

THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Sunday, September 6, 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, Lydia Zuehsow, *Altar Guild*
TBD, *Lector*
Sandy Walker, *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

ELW 557

Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun



1 A - wake, my soul, and with the sun thy
 2 All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and
 3 Lord, I my vows to thee re - new. Dis -
 4 Di - rect, con - trol, sug - gest, this day, all
 5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



dai - ly stage of du - ty run; shake off dull sloth, and
 hast re - freshed me while I slept. Grant, Lord, when I from
 perse my sins as morn - ing dew; guard my first springs of
 I de - sign or do or say, that all my pow'rs, with
 God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye



joy - ful rise to pay thy morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 death shall wake, I may of end - less light par - take.
 thought and will; and with thy - self my spir - it fill.
 all their might, in thy sole glo - ry may u - nite.
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: MORNING HYMN, François H. Barthélémon, 1741–1808

* 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.

Verse 2

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

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.

Verse 3

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

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

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-11

A reading from the prophet Ezekiel.

So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" * Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalms 119:33-40

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

**Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

**Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain.**

Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

**Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

**Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me.**

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-14

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet," and any other commandment, are

summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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 18:15-20

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND SERMON

Pastor Don Larsen

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Come Now, O Prince of Peace"

ELW 247

O - so - sŏ o - so - sŏ, pyong - hwa - ūi - im - gŭm

1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.

u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sŏ.

Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
 Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope
 Music: OSOSŎ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947
 Text and music © Geonyong Lee.

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 power of 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.

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. We pray especially for Bobby, Dan, Hollie, Heather, Jim, Kate, Lynn, Mark, Meredith, Naomi, Paul, Roberta, and Susan. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for (*name/s, and*) all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.
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: *Congregation:*

The Lord be with you. 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 pastor 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.

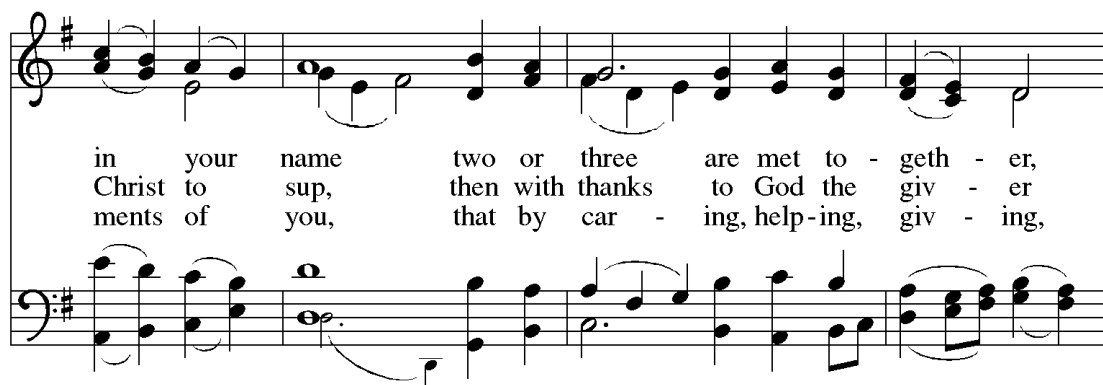
COMMUNION HYMN

"Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

ELW 470



1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er,
ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,



you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!
break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!
we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.
Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

* 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

Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

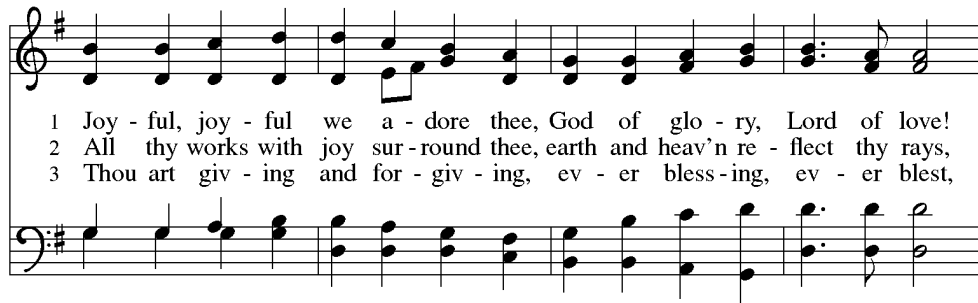
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor ☩ and grant you peace.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

