

September 21, 2025

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

"What is the chief end of humanity?

Humanity's chief end is to glorify God and enjoy God forever."

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

PRELUDE

*Truth*

Kamasi Washington

St. Arbucks Quartet

My lucks on the game  
Can't find a way through  
Don't know how many times  
I've had to say this to you  
This ain't my scene  
This wasn't my dream  
It was all yours  
All of course  
I got caught up in this game  
And you know I won't say names  
Of who's to blame

I won't point any fingers  
I won't say it was you  
I let life take its time  
And in time you see the truth  
I won't ask any questions  
I won't say it was you  
I'll let life take its time  
And in time you see the truth

See the truth

INTROIT

*This Is the Day*  
Nathan Streeter, cantor  
Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 150)

One: Hallelujah! Praise God in this house of worship!

**All: Praise God under the open skies!**

One: Sing to God a brand new song.

**All: Praise God with a blast of the trumpet!**

One: Praise God with castanets and dance!

**All: Praise God with organ pipes!**

One: Praise God with fiddles and mandolin!

**All: Praise God with cymbals and a big bass drum!**

One: Praise God with fiddles and mandolin!

**All: Let every living, breathing creature praise God!**  
**Hallelujah!**

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

\* HYMN

*Praise to the Lord*

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a -  
 2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign -  
 3. Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend  
 4. Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a - dore

- tion! O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and sal -  
 - eth, Shel - ters thee un - der his wings, yea, so gent - ly sus -  
 thee; Sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly at -  
 him! All that hath life and breath, come now with prais - es be -

- va - - tion! Come, ye who hear, Broth - ers and sis - ters draw  
 - tain - - eth! Hast thou not seen All that is need - ful hath  
 - tend thee. Pon - der a - new All the Al - might - y can  
 - fore him. Let the A - men Sound from his peo - ple a -

near; Praise him in glad ad - or - ra - - tion!  
 been Grant - ed in what he or - dain - - eth?  
 do, He who with love doth be - friend thee.  
 - gain: Glad - ly for aye we a - dore him.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jeff Carlson

**Have mercy on me, O God, according to your faithful love;  
wipe away my wrongdoings, according to your great compassion.  
Wash me thoroughly, and cleanse me from sin,  
For I know what I've done, and that you've seen it all.  
I know you want truth in the most hidden places,  
so teach me wisdom in my secret heart.  
Create in me a clean heart, O God;  
and put a new, faithful spirit deep inside of me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,  
or fail to breathe your spirit within me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.  
O Lord, open my lips,  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. Amen. (Psalm 51)**

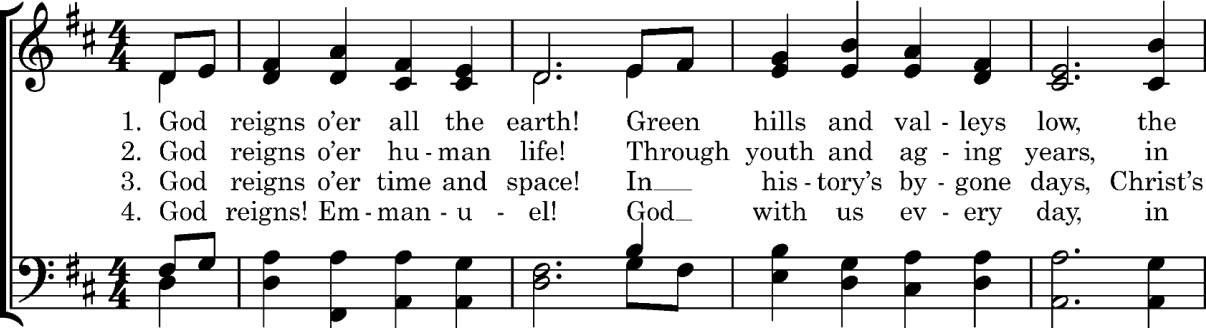
MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

