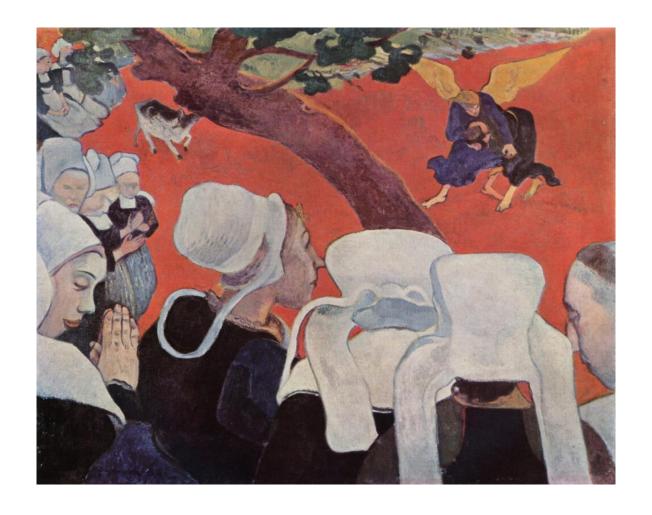
# NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



October 19, 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 SERVICE**

8:15am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave

9:00am | Choir Practice

9:30am | Education Hour with Sunday School,

Adult Forum, Confirmation

10:30am | Service with Holy Communion

and online

11:30am | Coffee Hour

#### LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Arlington 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:**

Kim Fechtel, Marie Breitenbach & Lydia Zuehsow, Altar Guild Owen C. and Brick C., Acolytes Kevin Kreutter, Lector Dave Hering, Deacon Marie Breitenbach, Cantor Andy Airasian and Dan Ries, Ushers Matt Carter, Livestream Broadcast Peter & Hollie Schmidt & Lisa Chiulli Lay, Coffee Guild Today's altar flowers are given by Nancy Tiedeman and her family in memory of her parents, Nelma and Lawrence.

**Today's Cover Art -** The scene on the bulletin cover was painted by Paul Gauguin in 1888. Entitled *Vision After the Sermon*, the work depicts a group of Breton women at prayer - one of whom is gifted with a vision of Jacob wrestling with an angel. It is now displayed in the Scottish National Gallery.

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**

"Return to the Lord, Your God with Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" from *Piano Weavings Volume 3, Improvisations on Liturgical Songs* 

Sherri Hansen

#### WELCOME

#### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\pm$  one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

#### Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

#### Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of  $\pm$  Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.** 

"Day By Day" ELW 790





Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936–2005 Music: BLOTT EN DAG, Oskar Ahnfelt, 1813–1882

#### \*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

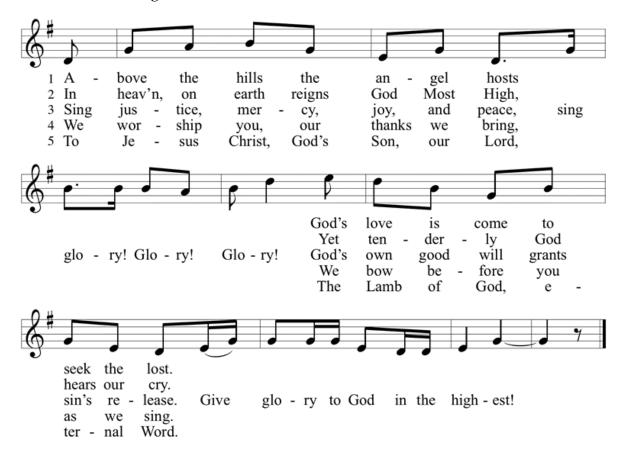




Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Kyrie Music: My Father, How Long, African American spiritual

#### \* HYMN OF PRAISE

"Above the Hills the Angel Hosts" (At 8:15 verses 1 and 5)



Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Gloria in excelsis Music: The Devil's Nine Questions, Appalachian traditional

#### \* PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

# WORD

FIRST READING Genesis 32:22-31

The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM (Read responsively at 8:15)

Psalm 121



I lift up my eyes † to the hills;

from where is my | help to come?

My help comes | from the Lord,

the maker of heav- | en and earth.

The Lord will not let your | foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

Behold, the keep- | er of Israel

will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;

the Lord watches | over you;

the Lord is your shade at 1 your right hand;

the sun will not strike | you by day,

nor the | moon by night.

