

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Sunday, July 19, 2026

9:30 AM

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

9:30am | Holy Communion & livestreamed

10:30am | Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall or outdoors

LIVESTREAMING

Worship is streamed on our Facebook page StPaulArlingtonMA. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, but without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY

Marie Breitenbach and Lydia Zuehsow, *Altar Guild*

Lector TBA

Kevin Kreutter, *Assisting Minister*

Hollie Schmidt & Mat Carter, *Livestream Broadcast Team*

Peter & 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 ☒, you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism. The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.*

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

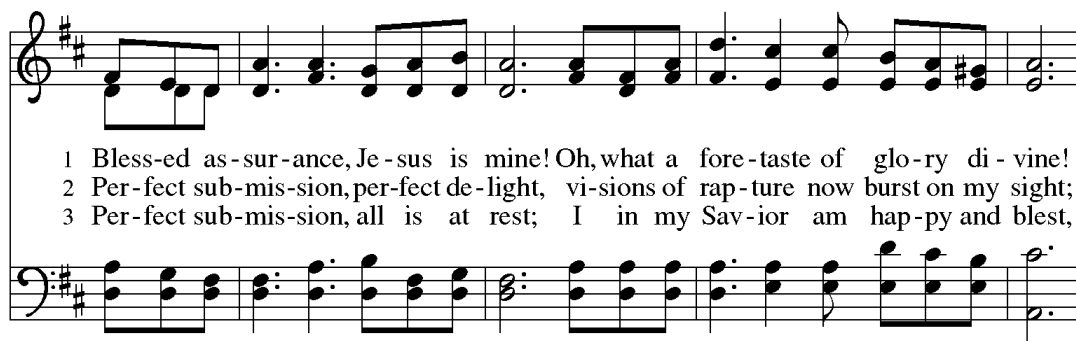
To you, O God, **all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of ☩ Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

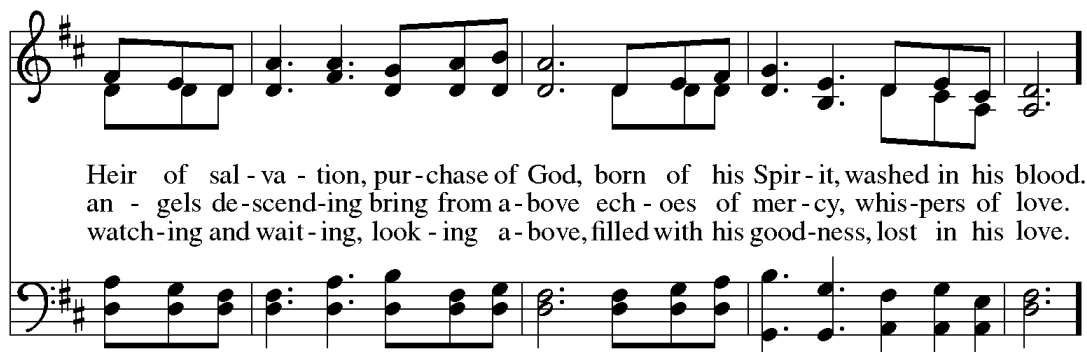
* GATHERING HYMN

"Blessed Assurance"

ELW 638

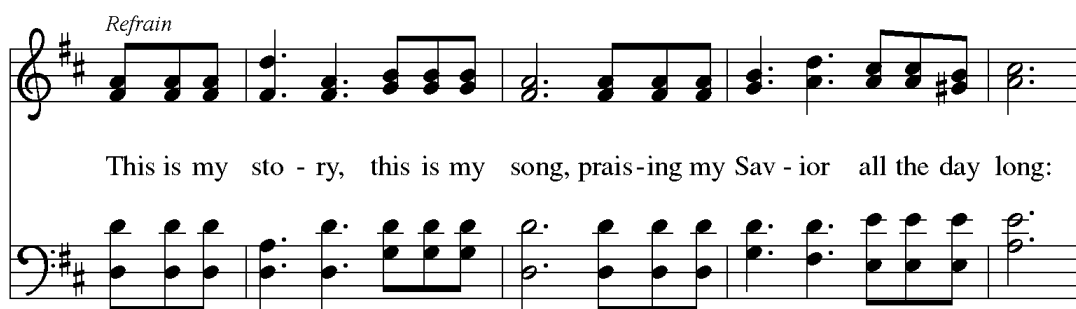


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

* 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: *Congregation:*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord, have mer-cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

to Verses

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)

Assistant:

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

* HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy, to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

