



September 28, 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

In Christ's family, there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us, you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ. Also, since you are Christ's family, then you are Abraham's famous "descendant," heirs according to the covenant promises.

*Galatians 3:18, The Message*

PRELUDE	<i>Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, BWV 731</i>	J. S. Bach
	Kevin Dzierzawski, organ	

INTROIT	<i>We Have Gathered, Jesus Dear</i>
	Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME	Matt Fitzgerald
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\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Loving God, you are greater than our understanding, but you seek us so that we may know and be known by you.

**All: Open our eyes, Lord.**

One: Open our eyes and still our racing minds.

**All: With love, you sent Jesus to fulfill the Law and the Prophets and teach us how to live.**

One: With gratitude, let's sing and worship God together!

*\* 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

**Almighty God, forgive us for our sins,  
help us to change.**

**To change ourselves  
to change our world to reflect who you are.**

**To see the need for it.**

**To deal with the pain of it.**

**To feel the joy of it.**

**To undertake the journey of faith without understanding the destination. In  
our Lord's name we pray, amen.**

## MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Sunday School students are invited to the gym for Prayground Sunday School.*

*If you would like to accompany your child(ren),  
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.*

## RESPONSE

*Children of the Heavenly Father*

vv. 1 & 2

1. Chil-dren of the heav'n-ly Fa-ther Safe-ly in His bos-om gath-er;  
2. God His own doth tend and nour-ish: In His ho-ly courts they flour-ish;  
3. Nei-ther life nor death shall ev-er From the Lord His chil-dren sev-er;  
4. Though He giv-eth or He tak-eth, God His chil-dren ne'er for-sak-eth;

Nest-ling bird nor star in heav-en Such a ref-uge e'er was giv-en.  
From all e-vil things He spares them, In His might-y arms He bears them.  
Un-to them His grace He show-eth, And their sor-rows all He know-eth.  
His the lov-ing pur-pose sole-ly To pre-serve them pure and ho-ly.

## SCRIPTURE

Louise Gram

### *Luke 16:19-31*

“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

“The time came when the beggar died, and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