The Lord will preserve you | from all evil and will | keep your life.

The Lord will watch over your going out and your 'coming in, from this time forth for- 'evermore.

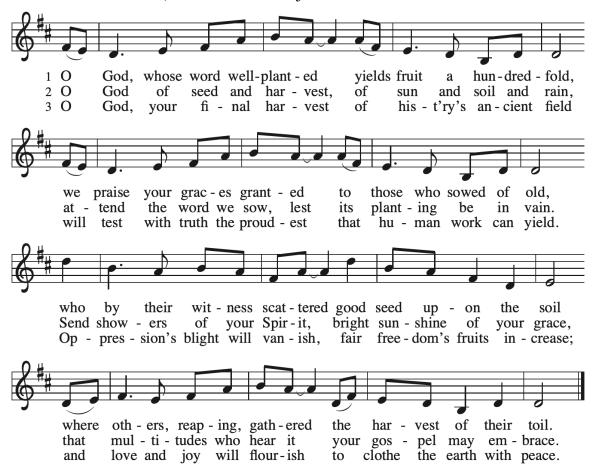
But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### \* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (At 8:15 verse 1 only)



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

\* GOSPEL Luke 18:1-8

The holy gospel according to Luke.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

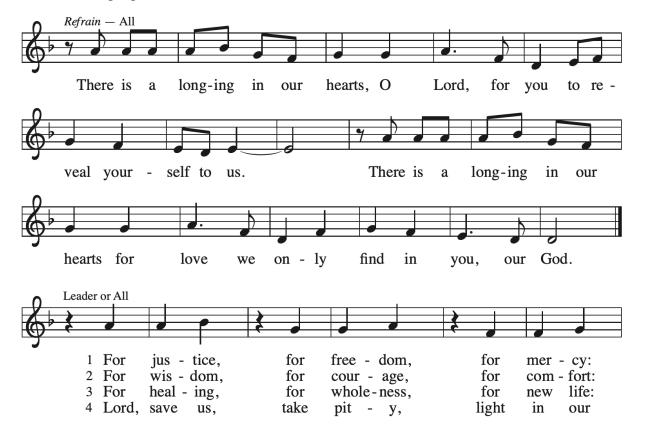
Pastor Don Larsen

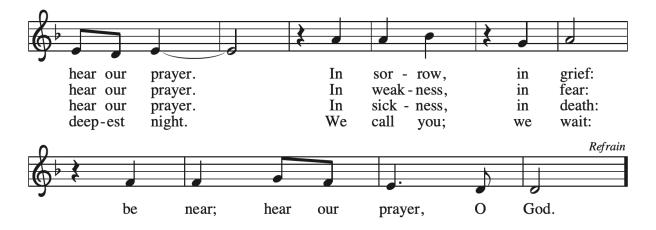
SERMON Pastor Don Larsen

#### \* HYMN OF THE DAY

"There Is a Longing in Our Hearts"

ACS 1078





Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955 Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

#### 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.

Confident in your promise to hear us, Holy God, we come to you continually, saying, God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.** 

A brief silence.

Give us the courage to pray with our eyes open. God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**.

Deliver your church from lack of steadfastness in wrestling with you. God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.** 

Help us to read and hear the Scriptures expectantly, longing to hear your Word. God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.** 

We cry out to you for a world in pain, especially these places.... God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.** 

We beg you to guide our elected leaders into the way of peace. God, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

We pray to you for immigrants, the vulnerable, hungry people, poor people. We pray to you those who are afraid of immigrants, for people who hide their vulnerability, for well-fed people, for people with plenty of everything. God, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

Teach us to see ourselves as a part of nature, not outside it, and just so, renew us as your partners in creation's present and future. God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.** 

Teach us to pray with our eyes open. God, in your mercy: **hear our prayer**.

For the sick, for those who struggle in any way, especially Bobby, Dan, Jim, Lynn, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, Roberta and Susan. Bless them with the healing they need. God, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

For what else do we pray? What other prayers our in this place?

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Watch over our going out and our coming in, and keep us in the company of saints like Teresa of Avila and Ignatius of Antioch. God, in your mercy: hear our prayer.

We will not let you go, dear Jesus, because we know you will not let us go. Ever.

Amen and 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.

#### ANTHEM (10:30 only)

"Guide My Feet)"

African America spiritual, arr. Clayton White

Guide my feet Stand by me,

while I run this race. while I run this race.

