

Second Sunday of Advent
Magnificat - John Rutter
December 7, 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.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

Imagine being a child, excitedly counting the days until your birthday, each day bringing you closer to that joyful celebration. Now imagine that child not knowing when their birthday is. It just happens one day without any time for joyful anticipation. Advent is not Christmas, not the child's birthday, Advent is a time to excitedly wait and prepare like Mary anticipating the coming of God's gift to her and to all.

PRELUDE

Concerto grosso in G Minor, Op. 8, No. 6
"Christmas Eve Concerto"
Vivace, Grave, and Allegro
Orchestra

Arcangelo Corelli

CHIMES

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - The Candle of Love

David Brown

INTROIT

Magnificat
Magnificat
(Sung in Latin)
Chancel Choir
Orchestra

John Rutter

Magnificat anima mea Dominum:
et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo
salutari meo.
Quia respexit humilitatem ancillae
suae:
ecce enim ex hoc beatam me dicent
omnes generationes.

*My soul doth magnify the Lord:
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my
Saviour.
For he hath regarded the lowliness of
his hand-maiden:
for behold, from henceforth all
generations shall call me blessed.*

CHIMES

WELCOME

Kurt R. Hansen

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: There is a voice crying in the wilderness.

All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

One: Make a straight path for Salvation

All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

One: God shall feed the flock and we are God's flock!

All: Prepare the way of the Lord! Hallelujah!

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

* HYMN

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king!
 3. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to eve - ry trou - bled breast!
 4. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy life re - ceive;

From our fears and sins re - lease us; Let us find our rest in thee.
 Born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 Let us all in thee in - her - it; let us find thy prom - ised rest.
 Sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er, nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave.

Is - rael's strength and con - sol - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 By thy own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;
 Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,

Dear de - sire of ev - ry na - tion, joy of ev - ry long - ing heart.
 By thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glor - ious throne.
 End of faith, as its be - gin - ing, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 Pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy pre - cious love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Matt Fitzgerald

**In the midst of twinkling lights and recorded carols that began on
Halloween, help us to be still in this time of waiting and anticipation.**

We confess that we are not very good at waiting.

We want everything now.

Forgive our impatience and quiet our distracted souls.

**Help us to think of others for whom anticipation is only a word full of
nothing.**

Help us to share our abundance.

**Help us to open the “inn” of our hearts so we can welcome the oppressed
into the warmth of faith and love.**

**Let us become children again in joyful anticipation of the promised gift of
the Christ child.**

O come, O come Emmanuel!

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM

Of a Rose, A Lovely Rose

John Rutter

Annika Victorson and Karin Magnuson
Andy Davis, Doug Heyboer and Mark Mosley
Jana O'Brien and Winnie Kearns
Soloists

Of a Rose, a lovely Rose,
Of a Rose is all my song.

That man should see it both day and
night.

Hearken to me, both old and young,
How this Rose began to spring;
A fairer rose to mine liking
In all this world ne know I none.

The third branch did spring and spread;
Three kinges then the branch gan led
Unto Our Lady in her child-bed;
Into Bethlem that branch sprang right.

Five branches of that rose there been,
The which be both fair and sheen;
The rose is called Mary, heaven's queen.
Out of her bosom a blossom sprang.

The fourth branch it sprang to hell,
The devil's power for to fell:
That no soul therein should dwell,
The branch so blessedfully sprang.

The first branch was of great honour:
That blest Marie should bear the flow'r;
There came an angel from heaven's
tower
To break the devil's bond.

The fifth branch it was so sweet,
It sprang to heav'n, both crop and root,
Therein to dwell and be our *bote:
So blessedly it sprang.

The second branch was great of might,
That sprang upon Christmas night;
The star shone over Bethlem bright,

Pray we to her with great honour,
She that bare the blessed flow'r,
To be our help and our succour,
And shield us from the fiendes bond.

