



October 26, 2025

Reformation Sunday

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

Please silence cell phones.

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

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Behold, from faith thus flow forth love and joy in the Lord, and from love a joyful, willing, and free mind that serves one's neighbor willingly and takes no account of gratitude or ingratitude, of praise or blame, of gain or loss. For a man does not serve that he may put men under obligations. He does not distinguish between friends and enemies or anticipate their thankfulness or unthankfulness, but he most freely and most willingly spends himself and all that he has, whether he wastes all on the thankless or whether he gains a reward...freely bestowing joy which is his delight when through Christ he sees it in God, the dispenser of such great benefits." *Volume 31 of Luther's Works, "The Freedom of a Christian"*

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

INTROIT	<i>A Mighty Fortress Is Our God</i>	Martin Luther
	Chancel Choir	

CHIMES

WELCOME	Matt Fitzgerald
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* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: It is by God's grace that we are saved through our faith

All: We can't save ourselves; the good works we do do not save us.

One: Salvation is a gift from God, through our loving Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

* HYMN

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

The Chancel Choir will sing the third stanza in German.

The congregation will join on the fourth stanza.

1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All thy works with joy sur-round thee, Earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, Ev - er bless-ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor-tals, join the might - y cho - rus Which the morn-ing stars be-gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, Open-ing to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
Well-spring of the joy of liv - ing, O - cean depth of hap - py rest!
Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, Rec - on - cil - ing race and clan.

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

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad-ness, Fill us with the light of day.
Chant-ing bird and flow - ing foun-tain, Call us to re - joice in thee.
Teach us how to love each oth - er, Lift us to the joy di-vine.
Joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward In the tri-umph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

Loving God, we confess our tendency to adopt the attitudes of the world, letting culture shape us rather than Christ. We are too often concerned with our own interests and status, instead of the well-being of others. We admit we have not always treated one another as valued members of your body, allowing intolerance to tear us apart. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, transform us from the inside out so that our words and lives bring honor and glory to you. Help us to live by faith, growing in grace and allowing Christ to be formed in us, so that our lives are lived to reflect your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

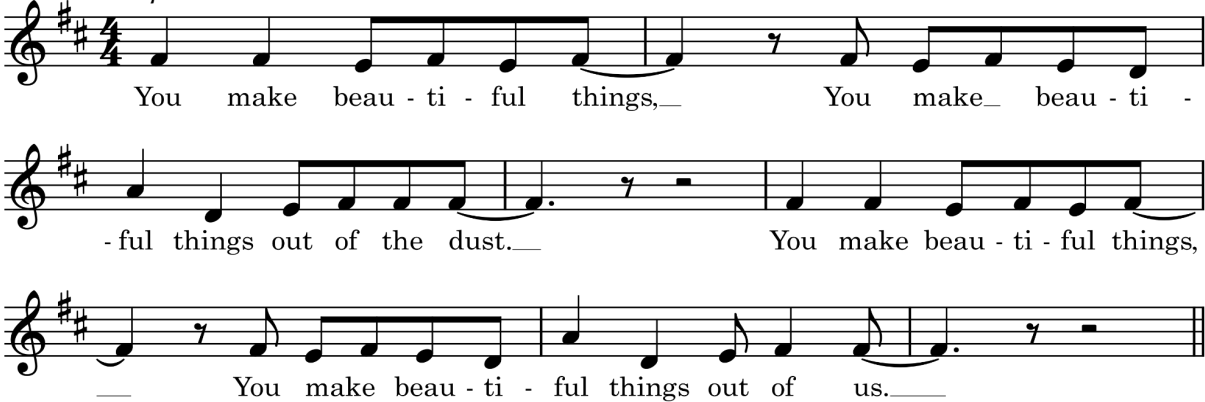
WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Sunday School students are invited to participate in Prayground Sunday School.
If you would like to accompany your child(ren) to the gym,
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.*

RESPONSE

You Make Beautiful Things

Refrain



You make beau - ti - ful things,___ You make___ beau - ti -
- ful things out of the dust.____ You make beau - ti - ful things,
___ You make beau - ti - ful things out of us.____

Verse



You make me new, You are mak - ing___ me new.____
You make me new, You are mak - ing___ me new.____

SCRIPTURE

James Rowley

Romans 1:11-17

I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is God's saving power for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. God's righteousness is being revealed in the gospel, from faithfulness for faith, as it is written, "*The righteous shall live by faith.*"

* 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

You Make Beautiful Things
Repeat the previous hymn

SERMON

"Sola Fide"

Liz Nickerson

* HYMN

Amazing Grace

1. A - maz - ing__ grace! How sweet the sound, that
2. Through man - y__ dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
3. When we've been__ there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a__ wretch like me!__ I once__ was lost, but
have al - ready - y come;__ 'Tis grace__ has brought me
shin - ing__ as the sun,__ We've no__ less days to

now__ am__ found, was blind but__ now I see.__
safe__ thus far, and grace will__ lead me home.__
sing__ God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.__

GIVING MOMENT: What More is Saint Pauls Building?