Yes, my Lord! Stand by me,

Guide my feet while I run this race.

while I run this race. Stand by me,
Yes, my Lord! while I run thi

Yes, my Lord! while I run this race
Guide my feet for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Guide my feet for I don't v while I run this race

for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Search my heart,

my Lordy,

Hold my hand, while I run this race.

my Lordy, Yes, my Lord!

while I run this race. Search my heart,

Hold my hand, search my heart, yes, my Lord, while I run this race.

Hold my hand Search my heart,

while I run this race, search my heart,

for I don't want to run this race in vain. while I run this race,

for I don't want to run this race in vain.

# **MEAL**

#### \* OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

#### \* OFFERING

You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code. You may also make an offering by placing a gift in the offering plate, which is in the narthex.



#### \* GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

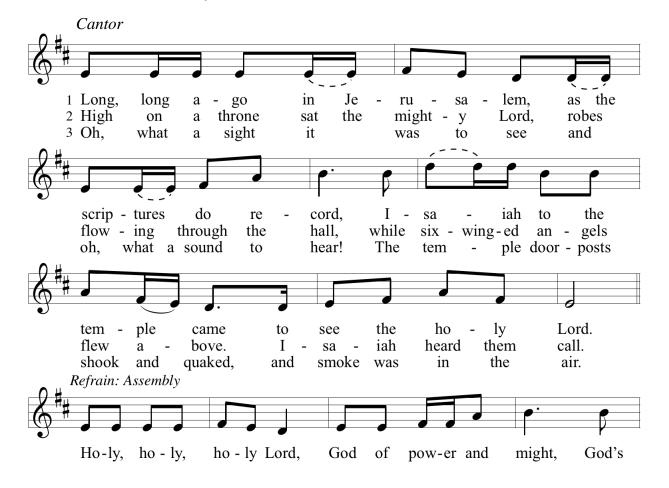
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

#### (At 8:15 verse 1 only)





Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Sanctus Music: Shady Grove, Appalachian traditional

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.

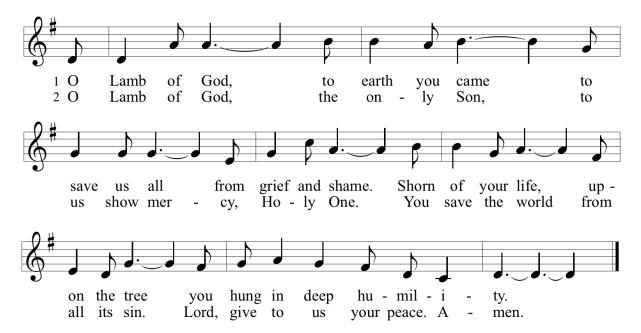
#### \* LORD'S PRAYER

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 and grape juice are available in each tray; the wine is red and the grape juice is white.

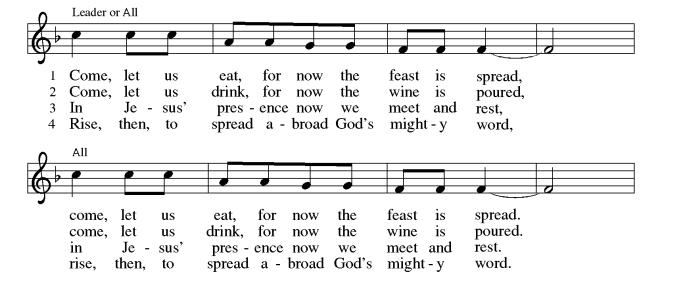
Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.

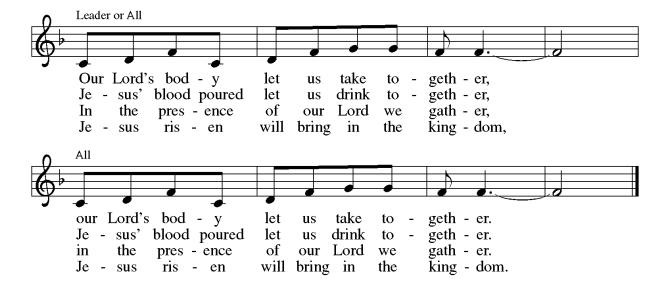


Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Agnus Dei Music: The Suffolk Miracle, Appalachian traditional

## COMMUNION HYMN (10:30 only)

"Come Let Us Eat ELW 491





Text: Billema Kwillia, b. 1925, sts. 1–3; Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, st. 4, alt.; tr. Margaret D. Miller, b. 1927, sts. 1–3, alt. Music: A VA DE, Billema Kwillia, adapt.

