

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Sunday, July 5, 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 Goodman Fellowship Hall
or outdoors

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:

Jennifer Parker and Lydia Zuehsow, *Altar Guild*
Tim Ryan, *Lector*
Taryn Walsh, *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.

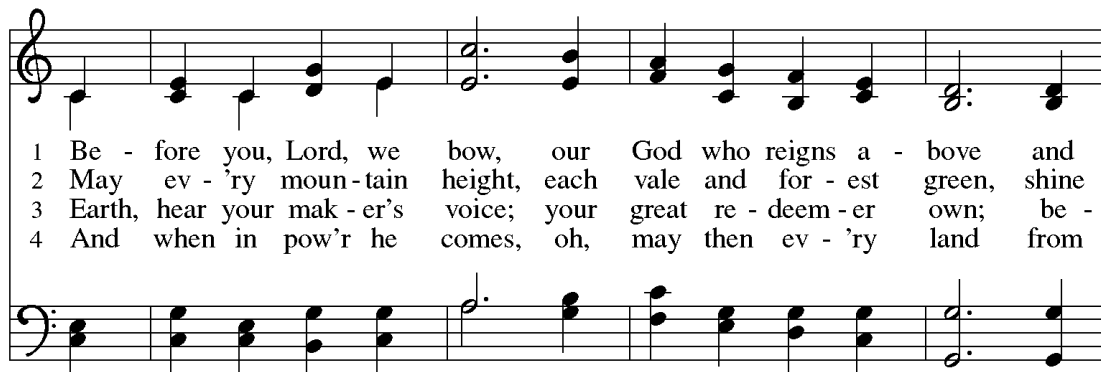
By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

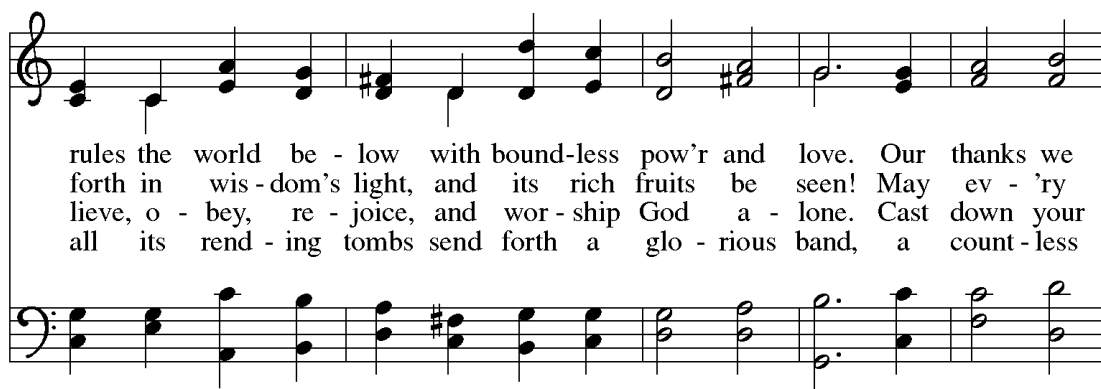
* GATHERING HYMN

“Before You, Lord, We Bow”

ELW 893



1 Be - fore you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns a - bove and
2 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, each vale and for - est green, shine
3 Earth, hear your mak - er's voice; your great re - deem - er own; be -
4 And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may then ev - 'ry land from



rules the world be - low with bound - less pow'r and love. Our thanks we
forth in wis - dom's light, and its rich fruits be seen! May ev - 'ry
lieve, o - bey, re - joice, and wor - ship God a - lone. Cast down your
all its rend - ing tombs send forth a glo - rious band, a count - less



bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise, to you we sing!
tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grate - ful song.
pride, your sin de - plore, and bow be - fore the Cru - ci - fied.
throng, with joy to sing to heav'n's high king sal - va - tion's song!

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.
Music: DARWALL'S 148TH, John Darwall, 1731–1789

* 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

Refrain

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




glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. D.C.

