# THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



November 16, 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, socio-economic 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, Jennifer Parker & Lydia Zehsow, *Altar Guild* Clara R. and Toby M., *Acolytes* Eric Haugen, *Lector* Bev Hjorth, *Cantor* Sandy Walker, *Deacon* Andy Airasian and Dan Ries, *Ushers* Hollie Schmidt & Mat Carter, *Livestream Broadcast Team* Peter & Hollie Schmidt & Lisa Chiulli Lay, *Coffee Guild* 

The Rev. Nathan D. Pipho, Bishop of the New England Synod, has authorized Samantha Menapace to preside at the Eucharist at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Arlington, MA on November 16, 2025.

When the instruction for standing \* appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable. At the  $\pm$ , you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism. The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

## **GATHERING**

#### **PRELUDE**

Sarabande from Keyboard Suite No. 11 in D minor, HWV 437

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

#### **WELCOME**

#### \* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

#### Amen.

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

Have mercy, O God,

against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is above earth, so vast is God's love for you. As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life through Jesus Christ. Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

Blessed be God forever.

#### All My Hope on God is Founded



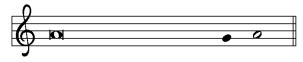


#### \* GREETING

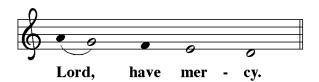
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

## And also with you.

#### \* KYRIE

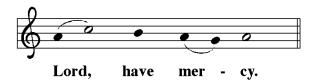


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



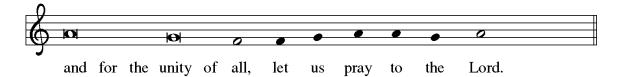


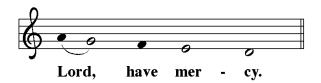
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.

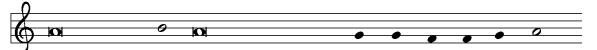




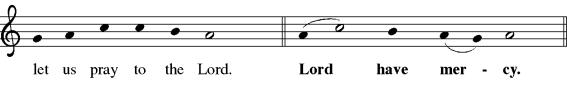
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

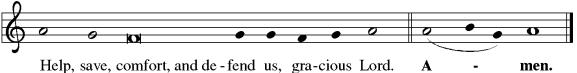






For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,





#### \* HYMN OF PRAISE





#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

## **WORD**

FIRST READING Malachi 4:1-2a

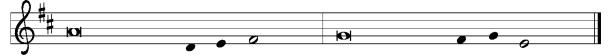
See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM (Read responsively at 8:15)

Psalm 98



Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done | marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

O Lord, you have made | known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.

You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the 'house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory 'of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, | all you lands;

lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.

Sing to the Lord | with the harp, with the harp and the | voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound | of the horn shout with joy before the | king, the Lord.

Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it, the world and those who | dwell therein.

Let the rivers | clap their hands,

and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who comes to | judge the earth.

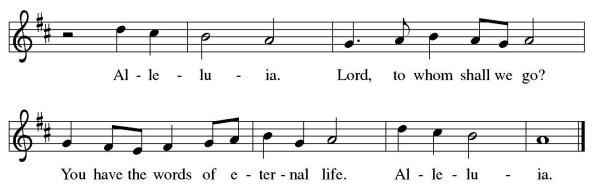
The Lord will judge the 'world with righteousness and the peo-' ples with equity.

SECOND READING 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right. The word of the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.

#### \* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



\* GOSPEL Luke 21:5-19

The holy gospel according to Luke.

#### Glory to you, O Lord.

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls." The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

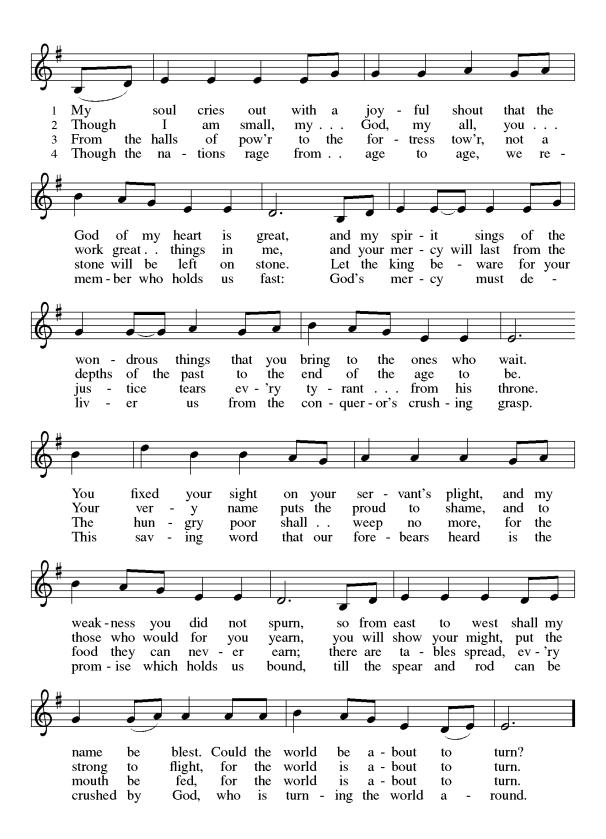
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Vicar Sam Menapace

SERMON Vicar Sam Menapace



Canticle of the Turning





My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus-tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

#### \*APOSTLE'S CREED

In trust and hope, 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

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters, especially those rebuilding after the destruction of Hurricane Melissa. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind, especially Bobby, Dan, Jim, Lynn, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, Roberta, and Susan. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Continue next page

God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness, especially Elizabeth of Hungary. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** 

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **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.