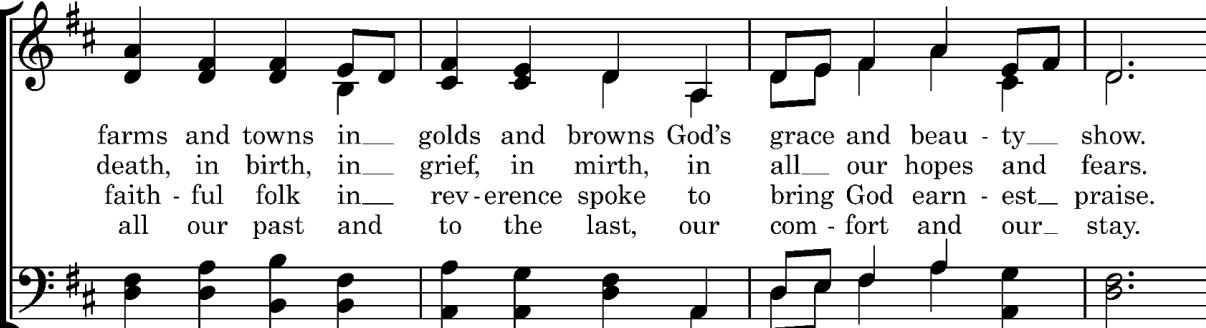
## RESPONSE

*God Reigns O'er All the Earth*

## verses 1-2



1. God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val - leys low, the  
2. God reigns o'er hu - man life! Through youth and ag - ing years, in  
3. God reigns o'er time and space! In his - tory's by - gone days, Christ's  
4. God reigns! Em - man - u - el! God with us ev - ery day, in



farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau - ty show.  
death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.  
faith - ful folk in rev - erence spoke to bring God earn - est praise.  
all our past and to the last, our com - fort and our stay.



God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread - ing plains,  
God reigns o'er hu - man life! Our in - spi - ra - tion still.  
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal - ax - y and sun,  
God reigns! Em - man - u - el! Let praise to Christ be sung!



in rain - bow hues— reds, yel - lows, blues— of streams and coun - try lanes.  
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign - ing will.  
through time - less years the cos - mos hears the heaven - ly mus - ic run.  
God's pres - ence here makes all things dear. Let joy - ful bells be rung!

SCRIPTURE

Todd Coe

*Psalm 113*

Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord;  
praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord  
from this time on and forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
the name of the Lord is to be praised.

The Lord is high above all nations,  
and his glory above the heavens.

Who is like the Lord our God, who has humbled himself,  
to look upon the heavens and the earth?

God raises the poor from the dust,  
and lifts the needy from the garbage dump,  
to make them sit with princes,  
with the princes of his people.

God gives the barren woman a home,  
as the joyous mother of children.

Praise the Lord!

\* 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

*God Reigns O'er All the Earth*  
See previous hymn

Verses 3-4

SERMON

"Singing for Your Life"

Jeff Carlson

\* HYMN

*This Is My Song*

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

peace for lands a - far and mine. This is my home, the  
beams on clo - ver - leaf and pine; But oth - er lands have

coun - try where my heart is; here are my hopes, my  
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.



OFFERTORY

*Sh'ma Koleynu*

Max Janowski

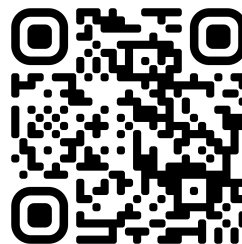
Nancy Pifer, Terry Hansen, Nathan Streeter,  
Kurt R. Hansen & Lee Lichamer, soloists  
Chancel Choir

*Sh'ma koleynu  
Chus v'racheym aleynu  
V'kabeyl b'rachamim u'v'ratson  
V'kabeyl et t'filateynu.  
Hashiveynu Adonai eylecha v'nashuvah  
Nashiveynu Adonai eylecha v'nashuvah  
Chadeysh yameynu k'kedem  
Sh'ma koleynu.*

Hear our voice,  
O eternal our God,  
Spare us, have mercy upon us,  
And accept our prayers with  
compassion and favor.  
Return us, O Eternal,  
Unto Thee and we will return;  
Renew us as in our days of old.

*ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS*

*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).*

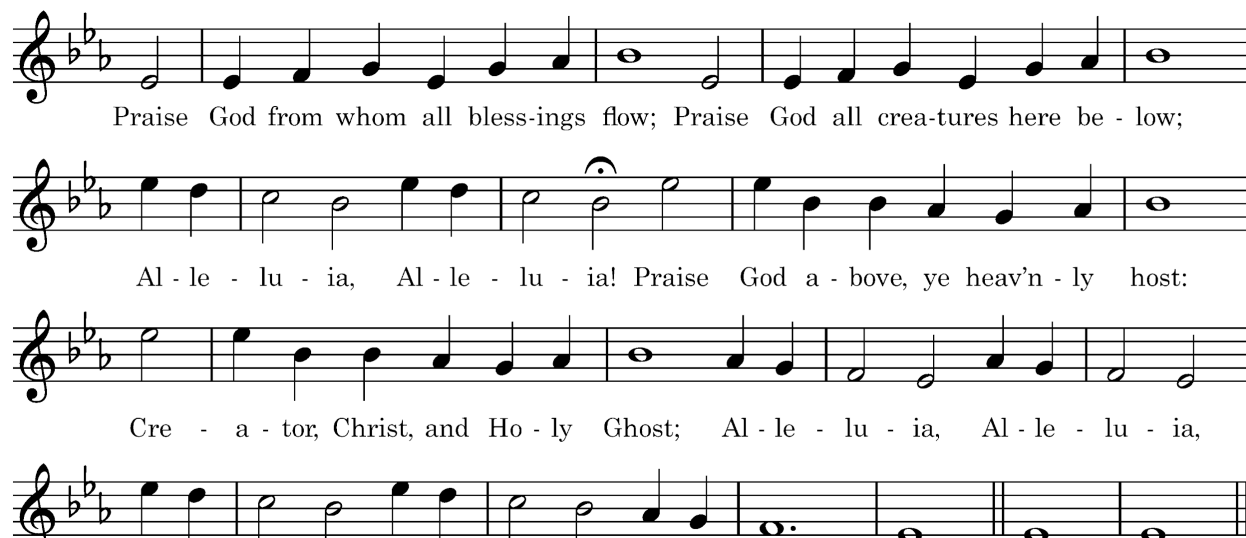


*WELCOME CARD*

*If you are a visitor, welcome! Thank you for  
worshiping with us today!  
If you would like to learn more about the church, please  
scan the QR code.*



\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff contains the first line of the doxology, the second and third staves contain the second line, and the fourth staff contains the third line. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes) and rests, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

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

Matt Fitzgerald

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

*Crown Him With Many Crowns*

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his throne; Hark!  
2. Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave, And  
3. Crown him the Lord of love; Be - hold his hands and side, Rich  
4. Crown him the Lord of years, The po - ten - tate of time, Cre -

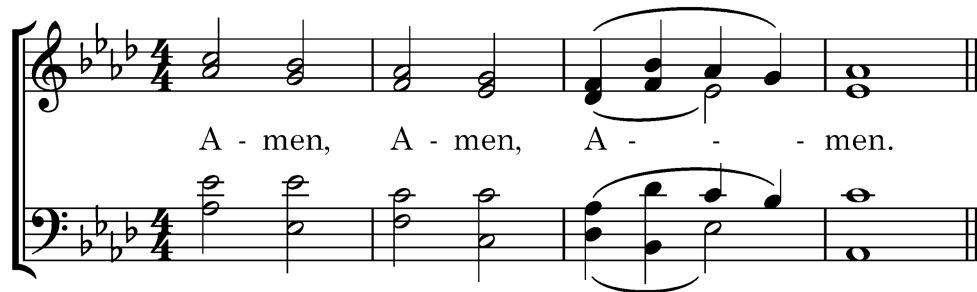
how the heaven - ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own; A -  
rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those he came to save; His  
wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied; No  
- a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, In - ef - fa - bly sub - lime. All

wake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee, And  
glo - ries now we sing Who died and rose on high, Who  
an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But  
hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me; Thy

hail him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
died, e - ter - nal life to bring, And lives that death may die.  
down - ward bends his burn - ing eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.  
praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail Through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

*Festive Trumpet Tune*  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

David German

***If you would like someone to pray with you today, Stephen Ministers are present after the postlude at the right front of the Sanctuary.***

***Following Worship, all are invited for coffee and snacks in the Social Hall. If you're visiting, be sure to stop by the Welcome Table so we can greet you and you can find out more about St. Pauls!***

## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

**Clergy:** Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson (Pastor Liz is on vacation and will return tomorrow.)

**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:** Todd Coe

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** David Baker, Fred Perason

**Greeter:** Doug Dunham

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

**Camera Operators:** Nana Addadzi-Koom, Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Brian Hafner, Trevor Hafner

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

**TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS** are in celebration of Mark and Sarah Mosley's wedding anniversary.

