info				
Sandy	sbwalker127@gmail.com	Sun 9/14	3-5	Sandy's	Church
Walker			PM	Home	Council
Peter	peterwhedlund@gmail.com	Tues	8 – 9	Zoom	Confirmed –
Hedlund		9/16	PM		25 yr
Jan Sniffen	jsniffen.js@gmail.com	Sun 9/21	11:30	Church	Social
and Lisa			AM		Ministry
Chiulli Lay					
Kevin	kevin.kreutter@gmail.com	Mon	7-8 PM	Zoom	Worship
Kreutter		9/22			plus
Elizabeth	elizabeth.heichler@gmail.com	Wed	7 PM	Zoom	Open
Heichler		9/24			

Taryn Walsh	tarynewalsh@gmail.com	Sat 9/27	11 AM	Taryn's	Open
				Home	
Monique	agent starfish@hotmail.com	Sun 9/28	11:30	Church	Open
Airasian			AM		
Kerri Frick	kfrick@gmail.com	Fri 10/3	12 noon	Zoom	Open
Kathleen	pierceno@gmail.com	Sun 10/5	11:45	Church	
Kean and			AM		Open
Piercen					
Oliver					
Kristen	kristen.anderson.715@gmail.com	Tues	evening	Zoom	Open
Anderson		10/7			
Norma	nofsthun4g@gmail.com	Tues	10:30	Church	Open
Ofsthun		10/9	AM		
Eric Carlson	emcarlson1@gmail.com	Sun	11:30	Church	Open
		10/12	AM		
Kathleen	pierceno@gmail.com	Sun	11:45	Church	
Kean and		10/19	AM		Open
Piercen					
Oliver					
One on One					
Chat					
Dan Ries	drries283@gmail.com	Contact			Open
		to			
		schedule			
Josh Davis	JoshDavis1956@gmail.com	Contact			Open
		to			
		schedule			

# 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: <a href="mailto:anazecicjeffers@gmail.com">anazecicjeffers@gmail.com</a>, or simply come at the scheduled time.

#### THEOLOGY ON TAP RETURNS

Theology on Tap is returning this fall with an updated schedule. We will gather on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 4PM at Mighty Squirrel (411 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham). Vicar Sam will lead a relaxed conversation about a different theological topic each month. I hope these gatherings will be a time to learn, listen, and laugh as we spend time together outside of church on Sunday afternoons. The brewery welcomes families and includes alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. All are invited!

#### **Fall Dates:**

September 21st at 4pm October 19th at 4pm November 23 at 4pm December 21 at 4pm

#### ARLINGTON EATS SEPTEMBER NEEDS

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)
- Cereal (Cheerios are great)
- Almond Butter
- Coffee
- Tea

# 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 (<a href="mailto:stpaularlingtonvicar@gmail.com">stpaularlingtonvicar@gmail.com</a>).

#### THANK YOU ALL WHO JOINED FOR CALUMET RETREAT

We had a wonderful weekend building our community and reflecting on God's role in our life. Mark your calendar for next year--August 21-23, 2026.



# SAINT PAUL

# LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

#### Staff

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

stpaularlington.interim.pastor@gmail.com stpaularlingtonvicar@gmail.com

> stpaularlingtonfamily@gmail.com parishadmin@stpaularlington.org

#### **Church Council and Officers**

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

Kevin Kreutter

Pierson Oliver

Taryn Walsh

#### **Committees**

# Chairperson

Altar Guild Marie Breitenbach

Faith Formation Committee

Intern Committee Kristen Anderson

Social Ministry Committee

**Janice Sniffen** 

Bev Hjorth

Nomination Committee

Taryn Walsh

Worship & Music Committee

John Christiansen

Finance Committee

Eric Haugen

**Audit Committee Usher Committee** 

Eric Haugen Dan Ries & Andy Airasian

**Transition Committee** 

Peter Hedlund & Sandy Walker





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