

September 8, 2024  
Homecoming Sunday

No matter who you are,  
No matter where you are  
On life's journey,  
You are welcome here.

***Please silence cell phones.***

*Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.  
Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.  
The Nursery and Toddler Room are open for children ages 0-5, from 10 to 11 a.m.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"My family and I don't go to church to deny the existence of the darkness. We go  
to look so hard at the light that our eyes water."

Dorothy Fortenberry

PRELUDE

*It Is Well With My Soul*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Philip L. Bliss  
arr. Colleen Henry

INTROIT

*Lift Every Voice and Sing*  
Chancel Choir

J. Rosamond Johnson

Lift every voice and sing,  
'Til earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty,  
Let our rejoicing rise,  
High as the listening skies,  
Let it resound, loud as the rolling sea. Amen.

CHIMES

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Oh God, you are always with us!

**All: And always on your way toward us!**

One: Come, Risen One, light up our lives!

**All: Come quickly! We are here!**

*\* Please stand if you are able to do so.*



\* HYMN

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day,  
2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - - le - lu - ia!  
3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done,  
4. Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven!

Sons of men and an - gels say:—  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - - le - lu - ia!  
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,  
Praise to thee by both be given,

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,  
Dy - ing once, he all doth save, Al - - - le - lu - ia!  
Death in vain for - bids him rise,  
Thee we greet tri - um - phant now,

Sing ye heav'ns and earth re - ply:—  
Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - - le - lu - ia!  
Christ has o - pened par - a - dise,  
Hail, the Res - ur - rec - tion thou!

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures, and dynamic markings.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God,  
help us see that  
faith is not a risk,  
or a trick;  
Church is a relief.  
We feel better when  
we lay our burdens down.  
So we give you our cares,  
that you may care for us;  
our fears, that you may quiet them;  
our disbelief, that you might transform it,  
all this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

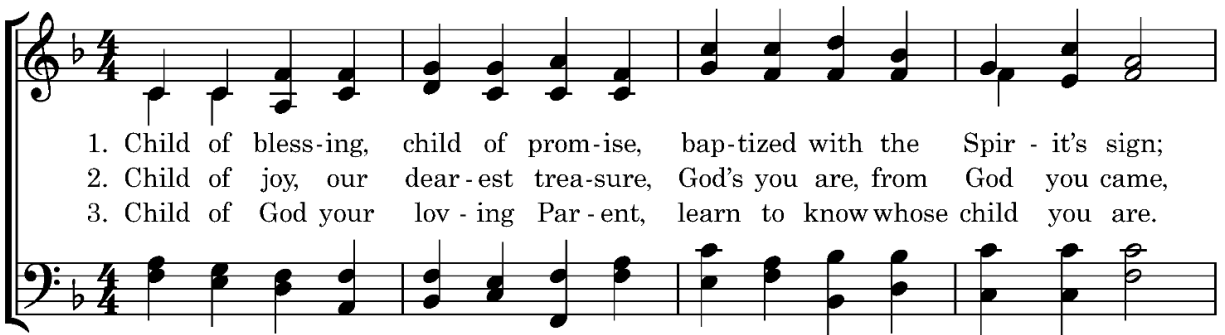
## MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

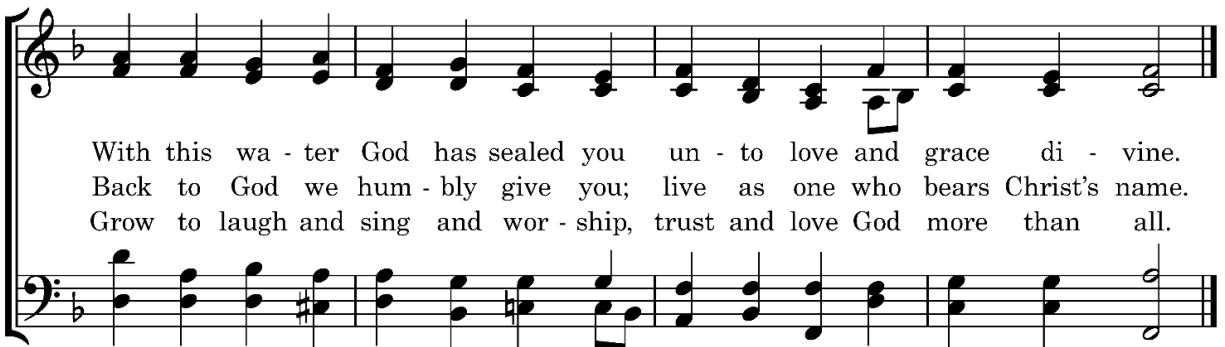
### RESPONSE

### *Child of Blessing*

v. 1



1. Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir - it's sign;  
2. Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came,  
3. Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.  
Back to God we hum - bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.  
Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

## THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OF

Zaac Matheo López Pacheco and Logan Alain Velazco Navarro

Pastor: Matheo and Logan, receive now the Light of Christ. May you walk always as children of light. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God. Matteo and Logan are now received into the love and care of the church. See what love God has given us that we should be called children of God.

**All: Almighty God, giver of life, you have called us by name and pledged to each of us your faithful love. We pray for your children Matheo and Logan. Inspire their lives. May they sing many songs, know many joys, heal many wounds, and embrace many people in your name. We pray for their parents, that they may be guided by your love so that they may know your presence. May we walk together with these families as witnesses to your gospel, as those for whom you have lived and died and live again. Amen.**

Pastor: Matheo and Logan, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

**All: Amen**

### **Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers and Dismissal of Students**

*Sunday School students will be escorted to their classrooms by the church staff.*

*Parents are welcome to accompany them and then return to worship.*

\* RESPONSE

*Child of Blessing*

vv. 2-3

SCRIPTURE

Winnie Kearns

*Isaiah 35:4-7*

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

‘Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God. He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the desert;

the burning sand shall become a pool,  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

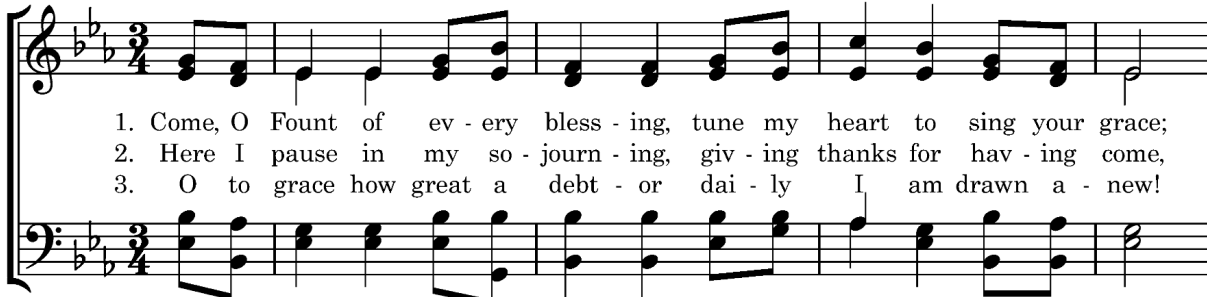
SERMON

“The Great Pleasure of a Faithful Mind”

