

October 27, 2024
Reformation 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.*

PRELUDE	<i>Ein feste Burg, Op. 27</i>	Max Reger
	Kevin Dzierzawski, organ	

INTROIT	<i>A Mighty Fortress Is Our God</i>	Martin Luther
	(The original rhythmic version)	
	Chancel Choir	

CHIMES

WELCOME	Matt Fitzgerald
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* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Sing to God a new song.

All: Let the whole world sing for joy!

One: Take a deep breath, and fill your lungs.

**All: With all creation - animals, trees, planets and stars -
Make a joyful noise!**

One: For God so loved the world, and God loves you!

All: Let us worship the giver of immortal gladness!

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

* HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

The Chancel Choir will sing the third stanza in German from the *Ninth Symphony* by Ludwig van Beethoven. The congregation will join on the fourth stanza.

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are in English and are placed below the vocal staves. The first system contains four stanzas of lyrics. The second system contains two stanzas. The third system contains one stanza. The fourth system contains one stanza. The piano accompaniment is written in a simple, harmonic style, supporting the vocal lines.

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,
4. Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus Which the morn-ing stars began;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, Open-ing to the 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!
Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, Rec - on - cil - ing race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, Drive the dark of doubt a - way;
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow - ery mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
Thou our Fa - ther, and our Moth - er, All who live in love are thine;
Ev - er sing - ing, march we on - ward, Vic - tors in the midst of strife,

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.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward In the tri-umph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord of love, with you there is always more life, more hope,
and more joy than we can ever imagine.**

**Forgive us for failing to see your work
in the small things of everyday life.**

**Forgive us when we balk at action,
and refuse to turn on fully the tap of compassion,
settling for a mere trickle.**

**Open us now to your love that lets us relax into life,
that we might let go of the past,
and turn our faces toward you.**

Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Sunday School students are invited to go to their classrooms.
If you would like to accompany your child(ren),
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.*

RESPONSE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

verses 1-2



1. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,
2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;
Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
Thy own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they fail not;
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



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



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed Thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed— Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

SCRIPTURE

Louise Gram

Romans 16:1-7, 16, 25-27

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, so that you may welcome her in the Lord as is fitting for the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well. Greet Priscilla and Aquila, who work with me in Christ Jesus, and who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert in Asia for Christ. Greet Mary, who has worked very hard among you. Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives who were in prison with me; they are prominent among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

* STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,
who has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new,
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We trust God. God calls us to be the Church,
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to care for creation,
to seek justice and to resist evil,
to 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!

(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

* RESPONSE

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
See previous hymn

verse 3

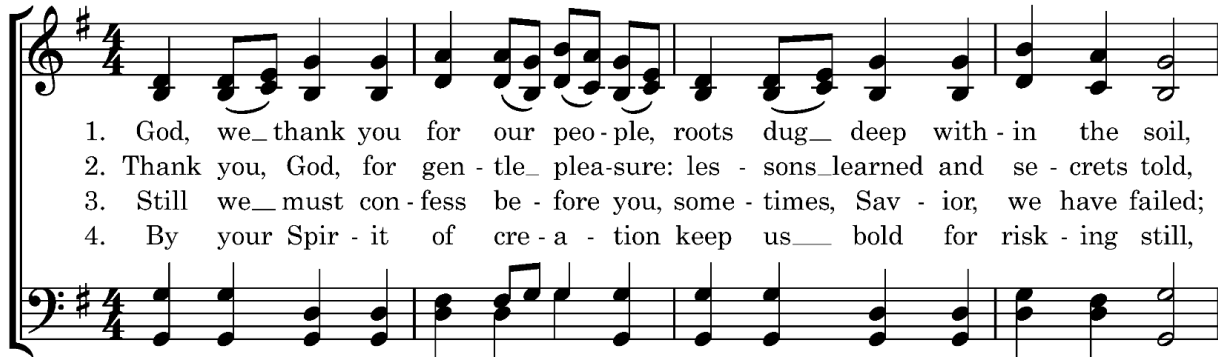
SERMON

"Alma Mater"