**\* 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**

*Children of the Heavenly Father*  
See the previous hymn

vv. 3 & 4

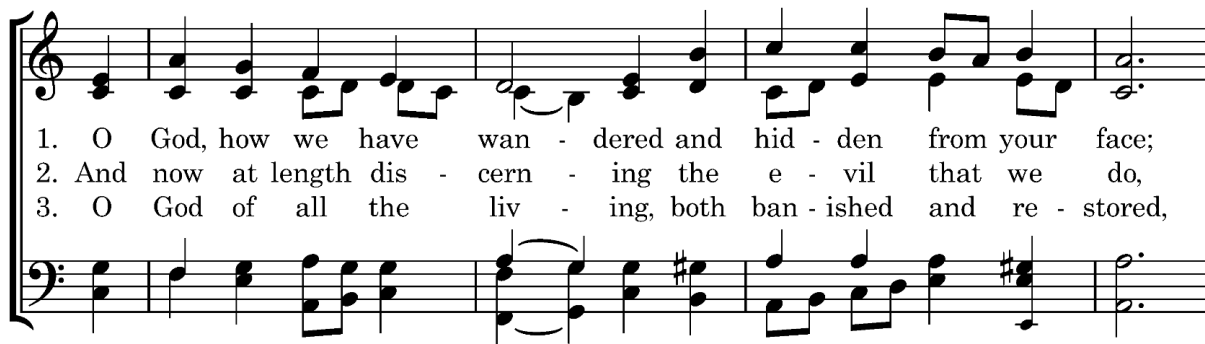
**SERMON**

**"The Rich Man and Lazarus"**

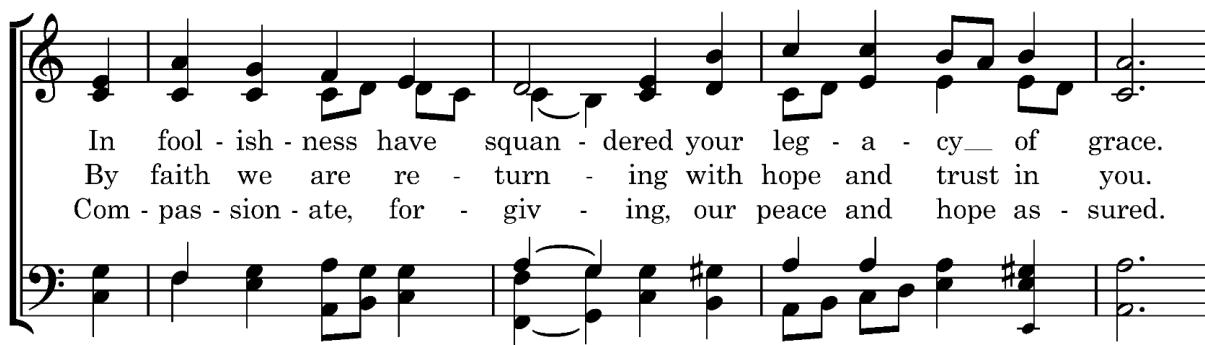
**Liz Nickerson**

\* HYMN

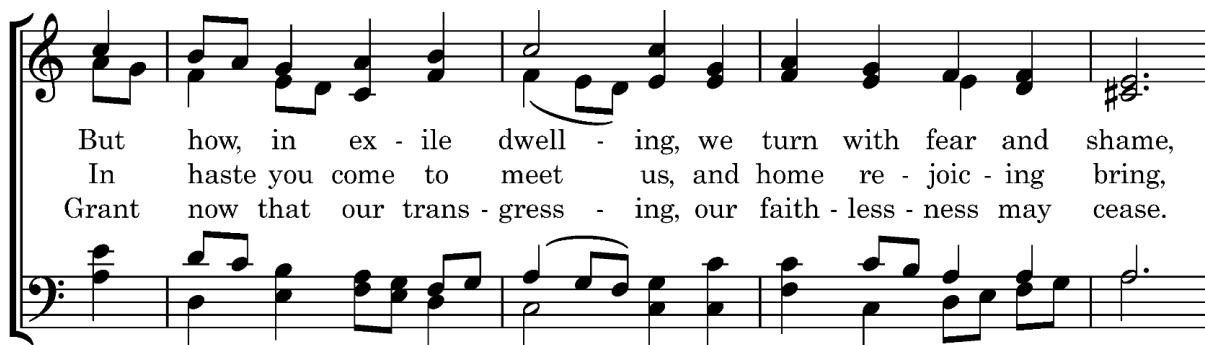
*O God, How We Have Wandered*



1. O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
2. And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
3. O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



In fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.  
Com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.



But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,  
In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,  
Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.  
In glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

OFFERTORY

*Avinu Malkeynu*  
(Sung in Hebrew)  
Nancy Pifer, soprano  
Chancel Choir

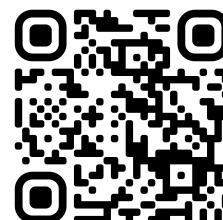
Max Janowski

Our Father, our King, hear our prayer.  
Our Father, our King, we have sinned before Thee.  
Our Father, our King, have mercy upon us and upon our children.  
Our Father, our King, keep far from our country pestilence,  
war and famine.  
Our Father, our King, cause all hate and oppression to  
vanish from the earth.  
Our Father, our King, inscribe us for blessing in the  
book of life.  
Our Father, our King, grant unto us a year of happiness.



### *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*

A musical score for a four-part doxology. It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God above, 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, A-men." The music is written in a single treble clef for all parts.