**Bote = salvation (15th-century English)*

SCRIPTURE

Mark Huddle

Isaiah 40: 1 - 5, *King James Version*

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

* A 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)

* HYMN

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

1. Lift up your heads, O might - y gates; be - hold the
2. Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
3. So come, my Sov - ereign; en - ter in! Let new and

glo - rious_ Rul - er waits! The Sov - ereign One is
tem - ple, set a - part From earth - ly use for
no - bler_ life be - gin; Your Ho - ly Spir - it

draw - ing_ near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

SCRIPTURE

Margot Frank

Luke 1: 46 -55, *King James Version*

And Mary said,
My soul doth magnify the Lord,
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from
henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.
He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.
He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;
As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever.

RESPONSE

Quia fecit mihi magna
(Sung in Latin)

John Rutter

Pauls People

Cece Chamberlain	Thomas Mix
Mabel Fletcher	Thea Mack
Aniston Hartanov	Toby Smedley
Deirdre McGrath	Clara Wahlstrom
Brooke McGuire	Lee Waldschmid
James Mix	

Nathan Streeter and Todd Coe
soloists

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est:
et sanctum nomen eius.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me:
and holy is his Name.

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are filled with thy
glory. Hosanna in the highest.

(*from the Ordinary of the Mass)

OFFERTORY

Et misericordia
(Sung in Latin)

John Rutter

Kecia Waldschmidt, Jen Kew and Breanna Coe
soloists

Et misericordia eius a progenie
in progenies timentibus eum.

*And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.*

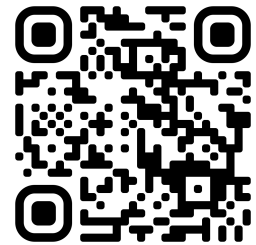
Fecit potentiam

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo:
dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.
Deposuit potentes de sede,
et exaltavit humiles.

*He hath shewed strength with his arm:
he hath scattered the proud in the
imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty
from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.*

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.*



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.**

RESPONSE

Esurientes

John Rutter

(Sung in Latin)

Terry Hansen, Nancy Pifer,
Katie Alrutz, Lenore Ettinger and Nadia Jimenéz
soloists

Esurientes implevit bonis: et divites
dimisit inanes.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum,
recordatus misericordiae suae.
Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,
Abraham et semini eius in saecula.

*He hath filled the hungry with good
things:
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen
his servant Israel.
As he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.*

BENEDICTION

Liz Nickerson

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Gloria Patri
(Sung in Latin)

Rutter

Terry Hansen, Jana O'Brien, Christie DeForest Ward,
Nadia Jimenéz
Soloists

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.*

Sancta Maria, succurre miseris,
iuva pusillanimes, refove flebiles:
ora pro populo, interveni pro clero,
intercede pro devoto femineo sexu:
sentiant omnes tuum iuvamen,
quicumque tuum sanctum implorant
auxilium.

*Holy Mary, succour those in need,
help the faint-hearted, console the tearful:
pray for the laity, assist the clergy,
intercede for all devout women:
may all feel the power of your help,
whoever prays for your holy aid,
Alleluia.*

Alleluia.

(Antiphon at Feasts of the Blessed Virgin
Mary)

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc,
et semper, et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

*As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.*

ADVENT WREATH - Each week during Advent, we light a candle in our Advent wreath to anticipate the coming of Christ, the light of the world. These candles symbolize the gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace that Christ brings. Today, we light the candle of **love**. Each week, a different member of the Migrant Housing Project (MHP) Team will light a candle. There was no room at the inn for Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, but at St. Pauls we have room for our Venezuelan migrant families. Some of our migrant families will accompany MHP members, as their schedules allow. Many of these families work on Sunday mornings. All of our families have achieved legal working status in the U.S. Our Christmas Eve offering will be dedicated to the MHP Legal Aid Fund.

We are grateful for the generous gift of Jim Miller in memory of his beloved wife, Pattie O'Reilly Miller. His gift funded both our orchestra today and the poinsettias on our altar. The Magnificat is offered in the memory of Pattie.

