

January 12, 2025

Baptism of Christ

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

"You must remember your baptism every day."

Martin Luther

PRELUDE

Someone Asked the Question-Why We Sing
St. Arbucks Quartet

Kirk Franklin

Someone asked a question
Why do we sing?
When we lift our hands to Jesus
What do we really mean?

Someone may be wondering
When we sing our song
At times we may be crying
And nothing's even wrong

I sing because I'm happy
I sing because I'm free
His eye's on the sparrow
That's the reason why I sing

Glory, hallelujah
You're the reason why I sing
Glory, hallelujah
You're the reason why I sing

INTROIT

Ding, Dong, Merrily on High
Chancel choir

CHIMES

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Remember your baptism! The love of God let his
people throw off Pharaoh's chains!

All: All praise be unto God!

One: Remember your baptism!
The love of God led Jesus into the Jordan's
baptismal water!

All: All praise be unto God!

One: Remember your baptism!
The love of God freed Christ from
the grave!

All: All thanks be unto God!

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

* HYMN

To You, O God All Creatures Sing



1. To you O God, all crea - tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery -
2. Your wind that blows the tem - pest by, your clouds that sail a - cross the
3. Your flow - ing wa - ters, crys - tal clear, make mel - o - dies for you to
4. To you, O God, day af - ter day, your plan - et earth in ev - ery
5. Now we who are of ten - der heart, for - giv - ing oth - ers, take our



- thing sings your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia! Your burn - ing sun with gold - en
sky sing your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia! Your morn - ing ris - es with a
hear, sing your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia! Your fire, boun - ti - ful and
way, sings your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia, As sa - vory fruit and fra - grant
part, sing your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia! To you we lift our pain and



beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais - es,
song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais - es,
bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais - es,
flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais - es,
care, re - ceive the bur - dens that we bear, sing - ing prais - es,



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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

**Fierce and friendly God, we feel alone.
Then here in church, we discover
friends, sisters, brothers,
grandchildren and grandparents
we did not know we had.
In this place, family is baptismal
and water is as thick as blood.
We confess that learning
we are not alone frightens us.
We fear sharing life means loss of self.
Give us the grace to learn that we have no life not
shared!
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

We Have Gathered, Jesus Dear

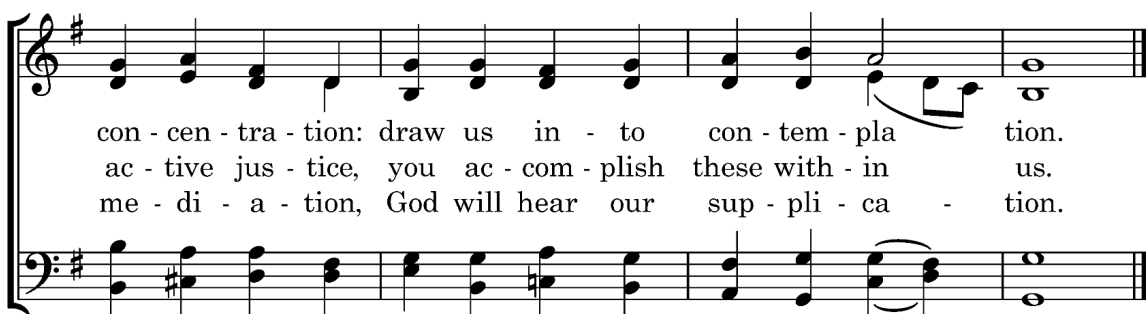

1. We have gath - ered, Je - sus dear, we have come to
 2. All our in - tel - lec - tual dreams come to noth - ing,
 3. Born of God, true light of light, Ho - ly Spir - it,



watch and lis - - ten. Fix our minds, our sens - es clear,
 fade at day - break. All our hope - ful plots and schemes,
 pure, un - fail - - ing: All our fac - ul - ties ex - cite,



to re - ceive your heav - en - ly les - son. Please im - prove our
 start in pre - tense, end in heart - ache. Thought - ful speech, and
 ears and heart and mouth un - seal - ing: Then, through Je - sus'



con - cen - tra - tion: draw us in - to con - tem - pla - tion.
 ac - tive jus - tice, you ac - com - plish these with - in us.
 me - di - a - tion, God will hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.

