

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Sunday, July 26, 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

Tom Berryman, *Guest Organist*

Marie Breitenbach and Jennifer Parker, *Altar Guild*

Kevin Kreutter, *Lector*

Taryn Walsh, *Assisting Minister*

Hollie Schmidt & Mat Carter,

Livestream Broadcast Team

Peter & Hollie Schmidt and 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

"Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness," J.S. Bach BWV 654

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

"All My Hope on God Is Founded"

ELW 757

1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my
 2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
 3 Great thy good-ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,
 4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of

trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,
 tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,
 pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,
 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing

on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -
 tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by -
 beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy
 for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and

lone, call my heart to be thine own.
 hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.
 store new - born worlds rise and my a -
 all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

* 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.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -

lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,

Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

PSALM

119:129-136

Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them with all my heart.
**When your word is opened it gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple.**
I open my mouth and pant
because I long for your commandments.
**Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as you always do to those who love your name.**
Order my footsteps in your word;
let no iniquity have dominion over me.
**Rescue me from those who oppress me,
and I will keep your commandments.**
Let your face shine upon your servant
and teach me your statutes.
**My eyes shed streams of tears,
because people do not keep your teaching.**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

A reading from the book of Romans.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

* GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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 is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Pastor Don Larsen

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

ELW 705



1 The Word of God is source and seed; it comes to
2 The Word of God is breath and life; it comes to
3 The Word of God is flesh and grace, who comes to



die and sprout and grow. So make your dark earth
heal and wake and save. So let the Spir - it
sing, to laugh and cry. So dare to be as



wel - come warm; root deep the grain God bent to sow.
touch and mend and rouse your dry bones from their grave.
Je - sus was, who came to live and love and die.



Refrain

Gau-de - a - mus Do - mi - no, gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no,
In the Lord let us re - joice, in the Lord let us re - joice,



gau - de - a - mus Do - mi - no!
in the Lord let us re - joice!

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.

Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

God our wisdom and our song, we pray for bishops, candidacy committees, those preparing for seminary, those awaiting call as deacons or pastors, call committees and all who seek to lead your disciples in any way. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our breath and our heartbeat, help us to recognize signs of your presence among us. Protect and support diverse ecosystems, from national parks to family

farms, from ranches to wild places. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our peace and our guide, help civic leaders hear all their peoples' stories with compassion and curiosity, and remind us of your love from which we can never be separated. God of grace, **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. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our intercessor and our lawgiver, dismantle the barriers to care and recognition of all who live with chronic

illness, mobility struggles, pain, and uncertainty. We pray especially for Adolf, Bobby, Dan, George, Heather, 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. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our redeemer, may we trust your love above and beyond all else that distracts, annoys, frightens, exhausts, or divides us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

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

God who seeks, finds, and saves, for our community's part in the ongoing gift of creation, and for the riches of faith and hope which came before, we give you thanks. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus. **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 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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

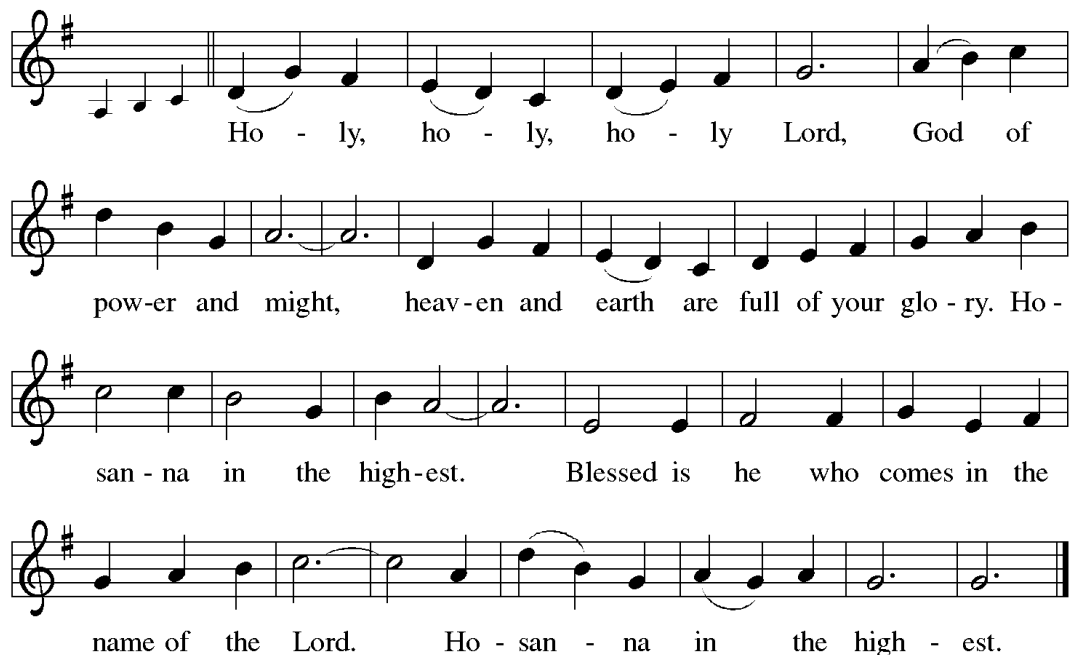
We lift them to the Lord.