*Would you like to donate altar flowers? Sign up here: [tinyurl.com/4w6fu5js](https://tinyurl.com/4w6fu5js).*

## 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.*

Sep. 21	Grace Stauskas, Julian Jarzebowski, Lindy McGuire, Pam Pifer
Sep. 22	Annika Hull, Brooke Roark, Charlie Rodriguez, Phillip Elkins
Sep. 23	Beatrice Jaji, Cosette Millard, Liz Nickerson, Seth Davis, Stefan Millard
Sep. 24	Colin Grosshans, Glen Timmerman, Mercedes Ridao, Rob Castle
Sep. 25	Christie Crouch, Christine Schmidt, Kay Wilde, Matt Fitzgerald, Nicole Chaiken, William Hutchison Gourley
Sep. 26	Jorie Hamm, Kristi Noonan, Taylor Beebe
Sep. 27	AJ Smart, Will Carter

## 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.*

*You may also share your request at [tinyurl.com/3j6sayku](https://tinyurl.com/3j6sayku).*

*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.*

- Loved ones of Evert Martin at his death. An interment service will be held on October 15 at 3 p.m. in the St. Pauls Memorial Garden.
- Liz Kurman's brother, Fred, healing from injuries after a fall at his home.
- Liode, a single mom with two children, and a former student of Deb Bayly, in need of stable housing and a job.
- Doug Dobmeyer's nephew Ben, who was found after he had gone missing and who struggles with mental health issues in Atlanta.
- Kate and Angus Atkins-Trimnell, Pastor Liz's sister and brother-in-law, for Angus' father, Ralph, who has entered hospice.
- Karlynn Anderson, a friend of Pastor Liz, who had a heart transplant.
- Pat Kirby, struggling with an infection at home.
- Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues cancer treatment.
- Julie Chambers is in the hospital.
- Dianne Witkowski, as she deals with cancer chemotherapy.
- That we each find our role, our voice, in bringing peace forward.
- Wayne Bradley, pursuing ongoing treatment.

### **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.

### **September Is Suicide Prevention Month**

Our Statement of Faith calls us to be the church. One important way during Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is to follow three principles of [www.BeThe1To.com](http://www.BeThe1To.com).

As we are part of a greater community called by God, we can participate in the following ways:

#BeThe1to—Ask—Which also means to listen for emotional pain as well as reasons for living;

#BeThe1to—Be There—Follow through with the ways you can support;

#BeThe1to—Help Them Connect—to the St. Pauls community, including the pastors and to the crisis line—988.

There is no greater gift than creating connections within a community. Faith can lead our way. Hope can stamp out the darkness. We are all beloved children of God.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **SEPTEMBER 23-FOOD FOR THE SOUL GROUP-12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall**

“What’s Next: Campaign to Expand & Elevate Our Openness.” Discussion facilitated by Jana O’Brien. Bring your own lunch. Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited to make new friends and reconnect with old ones through lunch, fun and faith. Childcare provided.

### **SEPTEMBER 28-LADIES NIGHT OUT-5:30-7 p.m., Kendra Scott on Southport**

Join women for sips and sweets, socializing at the beautiful Kendra Scott store at 3426 N. Southport! A purchase is not required, but 20% of every purchase will be given to the Migrant Housing Project - Legal Fund! Or stop in anytime on Sunday and tell them you are with St. Pauls and 20% of your purchase will go to the Migrant Housing Legal Fund! RSVP at [tinyurl.com/59nx74ck](https://tinyurl.com/59nx74ck).

### **OCTOBER 5-FIESTA FOR FUNDS-11 a.m., Gym**

Join us after worship on October 5 for “Fiesta for Funds,” a silent auction to raise funds for our Migrant Legal Fund, along with an all-church potluck. Funds raised will help defray the remaining costs of guiding our sponsored families through the immigration process. Visit [tinyurl.com/3tazsihc](https://tinyurl.com/3tazsihc) or scan the QR code to access the event registration and more information on donating items to the auction. We are seeking auction lots such as gift cards/vouchers, handmade items, event tickets, and more! We hope our whole congregation gets involved in this event whether you come for a meal or bidding, or both!



### **Fiesta for Funds Finger Food Potluck Meal**

Each family unit is asked to bring food for the potluck meal based on the following suggestions. If you need to bring food from a different category or cannot bring food, that is fine. Please include kid-friendly foods. Skip Utensils!

#### **Families whose last name ends with A-G:**

Mini-version Main Course (finger sandwiches, chicken nuggets, pinwheels, roll-ups, mini-sliders, mini-quiches, pizza bites, deviled eggs, etc.)