Jeff Carlson

* HYMN

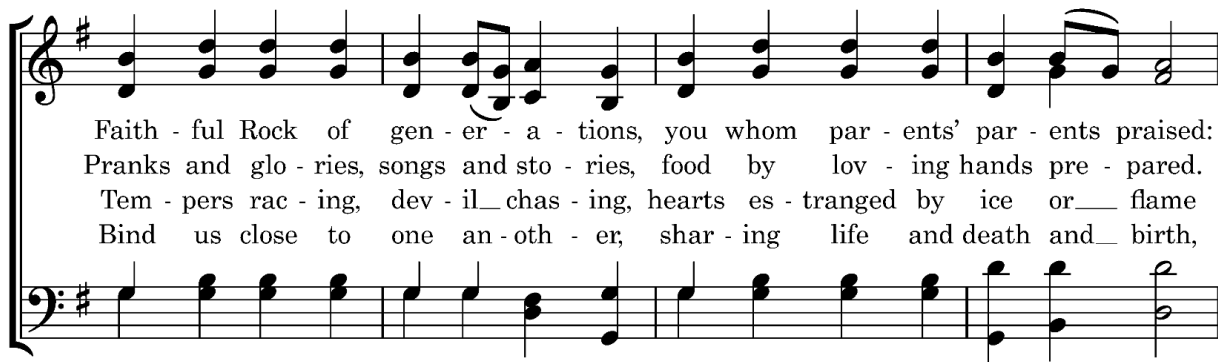
God, We Thank You for Our People



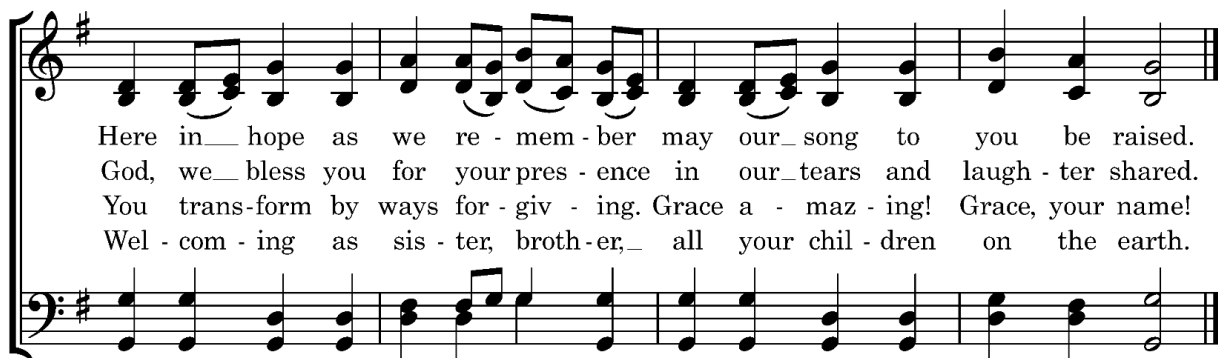
1. God, we_ thank you for our peo-ple, roots dug_ deep with - in the soil,
2. Thank you, God, for gen - tle_ plea-sure: les - sons_ learned and se - crets told,
3. Still we_ must con - fess be - fore you, some - times, Sav - ior, we have failed;
4. By your Spir - it of cre - a - tion keep us_ bold for risk - ing still,



har - dy_ spir - its, rich in_ lov - ing, strong for_ strug - gle, bold for toil.
hopes and mem - ories saved as_ trea-sure, passed to_ young ones by the old,
though we_ wor - ship and a - dore you, some - times love has not pre - vailed.
ea - ger_ in an - ti - ci - pa - tion, ev - er_ strong to do your will.



Faith - ful Rock of gen - er - a - tions, you whom par - ents' par - ents praised:
Pranks and glo - ries, songs and sto - ries, food by lov - ing hands pre - pared.
Tem - pers rac - ing, dev - il_ chas - ing, hearts es - tranged by ice or_ flame
Bind us close to one an - oth - er; shar - ing life and death and_ birth,



Here in_ hope as we re - mem - ber may our_ song to you be raised.
God, we_ bless you for your pres - ence in our_ tears and laugh - ter shared.
You trans - form by ways for - giv - ing. Grace a - maz - ing! Grace, your name!
Wel - com - ing as sis - ter, broth - er, all your chil - dren on the earth.