Verse 3



3. For God has come to dwell with us, to make us



peo-ple of God; to make all things new. D.C.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy Trinity, one God, you show us the splendor of diversity and the beauty of unity in your own divine life. Make us, who came from many nations with many languages, a united people that delights in our many different gifts. Defend our liberties, and give those whom we have entrusted with authority the spirit of wisdom, that there may be justice and peace in our land. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 10:17-21

A reading from Deuteronomy.

For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves the strangers, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt. You shall fear the Lord your God; him alone you shall worship; to him you shall hold fast, and by his name you shall swear. He is your praise; he is your God, who has done for you these great and awesome things that your own eyes have seen.

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

PSALM

Psalms 145: 1-9

I will exalt you, my God and king,
and bless your name forever and ever.

**Every day will I bless you
and praise your name forever and ever.**

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!

There is no end to your greatness.

**One generation shall praise your works to another
and shall declare your power.**

I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty
and all your marvelous works.

**They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,
and I will recount your greatness.**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

**The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

LORD, you are good to all,
and your compassion is over all your works.

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:8-16

A reading from Hebrews.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered himself faithful who had promised. Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

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



* GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose image is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Pastor Don Larsen

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"O Beautiful for Spacious Skies"

ELW 888

A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
 A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ry flaw,

and crown thy good with broth - er - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
 till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, and ev - ry gain di - vine.
 con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, thy lib - er - ty in law.

Text: Katherine L. Bates, 1859–1929
 Music: MATERNA, Samuel A. Ward, 1848–1903

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.

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Gathering God, send your Spirit on the church you have called out from every nation. Knit us together into one body and heal the divisions we have caused.

Overcome our timidity to witness and act in the public square when your purpose is being thwarted. Bless rostered and lay leaders with clarity and courage as they center your people in the gospel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

All your works praise you, O God. From the Arctic to the Caribbean, from the Atlantic to the western islands, these lands and waters have sustained its peoples over many centuries. As we take our part in creation's praise, revive our wonder at what you have fashioned, and enliven our will to ensure its health for future generations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our freedom, you are no tyrant but bring peace. As this nation marks its declaration of independence, teach us our part in announcing peace for future generations. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our comfort, liberate all in our community who are captive to fear, who have become isolated or ill, or who are in any need especially for Adolf, Bobby, Dan, George, Jim, Kate, Lynn, Mark, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, Roberta, and Susan. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God our guide, we do not always have the strength to do the good we wish to do. Free us from the cycles of violence that bind us, that all know your liberation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We ask that, by your Holy Spirit, you raise up new pastors for the entire Church. Work in the lives of people who are considering whether you are calling them into ordained ministry, and bless them with conversation partners who can help them discern their paths. Continue to guide the work of our congregation's Call Committee, and bless them with the confidence that their labor will not be in vain. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

You are the Mother of exiles, O God. Extend your arms to all who are tired, who live with poverty, the tempest-tossed, all who yearn to breathe free. Embrace people seeking refuge; those incarcerated, detained, or disappeared; and neighbors fearing those they once trusted. Give healing and hope to people in any oppression and need, especially these we name before you now (*a brief silence*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember before you those who have died in every generation: Jan Hus, executed for protesting the ecclesial system; Benedict, teacher of a prayerful life; and those who have died ensuring the freedoms of this country: people in the armed services, peace officers, advocates, and activists. Gather us, together with those who have gone before us, and with saints of every tribe and nation, into the holy city you have prepared. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your mercy, O God, we entrust our restless hearts and all our cares, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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

The musical score for 'Great Thanksgiving' is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is for the Presider and Congregation, with the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.' The second staff continues the Presider and Congregation parts with 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff shows the Presider and Congregation parts for 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is'. The fourth staff concludes the phrase with '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:

The musical score for the hymn is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It features three staves of music. The first staff is for the Congregation, with the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and'. The second staff continues with 'might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your'. The third staff concludes with 'glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!'. The time signature changes from 6/8 to 3/8 and back to 6/8.