#### **Families whose last name ends with H-N:**

Vegetables/Fruits (veggie trays, handheld size fruits, dips)

#### **Families whose last name ends with O-S:**

Crackers/Chips/Cheese/Dips/Similar

#### **Families whose last name ends with T-Z:**

Handheld desserts (cookies, brownies, bars, tarts, puffs, pastries, etc.)

Please:

- Label clearly with the name of the dish.
- Bring in a ready-to-serve container to the church kitchen prior to worship.
- Take your dish when leaving the event.

### **OCTOBER 12 – GIVING CAMPAIGN KICKOFF**

Help us to kick off the 2025 giving season by attending and supporting the beginning of our 2026 Giving Campaign. There will be announcements about the nature and timing of this year's campaign, which will run through the end of December. Our Giving Campaign is separate from the Capital Campaign, and supports the Annual Fund of the church in its ongoing operational expenses. Pledges are essential to our ability to know how much funding will come from members and, thus, to create a church budget for 2026. We appreciate your support and involvement in this year's campaign!

### **OCTOBER 14–JANE AUSTEN 250 READING GROUP-7 p.m., Zoom**

December 16, 2025, is the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. We're reading her six complete novels, one a month, from July 8–December 16. Monthly discussions will be over Zoom the second Tuesday of the month, except for December when we'll meet on her birthday. Sign up to participate here: [tinyurl.com/yez6ejw6](https://tinyurl.com/yez6ejw6).

Contact: Pastor Jeff. October 14 - *Emma*; November 11 - *Northanger Abbey*; December 16 - *Persuasion*.

### **OCTOBER 19–VACCINATION CLINIC BY MARIANO’S PHARMACY-9 a.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. Please remember to bring your Covid vaccine card and your Medicare card or insurance card. Registration will be announced soon.

### **OCTOBER 19–MOMS’ GROUP-9:15-10:15 a.m., Room 028**

Pastor Liz is looking forward to a meaningful discussion with you! 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. Free professional childcare is available. Babies can stay with their moms.

RSVP to [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

### **OCTOBER 29–BAKE COOKIES WITH THE COOKIES FOR A CAUSE GROUP-5:30 p.m., Kitchen**

Join us at the next cookie baking event on Wednesday, October 29 at 5:30 p.m. This is an evening of fellowship and fun baking lots of cookies that are donated to the LPCS and A Just Harvest. We enjoy dinner as a group and work as a team to bake and pack cookies for these two worthwhile organizations. If you are unable to come on October 29, but would like to contribute home baked cookies, contact Marcia Volk at [marcia@volkonline.com](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com) or Gloria Joseph at [glrjoseph@yahoo.com](mailto:glrjoseph@yahoo.com).



**NOVEMBER 9–PHASE II DEDICATION CELEBRATION**–11:15 a.m., Courtyard & Gym  
**Save the date for Sunday, November 9**, when Saint Pauls will dedicate the completed Phase II capital construction project making our entire public church complex accessible and creating an open-air plaza for church services, events and gatherings. The dedication will take place on the new plaza immediately after the worship service, to be followed by an "Oktoberfest in November" lunch in the gym featuring traditional brats, pretzels, cider, strudel and (of course!) beer. Come celebrate the results of our congregation's vision and deep generosity—and invite your friends to the open house event to see the "new" Saint Pauls!

**NOVEMBER 16–SAVE LIVES - DONATE AT ST. PAULS BLOOD DRIVE**– 8 a.m., Gym  
Save the Date to save more lives! Saint Pauls will be sponsoring another blood drive on November 16 and hope you can sign up to donate! And bring friends! Appointments are encouraged. Your life-saving gift of blood can save up to THREE lives! The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime. Sign up in advance by reserving a time slot via the QR code:



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **ENTERING ST. PAULS BETWEEN 9/15 and 10/8 is OK!**

Good news! Our "Expand and Elevate" project is unfolding beautifully. Exterior construction will soon expand to the south end of the courtyard. As a result, our two primary doors will be inaccessible for three weeks. The temporary accessibility entrance on Fullerton for those using walkers and wheelchairs will remain unchanged.

Now through October 8, both the office entrance and the main Sanctuary entrance on Orchard are closed. During this time, we will enter St. Pauls through the Kemper Sanctuary door and through the alley door. The Kemper Sanctuary door is at the corner of Orchard and Kemper. If you get confused, remember that entering the church on Sunday is "OK!" On weekdays and evenings, the alley entrance will be used. This door is equipped with a doorbell, intercom, and camera. After you ring the doorbell, the door will automatically unlock. In the evenings, staff will be nearby to assist when meetings are scheduled. On Sunday mornings, the alley entrance will remain a good way to enter the building. Additionally, the Kemper Sanctuary entrance will be available.