GIVING MOMENT

Monty Kehl

OFFERTORY

Lobet den Herrn
(Sung in German)
Chancel Choir

J.S. Bach

Praise the Lord, all ye nations:
Praise Him, all ye people;
For God, so gracious and righteous,
Watcheth over us forevermore.
Alleluia.
Psalm 117

Small Ensemble

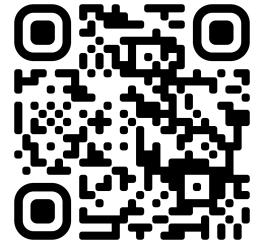
Jen Kew, Katie Alrutz, Nandia Jiménez
Breanna Coe, Amy Beck, Winnie Kearns
Nathan Streeter and Todd Coe
Lee Lichamer and Scott Banjavcic

You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

Scan this code with your cell phone camera,

Church Center at spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

PayPal at spucc.org/paypal, or Zelle to 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Liz Nickerson

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



POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
St. Arbucks Quartet

Martin Luther
arr. Carol Tornquist

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

- Childcare is available for babies and toddlers up to age 5 during worship from 10-11 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 are in session. 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 in their classrooms after the service.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson, Liz Nickerson

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: Louise Gram

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Camera Operators: Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Brian Hafner, Trevor Hafner, Maurice Wallace

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

Today's flowers are given by Larry Simpson in memory of Ed Zasadil on the centennial of his birth.

BORN THIS WEEK IN OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

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.

Oct 27 Cathy Knight, Claudia Walvoord, Eva Mack

Oct 29 Eileen Schrimpf, Pam Woll

Oct 30 Alayna Mack

Oct 31 Greg Kobak, Jackson Noonan, Lisa Doerr, Liz Raiman

Nov 1 Allen Heinemann, Nick Walvoord, Willow Clancy

Nov 2 Charles Wilk, Georgia Smith, Greg Mooney, Jean Wilk, Meggan Teague, Phyllis Grimm, Prentiss Koldyke

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.

- Jen Kew's father, Jim, diagnosed with a progressive lung disease.
- Jessica Ashley, recovering from breast cancer surgery.
- Aubraea Cleveland and her family on the passing of their loved one, Jayla Williams.
- Diane Biegert, recovering from a hip replacement.
- Dan Von Barga, being treated for multiple myeloma.
- Annie Johnson's uncle, Rick, diagnosed with a brain tumor.
- Kelly Jo Taylor's nephew, Stuart Ault, hospitalized for a motorcycle accident.
- Bob Ball's brother, Phil, being treated for leukemia.
- Nancy Bingaman's niece struggling with anxiety.
- Pat Kirby, dealing with a housing crisis.
- Karen Johnson and Nancy Barnett's father, Len, recovering from a fall.
- Bill Kennedy in therapy following a series of strokes.
- Judy Johnson, friend of Bobbi Ganella, recuperating from cancer treatments.
- 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.
- Prayers for peace - in our city, nation and world.
- 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY – SAVE THE PLANTS! SPUCC PLANT MOVING – 11:15 a.m. (after worship)

Now that the Congregation has voted to move forward with plans regarding the “Expand and Elevate Our Openness” campaign and that construction will begin before Spring 2025, the area to the west of the church building will be transformed into a lovely, accessible pedestrian plaza. Therefore, any plants and gardens currently there need to be moved before winter. The Buildings and Grounds Ministry and the Green Team are enlisting your support to help in this project. Please join us after church today as we transplant plants from the front (west facing side) of the church building to the Fullerton Avenue (north) and Kemper Place (south) sides of the church building. Bring your gloves, trowels, and shovels – and feel free to wear your “work clothes” to church! Many hands make light work!