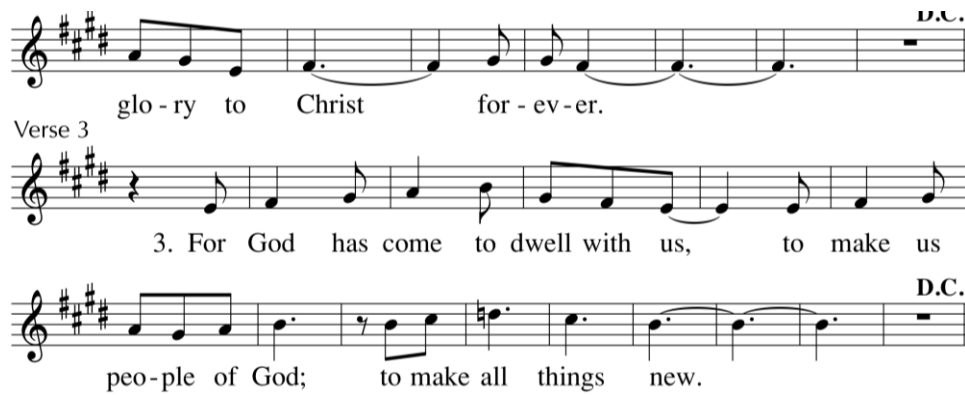
Verse 1

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and u - nit-ed us
to be one great peo - ple of God.

D.C.

Verse 2

2. Pow-er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 44:6-8

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.
Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.
Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalms 86:11-17

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth;
give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
**I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all my heart,
and glorify your name forevermore.**
For great is your love toward me;
you have delivered me from the pit of death.
**The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent people seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.**
But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.
**Turn to me and have mercy on me;
give your strength to your servant, and save the child of your handmaid.**

**Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame;
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:12-25

A reading from the book of Romans.

So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia! *Optional Repeat*

* GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and

sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

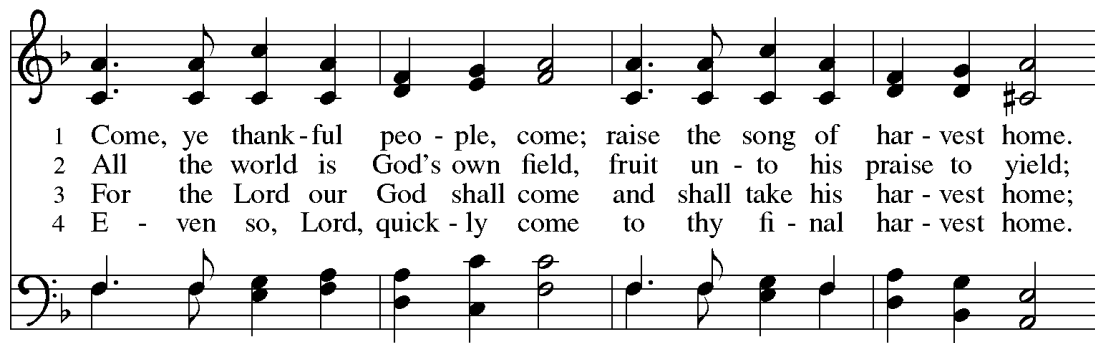
CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Pastor Don Larsen

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

ELW 693



1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.
 2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;
 3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;
 4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.



All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,

God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.

Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

APOSTLES CREED

With praise and gratitude, we confess our faith.

**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

As is our custom, please face one another across the center aisle. The deacon invites us to prayer and offers the first intercession. As you are moved to pray, you are invited to pray any of the following intercessions aloud.

We pray with the confidence that we have a gracious and loving God. Abba! Father! Hear us!

A brief silence

Rock and Foundation of our hope, we ask you to lead the church here and everywhere by your Spirit. Deliver us from cynicism and despair, and renew our trust in Jesus day by day. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Teach us your way, O Lord, and we will walk in your truth. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Mothering God, you gave us and all creation birth. We beg you in your tenderness to awaken us to the groaning of our planet under the weight of human sin and misuse of the planet's resources, and create in us a new heart that we may change our ways. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Holy God, we ask for peace between nations and peace within nations. We implore you for the blessing of good government, and ask you to grant us the will to address the growing inequities in our country. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our Haitian friends and neighbors, especially for the members of the Seventh Day Adventist congregation that shares our building, as the Haitian

community struggles to come to terms with the loss of Temporary Protected Status. Be with them in their fears, and help us all to speak out on behalf of immigrants and refugees. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

We also pray for the Korean Presbyterian congregation that shares our building as their search for a new pastor continues. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we ask you to guide the members of the St. Paul Call Committee. We thank you for their hard work on behalf of the congregation. Bless the pastors who consider the possibility of serving among us with wise discernment, and give us all the confidence that comes from knowing you are with us and will never abandon us. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For any who are sick or facing personal difficulties, especially for Adolf, Bobby, Dan, George, Jim, Kate, Lynn, Mark, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, Roberta, and Susan; for the unhoused, for the unemployed, for those facing financial struggles, and for all who yearn to know you. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Empower us to be a part of the way you answer prayer. Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For what else do we pray? *Other prayers, silent or aloud, are invited.*

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

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



OFFERING SONG

Refrain

Congregation:

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread;
so may all your peo-ple from all the ends of earth be
gath-ered in - to one in you.