TEMPLE TALK (10:30 only)

ANTHEM (10:30 only)

If God Be For Us from Messiah HWV 56

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Erika Vogel, Soprano

## **MEAL**

#### OFFERING PRAYER

God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

#### 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;

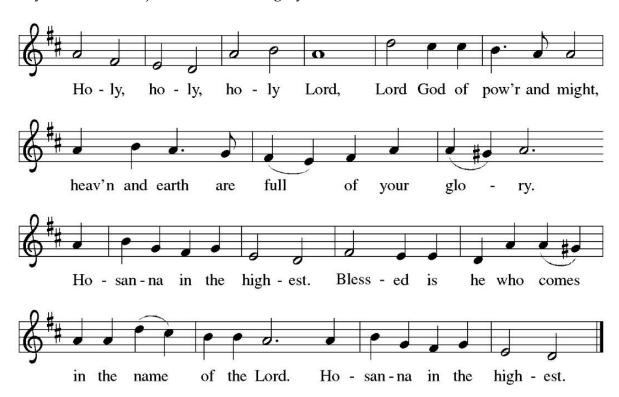
who on this day overcame death and the grave,

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:



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

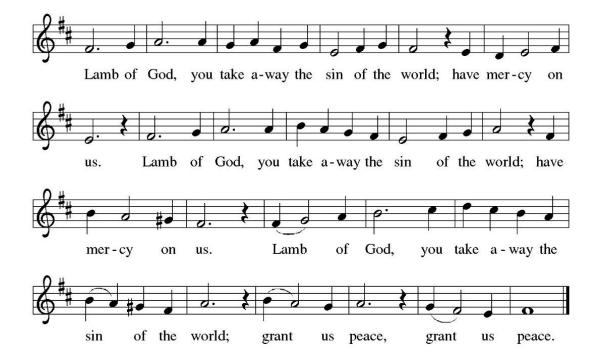
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

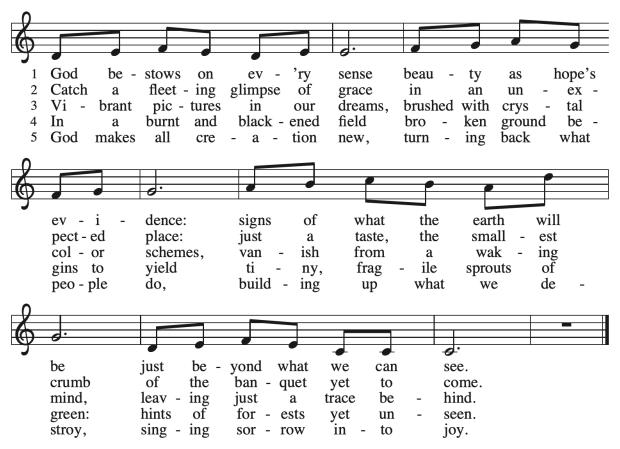
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

#### **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.





#### \*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

God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name. **Amen.** 

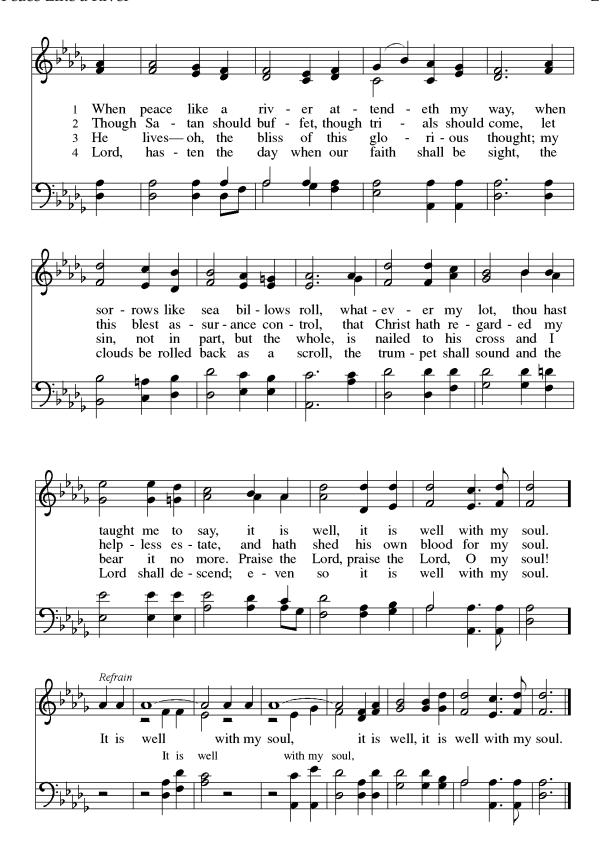
## **SENDING**

#### \*BENEDICTION

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 + grant you peace. **Amen.** 