TODAY – PLANT EXCHANGE – 11:15 a.m. (after worship)

The Green Team invites St. Pauls Members and Friends to exchange outdoor or indoor plants after worship on October 27. If you are interested, please bring plants you wish to share and take home samplings from others’ gardens or window boxes.

OCT 29 - 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.

OCT 30 – NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS – 12-12:45 p.m., Zoom

We’re going to study the oldest book in the New Testament, *1st Thessalonians*. Paul wrote this letter to a group of early Christians. Paul’s writing is buoyant, warm and hopeful as he encourages this first generation of followers of Jesus to live lives of love and endurance as a minority group within a powerful empire. Meets five Wednesdays over Zoom. Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/3kjxu9sp>. Questions? Email Jeff at jcarlson@spucc.org.

OCT 30 - COOKIES FOR A CAUSE (BAKE YOUR FAVORITE COOKIES AT HOME NOW!) - 5:30 p.m., Kitchen

Join the St. Pauls cookie bakers for dinner, socializing and cookie making on Wednesday, October 30. Meet us in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m. or whenever you can make it. We eat around 6:30. Cookies go to A Just Harvest and the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. If you can't join us, but would like to participate, you may drop off cookies with your name on them and marked MARCIA at the church on or before Wednesday, October 30. Please get in touch with Marcia Volk to reserve a spot and she will let you know what dinner/baking supplies are still needed. Contact Marcia at marcia@volkonline.com or (773) 307-6866. You may also contact Gloria Joseph at glrjoseph@yahoo.com.

OCT 31 - NOV 2 - UCC ILLINOIS CONFERENCE 2024 ANNUAL CELEBRATION

The Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ will hold its annual 2024 Celebration/Meeting at the First Congregational Church of Western Springs. The theme is "Embrace God's Imagination" and the keynote speaker will be Rev. Rhina Ramos, an ordained UCC minister who leads Ministerio Latino, a Spanish-speaking ONA, primarily LGBTQ Latinx immigrant congregation she founded in 2011. In addition to compelling worship services and educational workshops, the business meeting will consider and vote on a controversial proposed Revised Constitution and Bylaws, which will become effective after the 2025 Annual Meeting. A proposed budget and a status report on the search for a new Conference Minister will also be considered. The former Conference Minister, Rev. Molly Carlson, tendered her resignation this past summer. Any questions, contact Rick Peterson, St. Pauls representative to the Chicago Metropolitan Association (CMA) and the Illinois Conference of the UCC.

NOV 1 - WINE TASTING - 6:30 p.m., Parlor

Join St. Pauls Social and host, SPUCC Member Joel Chaiken, for an evening in Tuscany with a wine tasting in the St. Pauls Parlor. Joel will walk the group through a variety of wines from this celebrated and historic Italian wine region. Event limited to the first 20 to RSVP. You can RSVP at tinyurl.com/mussa9w4. Joel will be donating the wine but has asked for a minimum donation of \$15 per person to support the General Church Fund. Please also bring a snack to share.

NOV 3 - SENIOR LUNCHEON - 11:15 a.m., Social Hall

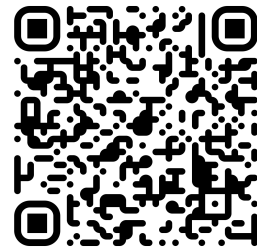
All St. Pauls members age 70 and over and their spouses/partners are invited to join us at the Senior Luncheon in the Social Hall on Sunday, November 3, immediately following worship. This is a fun opportunity to socialize with your peers. Transportation is available for those who may be unable to get to church. Please RSVP is needed so we have enough food by calling Sue Finkle at (847) 989-2635.

NOV 10 - NEW MEMBER CLASS - 11 a.m., Youth Lounge - Room 016

Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for the next 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 other upcoming dates here: spucc.org/new_member_classes.