Verses

1. As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst
2. Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when
to Refrain
may we share the pres-ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

* OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

* GREAT THANKSGIVING

Presider: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

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:

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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.



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:

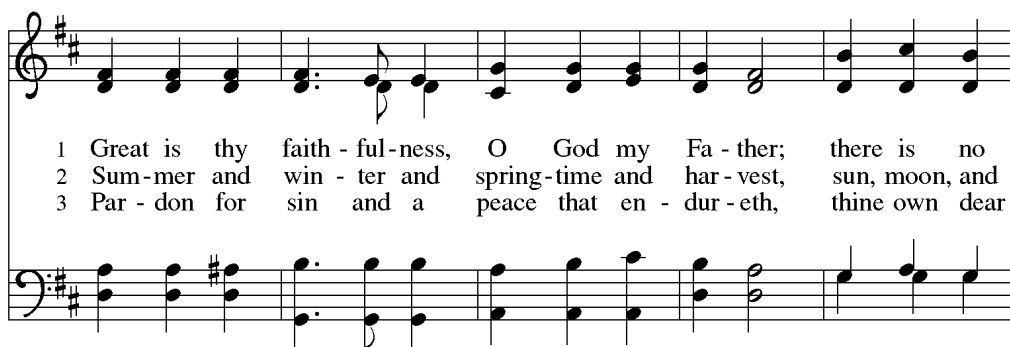


grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

ELW 733



- 1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
- 2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
- 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -
stars in their cours-es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas-sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer - cies I see; all I have need - ed thy

hand hath pro - vid - ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un - to me.

*** 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

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **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 grant you peace. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING HYMN

"Spread, Oh Sacred Almighty Word"

ELW 663

1 Spread, oh, spread, al - might - y Word, spread the reign of God the Lord.
2 Tell of our Re - deem - er's grace, who, to save our hu - man race
3 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n now to guide us on to heav'n,
4 Lord of har - vest, great and kind, rouse to ac - tion heart and mind;

Send forth our Cre - a - tor's call, heav-en's gifts ex - tend to all.
and to pay re - bel - lion's price, gave him - self as sac - ri - fice.
strong and ho - ly, just and true, work - ing both to will and do.
let the gath-'ring na - tions all see your light and heed your call.

* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING HAPPENINGS at ST. PAUL

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE | JUNE 21-AUGUST 9

The Social Ministry Committee invites the congregation to participate in an 8-week effort to support the academic success of local children impacted by housing insecurity and poverty. Our collection of basic school supplies will be delivered to Menotomy Manor, Arlington state-subsidized housing for low-income families with children under the age of 21. These children generally attend the Thompson School.

Please leave donations in the yellow bucket in same location as the Arlington Eats Box. Donations accepted June 21- August 9. Delivery will be in mid-August for distribution through their food pantry in time for the beginning of the school year. Questions: please contact Jan Sniffen.

Supplies Needed for Elementary Grades 1-5

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Pencils (#2 Ticonderoga) | • Thick Markers | • Plastic 2-Pocket Folders |
| • Personal Pencil Sharpener (with cover) | • Thin Markers | • Single Subject Notebook |
| • Crayola colored pencils (12 pack) | • Highlighters | • Box Tissues |
| • 24 count Crayola Crayons | • Glue Sticks (small) | • Sandwich size Zip-lock bags |
| • Crayola Markers (10 pack) | • Child Scissors | • Clorox wipes |
| | • Black Dry-Erase Markers | • Reusable Water Bottle |
| | • Black Sharpies | |

ARLINGTON EATS | July Spotlight Items

To keep things simple, we will have one spotlight list for July and August. The requests will help support the vacation lunch program for families with kids as well as everyone's summer picnics and barbecues!

- Condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, relish, hot sauce, soy sauce)
- Granola bars (especially MadeGood, Kind Bars, Z Bars, Yumi Bars)
- Snack packs (especially Goldfish, Pirate's Booty)
- Dried Fruit & Nuts (almonds, walnuts, dates, cranberries, dried apples, mango)
- Dried Seaweed
- Roasted Seeds (pumpkin, sunflower)
- Dish soap



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

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Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

Church Council and Officers

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Sandy Walker, *Vice President*

Eric Haugen, *Treasurer*

Piercen Oliver, *Secretary*

Mark Olson, *Financial Secretary*

Kristen Anderson

Eric Carlson

Elizabeth Heichler

Dave Hering

Kathleen Kean

Kevin Kreutter

Taryn Walsh

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Altar Guild

Faith Formation Committee

Intern Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Nomination Committee

Worship & Music Committee

Finance Committee

Audit Committee

Usher Committee

Property Committee

Call Committee

Chairperson

Kelli Oliver

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Kristen Anderson

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Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



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