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 (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.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

"I Received the Living God"

ELW 477

Refrain

I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

I re - ceived the liv - ing God, and my heart is full of joy.

1 Je - sus said: I am the bread, knead - ed long to give you life;
2 Je - sus said: I am the way, and my Fa - ther longs for you;
3 Je - sus said: I am the truth; come and fol - low close to me.
4 Je - sus said: I am the life, far from whom no thing can grow,

Refrain

you who will par - take of me need not ev - er fear to die.
so I come to bring you home to be one with us a - new.
You will know me in your heart, and my word shall make you free.
but re - ceive this liv - ing bread, and my Spir - it you shall know.

* 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

"In Thee Is Gladness"

ELW 867



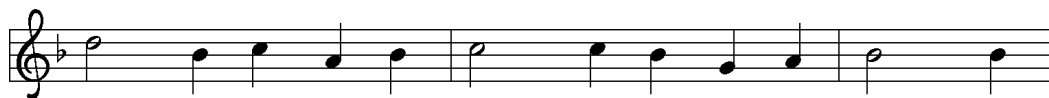
1 In thee is glad-ness a-mid all sad-ness, Je-sus, sun-shine of my
2 Je-sus is ours! . . . We fear no pow-ers, not of earth or sin or



heart. By thee are giv-en the gifts of heav-en, thou the
death. He sees and bless-es in worst dis-tress-es; he can



true re-deem-er art. Our souls thou wak-est; our bonds thou
change them with a breath. Where-fore the sto-ry tell of his



break-est. Who trusts thee sure-ly has built se-cure-ly
glo-ry with heart and voic-es; all heav'n re-joic-es



and stands for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! Our hearts are
in him for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia! We shout for



pin-ing to see thy shin-ing, dy-ing or liv-ing,
glad-ness, tri-umph o'er sad-ness, love him and praise him



to thee are cleav-ing; naught can us sev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!
and still shall raise him glad hymns for-ev-er: Al-le-lu-ia!

*** DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE

"In Thee Is Gladness," J.S. Bach BWV 615



ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING HAPPENINGS at ST. PAUL

ST. PAUL CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE July 23, 2026

The ELCA New England Synod staff have had several inquiries from pastors discerning a call and interested in coming to or staying in New England. Several have been given our Ministry Site Profile to review. Should any of these pastors indicate they want to begin a call discernment with us, we will be promptly connected.

It is helpful to remind ourselves that discernment is a process. It is not like a hiring process many of us experience in other sectors. Discernment involves reflection, prayer and a walk with the Holy Spirit. It takes time for a pastor to complete or update their Rostered Minister Profile (RMP) should they discern an interest in engaging in a call process. Submission of a renewed RMP is required to activate a candidate for a call process.

Thanks for continuing to join us in prayer for potential call candidates in their discernment, for our ministry together, and for all congregations engaged in a call process.

God's Peace –

St. Paul Call Committee: John Christianson, Josh Davis, Tommy McCauley, Kelli Oliver, Maile Takahaski Hedlund, Sandy Berlin Walker (Chair), Taryn Walsh (alternate).

RALPH JOHANSSON MEMORIAL SERVICE | Calumet Memorial Garden, Freedom, NH

Our brother Ralph Johansson died this past September. He was a member of this congregation for 82 years. He will be laid to rest on August 8th at Camp Calumet. All who loved Ralph are invited to join his family and friends for a service celebrating his life at Calumet's Memorial Garden on August 8, 2026, at 1:00PM. Reception will immediately follow.

continued

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

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



UPDATE ON CITIZENS BANK

You will recall that the congregation voted at the Annual Meeting to direct the Council to review St. Paul's relationship with Citizens Bank. A member of the congregation brought to our attention the fact that, at the time, Citizens was financing the construction of ICE prisons through two of its clients. Last week Citizens announced that it is severing its business relationship with these two clients, Core Civic and GEO Group.

You can read all about it in GBIO'S announcement of Citizens Bank bowing to consumer pressure. The GBIO announcement includes a handy link to Citizens own statement, which, as you can imagine, denies that it was bowing to anything but the invisible hand of the market.

<https://www.gbio.org/news/citizens-bank-severs-financial-ties-with-private-ice-prison-corps-yields-to-gbio-amp-allies-pressure-and-organized-money-campaignn>



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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Church Council and Officers

Kerri Frick, *President*

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

Bev Hjorth

Kristen Anderson

Janice Sniffen

Taryn Walsh

John Christiansen

Eric Haugen

Eric Haugen

Dan Ries & Andy Airasian

Eric Carlson

Sandy Walker



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



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