NOV 17 - BLOOD DRIVE - 8 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room and Gym

This Halloween, skip the vampire and *give blood* on Sunday, November 17, during the St. Pauls Blood Drive, 8 a.m.–2 p.m. Sign up early via the QR code to secure your preferred time or go to tinyurl.com/SPUCC-blood-drive. You may also visit Redcrossblood.org for your eligibility questions; a lot has changed in the past few years. The need for blood donors is critical. Organizer: Sally Fletcher, sfletcher1443@gmail.com



NOV 19 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall

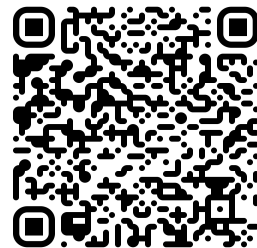
“Thanksgiving/Blessings” led by Doug Clark. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun, and faith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF EFFORTS - UCC RESPONSE

The United Church of Christ is responding to the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene, which has left more than 200 dead, millions without power, and damages exceeding \$140 billion. Several UCC congregations have suffered severe flood and wind damage.

St. Pauls Activism and Advocacy Ministry has voted unanimously to donate \$500 of their Council allocated budget to UCC Hurricane Relief funds. This contribution will help fund the relief efforts of the UCC for victims of both Hurricane Helene and Milton. The Ministry is encouraging members to contribute to this effort as an act of our faith for those whose lives have been seriously impacted by this tragedy. Together we can make a difference! Donations can be made online by scanning the QR code or by check to the National UCC. Thank you for your support.



LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES (LPCS) TASTE OF FALL - NOVEMBER 7

Join Lincoln Park Community Services (LPCS) as they kick off their 40th year of making a difference in the lives of homeless individuals with Taste of Fall, Thursday, November 7, from 6-10 p.m. at Ovation Chicago, 2324 W. Fulton. The event will feature food and fun for a great cause. For further details, visit www.lpcschicago.org. St. Pauls is one of four LPCS founding churches.

GENERAL ELECTION FOR CHICAGO AND SUBURBS - NOVEMBER 5

Please don't ignore this critical election! On November 5, voters will elect the President, Vice President and local candidates. Early voting began October 3 at 191 N. Clark Street and 69 W. Washington Street and early voting in all Chicago wards began October 21. Mail-in ballots were sent starting September 26 for those who requested them. All voting sites are ADA compliant. For more information on races, voter registration, mail-in ballots, and voting locations, scan the QR code.



WINDY CITY WINDS SEASON 10 – SAVE THE DATES!

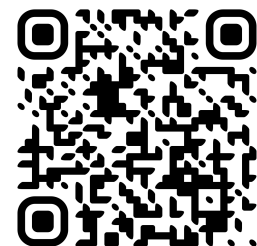
Windy City Winds, "Chicago's Community Band," announces their Season 10 concerts:

- Friday, November 22, 2024, 7:30 p.m. – "By Request: Music Suggested by Band Members"
- Friday, March 14, 2025, 7:30 p.m. – "Looking Upward: Music Inspired by Stars and Planets"
 - With guest conductor Dr. Kevin Gerald, Director of Bands, University of Illinois
- Friday, May 16, 2025, 7:30 p.m. – "Looking Back: Favorite Music From Our First Three Seasons"

Each concert will be in the St. Pauls Sanctuary, admission is free and each will be livestreamed. Come help us celebrate this milestone season!

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Please register your K-6th Sunday School students, 7th and 8th grade Confirmation students, and high school class members by scanning this QR code.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Youth Choirs are in session! Any musically inclined kids, please join us!

Kinderchapel Singers (*Preschool*) Sundays 9:50-10 a.m. in the Social Hall with Tom Clancy; Children's Choir (*grades K-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.

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.

"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. 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.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

Do You Know Your Carbon Footprint? A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions coming from the production, use and end-of-life of a product or service. The measure includes gasses, particularly carbon dioxide. The majority of an individual's carbon footprint is related to housing, food and transportation. Do you know how you score and how you can modify your choices? Please go to this website and see carbon-calculator.climatehero.me. You will be surprised!

A high negative contributor to your footprint are fossil fuels, particularly with airplane travel. Many of us travel during the holidays. Rather than jet travel, consider traveling by train. Or, if you must travel by jet, consider buying carbon offsets, which are shares in projects which add positively to the environment; for example, reforestation or carbon sequestration projects.