Matt Fitzgerald

\* HYMN

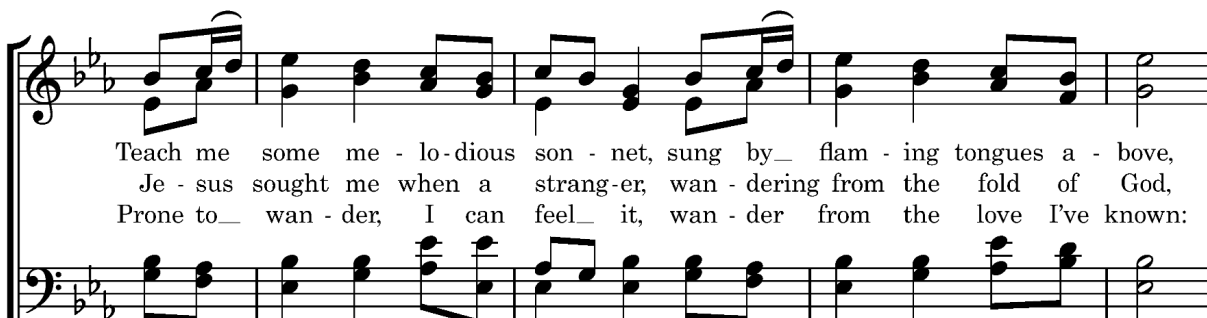
*Come O Fount of Every Blessing*



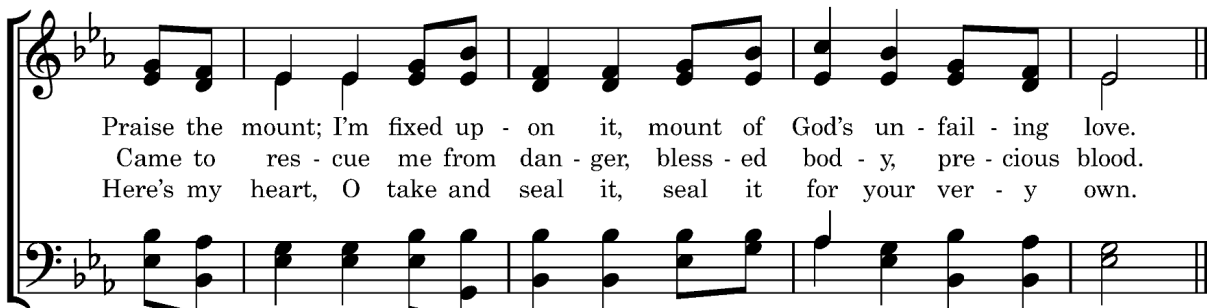
1. Come, O Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
 2. Here I pause in my so - journ - ing, giv - ing thanks for hav - ing come,  
 3. O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I am drawn a - new!



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of end - less praise.  
 come to trust, at ev - ery turn - ing, God will guide me safe - ly home.  
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to you.



Teach me some me - lo-dious son - net, sung by\_ flam - ing tongues a - bove,  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - dering from the fold of God,  
 Prone to\_ wan - der, I can feel\_ it, wan - der from the love I've known:



Praise the mount; I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - fail - ing love.  
 Came to res - cue me from dan - ger, bless - ed bod - y, pre - cious blood.  
 Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your ver - y own.

MISSION MOMENT

Oktoberfest

Lorne Frank

OFFERTORY

*Ain't Got Time to Die*  
Kurt R. Hansen, tenor  
Chancel Choir

Hall Johnson

Lord, I keep so busy praising my Jesus,  
Ain't got time to die.  
'Cause when I'm healing the sick,  
'Cause it takes all of my time,  
all of my time.

If I don't praise Him  
The rocks are going to cry out.  
Glory and honor,  
Ain't got time to die.

Lord, I keep so busy working for the Kingdom,  
Ain't got time to die.  
'Cause when I'm feeding the poor  
I'm working for the Kingdom,  
Ain't got time to die.  
'Cause it takes all of my time,  
All of my time to praise my Lord.

If I don't praise Him the rocks are going to cry out,.....

Lord, I keep so busy serving my Master  
Ain't got time to die.  
'Cause when I'm giving my all,  
ain't got time to die  
'Cause it takes all of my time,  
all of my time.  
To praise my Lord,

If I don't praise Him the rocks are going to cry out,.....

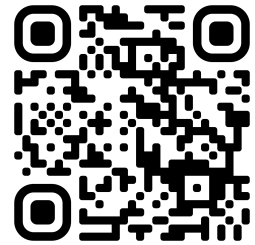
Now, won't you get out of my way,  
Let me praise my Jesus?  
Get out of my way!  
If I don't praise Him the rocks are going to cry out,....

*You can give to St. Pauls electronically:*

*Scan this code with your cell phone camera,*

*Church Center at [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving),*

*PayPal at [spucc.org/paypal](http://spucc.org/paypal), or Zelle to [giving@spucc.org](mailto:giving@spucc.org).*



**\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:

Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

## A Dialogue on our Statement of Faith

Pastor: Let us affirm together our faith as we receive these new members into our church.

**Congregation: We believe in God who has created and is creating.**

President: God has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new. God works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation: We trust God. God calls us to be the church.**

Pastor: Will you promise to support this congregation with your time, talent and resources, participating regularly in the worship of Saint Pauls United Church of Christ and contributing to our life and ministry in the city?

New Members: We do promise. With you, we will celebrate God's presence, love and serve others, care for creation, seek justice and resist evil.

Pastor: ¿Prometen apoyar a esta congregación con su tiempo, talento y recursos, participando regularmente en el culto de St. Pauls United Church of Christ y contribuyendo a nuestra vida y ministerio en la ciudad?