SCRIPTURE

Mark Sancya

Psalm 29

All Glory to the Lord!

Gods and angels shout, "Encore!"

In awe before his glory,

in awe before the glory of his name.

Stand at attention!

Worship the Lord in holy splendor!

God thunders across the waters,

Brilliant, his voice and his face,
streaming brightness—

The Lord, over mighty waters.

God's thunder majestic

God's thunder symphonic.

He makes Lebanon skip like a calf

and Sirion like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord flashes forth,

God's thunder spits fire.

The voice of the Lord shakes forests;

the Lord makes the deserts of Kadesh quake.

The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl

and strips the forest bare.

We fall to our knees crying, "Glory!"

The Lord rules the world from his throne,

sitting above the flood waters.

Enthroned forever, his power flows.

May the Lord give strength to his people!

May the Lord bless his people with peace!

* 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

This Is My Song



1. This is my song, O God of all the na - tions,____
2. My coun - try's skies are blu - er than the o - cean,____



— a song of peace for lands a - far and mine.____ This is my
— and sun - light beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine;____ But oth - er



home, the coun - try where my heart is;____ here are my hopes, my
lands have sun - light, too, and clo - ver;____ and skies are ev - ery -



dreams, my ho - ly shrine;____ But oth - er hearts in oth - er lands are
- where as blue as mine.____ O hear my song, O God of all the



beat - ing____ with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.
na - tions,____ a song of peace for their land and for mine.

* HYMN

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' love and
 2. When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -
 3. Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
 4. When Christ shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I then in

right - eous - ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
 chang - ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
 ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
 Love be found, Dressed in God's right - eous - ness a - lone, fault -

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 an - chor holds with - in the veil. *On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;*
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be - fore the throne.

all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

OFFERTORY

Beautiful Savior
Breanna Coe, soloist
Chancel Choir

F. Melius Christiansen

Fair are the meadows,
Fairer the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer,
Jesus is purer,
He makes our sorrowing spirit sing.

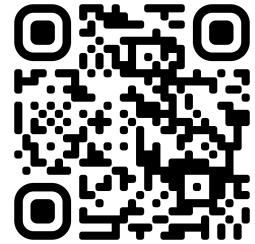
Beautiful Savior!
Lord of the nations!
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor,
Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine.

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

Musical notation for the Festival Doxology, consisting of four staves of music in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

1. Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -
2. Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -
3. Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -
4. Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -

- a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -
- rec - - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from
- cess - - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -
- mend - - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their

- plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - joi - ce— or - gan and
sin - ful de - jec - - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are
- cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly
notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er

trum - pet and voice— join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - - tion.
al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - - tion?
strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.
keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - - ing.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - - o.

POSTLUDE

Wie schön luechtet der Morganstern

Johann Pachelbel

Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

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.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL and CONFIRMATION classes are on hold during *Bible Off Broadway* rehearsals in January. We hope all of your children will participate in whatever way they prefer -- in front of or behind the scenes. Rehearsals are in the Social Hall, located directly below the Sanctuary, before and during worship from 9:30-11 a.m.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, 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: Mark Sancya

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Doug Clark, David Faulkner, Tim Reed

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by Lisa Donofrio and Bob Wild.

Would you like to donate altar flowers? Sign up here: tinyurl.com/4w6fu5js.

BORN THIS WEEK IN JANUARY

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.