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

Jeff Carlson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread,**

**and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

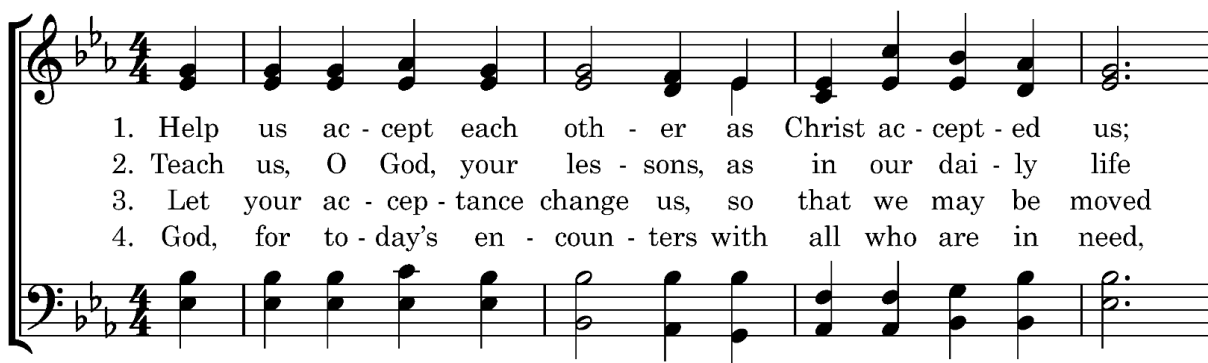
**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