Nuevos Miembros: Lo prometemos. Junto a ustedes, celebraremos la presencia de Dios, amaremos y serviremos a los demás, cuidaremos la creación, buscaremos la justicia y resistiremos al mal.

Pastor: With your love, God will love. With your hands, God will touch the city. With your lives, God will bring justice and compassion to the world.

**Congregation: We promise you our love, support and care.**

**All: Together we will proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jeff Carlson



## THE 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.**

**Amen.**

### \* HYMN

### *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*



1. A might - y for - tress is\_\_\_ our God, A bul - wark nev - er
2. Did we in our\_ own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be
3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un -
4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a -



fail - ing; Our help - er he\_\_\_ a - mid the flood Of  
los - ing, Were not the right man on\_\_\_ our side, The  
- do\_\_\_ us, We will not fear, for God hath willed His  
- bid - eth; The Spir - it and the gifts are ours Through



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe Doth  
man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ  
truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim, We  
him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, This



seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, And  
Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sab - a - oth his name. From  
trem - ble not for him; His rage we can en - dure, For  
mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y they may kill; God's



armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.  
age to age the same, And he must win the bat - tle.  
lo, his doom is sure: One lit - tle word shall fell\_\_\_ him.  
truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - er.

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE     *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*     Peter Christian Lutkin  
Chancel Choir

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,  
And be gracious unto you.  
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,  
And give you peace.  
Amen.  
*from Numbers 6:24-26*

POSTLUDE *Finale* Charles-Marie Widor  
from *Symphony No. 4 in F Minor, Op. 13, No. 4*  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

## **INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES**

- Childcare is available for babies and toddlers up to age 5 during worship from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Nursery and Toddler Room downstairs. Activity “busy bags” are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service and children’s Bibles are in the pews.
- REGULAR SUNDAY SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION CLASSES resume today. Confirmation class meets at 10 a.m. in the downstairs High School Room. Elementary-age students are dismissed with their teachers during the worship service and parents pick up children after the service in their classrooms.
- High School students, bring a friend to our kickoff party on Friday, September 13th (yes indeed, Friday the 13th!) from 7-9 p.m. in the Youth Lounge. Join Pastor Matt and others as we feast on good food, enjoy games and conversation, and plan for an excellent year.

After today’s worship service, there will be a Sunday School Celebration in the gym complete with bounce houses, an opportunity for parents to meet their child’s Sunday school teachers, and cake!

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Clergy:** Liz Nickerson, Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson

**Music Director:** Kurt R. Hansen

**Organist:** Kevin Dzierzawski

**St. Arbucks Quartet:** Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

**Lay Liturgical Administrator:** Kevin O'Brien

**Scripture Reader:** Winnie Kearns

**Head Ushers:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** Mary Hoffman, Fred Pearson

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

**Camera Operators:** Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Jose Cruz, Brian Hafner

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

The flowers on the altar celebrate the September weddings of Char and Larry Damron, Char's sisters and their parents.

## **BORN THIS WEEK IN SEPTEMBER**

*We give thanks for your life at St. Pauls. A perfect way to celebrate is by giving one dollar for each year of your life to our Birthday Fund, which supports A Just Harvest.*

Sept 9 Joe JaQuay, Meg Canfield

Sept 11 Mary Brown

Sept 12 Eric Moulton, Lucas Banks, Matt Raterman

Sept 13 Henry Weil, Layla Baumann, Ryan Castle, Sharon Collins

Sept 14 Hannah Bryant, Stephen White

## **ST. PAULS PRAYS**

*Please clip this page and pray for those who are named below. To have your prayer request included, simply ask a pastor in person, on the phone or by email.*

*Our practice is to run each prayer request for four weeks and then remove it. If you would like to continue a prayer request after four weeks, let a pastor know.*