- Jan 12 Charlie Coe, Lauren Fangman, Erin Fitzgerald, Susie Rodriguez
- Jan 13 Ginger Hecht, Max Waldschmidt, Molly McGrath, Phil Canfield, Sune Millard
- Jan 14 Alexis Crouch, Harper Braun, Hunter Braun, Katie Huber
- Jan 15 Adrian Broderick, Jonah Schloerb, Julia Frisch, Larry Simpson, Lindsey Liabo, Mark Sancya, Alan Cramb
- Jan 16 David Faulkner, Kristin Lane
- Jan 17 Mark Weglarz
- Jan 18 Annie Holland, Boris Tong, Cara Hotz

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.

- Marcia Knudson as she begins treatment for lung cancer.
- Sabrina Brancaccio, sister-in-law of Terry Hansen, for cancer diagnosis.
- Char Damron asks for prayers for Vicki Kendall and her family following Vicki's recent surgery.
- Thank you for the prayers of resolution for Pat Kirby.
- Juanita Barlow being treated for health problems.
- David Faulkner at the death of his mother.
- Wayne Bradley, recovering from surgery.
- The family of Don Johnson, beloved uncle of Jim Waldschmidt, who passed away after a long illness.
- Bob Ball's brother, Phill, being treated for complications associated with leukemia, and Jane, who is Phill's primary caregiver.
- David Folkes's daughter, Sarah Philomena, who has entered hospice.
- Cheryl Kennedy at the death of Bill Kennedy.
- Sally Acker, recovering from a fall.
- Jen Kew's father, Jim, diagnosed with a progressive lung disease.
- Jessica Ashley, recovering from breast cancer surgery.
- Dan Von Barga, being treated for multiple myeloma.
- Nancy Bingaman's niece struggling with anxiety.
- Karen Johnson and Nancy Barnett's father, Len, recovering from a fall.
- Judy Johnson, friend of Bobbi Ganello, recuperating from cancer treatments.
- 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 - CHILDREN'S BIBLE OFF BROADWAY REHEARSALS CONTINUE –

9:30-11 a.m., Social Hall

Bring your children aged 4 to high school seniors to the Social Hall now (even if they're late!) for *Bible Off Broadway* rehearsal, happening today and every Sunday in January in lieu of regular Sunday School. Whether onstage or behind the scenes, all children are encouraged and welcome to participate in a way that suits them.

JAN 18 - POLO OPEN GYM & LITTLE LIGHTS OPEN HOUSE - 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Looking for a place to get those wiggles out on a Saturday morning? Drop in at St. Pauls for some free play in the gym! Mini-bounce house, coffee and snacks provided. Little Lights classrooms open to visit and learn about our program. Bring a friend! Open to the community. Questions? Reach out to Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

JAN 19 - SACK LUNCH MAKING FOR LPCS SHELTER - 11 a.m., Kitchen

Make a difference by joining us after worship in the church kitchen on Sundays, January 19, February 16 and March 16 as we prepare brown bag lunches for clients at the Lincoln Park Community Services shelter. Learn more about the shelter at www.lpcschicago.org. We'll begin right after services (around 11 a.m.) and deliver the lunches to their location at 600 W. Fullerton.

We will provide all the food needed, but volunteers are asked to donate \$25 (cash or via Venmo/Zelle) to help cover the cost of the lunches. To sign up, please visit tinyurl.com/2v92p898. If you have questions or need more information, please email Mark Pellegrino at jjmarkp@yahoo.com.

JAN 20 - MLK: A DAY OF HEALING AND REMEMBRANCE AT UCAN -

11 a.m.-1 p.m., UCAN Nichols Center, 3605 W. Fillmore Street

Join Pastor Matt who will emcee a powerful program honoring the life and legacy of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Hear first-hand stories from families of victims of gun violence and how UCAN is making a difference and how to help. Lunch will be provided. RSVP here: tinyurl.com/4xhvvhvk.