Donn Schimp

OFFERTORY

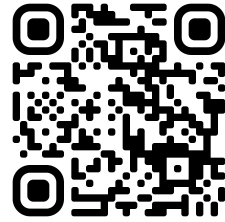
Festival Te Deum
Nadia Jimenez, soprano
Chancel Choir

Benjamin Britten

We praise Thee, O God; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord.
All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting.
To Thee all angels cry aloud, the Heavens and all the Powers there in,
To Thee Cherubim and Seraphim continually do cry
Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God of Sabaoth!
Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory.
The glorious company of the Apostles praise thee.
The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise thee,
The noble army of Martyrs praise thee.
The Holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee,
the Father of an infinite majesty;
Thine honorable, true, and only Son; also the Holy Ghost, the comforter.
Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ.
Thou art the everlasting Son of the Father.
When Thou tookest upon thee to deliver man,
Thou did'st not abhor the Virgin's womb.
When Thou had'st overcome the sharpness of death,
Thou did'st open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.
Thou sittest at the right hand of God, in the glory of the Father.
We believe that Thou wilt come to be our judge.
We therefore pray Thee, help Thy servants, whom Thou hast redeemed with Thy
precious blood.
Make them to be numbered with Thy Saints in glory everlasting.
O Lord, save Thy people, and bless Thine heritage.
Govern them, and lift them up forever.
Day by day, we magnify Thee; and we worship Thy name, ever world without end.
Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this day without sin.
Have mercy upon us, O Lord.
Let Thy mercy lighten upon us, as our trust is in Thee.
O Lord, in Thee have I trusted: let me never be confounded.

ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS

*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.*



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

Musical notation for the Festival Doxology, consisting of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The notes are as follows:
Staff 1: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (half).
Staff 2: D4 (half), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (half), C3 (half), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), E2 (half).
Staff 3: D4 (half), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (half), C3 (half), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), E2 (half).
Staff 4: D4 (half), C4 (half), B3 (quarter), A3 (quarter), G3 (quarter), F#3 (quarter), E3 (half), D3 (half), C3 (half), B2 (quarter), A2 (quarter), G2 (quarter), F#2 (quarter), E2 (half).
The lyrics are: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures 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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



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



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



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



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



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

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

The musical score is written for a vocal part and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line consists of four measures: the first two contain whole notes (F3 and A2), and the last two contain a half note (F3) followed by a dotted half note (A2). The piano accompaniment also consists of four measures: the first two contain whole notes (F3 and A2), and the last two contain a half note (F3) followed by a dotted half note (A2). The lyrics 'A - men, A - men, A - - - men.' are written below the vocal line, with hyphens indicating the duration of the notes.

POSTLUDE

A Mighty Fortress
St. Arbucks Quartet

arr. Carol Tornquist

Kris Hansen, member of St. Arbucks Quartet, will be in New York City for the month of October making connections in the music field. He will return in November.

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: James Rowley

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Rob Castle, Doug Clark, David Faulkner, Ron Kepler, Fred Pearson

Greeters: Doug Dunham, Elliott Maschmeyer

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

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

BORN THIS WEEK IN 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.

Oct. 26 Colette Schimp, Joshua Wallace, Kaitlyn Nowack
Oct. 27 Cathy Knight, Claudia Walvoord, Eva Mack
Oct. 28 Alan Burrall
Oct. 29 Pam Woll
Oct. 30 Alayna Mack
Oct. 31 Greg Kobak, Jackson Noonan, Liz Raiman
Nov. 1 Allen Heinemann, Nick Walvoord, Willow Clancy

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.

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.

- Jeffrey Whitridge and Greg Clemons at the death of Jeffrey's brother, Mark.
- Steve Garrett, who had knee surgery on October 15.
- Lorri Wirsum's daughter, Ruby, facing health concerns, and her daughter-in-law, Trish, on the death of Trish's mother, Sandy Henderson.
- Craig Wilbanks and Monty Kehl on the passing of Craig's father, Rex Wilbanks.
- Meg Tazelaar's grandmother, in her final days of life, for a peaceful passing.
- Grace Stauskas, who is recovering from major surgery on September 25.
- A neighbor of St. Pauls struggling with fibromyalgia.
- Terry Stumpf, suffering from a pulmonary embolism and other issues.
- Ally S., a college student with double vision and neurological problems.
- 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

“Faith Symbols Hidden in Plain Sight” Discussion facilitated by Larry Simpson, 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. Bring your own lunch. 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 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 or Gloria Joseph at glrjoseph@yahoo.com.