- Annie Johnson's uncle Rick, diagnosed with a brain tumor.
- Bob Ball's brother, Phil, being treated for leukemia.
- Nancy Bingaman's niece struggling with anxiety.
- Dobmeyer Huber family following the sudden loss of a loved one.
- Jayla Williams, relative of Aubraea Cleveland, as she continues chemo treatment for leukemia.
- Pat Kirby, dealing with a housing crisis.
- Karen Johnson and Nancy Barnett's father, Len, recovering from a fall.
- Deon Fayhee at the death of his father, Michael Ray.
- Bill Kennedy in therapy following a series of strokes.
- Judy Johnson, friend of Bobbi Ganello, recuperating from cancer treatments.
- Diane Massie and family at the death of her brother, Ira.
- Loved ones and friends of Dave Verduin at his death.
- Mike Stensaas, dealing with health problems.
- Scott Hibbard at the death of his father, John.
- David Baker's brother-in-law, Roger Robert, as he deals with the onset of Parkinson's disease.
- Pastor Liz's high school friend, Joe, who has ALS.
- The family of Rose Stone, who passed away, a relative of Juanita Barlow.
- Prayers for peace - in our city, nation and world.
- Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues cancer treatment.
- Betty Voice being treated for sepsis.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.

### **Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources**

Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. Help is available for every kind of issue. Contact one of the pastors today for support, referrals, and information that can help you and your loved ones.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



My name is **Carol Borysowicz**. I have 3 younger brothers and a sister, all still living. My parents lived in Joliet, close to where I worked. I am a retired public school teacher, having taught at Chaney Monge School District 88 in Crest Hill, IL for 30 years. I live in an apartment in Oak Park, and before moving there 3 years ago I lived in an apartment in Berwyn for 29 years. I'm an International Folk Dancer (2-3 days a week) and a lap swimmer.



Hello Saint Pauls! My name is **Alex Parenoff**, and I'm so excited to be joining this beautiful church! I found Jesus while attending college in the Lowcountry of South Carolina. When I moved back to Chicago, I fell away from the church, but you all opened your arms to me when I came running back. I have never seen such a loving group of Christians in my life! Through your love, I know Jesus must care about me very much. I feel incredibly blessed to have been led to this place, and I look forward to getting to know each of you!



We, **Yorleth Nacarid Navarro** and **Fausto Velazco Matos**, of Venezuelan origin, have entered this beautiful country with our family group in search of a new opportunity in life.



My name is **Juliannis Pacheco**, and on behalf of the Lopez-Pacheco family, I would like to thank St. Pauls United Church of Christ for supporting us at all times and for the great opportunity to be a part of this great family.



My name is **Nadia Jiménez**. I grew up in Chicago and Costa Rica and live in Ravenswood with my son, Aidan, and our dog, Oliver. I work as a consultant for The Chicago Department of Public Health and as an intensive care nurse. I'm passionate about community health after serving as Director of COVID Response and witnessing firsthand the need to advocate, educate, and provide resources for our neighbors. A classically trained mezzo-soprano, I am passionate about sacred music and enjoy singing with the choir at St. Paul's and as a soloist throughout Chicago.

Much of my free time is spent walking, gardening, and singing alongside my dearest friend Nancy Pifer. I'm moved to join a congregation that lives the message of welcoming everyone.



**Taylor Beebe** and I, **Lauro Ferroni**, live in Lincoln Park with our two daughters, Harper (4.5 years old) and Riley (1.5 years old). Taylor and I met in Chicago on New Year's Eve in 2005 and have lived in several Chicago neighborhoods over the years. Taylor originally hails from the Kansas City area, and I grew up between Berne, Switzerland and Washington, DC. Taylor's career is in litigation technology consulting, and I head up JLL's capital markets research team. Our older daughter, Harper, has spent the last two years enrolled at Little Lights, and we look forward to making social contacts and finding further community at St. Pauls!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **SEPT 10 & 17 - TUESDAY NIGHT PICKLEBALL** – 5:30-8 p.m., Gym

Have you tried the growing sport of Pickleball yet? We hold regular adult pick-up games in the St. Pauls gym every Tuesday night, separate from the Young Adult group games on Monday nights. Sign up at the Church Center link below or just show up at the Church gym! All ages and skill levels are invited. Game Time: Tuesdays: 5:30-8 p.m. (Come any time during that window.) If you have questions, call or text Steve Garrett at (312) 208-0636. To join us, visit: [tinyurl.com/Tuesday-Pickleball](http://tinyurl.com/Tuesday-Pickleball).

### **SEPT 15 - COURTYARD PICNIC** - 5 p.m.

For adults of all ages, join St. Pauls Social and host Jen Luerssen for a courtyard picnic in the St. Pauls front courtyard. Bring your own chair, food and drink and enjoy fellowship with others. The church will be open to use the restrooms if needed. Please RSVP using this link: [tinyurl.com/3hhrk633](http://tinyurl.com/3hhrk633).