JAN 22 - NEW BIBLE STUDY BEGINS: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN - 12 p.m., Zoom

John's stories and images have captured the imaginations of Christians in every generation. It's very different from the three other "Synoptic" Gospels in the New Testament, with material all its own. It depicts Jesus as the Good Shepherd, the Bread of Life and the Light of the World, always shining in whatever darkness may come. Led by Pastor Jeff, we meet weekly at noon over Zoom. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/bdzytb33

JAN 23 - MOMS' GROUP - Thursdays, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Youth Lounge

New additional weekday Moms' group meets at St. Pauls once per month on Thursdays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. on January 23, February 27, March 20, April 24 and May 22.

Being a mom is the hardest job in the world! So come meet other moms, make new friends, learn from each other, get advice, pray, and get renewed! Each month has a relevant theme on an issue you face as a mom. This month we will talk about fear and how to keep our fears in check. Free professional childcare is available. Babies can stay with their moms. RSVP to lnickerson@spucc.org.

JAN 26 - A POW PILGRIMAGE - 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Please join Music Director Kurt R. Hansen for a 30-minute presentation of a documentary about his pilgrimage last winter to Poland, Germany and France to follow the journey of his father, Kermit Hansen, as a German POW in 1944 and 1945. A Q & A time will follow.

JAN 28 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall

Learn about the unexpected ways that grief can impact you and your health and how a specialized massage can support your healing process. Facilitated by Cindy Ball, Licensed Massage Therapist. Adults of all ages are invited to make new friends and reconnect with old ones through lunch, fun and faith. Bring a friend or neighbor. Please bring your own lunch. Sponsored by St. Pauls Social.

JAN 29 - 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, January 29. Meet us in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m. (or when you can). We eat dinner around 6:30 p.m. Cookies will be donated to A Just Harvest and the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. If you can't attend but want to contribute, drop off cookies labeled with your name and "MARCIA" at the church by Wednesday, January 29. To reserve a spot or find out what supplies are needed, contact Marcia Volk at marcia@volkonline.com or (773) 307-6866, or Gloria Joseph at glrjoseph@yahoo.com.

FEB 2 - SPORTS EQUIPMENT DRIVE - Oscar Mayer Room

(before and after BOB performance)

In an effort to support UCAN's youth sports programs, we're collecting gently used sports equipment. Please sift through your closets and garages for sporting goods your family is no longer using - we'll take them! Most needed equipment: baseball, soccer, basketball, tennis, volleyball, kickball, and rugby. Organizer: Jill Lawrence jill_lawrence@yahoo.com, (773) 573-9306.

FEB 8 - SING ALONG *SOUND OF MUSIC* - 4 p.m., Youth Lounge

Join St. Pauls Adult Social and host Jen Luerksen for “Sing Along *Sound of Music*” in our own St. Pauls Youth Lounge. Bring your singing voice as we watch the movie and sing along with the bouncing ball. Bring a drink and snack to share. The movie will start at 4:30 p.m. with fellowship before and afterward. RSVP here: tinyurl.com/4hxjezm7.

FEB 9 - NEW MEMBER CLASS – 11 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for our 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.

FEB 21 - ST. PAULS SOCIAL WHISKEY TASTING - 7 p.m., Parlor

Join St. Pauls Adult Social and host Todd Coe for a whiskey tasting. Todd will walk us through the sights, smells and tastes of several different whiskeys and discuss what to look for when shopping for a bottle of your own. Please bring a snack to share. Todd is generously donating the whiskeys, but a \$10 donation that will go toward the Migrant Housing Project–Legal Fund is requested. Please RSVP here by Friday, February 14: tinyurl.com/2ybfan52. The event is limited to the first 20 registered attendees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUMPSTART GYM – JANUARY 7-MARCH 19

Parents/Caregivers supervise children ages 0-3 in an open-ended environment. Take advantage of our beautiful full-size gym while it's cold outside and your little one needs a place to get those wiggles out! Our first Jumpstart Gym time is Tuesday, January 7, and continues on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9-9:45 a.m. through March 19. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/3hnt2rjw>. Reach out to Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org if you have any questions. Thank you!