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

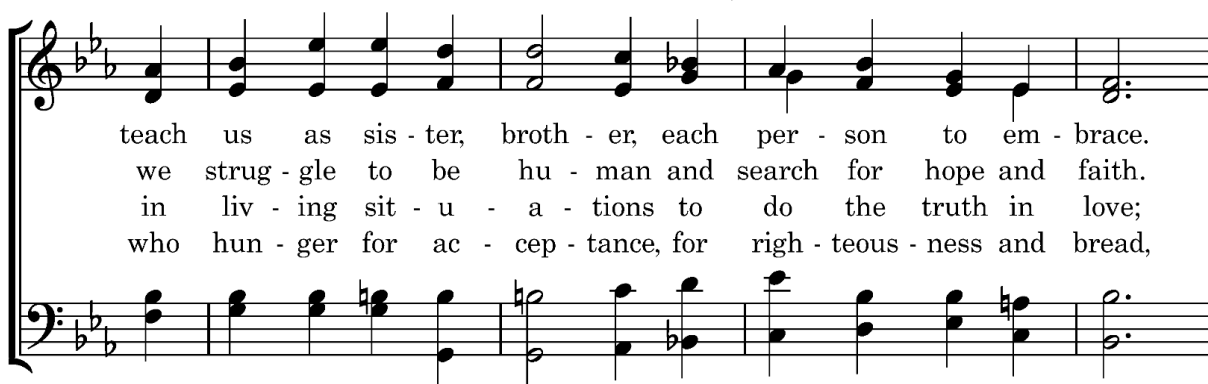
**Amen.**

\* HYMN

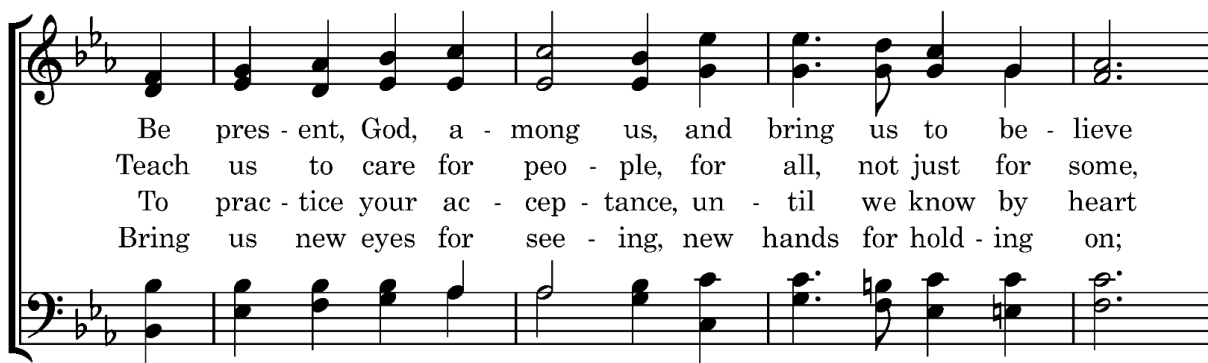
*Help Us Accept Each Other*



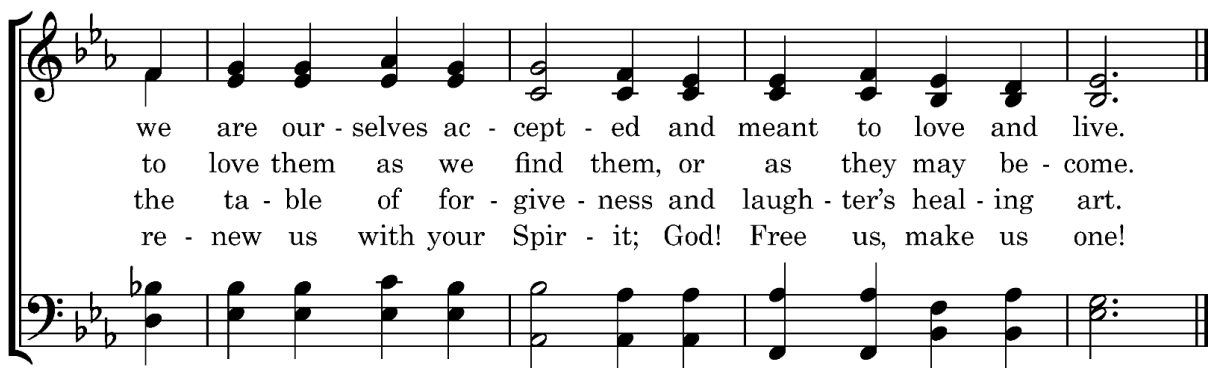
1. Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;  
2. Teach us, O God, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life  
3. Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved  
4. God, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.  
we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.  
in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;  
who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for righ - teous - ness and bread,



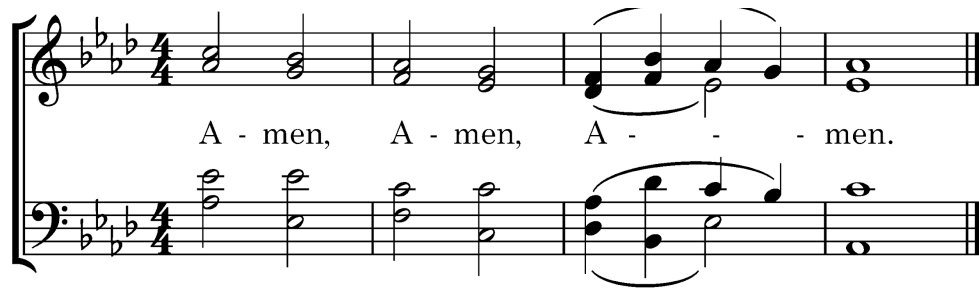
Be pres - ent, God, a - mong us, and bring us to be - lieve  
Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,  
To prac - tice your ac - cep - tance, un - til we know by heart  
Bring us new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on;



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to love and live.  
to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.  
the ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.  
re - new us with your Spir - it; God! Free us, make us one!

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

*Mercy, Mercy, Mercy*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Cannonball Aderley  
Joe Zawinul

### INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

- Childcare is available for babies and toddlers up to age 5 during worship from 10 to 11 a.m. downstairs in the Nursery and Toddler Room.
- Activity “busy bags” are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL and CONFIRMATION classes are in session. Students are dismissed with their teachers during the worship service and parents pick up children in their classrooms after the service.
- HIGH SCHOOL class meets on alternating Sundays of the month. Check the High School Group on Church Center for dates. High schoolers meet immediately following the service in Pastor Matt’s Office.
- New visitors with children interested in participating are invited for a meet and greet before worship begins to preview their classroom and meet teachers. Find Erin Fitzgerald or Danielle Mayfield in the main office for a brief tour and to answer any questions you may have.

***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, Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson

**Music Director:** Kurt R. Hansen

**Organist:** Kevin Dzierzawski

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

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

**Scripture Reader:** Louise Gram

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** David Baker, David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

**Greeter:** Elaine Filus, Mercedes Ridao

**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 the 25th anniversary of Christian marriage on September 23, 2000 of Jeff Carlson and Joe JaQuay and their civil marriage on September 23, 2025.