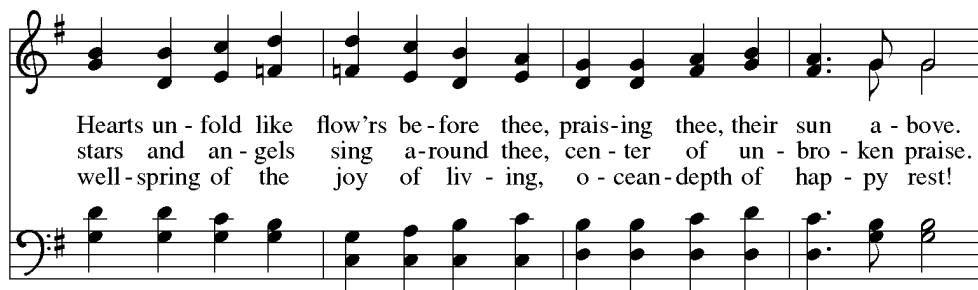
* SENDING HYMN

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

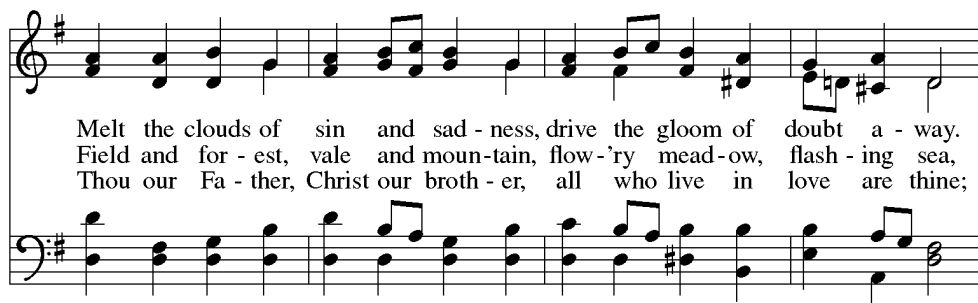
ELW 836



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922
 Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS *and* UPCOMING HAPPENINGS at ST. PAUL

MEALS FOR THE JOURNEY

St Paul is re-establishing a meal ministry to support members of our congregation who are navigating grief, recovery, or life transitions. If you'd like to help by cooking a meal or delivering one, we'd love to have you.

We want to have a system to respond when there is a need so if you are open to even occasionally participating, please sign up to be included on the distribution list where we'll arrange specific needs.

Lisa Hynes (lmhynes@gmail.com) and Jan Sniffen (JSniffen.js@gmail.com) will organize volunteers and liaise with members as they accept this form of support. We're honored to walk alongside our church family in trying times.

INVITATION FROM ARLINGTON EATS

September is Hunger Action Month. Arlington Eats is co-hosting an event with True Story Theater, Food Link, and the Robbins Library exploring Stories of Hunger Awareness and Action. True Story Theater brings together the delight of improvisation with the courageous vulnerability of people sharing their personal truth.

This is our second year collaborating on this event, and we really hope you can join us. Every year is different, and it is such a great way to see stories and experiences come to life. Please help represent Arlington EATS and put Thursday, September 24th, from 6:30-8:00 on your calendar. The event will take place in the Community Room of the Robbins Library.

September Spotlight Items:

- Gluten Free items - cereal, pasta, crackers, granola bars
- Quinoa
- Farro
- Pasta sauce
- Coconut milk
- Laundry detergent

- Dish soap

RALLY DAY

This promises to be an exciting fall season at St. Paul. God has so much good in store for you: We mark September 13 as Rally Day with a single outdoor service at 9:30 AM and lots of activities, both inside and outside, after the service (weather permitting). Good idea to bring a lawn chair and an extra, if you have one. If you forget to bring one, no worries, we have plenty.

LUTHERAN BASICS

Ever wonder what makes Lutheranism tick? What its contribution is to the Christian story and our witness? You are invited to participate in a conversation about Lutheran basics over four Wednesdays in September, beginning September 9, at 7 PM. We'll meet at church.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY RESUMES

Online Bible Study resumes on Thursdays at 7 PM beginning September 17.

RETURN TO TWO SERVICES

We will return to 2 service on September 20, at 8:15 and 10:30 AM.



SAINT PAUL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

Staff

The Reverend Don Larsen, *Transition Pastor* stpaularlington.interim.pastor@gmail.com
Ana Zecic Jeffers, *Director of Music* anazecicjeffers@gmail.com
Sarah Carter, *Children, Youth and Families Director* stpaularlingtonfamily@gmail.com
Jennifer White, *Parish Administrator* parishadmin@stpaularlington.org
Dennis O'Brien, *Church Property Manager*

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

Committees

Altar Guild
Faith Formation
Intern Committee
Social Ministry
Nomination Committee
Worship & Music
Finance Committee
Audit Committee
Usher Committee
Property Committee
Call Committee



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



Liturgical materials and visuals reproduced by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS003024. © Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible. Copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. © Music reprinted under OneLicense #A-709763. All rights reserved. © Psalm reprinted from *St. Martin's Psalter* by Thomas Pavlechko. Copyright © 2010 St. James Music Press.