FAITH AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – THE NEW BOOK GROUP

Artificial Intelligence raises important questions for Christians. If you are interested in how faith and technology intersect, our new book group is for you. Join Pastor Matt, Helen Chang and others for two sessions to discuss *God, Human, Animal, Machine* by essayist Megan O'Gieblyn. The New York Times calls the book "A rigorously thoughtful collection of meditations on technology, humanity and religion, and crucially, a memoir." Meetings will be in late January and February, dates will be determined once registration is complete. Register here: tinyurl.com/ms5wuwma

URBAN POVERTY IN PITTSBURGH – JUNE 15-21

2025 Youth Mission Trip Special Meeting January 26th

Teens and parents, please attend a special meeting after worship on Sunday, January 26, in the High School Room. Come learn more about this year's trip, travel plans, cost, fundraising efforts, and more. We are excited to invite our youth on the summer 2025 trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, June 15-21. Youth will work with activists and church leaders from the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg, a dynamic interracial congregation in the heart of the community. We will stay at the church, joining youth and young adults from the Wilkinsburg Church in a weeklong effort called "Project Peace." We will do carpentry, urban gardening, and other projects in the neighborhood. Lessons learned will be brought home and put to work at St. Pauls and in Chicago. If you are already planning to join the adventure, you can register here: tinyurl.com/mrxmed3c.

NEW SMALL GROUPS! SHORT CIRCLES: REGISTER TODAY

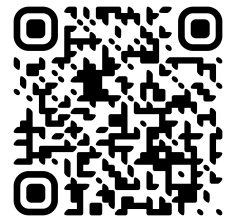
Short Circles are small groups for people who want to experience growth in their spiritual lives. In circles of 6-8 people, we will connect to God and one another. We will meet for 50-60 minutes once a week for six weeks beginning in early February. Each week, your Short Circle will focus on a few short verses of scripture using the ancient method of "lectio divina" or "spiritual reading." The aim is for you to discover what God is calling you to do or to become in 2025. Upon registration, you will indicate whether you prefer to meet in person or via Zoom, along with your day/evening preferences. Register here: tinyurl.com/mry4acbf

JOIN OUR INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA

Do you play an orchestral string, woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument? If so, please join the St. Pauls UCC Intergenerational Orchestra as we prepare to perform in worship on Sunday, March 16. Orchestra members range in age from 10 to 100! Rehearsals are immediately after church for about an hour in the Oscar Mayer Room on February 23, March 2 and March 9. If you are interested, please contact our conductor Mark Mosley at (773) 732-0625 or mwmosley@gmail.com. Please join us as together we "Make a Joyful Sound in the City!"

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.



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.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Join United Way of Metro Chicago for a free exclusive conversation with Chicago urban historian Shermann "Dilla" Thomas to explore The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy and culture. Learn more about MLK's unique connection to Chicago and what's happening now in the neighborhoods where he spent time. Register here to attend one of two free Zoom broadcasts: tinyurl.com/5b38a5uv.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

REFLECT ON CREATION JUSTICE

Dear Lord, we renew our covenant to be good stewards of your Earth. Forgive us for abuse of your creation.

Lead us to abandon practices that harm.

Help us to joyfully and justly enrich your world.

Give us strength for lovingly tending your garden, O God.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS

Our Stephen Ministers are here for you if you are going through a tough time. Extensively trained in compassionate Christian caregiving, Stephen Ministers are matched confidentially with someone in our congregation who is going through a crisis, such as the death of a loved one, a diagnosis, a divorce, a job loss, etc. They meet with you once a week for an hour to offer support through listening, companionship and prayer. If you wonder whether having a Stephen Minister might be helpful for you, please speak with Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org. Every one of us could benefit from a Stephen Minister at some point in our lives.