NOVEMBER 9 – PHASE II DEDICATION CELEBRATION–PLEASE RSVP-11:15 a.m., Courtyard & Gym

RSVP today (or soon!) to join the Sunday, November 9 after-worship dedication and luncheon that will celebrate the completion of our bold capital construction project that has made our entire public church complex accessible and created an open-air plaza for church events and gatherings. We want to have plenty of food and beverages for all, so choose an RSVP method: 1) using this QR code, 2) filling out the RSVP card in today's bulletin and placing it in the offering plate, OR 3) responding to the email you received this week.



NOVEMBER 11 – 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 are 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.

Contact: Pastor Jeff. December 16 - *Persuasion*.

NOVEMBER 13 – THE STORY OF PLASTIC (SAVE THE DATE)

Plastics in the environment are one of the most compelling issues of our time. Join Lincoln Park's Green Teams to learn more about the problem and how you can take action.

Time: Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Format: Film plus discussion with Brian Sauder of Faith in Place and Carter O'Brien, Commissioner of the Environment, City of Chicago.

Location: Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, 600 West Fullerton Parkway.

Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

NOVEMBER 15 – WINDY CITY WINDS CONCERT SATURDAY EVENING - 7:30 p.m., Gym

Windy City Winds, "Chicago's Community Band", will present its 10th Anniversary Concert in the gymnasium at St. Pauls UCC on Saturday evening, November 15 at 7:30 p.m. St. Pauls members Mark and Sarah Mosley will conduct an exciting program of music by Beethoven, John Philip Sousa, British composer Haydn Wood, and American composers Alfred Reed and Fisher Tull. To help celebrate this milestone, 20 former WCW members will join the band for the second half of the concert. Admission is free! Looking ahead, please save Friday evening March 13 and Friday evening May 15 for WCW concerts later this season.

NOVEMBER 16 – SAVE LIVES - DONATE AT ST. PAULS BLOOD DRIVE– 8 a.m., Gym
Save the Date to save more lives! St. 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:



NOVEMBER 16 – NEW MEMBER CLASS

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.

NOVEMBER 26 – VOLUNTEER AT UCAN FAMILY THANKSGIVING

St. Pauls members are invited to help UCAN celebrate Thanksgiving with its staff and residents. We'll meet on Wednesday, November 26 from 3-7 p.m. 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, and it will be a wonderful opportunity to connect with the youth they serve. All ages and abilities are welcome. If you are interested, please contact Pauline Taylor at Paulinetaylor933@gmail.com.

St. Pauls, THANK YOU for all your support at our Fiesta for Funds potluck and silent auction! Whether you brought a dish, made a bid, or more, it was truly a group effort from our whole community. Together, we raised about \$28,000 to pay for legal services benefitting our sponsored families. Thank you also to our planning team: Katie Alrutz, Carrie Bruggers, Sally Fletcher, Peg Wander, Kristy Tavas, Jan Bail and Jenny Benefield.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENTERING ST. PAULS BETWEEN 9/15 and 10/31 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 four weeks. The temporary accessibility entrance on Fullerton for those using walkers and wheelchairs will remain unchanged.

Now through October 31, 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 St. 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!



LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES: TASTE OF FALL

Brush off those shoulder pads and leg warmers to join Lincoln Park Community Services to party with a purpose! The annual Taste of Fall will be held on Thursday, November 13 at Ovation Chicago in the West Loop. This year we are throwing it back to the year LPCS was formed: 1985. Sample items from local restaurants, bid on auction packages, and dance the night away to the hits of the '80s, all while helping support LPCS's programs! Dress code: '80s attire encouraged, business casual or cocktail. Interested in becoming a vendor, sponsor or donating an auction item? Please email hhedstrom@lpcschicago.org.



UCAN HOLIDAY GIFT TRAIN

This holiday season, the Advocacy and Activism committee is gearing up to help St. Pauls join UCAN's Gift Train once again. Starting November 2, stop by our table during Social Hour to sign up and shop from a wish list. But you don't have to wait, as donations can now be made now by mail. Once we receive your gift card, we'll match it with a name from the wish list. This is a wonderful way for virtual and long-distance members to get involved.

This year, we're requesting \$75 gift cards. Accepted cards include Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Target, or Walmart. Please send your gift cards to the church by December 1 at 2335 N. Orchard Street, Chicago, IL 60614. Thank you for helping make this holiday season special for those in need!

UCC ILLINOIS CONFERENCE CELEBRATION: OCTOBER 30- NOVEMBER 1

With the theme "For Such a Time as This: Faith in the Time of Upheaval," the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC) will conduct its Annual Celebration October 3-November 1 at First Congregational UCC in Dekalb, Illinois. The gathering promises inspiring worship, workshops, fellowship and visioning for the future of the church. This will be Rick Peterson's last year of service as the St. Pauls Lay Delegate to the Illinois Conference; please contact him if you would be interested in this or other positions within the UCC.