The alley entrance is behind the building. The alley runs east and west parallel to Fullerton, and then doglegs left when it reaches the east end of our building, running north and south along the back of Saint Pauls. We can enter the alley via the back of the church parking lot on Kemper or at the alley opening between St. Pauls and the home at 644 W. Kemper.

### **NEW! OPT-IN TO TEXTING FROM ST. PAULS**

Want to receive reminders and announcements via text?  
Simply scan the QR code and fill out the form!



### **REFUGEEONE**

Their Winter Coat and Boot Drive is back! Winter may seem years away given our warm weather lately, but RefugeeOne is already making plans to help their clients with warm winter clothes. There is an Amazon Registry at [tinyurl.com/yx8fpyvr](https://tinyurl.com/yx8fpyvr) that has the items RefugeeOne is looking for. If you're interested in participating, please use this list and have the items shipped directly to RefugeeOne by selecting the *RefugeeOne (Winter Coat Drive)* address when you checkout. Please order your items by Thursday, October, 23, so that RefugeeOne will receive them in time to distribute. Thank you!



## **VICKI GARLOCK'S GUINNESS WORLD RECORD JOURNEY**

We're excited to be part of Vicki Garlock's Guinness World Record attempt to visit the most places of worship in a single month! She's spending September in Chicago aiming to break the current record of 111 visits and stopped by St. Pauls on Thursday, September 11. Want to follow her journey? Check out her updates on Instagram (@WorldReligions4Kids) or Facebook (Vicki Michela Garlock).

## **YOUTH CHOIRS ARE BACK!**

Does your child like to sing? Sign them up for one of our youth choirs! We meet every Sunday morning, 9:30-9:55, at the Fullerton end of the church. Children's Choir is for grades K-3 and meets in the Chapel. Paul's People is for grades 4-8 and meets in the Parlor. Enter at the Fullerton entrance for both groups. Feel free to reach out to Breanna Coe (CC) at [breannacoe@gmail.com](mailto:breannacoe@gmail.com) or Kecia Waldschmidt (PP) at [keciagerman@hotmail.com](mailto:keciagerman@hotmail.com) for more information. Come and make a joyful sound in the city with us!

## **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.



## **NEW MEMBER CLASS - NOVEMBER 16**

Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for our 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. Next class: November 16 at 11 a.m. See other upcoming dates here: [spucc.org/new\\_member\\_classes](http://spucc.org/new_member_classes).

## **SEPTEMBER'S BLAST FROM THE PAST**

St. Pauls was founded in 1843 by German immigrants and our rich history continues to this day. Our archives, housed in four rooms and a vault, include photos, documents, artifacts, tapes, videos, books, and all bound bulletins and newsletters, along with marriage, baptism, death, and membership records—many in original German script dating back to 1846. These items are stored in file drawers, archival boxes, cabinets, shelves, and a cabinet of more than 40 storyboards. A bronze plaque on the Clark Street bridge over the Chicago River commemorates the sinking of "The Christmas Tree" ship. We'll be sharing more stories in upcoming bulletins.

### **NEW SMALL GROUPS! SHORT CIRCLES: REGISTER TODAY**

**Get Closer to God This Fall!** Short Circles are six-session small groups for people who want to grow closer to God with others. In these circles we will connect to God and one another. We will meet for 50-60 minutes once a week for six weeks, beginning the week of September 21 and concluding the week of November 2. Each week your Short Circle will focus on the scripture passage used in worship the coming Sunday, 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. Short Circles offer a remarkable opportunity to grow in faith and bond with others. We will offer both in-person and Zoom groups. Register here: [tinyurl.com/un8esxmy](https://tinyurl.com/un8esxmy). Questions? Contact Pastor Matt at [mfitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org).

### **WALKING TOUR AND S'MORES ON THE WILD MILE**

The Green Team connects Saint Pauls with meaningful ecological activities for parishioners of all ages. The Wild Mile uses suspended gardens to revitalize the banks of the Chicago River, providing habitats and increasing the spectrum of native fauna and flora. This site is handicapped accessible.

Date: Wednesday, September 24

Times: 5:30–6:15 p.m. – Walking Tour

6–8 p.m. – S'Mores Night

Located on the North Branch of the Chicago River, 905 Eastman Street, Lincoln Park (two blocks south of Whole Foods). RSVP at [UrbanRivers.org](https://UrbanRivers.org) or contact Ninon Freeman for more information.