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### When Peace Like a River



## \* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest. **Thanks be to God.** 

#### POSTLUDE

Gigue from Keyboard Suite No. 11 in D minor, HWV 437 (8:15am)

G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion from Messiah HWV 56 (10:30am) G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

Erika Vogel, Soprano

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

## at SAINT PAUL



#### ADULT FORUM TODAY

Join Vicar Sam for a conversation about the Book of Malachi in the Fellowship Hall from 9:30-10:15. Although it's only four chapters, this short book marks the conclusion of the Old Testament and includes many thought-provoking verses about God's judgment and God's promises. All are invited to join the discussion!

#### LUTHER LEAGUE EVENT | November 16

Come Bowling with Luther League on November 16 at 4:30 at Sacco Bowl Haven. Please let Sarah know that you're going to come by emailing <u>stpaularlingtonfamily@gmail.com</u>. Our youth talked about wanting to find ways to connect socially with one another - this is a great chance for this!

#### UPCOMING CHOIR PRACTICE FOR ADVENT

Please join the choir for Lessons and Carols! Even if you are not able to join us during the choir season, you're invited to participate in this special event! Here is our rehearsal schedule:

Wednesday, November 19th, 7:30 pm-9:00 pm (choir loft)

Wednesday, December 3rd, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm (choir loft)

Thursday, December 4th, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm (choir loft)

Thursday, December 11th, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm (downstairs)

Saturday, December 13th 4:00 pm-6:00 pm (downstairs)

#### ASCENTRIA GIVING TREE 2025 | Due by November 30

We committed to fulfill the wish lists of 20 of Ascentria's Unaccompanied Refugee Minors and Unaccompanied Children. Each minor lists 3 wishes. If you can participate, you can choose to fulfill 1 wish or more. Some youth have been very specific in the things they have asked for (much like Ralphie in the movie *A Christmas Story*), so donors are welcome to purchase a gift card toward the item if that is preferred. Bring your gift to church: unwrapped, gift tag/label (provided) firmly taped to package by Sunday November 30!

#### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS | Due by December 8

The Advent season is approaching! Please consider sponsoring poinsettias used to decorate the church for Christmas Eve services. They come in 6.5 inch pots and a choice of white, red, pink or marble colors, \$15/each. Any dedications will be printed in the bulletin. To order, you can call the church office, complete a form on the table in the Upper Narthex, or email your order to <a href="mailto:parishadmin@stpaularlington.org">parishadmin@stpaularlington.org</a>.

#### ARLINGTON EATS NOVEMBER NEEDS

We are thinking of soup and comfort food! In addition to monetary donations, we are spotlighting the following items for November:

- pasta sauce
- baked beans
- Soy sauce
- stock/bullion
- Crackers
- Barley
- Farro
- Instant mashed potatoes

#### THEOLOGY ON TAP: November 23 & December 21, 4PM

We will gather twice more at 4PM at Mighty Squirrel (411 Waverley Oaks Road, Waltham). Vicar Sam will lead a relaxed conversation about a different theological topic each month. The brewery welcomes families and includes alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages. All are invited!

#### 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="stepsilongraph">stepsilongraph</a> are not a subscriber, you can sign up on our website or email Vicar Sam for the Bible Study Zoom link (<a href="stepsilongraph">stepsilongraph</a> are not a subscriber, you can sign up on our website or email Vicar Sam for the Bible Study Zoom link (<a href="stepsilongraph">stepsilongraph</a> are not a subscriber, you can sign up on our website or email Vicar Sam for the Bible Study Zoom link (<a href="stepsilongraph">stepsilongraph</a> are not a subscriber, you can sign up on our website or email Vicar Sam for the Bible Study Zoom link (<a href="stepsilongraph">stepsilongraph</a> are not a subscriber, you can sign up on our website or email Vicar Sam for the Bible Study Zoom link (<a href="stepsilongraph">stepsilongraph</a> are not a subscriber.

#### TODAY AND THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday	Thursday	Saturday	Sunday
November 16	November 20	November 22	November 23
8:15 Service	7-8pm Bible Study via Zoom	5-6:30pm Lessons & Carols Choir Rehearsal	8:15 Service
9:00 Choir			9:00 Choir
9:00 Education Hour			9:00 Education Hour
10:30 Service			10:30 Service
11:30 Coffee Hour			11:30 Coffee Hour
4:30 Luther League Event: Bowling			4:00 Theology on Tap at 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

Chairperson

#### **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

Kathleen Kean Kevin Kreutter Pierson Oliver Taryn Walsh

#### Committees

Altar Guild Marie Breitenbach Faith Formation Committee Bev Hjorth 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** Dan Ries & Andy Airasian Transition Committee Peter Hedlund & Sandy Walker





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