#### \* TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.** 

#### \* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God,

through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

# **SENDING**

#### \* BLESSING

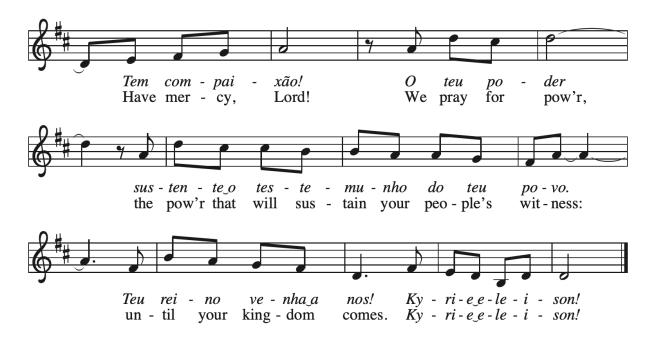
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen**.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

"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

#### \* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **POSTLUDE**

"Create in Me a Clean Heart" from Piano Weavings Volume 3, Improvisations on Liturgical Songs

Sherri Hansen

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

# at **SAINT PAUL**



#### **ADULT FORUM** | 9:30-10:15am

What does it mean when we talk about being "called" by God? Whom does God call? Why does God call us? How is God's call related to our activity of calling a pastor? This Sunday, Vicar Sam will lead a conversation about a Lutheran understanding of calling. We'll read an excerpt from Martin Luther's own writings and dive into a few stories of calling in Scripture. All are invited to join this conversation during the Education Hour. We hope to see you there!

# **EVERONE IS INVITED** | ... *Final small group this Sunday!*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 are exploring how God is working among us and in our community. We are sharing our thoughts on the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) results, our personal perspectives and how God is inviting us forward in our ministry together.

We will gather all the ideas and themes that emerge from these groups. This will inform the development of the Ministry Site Profile, which will summarize the St. Paul congregation and will help to inform the Pastoral Call Process set to begin in early 2026.

Thank you to the many of you who have already participated! If you have not yet participated, please join in the remaining Small Group Discussion planned for this Sunday. You can also reach out for a one on one conversation if that is better for you. Please do so this week so we can include your input our summary.

Host	Contact	Date	Time	Location	Focus
	Info				
Kathleen Kean	pierceno@gmail.com	Sun 10/19	11:45 AM	Church	
& Piercen Oliver					Open
One on One Chat					
Dan Ries	drries283@gmail.com	Contact to schedule			Open

#### ARLINGTON EATS OCTOBER NEEDS AND TURKEY TROT

You may notice some of our spotlight items are repeats from September, and that is because it takes even longer now to get enough of our specialty items (coffee, oil etc) to have enough for everyone! Thank you for continuing to show up each month for Arlington EATS!

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

- Granola bars
- coffee
- Tea
- canola/vegetable oil
- paper bags

Another way you can support EATS (and have fun doing it!) is to sign up for our Annual **Turkey Trot** (walk or run!) 5K: Join Arlington EATS on <u>Sunday, November 2, at 8am</u> for their second annual Turkey Trot, a 5K that provides food access to all residents in Arlington! Fundraise with family and friends to win awesome prizes, join us on race day for an after-party, and nourish the community with your support! Register at: <a href="https://turkeytrot.arlingtoneats.org/">https://turkeytrot.arlingtoneats.org/</a>. If you run fast enough you could make it to the 10:30 service, and you have an extra hour of sleep anyway!

#### THEOLOGY ON TAP THIS SUNDAY

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:**

October 19th at 4pm — today! November 23 at 4pm December 21 at 4pm

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

All are invited to join our 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>).

## TODAY AND THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday	Thursday	
October 19	October 23	
8:15 Service	7-8pm Bible Study	
9:00 Choir	VIA ZOOM	
9:30 Education Hour		
10:30 Service		
11:45 Small Groups Piercen Oliver and Kathleen Kean at St. Paul.		
4:00 Theology on Tap Mighty Squirrel, Waltham		



# 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 anazecicjeffers@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

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