### **SEPT 24 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP** - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall

Pastor Jeff Carlson will discuss selected aspects of St. Pauls history and what it might mean for today. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun and faith.

### **SEPT 28 - ST. PAULS OKTOBERFEST** - 1-8 p.m., Courtyard

It's Munich meets Chicago as St. Pauls hosts its annual Oktoberfest in celebration of its German heritage! What better way to tap into the excitement of this Bavarian tradition than with authentic German food, local Oktoberfest beers, live music and dancing, a jumpy-house, and games for all ages? This year's live entertainment will once again include acclaimed children's entertainer, Laura Doherty (1:30–3 p.m.), and the Midwest's premier oompah band, Die Musikmeisters (3:30–7:30 p.m.). This free event is open to the public and is family-friendly, so invite your neighbors and friends and join us at the corner of Fullerton and Orchard. In the case of inclement weather, the event will be held in our gymnasium.





**SEPT 29 - VACCINATION CLINIC BY MARIANO'S PHARMACY-** 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Gym  
Vaccinations will be provided by Mariano's pharmacy, including COVID boosters, shingles, pneumonia, and flu shots. **Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.** Don't forget to bring your COVID vaccine card and your Medicare or insurance card!

**Register now** at <https://tinyurl.com/kroger-scheduler> to book your appointment!

1. **Enter the Benefit Code:** Use **SPUCCVAC24** when prompted.
2. **Find an Appointment:**
  - Choose "Vaccines" for Appointment Type.
  - Enter **Chicago** for the City.
  - Select **09/29/2024** for the Date.
  - For "Add travel vaccines," choose **No**.
3. **Select Your Vaccines:** Choose which vaccines you want to receive.
4. **Unique Scheduler:** You'll be routed to a special scheduler labeled "**St. Paul's UCC.**"
5. **Pick Your Time:** Choose your preferred time slot. There are 5 slots available every 15 minutes.
6. **Complete Consent:** Finish by filling out and electronically signing the consent form.

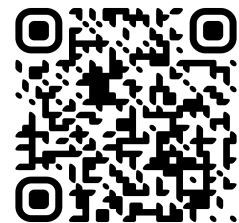
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### NEW MEMBER CLASS

Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for an upcoming New Member Class. Together we'll talk about faith and our community, and we'd love for you to be part of the conversation! We'll meet after worship, and childcare will be provided as needed (please let us know in your registration). See upcoming dates here: [spucc.org/new\\_member\\_classes](https://spucc.org/new_member_classes).

### CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Please register your K-6<sup>th</sup> Sunday School students, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation students, and High School class members by scanning this QR code.



### CHILDREN'S CHOIR RESUMES

Youth Choirs will resume on September 15! Any musically inclined kids, please join us! Kinderchapel Singers (*Preschool-K*) Sundays 9:50-10 a.m. in the Social Hall with Tom Clancy; Children's Choir (*grades 1-3*): Sundays 9:30-9:55 a.m. in the Chapel with Breanna Coe; Paul's People (*grades 4-8*): Sundays 9:30-9:55 a.m. in the Parlor with Kecia Waldschmidt.

### **VOLUNTEER FOR OKTOBERFEST**

St. Pauls' Oktoberfest is just a few weeks away, and we are looking forward to tapping into the excitement of this Bavarian tradition with authentic German food, local Oktoberfest beers, live music and dancing, a jumpy-house, and other fun activities. This year's live entertainment will once again include acclaimed children's entertainer, *Laura Doherty* (1:30–3 p.m.), and the Midwest's premier oompah band, *Die Musikmeisters* (3:30–7:30 p.m.). It takes more than 100 volunteers to pour 700 beers, serve 500 brats and hot dogs, and run kids' activities for seven hours. Can we count on you to join our team? As a volunteer, you will work a 2-hour shift and receive a free food/drink ticket. You will also enjoy the opportunity to meet new friends and to support St. Pauls' neighborhood outreach efforts. Please sign up at [tinyurl.com/4b4j2dr6](https://tinyurl.com/4b4j2dr6).