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

## **BORN THIS WEEK IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER**

*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. 28	Betsy Kalmar, Brian Gallagher, Cole Roark, Heather Kopnick, Olivia Block
Sep. 29	Andy Vahey, Hannah Fitzgerald, Jill Brennan, Jonathan Leaf, Miles Davidson
Sep. 30	Claire Terborg, Emily Wood, Layton Olson
Oct. 1	Amy Akers, Katlyn McVey, Theresa Herlevsen
Oct. 2	Derek De Haan
Oct. 3	Barbara Javorcic, Eve Lytal, Jesse Russell, Theo Lytal
Oct. 4	Cynthia Cata, Emily Cromwell, Garrett Keegan, Kirsten Hull, Solveig Roverud, Tom Connolly

## 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.
- Jack and Karen Lyons on the death of Jack's father, Connie Lyons.
- Grace Stauskas, who is recovering from major surgery on September 25.
- 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.

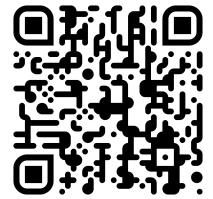
## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **TODAY-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. If you make a purchase, you will receive a 15% discount. We will have a QR code for you to use to donate that amount from your receipt to the Migrant Housing Project - 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/3tazsjhc](https://tinyurl.com/3tazsjhc) or scan the QR code to access the event registration and more information on donating items to the auction. **You can also view the auction pamphlet at [tinyurl.com/d7bsjzmk](https://tinyurl.com/d7bsjzmk).** 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 5–HANDWORK MEET-UP**

If you enjoy handwork, you're invited to sit together and stitch in community on the first Sunday of the month at our drop-in handwork group at Coffee Hour. We gather in a corner for one hour after the worship service. Bring your ongoing project and enjoy the conversation.

### **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. 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 20–HALLOWEEN PARTY OPEN GYM-10:00-11:30 a.m., Gym**

Kids and their families are invited for a Halloween-themed Open Gym including crafts, games, bounce house, and spooky treats. Show off your costume and join in the fun! Suggested donation \$10/family. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/y26udjdn>.



**OCTOBER 28–FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12-1:30 p.m., Sanctuary**

“Faith Symbols Hidden in Plain Sight.” Discussion facilitated by Larry Simpson. 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.

**OCTOBER 29–BAKE COOKIES FOR A CAUSE-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 10/22 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 22, 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!



### **PALESTINE STUDY GROUP**

Join us as we discuss the new book "One Day, Everyone Will Always Have Been Against This" by Omar El Akkad. In this accessible and powerful work, a novelist examines the west's response to the destruction of Gaza. Contact David Burnett at [burnett.db@gmail.com](mailto:burnett.db@gmail.com).

### **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).

## **VOLUNTEER AT UCAN FAMILY THANKSGIVING**

St.Pauls members are invited to help UCAN celebrate Thanksgiving with its staff and residents. Volunteers will decorate, serve food, play games and clean-up. Our support of the event will help UCAN's staff relax and make the event more special. It will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with the youth that they serve. All ages and abilities are welcomed. If you are interested, please contact Pauline Taylor at [Paulinetaylor933@gmail.com](mailto:Paulinetaylor933@gmail.com).

## **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!



## **YOUTH CHOIRS ARE BACK!**

Does your child like to sing? Sign them up for one of our youth choirs! We rehearse Sunday mornings: Kinderchapel Singers (preschool) 9:50-10:00, Social Hall. Children's Choir (K-3rd) 9:30-9:55, Chapel. Paul's People (4-8th) 9:30-9:55, Parlor. Reach out to Tom Clancy (KS) [tm.ferrin@gmail.com](mailto:tm.ferrin@gmail.com), Breanna Coe (CC) [breannacoe@gmail.com](mailto:breannacoe@gmail.com), Kecia Waldschmidt (PP) [keciagerman@hotmail.com](mailto:keciagerman@hotmail.com) for more information. Come and make a joyful sound in the city with us!

## **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.

## **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).

## **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.

## **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.



## **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](http://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).

### **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**

Take The Time To Switch From Plastic

On September 20, 2025, members of the St. Pauls Green Team joined the Sierra Club of Chicago to pick up and analyze garbage in Montrose Beach. Besides cigarette butts, the majority of garbage was plastic bottles, caps, wrapping papers, and plastic bottles. The plastics recycling rate in the United States is not a success story: only 5-6% of plastic waste in the United States is recycled. The rest is landfilled, burned for energy or ends up in the environment, such as Montrose Beach.