St. Pauls UCC
Giving Campaign 2025
October 27, 2024 - January 14, 2025

| |
|--------------------|
| \$1,000,000 |
| \$950,000 |
| \$900,000 |
| \$800,000 |
| \$700,000 |
| \$600,000 |
| \$500,000 |
| \$400,000 |
| \$300,000 |
| \$200,000 |
| \$100,000 |

Embrace, Nurture, Inspire

**UPDATE ON 2025 PHASE II CONSTRUCTION PLANS
TO “EXPAND AND ELEVATE SAINT PAULS’ OPENNESS”**

On October 20, our members unanimously and joyfully approved moving forward with Phase II of our long-awaited capital construction project. In disciplined planning and thoughtful review since 2016, the endorsed final work phase will make our entire public building complex more welcoming and fully accessible through the installation of a five-stop elevator and a beautiful open-air courtyard with a new north-end building access ramp.

Project general contractor Bulley & Andrews, St. Pauls owner’s rep Lorne Frank, and architect Larry Kearns have met regularly to lay out a work plan for 2025. To maximize efficiency and minimize costs, work on the exterior and interior will happen concurrently from March through early November. The planned schedule for the phases of work is summarized in the following table:

| “CAMPAIGN TO EXPAND AND ELEVATE OUR OPENNESS” | | |
|--|---|--|
| PHASE II CONSTRUCTION GENERAL WORK PLAN/APPROXIMATE TIMETABLE* | | |
| MONTH OF 2025 | INTERIOR WORK (NORTH END) | EXTERIOR WORK (COURTYARD) |
| January – March | Equipment and materials procurement Pre-construction asbestos abatement | |
| April | Interior site preparation North stairwell partial removal | Site preparation Current site demolition |
| May | Elevator shaft preparation Roof preparation for elevator top Masonry and roofing Elevator installation | Install tree bases Electrical Ramp construction Handrail installation |
| June | North interior structural steel and deck work | |
| July | North stairwell construction North interior frame-out | Pour and finish plaza base Landscape bed preparation |
| August | | Install plaza pavers Install plaza steps |
| September | | Plantings Asphalt patching, finishing Final site clean-up |
| October | Interior flooring, tile, millwork, painting, and finishing | (Exterior complete) |
| November | (Project completion if any delays in planned schedule) | |
| *IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER: <i>As with any construction project of any size, timetables are approximations and subject to change/delay.</i> | | |

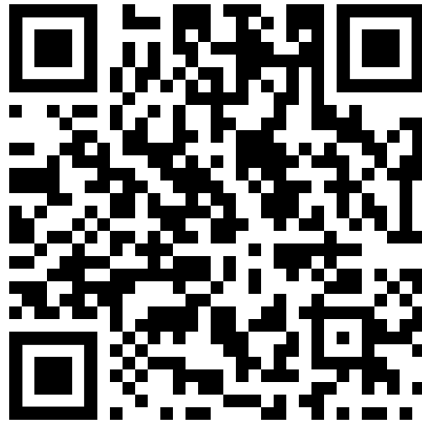
Our project team has met with St. Pauls, Lighthouse Church, and Little Lights program staff members to ensure that all are aware of and can plan for/around the implications of all phases of the construction.

Watch for an all-congregation email containing a link to an inspirational virtual tour of the Phase II outcome.

We continue to be grateful for the faithful and generous support of the entire St. Pauls congregation that made Phase I and II of this bold project possible. Generations to come will benefit and thank you!

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

Our prelude, ***Someone Asked a Question-Why We Sing*** was written in 1993 and features both text and music by Kirk Franklin (b. 1970). Mr. Franklin pays homage in this song to the historic hymn text *His Eye Is on the Sparrow*. He also brings a new and contemporary edge to gospel music by adding the energy of hip-hop.