### **PALESTINE STUDY GROUP**

Broaden your understanding of the Israel-Palestine conflict in this thoughtful and supportive group. All are welcome. Contact David Burnett at [burnett.db@gmail.com](mailto:burnett.db@gmail.com).

### **"HEALING HEARTS" PET SUPPORT GROUP: ST. PAULS PET LOSS COMMUNITY**

Are you struggling with losing a beloved furry friend/companion/animal assistant? Losing a pet can be one of the most heart-wrenching experiences in life. At St. Pauls, we understand the deep bond you shared with your beloved pet/family member and we're here to offer support, understanding and a virtual shoulder to lean on. To join, visit [tinyurl.com/healing-hearts-support](https://tinyurl.com/healing-hearts-support). We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7-8 p.m. Age 18+ only, 30 participants maximum.

### **FAITH IN ACTION MESSAGING GROUP**

Some people call it showing up for a protest or marching against a government policy. Others call it public witnessing for the values inherent in our faith. Most of us appreciate being able to do both with like-minded members of our congregation. Members and friends of St. Pauls can join this group. If you'd like to receive advance email notice of such protests, gatherings or advocacy opportunities – frequently on short notice due to swift governmental action - or to invite others in the group to join you in an advocacy opportunity, join Faith in Action. Register here: [tinyurl.com/wuphf495](https://tinyurl.com/wuphf495).

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT** - provided by SPARC

**The UCC's "Voting with Love" campaign has officially begun.** As people of faith, it is our duty to “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy” (Proverbs 31:8-9). Let’s use our vote to protect and provide for those around us. During coffee hour on Sunday, **September 15, join our non-partisan Get Out the Vote table** to register to vote online, apply online for a mail-in ballot, learn about Illinois election laws, confirm your polling location, and much more.

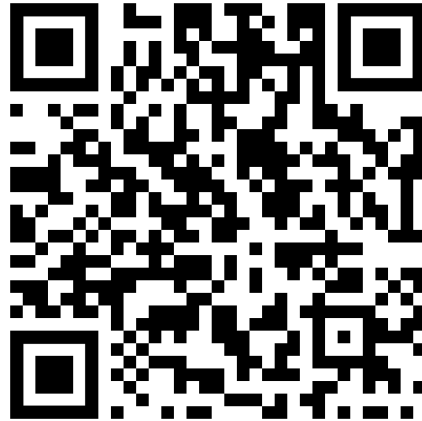
**CREATION CORNER** - provided by Green Team

“You crown the year with Your  
Goodness,  
And your paths drip with abundance  
They drop on the pastures of the  
Wilderness  
And the little hills rejoice on  
Every side.”  
*Psalm 65, v11-12, NKJ*

We are exhorted to celebrate God’s goodness during the harvest. However, as God’s stewards, we are also required to treat abundance with respect: 40% of food produced ends up as waste, half during production and distribution and the other half at home. So, plan your shopping, share your abundance and recycle through composting!

## **WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS!**

Thank you for coming to worship with us today! Help us get to know you better by scanning the QR code below.



## **WANT TO GET INVOLVED?**

Scan the QR codes to discover ways to connect with others.

### **JOIN A GROUP**



### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**



## TODAY'S MUSIC

Our Prelude, ***It Is Well With My Soul***, was composed by Philip L. Bliss (1836-1878) in 1876. He was a largely self-taught itinerant music teacher. Converted at age 12 at a revival, it was Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899), famous evangelist and founder of the Moody Bible Institute here in Chicago, who encouraged Bliss to become a singing evangelist. The text was written in 1873 by Horatio G. Spafford (1828-1888). He also gave the Bliss tune its name, VILLE DU HAVRE, which was the name of the ship carrying his wife and four daughters from Chicago to vacation in France. The ship sank in the Atlantic after a collision with another vessel and only his wife survived. He wrote this text ***after*** this loss. This arrangement was made by Colleen Henry (1946-2014), mother of Brendan Henry.

The Introit, ***Lift Every Voice and Sing***, is the joyous refrain of a longer hymn that is the unofficial anthem of black churches and the civil rights movement. J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), the composer, and James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938), the poet, were brothers who crafted this wonderful hymn together. They also wrote Broadway musicals and edited song collections as a team.