WELCOME TO ST. 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

Ein feste Burg Op. 27 (A Mighty Fortress) was composed in 1898 by Max Reger (1873-1916). It is a chorale fantasia, which is a very decorated and extended composition based on a hymn tune. As with a number of Reger's organ compositions, it is dedicated to Karl Straube (1873-1950). Straube was a phenomenal organist who actually had a bet with Reger that he couldn't compose anything that Straube couldn't play. Straube never lost the bet, and as you can well imagine, Reger's organ compositions are incredibly dense and difficult. Reger's name is not well known outside Germany and organists, but he has a huge list of compositions. Reger's music "dances" on the cusp of the final throes of romanticism before the "modern" music era was ushered in by such composers as Stravinsky and Schoenberg.

There is no better way as a church with a strong German heritage to celebrate the Reformation than with multiple settings of ***A Mighty Fortress***, the great Martin Luther hymn. Arguably the greatest Martin Luther (1483-1546) hymn, it encapsulates the theology of the Lutheran Church. Today's Introit is the original almost dance-like rhythmic version that Luther composed and congregations of that time sang. The recessional hymn presents a more majestic march. The final stanza is a harmonization of the final chorale by Bach (1685-1750) from his cantata bearing the tune name, EIN FESTE BURG, which is taken from the first words of the hymn in the original German.

The music for ***Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*** (ODE TO JOY) was composed by Beethoven (1770-1827) and is the chorale melody from the final movement of his *Ninth Symphony* (1824). The original German text (1785) was by the famous poet and dramatist Friedrich Schiller (1759-1805), and the English text was composed in 1907 by Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933). Van Dyke was an American author and clergyman. He was appointed ambassador to the Netherlands by President Woodrow Wilson prior to the outbreak of World War I.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness, tune FAITHFULNESS, dates from 1923 and was composed by William M. Runyan (1870-1957). He finished his ministry in Kansas and was particularly fond of the poet Thomas Chisholm (1866-1960), who wrote this text. Runyan set 25 of Chisholm's poems to music. Chisholm based this text on Lamentation 3:22 & 23: *Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed.*

The text for ***God, We Thank You for Our People*** was written in 1986 by Ruth Duck (b. 1947). She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and has written four volumes of hymn texts. HOLY MANNA is an unattributed melody from the great American series of early 19th century shaped-note hymnals, including *The Sacred Harp*.

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) wrote six motets that are virtuoso pieces for a “regular” church choir. ***Lobet den Herrn*** (Praise the Lord) BWV 230 is the sixth of the motets and is based on Psalm 117. The composition date is unknown. The motet features vocally effervescent choral writing at the opening and in the *Alleluia* at the close. The middle section describing God’s grace is a contrast using more lyric and liquid writing.

A Mighty Fortress is arguably Martin Luther’s (1483-1546) greatest 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.

This jazz setting of ***A Mighty Fortress*** by Martin Luther (1483-1546) was arranged by Carol Tornquist (1945-2022). She grew up in southwestern Pennsylvania and began playing piano at the age 4. Upon graduation with a Bachelor’s Degree in Music Education, she taught vocal music in upstate New York. After visiting her songwriting brother John Thompson in Nashville, she decided to move there and hone her craft as a composer and arranger of Christian music and piano method books.

Special Music Theme for 2024-2025

HEAR Ye! + Bach

Enjoy another year of special music during worship services.

H- Hebrew

E - English

A - Austrian

R - Russian

November 3, 2024 - Reformation Sunday - *Lobet den Herrn* - Bach

December 8, 2024 - Christmas Cantata (Hebrew & English)

Nachamu, nachamu ami - Max Janowski (*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*)

Fantasia on Christmas Carols - Ralph Vaughan Williams

with guest artist William Buchman, from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

February 16, 2025 - Northwestern University Chapel Choir – Guest choir in worship

March 9, 2025 - *Komm, Jesu, komm* - Bach

April 6, 2025 - (Austria) - *Requiem* - Mozart

May 18, 2025 - (Russian) - *Symphony of Psalms* - Stravinsky/Shostakovich

Mark these dates in your calendar!

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 181 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

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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.