Ding, Dong, Merrily on High employs a text by George Radcliff Woodward (1848-1934). He was an ordained Anglican clergyman who served six parishes in his lifetime. He also translated many Greek, Latin and German hymn texts. The joyful tune, BRANLE DE L'OFFICIAL, was composed in 1588 by Thoinot Arbeau (1520-1595). His given name was Jehan Tabourot, but he was better known by his pen name. He wrote a famous book about 16th century French dance styles.

To You O God All Creatures Sing is a text adapted by Sister Miriam Therese Winter (b. 1938). A Catholic theologian, she is also a Medical Mission Sister who has worked in a number of war-torn areas, including Ethiopia and Cambodia. The German hymn tune LASST UNS ERFREUEN, dates from 1623 and was first found in a hymnal published in Cologne, Germany. It is recognisable to us as the same tune as our *Festival Doxology*.

Tobias Clausnitzer (c. 1619-1684) wrote the original German text in 1663 for ***We Have Gathered Jesus Dear***. He became a chaplain to a Swedish regiment and later became Kapellmeister at St. Thomaskirche in Leipzig, the church that Bach would eventually serve. The English translation was made by Madeleine Forell Marshall (b. 1946). A respected academic, having started her studies at St. Olaf College, she is now on the faculty at Claremont School of Theology in California. The tune, LIEBSTER JESU, was composed in 1664 by Johann Rodolf Ahle (1625-1673). Educated at Erfurt University, he was well known as an organist. Beyond that, however, little is known about his life.

The text for ***This Is My Song*** was composed in 1934 by Lloyd Stone as a prayer for peace between the two World Wars. The beautiful tune is from the well-known tone poem *Finlandia* by Jean Sibelius (1865-1957).

The text for ***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*** was written in 1834 by Edward Mote (1797-1874). British-born Mote wrote a number of hymn texts after a spiritual awakening as a result of the preaching of an evangelical preacher. He also authored a number of Christian pamphlets. SOLID ROCK was composed in 1863 by the prolific hymn writer William Bradbury (1816-1868). Raised on his father's farm in Maine, Bradbury developed a love for music as a child and began playing the organ in church by age 15. Among the best known of his hymns is the children's hymn, *Jesus Loves Me, This I Know*.

Beautiful Savior is an unattributed Silesian folk song that was first found in the *Münster Gesangbuch* of 1677. The hymn tune name, SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, is drawn from the first line of the German text. The translation was done by Augustus Seiss (1823-1904). The arranger, F. Melius Christiansen (1871-1955), was the founder of the St. Olaf College Choir. Along with Peter Christian Lutkin at Northwestern University, Christiansen was responsible for the resurgence of interest in *a capella* singing in this country. *Beautiful Savior* is the unofficial anthem of St. Olaf in much the same way that the *Lutkin Benediction* is for Northwestern. Kurt R. Hansen's maternal grandfather, John Mahard Rosborough (1878-1969), worked with Christiansen extensively and studied at Northwestern with Lutkin.

Sing Praise to God is another great hymn from our German heritage. The tune, LOBE DEN HERRN, is the first line of the first stanza of the German text. First published in a hymnal in 1668, the composer of the music is unknown. The original text was written by Joachim Neander (1650-1680). Although he was reported to have spent a "riotous youth," he became the first important hymn writer of the German Reformed Church. This updated translation was made in 1993 for our *New Century Hymnal* by Madeleine Forell Marshall (b. 1946).

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern is known to us in English as an Epiphany hymn, *O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright*, that can be found in our Black Hymnal No. 158. The chorale melody was composed in 1598 by Lutheran pastor, poet and composer Philip Nicolai (1556-1608). This chorale melody was so beloved that it was set by many composers, including Bach (1685-1750). Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706) is not well known outside music circles, but his compositions, especially for organ and choir, provided a deep foundation for such German composers in the following generation as Bach and his contemporaries.

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, during the past 180 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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Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, lnickerson@spucc.org

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership
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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 main office.



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 LGBTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

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