### **DRIVERS/TRANSPORTATION AIDES NEEDED**

We need volunteers to drive individuals to church on Sundays or occasional appointments and accompany a congregant to church on Sunday on the Pace bus round trip. This is a great way for you to make a real difference. For details, please contact Pastor Liz at [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

### **CHILDREN/YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

There are many ways you can serve as a volunteer with the children and youth ministry at events, with Sunday School, and in the nursery. If you love nurturing children, this is a fun way to make a difference! Volunteers complete a background check and always serve in pairs of two, following our child safety policy. Whether you can help for a few hours a month or on a regular basis, your time and kindness will make a meaningful impact. Sign up for a Sunday nursery childcare slot here: [tinyurl.com/2j5dy6fp](https://tinyurl.com/2j5dy6fp) or contact Pastor Liz at [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org) to learn more about other opportunities to help.

### **SHARE THE HARVEST**

The Green Team will have a table set up during Social Hour through the fall where extra seeds, plants and herbs can be shared.

## **VOLUNTEER AS A SOCIAL HOUR HOST**

Visiting a new church can feel intimidating—especially walking into Social Hour without knowing anyone. We're looking for volunteers to serve as Social Hour hosts. The role is simple: be on the lookout for people you don't know, greet them, and help them feel welcome. They might be new to St. Pauls or simply someone you haven't yet met. Either way, you'll brighten their day and make new friends. You can volunteer once a month, once a quarter, or whenever it works for you. Sign up to host on an upcoming Sunday here: [tinyurl.com/3f384fcm](https://tinyurl.com/3f384fcm).

## **ST. PAULS MIGRANT HOUSING PROJECT LEGAL FUND**

Saint Pauls housed five Venezuelan migrant families in our building over the past two years. Today, nearly every single member of these families has achieved legal status, helping to safeguard their presence in Chicago for the time being and allowing them to work. Such legal aid is costly and ongoing. In a time of wild anxiety and uncertainty for these new friends, you can help make a difference for our migrant families by supporting our legal aid fund. If you'd like to make a donation, please choose "Migrant Housing Project - Legal Fund" from the drop-down menu on our giving page: [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving).

## **HAVE SOME ODD JOBS? WE'VE GOT SOME WILLING WORKERS!**

As they continue to work at supporting themselves financially, members of our migrant family friends would love to work for you. They are available for things like house cleaning, handyman repairs, moving items, painting, deck-staining, demolition & clean-up, and carpentry on things like deck and dry-wall. We have been assigning work at a rate of \$25/hour and ask that the jobs be a minimum of 3–4 hours. You can find out more by contacting our Migrant Housing Project Coordinator David Brown at [dbrown@harrington-brown.com](mailto:dbrown@harrington-brown.com).

## **LITTLE LIGHTS ENROLLMENT 2025–2026**

We are accepting applications for the fall! Flexible class options and days available. We model and facilitate problem-solving strategies, build empathy and develop self-regulation skills. Through hands-on learning and play, children will benefit from structured socialization and gain a greater sense of themselves within our Saint Pauls community. If you are interested in learning more about early education classes for your child, visit our website at [www.littlelightslp.org](http://www.littlelightslp.org) or contact Erin Fitzgerald at [erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org).

## **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).

## **LOSS AND GRIEVING DISCUSSION GROUP**

We've all lost someone we loved. Whether you lost someone you loved last month, last year, or five years ago, you can still grieve that loss. Grief changes, but it never goes away. Would you be interested in sharing stories with others who are in similar situations? We're not therapists, just your friends and neighbors who are also grieving and would like to share our ideas and learn how others are coping. We're planning to start a grief support group at St. Pauls, but we need to make sure there's interest. Please contact Pam Woll at [pamelawoll3333@gmail.com](mailto:pamelawoll3333@gmail.com) if you think this might benefit you.

## **"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 Saint 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.

## **CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team**

Push vs. Pull in Climate Change Policies

In the public policy battles for climate change initiatives, climate policies are either "push" or "pull". Push are measures such as taxes and bans that discourage carbon-intensive behaviors. On the other hand, pull measures are represented by subsidies and support for lower carbon initiatives, such as solar energy.

"...most people strongly favor pull measures, such as subsidies for lower carbon heating and building an EV charging infrastructure. Push measures, particularly affecting diet, were far less popular."