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

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.

CTS CELEBRATES 170 YEARS OF ACTION

In 1855, the United Church of Christ-related Chicago Theological Seminary (CTS) was established by Congregationalists in the boomtown of Chicago. Innovative and activist from the beginning, it was formed to bring and support churches in the "west" and to promote the abolition of slavery. In recent years, distinguished CTS graduates from

St. Pauls include Revs. Tom Henry, Avena Ward and Jeff Carlson, as well as Colleen Henry. St. Pauls members who have served as trustees include Dave Bueschel, Jana O'Brien, Rick Peterson and Ted Tetzloff. St. Pauls continues to support CTS financially with an annual gift from our Activism and Advocacy Ministry. Congratulations to CTS as it continues to reimagine and transform religious education and society in the real world.

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.

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 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!



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.

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 a.m., Social Hall. Children's Choir (K-3rd) 9:30-9:55 a.m., Chapel. Paul's People (4-8th) 9:30-9:55 a.m., Parlor. Reach out to Tom Clancy (KS) tm.ferrin@gmail.com, Breanna Coe (CC) breannacoe@gmail.com, or Kecia Waldschmidt (PP) keciagerman@hotmail.com for more information. Come make a joyful sound in the city with us!

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 or contact Pastor Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org to learn more about other opportunities to help.

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.

ST. PAULS MIGRANT HOUSING PROJECT LEGAL FUND

St. 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.

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 such tasks as 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.

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 St. Pauls community. If you are interested in learning more about early education classes for your child, visit our website at www.littlelightslp.org or contact Erin Fitzgerald at 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 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. 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

Packaging Consciousness During Holidays

Already stores are featuring products for the holidays, particularly for Thanksgiving. The majority of products will come wrapped in packaging that involves plastic. As you shop, there are choices:

- Opt for meats bought directly from the meat counter as they are usually wrapped in butcher paper;
- Take your own bags to market, both mesh and grocery; this will allow you to avoid pre-packaged fruits and vegetables.
- Avoid dairy cartons in plastic containers and instead opt for those in old fashioned glass or paper/wax.
- Avoid drinks in plastic containers and shift to investing in a good water filter or in a carbonated water maker and make your own flavorings.
- Buy alcoholic beverages in paper, glass or aluminum containers— and always recycle!

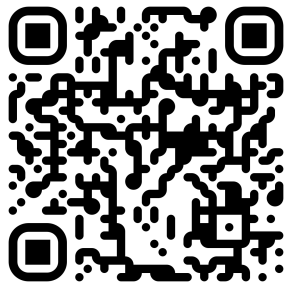
STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS

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.

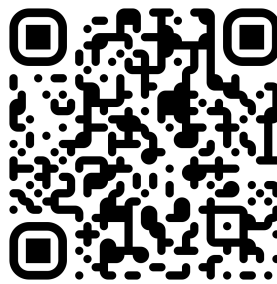
WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

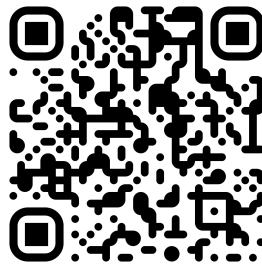
JOIN A GROUP



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

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

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

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

You Make Beautiful Things is a simple folk like melody named BEAUTIFUL THINGS, with text and music authored by Michael (b. 1980) and Lisa (b. 1981) Gungor. They are a married couple who met as students at Oral Roberts University. The band, Gungor, of 3 to 10 members, has sought to broaden its appeal beyond Christian contemporary music.

The text for ***Amazing Grace*** is by John Newton (1725-1807), who was a slave ship captain, but became an Anglican clergyman and fervent abolitionist. He once said

that writing this text saved his soul. The tune, NEW BRITAIN, is most likely an African American spiritual and was first published in 1829.

Benjamin Britten, (1913-1976), composed this truly majestic and mysterious setting of ***Festival Te Deum***, the great 6th century Latin hymn, in 1944 for a centennial celebration of St. Mark's Church, Swindon, England. It contrasts chant-like melodic lines at the beginning with an "outburst" from the choir on *Thou art the King of glory, O Christ*. The serene soprano solo is followed by a full-voiced plea from the choir, *Let me never be confounded*. The text is from the 6th century and of anonymous origin. An interesting note is that Te Deum was one of the very few non-biblical prayers to survive and be retained in the review by the Council of Trent held between 1545 and 1563. One of the main objectives of that Council, beyond sparking a counter-Reformation movement, was to reduce or eliminate non-biblical parts of liturgy. It is a tribute to the power of this prayer that it survived that review.

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

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

Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org

Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, lnickerson@spucc.org

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership
Please visit www.spucc.org/contact

St. Pauls United Church of Christ
2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614
(773) 348-3829 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.