In addition, not all plastics are recycled, particularly those labelled #3-#7– these are usually discarded. Avoid the plastics problem altogether and buy products packaged in paper, glass and aluminum—far more recyclable and biodegradable.

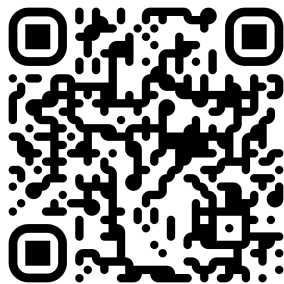
### **STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS**

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.

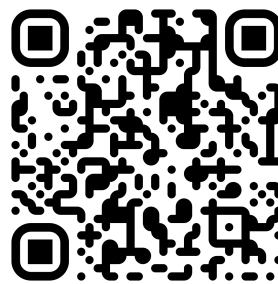
## WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

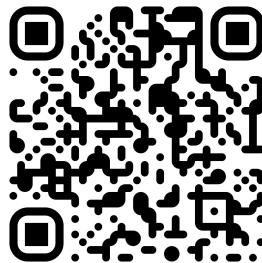
### JOIN A GROUP



### 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

***Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, Dearest Jesus, We Are Here***, is a chorale prelude, which is a compositional genre where the composer creates an “arrangement” using a well-known melody as a theme. The chorale, hymn, and melody was composed by Benjamin Schmolck (1672-1737). Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) thought so highly of this chorale that he set it for organ four times.

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). She is a respected academic having begun 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). He was educated at Erfurt University and was well known as an organist, but beyond that, little is known about his life.

***To You, O God, All Creatures Sing*** is a text adapted by Sister Miriam Therese Winter (b. 1938). She is a Catholic theologian and also a Medical Mission Sister who has worked in a number 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.

***Children of the Heavenly Father*** is a 1955 translation made from the original Swedish by Eric W. Olson (1870-1958). Born in Sweden, he spent a great deal of his life in Chicago. He also wrote a book chronicling the lives of Swedes in Illinois. The original Swedish text was by Caroline W. Sandell Berg (1832-1903). The daughter of a Lutheran pastor, she composed more than 650 hymn texts and became known as the “Fanny Crosby of Sweden.” The tune, TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, is a Swedish folk song that first appeared in print in 1873. It translates to *No one can be safer*.

***O God, How We Have Wandered*** harkens to St. Paul's German heritage. The tune is PASSION CHORALE or *Herzlich tut mich verlangen*. The English text many are familiar with is *O Sacred Head Sore Wounded*. The chorale melody dates from the early 17th century and is by Hans Leo Hassler (1564–1612). The harmonization is by Bach and the text we sing today was composed in 1980 by Kevin Nichols (1929–2006). He was a Roman Catholic priest in England.



***Avinu malkeynu*** is one of Max Janowski's (1912-1991) most performed works and is a prayer made on *Rosh Hashanah* and repeated on *Yom Kippur* for another year of blessing. Max Janowski was 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. This anthem was composed on the kitchen table of the Rabbi of KAM in 1967, Jacob Weinstein.

***Help Us Accept Each Other*** is a text written in 1975 by Fred Kahn (1929-2009). He was born in the Netherlands and survived the Nazi occupation. Many of his hymn texts focus on peace. He became a Congregational minister in England. AURELIA, which means "golden," was composed by Samuel S. Wesley (1810-1876) in 1864 and was originally set to a Wesley text *Jerusalem, The Golden*. Wesley was English and strove throughout his career to improve both church music and the lives of church musicians. We know the tune to the more familiar words *The Church's One Foundation*.

Joe Zawinul (1932-2007) was an Austrian jazz keyboardist and composer. He played with Miles Davis and went on to create jazz fusion. Jazz fusion incorporates electric guitars, rock and funk. He was voted Best Electronic Keyboardist by the readers of *Downbeat* magazine 28 times! He composed ***Mercy, Mercy, Mercy*** in 1967 and recorded it with Cannonball Adderley (1928-1975).

# **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 - 7 p.m.**

***Gospel Mass* - Robert Ray**

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

Greater Harvest Missionary Baptist Church

5141 South State Street

Chicago, IL

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.