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:

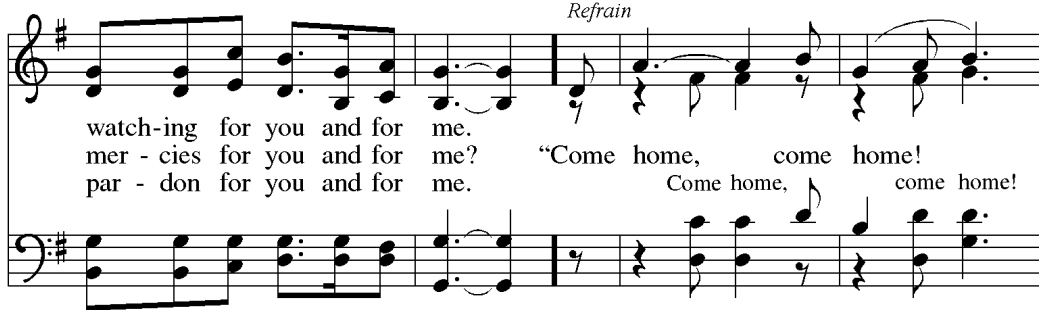
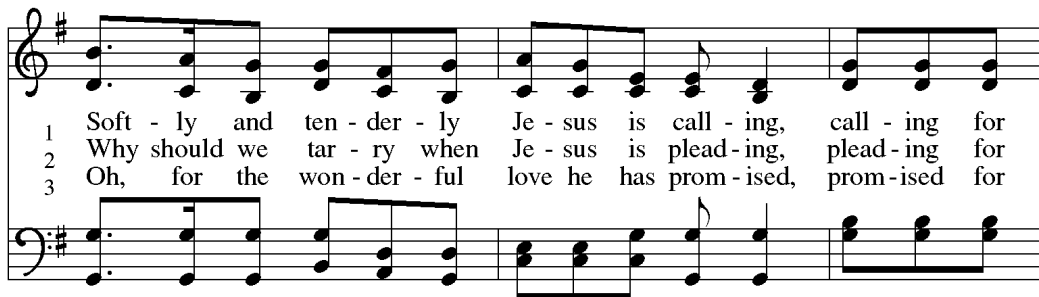


grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Softly and Tenderly”

ELW 608





You who are wea-ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,
 Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

* 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

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

ELW 841

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938
 Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873-1954

* DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS *and* UPCOMING HAPPENINGS *at* ST. PAUL

UPDATE FROM ST. PAUL CALL COMMITTEE | July 1st, 2026

Over the past few weeks, several pastors have contacted the New England Synod staff asking for more information about potential calls in New England. They are reviewing our St. Paul Ministry Site Profile (MSP) along with the same from several other call congregations.

Members of our Call Committee have personally reached out to over a dozen pastors in New England asking them to share our call with other pastors they know who may be open to discerning a new call. These pastors have connections through the Calumet Lutheran Ministries network and have served as mentors and regional leaders. Several of these pastors worked for one of the Lutheran seminaries - Gettysburg or Philadelphia - previously in their ministry.

We expect the next few weeks may be quiet with the July holiday and the fact that 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 your ongoing support and questions. Please continue to join us in prayers for potential call candidates in their discernment and for our ministry together.

Peace -

Sandy

Sandy Berlin Walker

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

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.

continued

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

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE GROUP VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY | July 8

Group Volunteer Opportunity at the Food Link Hub in Arlington on Wednesday July 8 from 3:30-4:30. This is a hand-on experience, activities may include sorting produce and non-perishable food, packaging baked goods, loading/unloading vehicles with supplies, and cleaning tasks inside and/or outside the building. Our group is limited to 10 individuals, Adults and Children age 10-18 accompanied by adult. This event requires registration and waivers. Contact Jan Sniffen for further details.



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

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Sandy Walker, *Vice President*

Eric Haugen, *Treasurer*

Piercen Oliver, *Secretary*

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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

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Kelli Oliver

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Kristen Anderson

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Lutheran Church
in America



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