***Christ the Lord Is Risen Today***, tune EASTER HYMN or LYRA DAVIDICA, uses a text by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), the great Methodist theologian and hymnodist. The tune's composer is not known and is taken from a collection, *Lyra Davidica*; hence, one of the tune names. It is equally appropriate to sing this great Easter hymn on a day that has a real sense of resurrection for many at St. Pauls.

The text for ***Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*** was written in 1981 by a UCC pastor and teacher of theology, Ronald Cole-Turner (b. 1948). The tune, STUTTGART, was composed in 1715 by Christian Friederich Witt (1660-1716). Witt completed a huge hymnal, *Psalmodia Sacra*, the year before his death. Of its 774 hymns (!!!), he composed nearly 100. He was Kapellmeister of the Gotha court in Stuttgart at the same time that Bach was in Leipzig, just 300 miles north. An interesting side note is that Nathan Laube, world renowned organist and friend of St. Pauls, was until recently on the organ faculty at the Hochschule für Musik in Stuttgart. He has since returned to the faculty at the Eastman School of Music.

***Come O Fount of Every Blessing***, to the tune NETTLETON, is from the rich American tradition of the Sacred Harp hymnals, specifically *Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music*. The text was written by Robert Robinson (1735-1790), who began his professional life as an apprentice to a hairdresser before committing himself to a religious life.

Hall Johnson (1888-1970) composed both the music and text for ***Ain't Got Time to Die***. He was an author, composer, arranger, major choral conductor, teacher, and music historian who focused on recording and publishing spirituals. His students included Shirley Verrett. He was eulogized by Marian Anderson as having done more to advance the beauty and importance of the spiritual than anyone up to that time. This is another especially relevant musical and spiritual message as we celebrate a new 2024-2025 worship season on Kick-Off Sunday.

***A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*** is arguably the greatest Martin Luther (1483-1546) hymn and encapsulates the theology of the Lutheran Church. The tune name, EIN FESTE BURG, are the first three words of the original German text. Luther's original version is almost dance-like in rhythm. The recessional hymn presents a more majestic march.

***The Lord Bless You and Keep You*** was composed in 1900 by Peter Christian Lutkin, (1858-1931). He was the founder and first dean of the School of Music at Northwestern University in 1895. He was organist at St. Clement's Church, as well as one of the founders of the American Guild of Organists. Along with F. Melius Christiansen at St. Olaf College, Lutkin was one of the leaders of the American *a capella* choral movement in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Kurt R. Hansen's maternal grandfather, John Mahard Rosborough, received his Bachelor of Music degree in 1905 at Northwestern under Dean Lutkin and was his first accompanist. This benediction was composed while Kurt's grandfather was a student of Lutkin. The text is known as "the priestly benediction," and are the words that Moses was commanded to use when blessing Aaron and his sons before the completion of the tabernacle.

The ***Finale*** from *Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op 13 No. 4* was composed by Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937) and dates from 1872. Along with Louis Vièrne, Widor was one of the great Romantic symphonists for organ. Vièrne was one of his students, as was Marcel Dupré. He was born into a family of organ builders and composed 10 symphonies for the organ. He was also the organist of Saint-Sulpice in Paris from 1870 to 1933. This *Finale* has been eclipsed in popularity by his *Toccata* from the *Fifth Symphony*, but it illuminates his brilliance as both a composer and his talent as a performer.







## **ABOUT ST. PAULS**

*Making a Joyful Sound in the City!*

St. Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ+ people.

From founding Chicago's largest provider of social services to at-risk children to starting a home for the elderly, from housing protestors at the 1968 Democratic Convention to hosting Lincoln Park's first MLK day march against violence on Chicago's streets, we are proud to make a joyful sound in the city.

Most important, over the past 179 years we are glad to have introduced thousands of children and adults to the amazing, inclusive, life changing, uplifting love of God. We do so in worship that is traditional, but far from conventional.

Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald, [mfitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)

Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)

Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org)

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership  
Please visit [www.spucc.org/contact](http://www.spucc.org/contact)

**St. Pauls United Church of Christ**  
**2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614**  
**(773) 348-3829   [www.spucc.org](http://www.spucc.org)**

Free Parking is available Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
at the Lincoln Common Parking Garage, 2316 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Parking validation is available in the Narthex.



## **WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!**

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,  
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and  
our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children,  
grandparents and families of all configurations.

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to LGPTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

We are blessed by your presence and  
we are glad you are here.