[Greater Good Magazine, "Why Are Some Climate Policies More Popular Than Others?", September 12, 2025, by Wouter Poortinga]

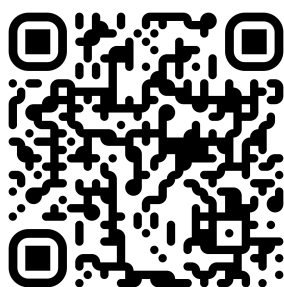
## **STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS**

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](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org). Every one of us could benefit from a Stephen Minister at some point in our lives.

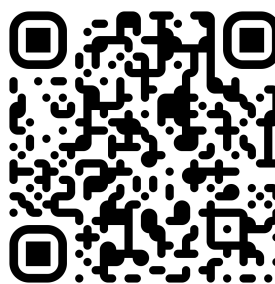
## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

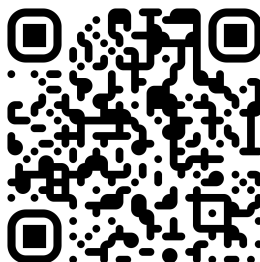
### JOIN A GROUP



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



### SUBMIT AN ANNOUNCEMENT



For St. Pauls sponsored events, please fill out the new form **by 10 a.m. on Wednesdays for publication in the Friday email and next Sunday bulletin.** Share personal announcements/events on our Facebook group page, St. Pauls Together. **Please limit announcements to 100 words.** Thank you!

## TODAY'S MUSIC

***Truth*** is the opening song on the 2017 EP *Harmony of Difference* by Kamasi Washington (b.1981). Mr Washington is a jazz saxophonist born and raised in Los Angeles. He studied in the Department of Ethnomusicology at UCLA. As a student, he was invited to play with a faculty quartet. In addition to his solo career, he has collaborated with musicians in jazz, hip-hop and pop music.

***This Is the Day*** uses a folk melody and unattributed words from Fiji. First published in 1967 in an Australian hymnal, it lends itself to be sung in a call-and-response style.

***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*** 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. The composer of the music is unknown, though it was first published in a hymnal in 1668. 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 Reform Church.

***God Reigns O'er All the Earth*** is sung to the tune: TERRA BEATA. The source of the music is an English folk melody which first appeared as a hymn in 1906. The text, written in 1981, is by Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008), one of the most prolific contemporary authors of hymn texts. She was born to missionary parents in China and was a lifelong Presbyterian who focused her hymn texts and ministry on peace-making, justice and inclusiveness.

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).

***Sh'ma koleynu*** was composed by Max Janowski (1912-1991). He was born in Berlin and after fleeing after *Kristallnacht*, eventually became Cantor and Director of Music at KAM-Isaiah Israel Congregation in Chicago for 50 years. Kurt and Terry Hansen sang with him for his last 17 years. Mr. Janowski was truly one of the “great lights” of Jewish music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. *Sh'ma koleynu* is a devoted and impassioned prayer for mercy from the *S'lichot* service. *S'lichot* is a service at “midnight” on the Sabbath preceding *Rosh Hashanah*.



***Crown Him With Many Crowns*** is a text composed in 1851 by Matthew Bridges (1800-1894). He was born in England, lived in Quebec, and wrote many hymn texts in both English and German. This hymn also has an “alterer”, Godfrey Thring (1823-1903), who altered Bridges original text slightly in 1871 to the familiar text we know. The tune, DIADEMATA, was composed in 1868 by George P. Elvey (1816-1893) specifically for this text. He became the organist for St. George’s Chapel at Windsor Castle.

The ***Festive Trumpet Tune*** was composed by David German (b. 1954) for his own wedding ceremony. He was Organist/Choir Master at Calvary Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, from 1983 until the mid-1990s. It is by far his most performed work.

# **Joyful Sounds**

Enjoy another year of special music during worship services.

## **Advent/Christmas Cantata**

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**

***Magnificat* - John Rutter**

**with orchestra in worship**

## **Lenten Cantata**

**Sunday, March 8, 2026**

***Jesu meine Freude* - Bach**

## **June 13, 2026 - evening**

***Gospel Mass* - Robert Ray**

A benefit for the the National Gospel Music Museum  
with Pilgrim Baptist Church, UCAN and St. Sabina Church.

Greater Harvest Missionary Baptist Church

5141 South State St.

Chicago, IL

7:00 PM

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 182 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)**

Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.  
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.