We also gratefully acknowledge the many who gave gifts to the Sexton Music Fund and the Sam Hill Fund to support special music projects.

A donation to the Sexton Music Fund was made in honor of Kurt R. Hansen by The Sopiarcz-Dunham family.

A donation was made by Terry Stumpf, in appreciation and thankfulness for all the emails and cards received from St. Pauls congregants while in the midst of, and now in recovery from, his serious healthcare situation.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson, Liz Nickerson

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

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

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Scripture Readers: Mark Huddle, Margot Frank

Advent Wreath Lighter: David Brown and families

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Fred Pearson

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Greeters: Larry Damron, Elliott Maschmeyer, Mercedes Ridao

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 DECEMBER

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.

Dec. 7 Ainsley Fraser, Francis Myers

Dec. 9 Vanessa Eldridge, Jennifer Gourley, Tim Ward

Dec. 10 Chris Dierks, Ginna Gentzen

Dec. 11 Cindy Ball, Ed Hohlbein, Hugo Osorio

Dec. 12 John Crouch, Jake Gentzen

Dec. 13 Holland Emmrich, Lincoln Ly

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.

- Alicia Braun and her family for the death of her father, Joseph Kroenert.
- Kate and Angus Atkins-Trimnell, Pastor Liz's sister and brother-in-law, for the death of Angus's father, Ralph Trimnell.
- Families undergoing treatments for infertility.
- Barbara Benjamin's husband, Tom Coffield, for an upcoming surgery on December 8.
- Prayers for Rick Sensenbrenner's mother, Marie, as she navigates various health conditions.
- The Camp Mystic families who are suffering unimaginable loss from the July 4th floods.
- Peace for all of God's children.
- Jeffrey Whitridge and Greg Clemons at the death of Jeffrey's brother, Mark.
- Lorri Wirsum's daughter, Ruby, facing health concerns, and her daughter-in-law, Trish, on the death of Trish's mother, Sandy Henderson.
- A neighbor of St. Pauls struggling with fibromyalgia.
- Ally S., a college student with double vision and neurological problems.
- Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues cancer treatment.
- Dianne Witkowski, as she deals with cancer chemotherapy.

Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources

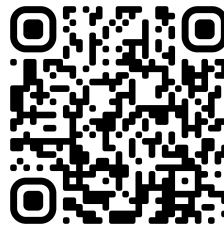
Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. Help is available for every kind of issue. Contact one of the pastors today for support, referrals, and information that can help you and your loved ones.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAULS

- SUN, DEC 7 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE*
10 a.m. - Worship, Christmas Cantata: John Rutter's *Magnificat*
- WED, DEC 10 LITTLE LIGHTS CHRISTMAS SHOW
5 p.m. - Concert, Sanctuary
- SAT, DEC 13 COOKIES WITH SANTA
10 a.m. - Cookies, crafts and pictures with Santa, Gym
- SUN, DEC 14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY*
10 a.m. - Worship, Readings & Carols with youth choirs and brass
11:30 a.m. - Advent Market
- TUES, DEC 16 FOOD FOR THE SOUL
12 p.m. - Christmas Party with carol sing-a-long
- THURS, DEC 18 TAIZÉ WINTER SOLSTICE ♦
7 p.m. - Service, Labyrinth Walk, Gym
- SUN, DEC 21 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE*
10 a.m. - Worship
- WED, DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
5 p.m. - Family Service, Sanctuary
9 p.m. - Candlelight Service, Sanctuary
Christmas story, carols, candles, and choir

*Scan here for more
information about
Advent events*

♦RSVP for childcare

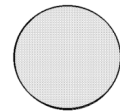


THE CHRISTMAS TREE IS A CHRISMON TREE - A Chrismon is a symbol of Christ. All the designs have been passed down through centuries of Christian tradition and are made of white and gold, to symbolize the purity and the majesty of Christ. Our chrismons have been made by members and friends of St. Pauls, and the tree itself was a gift to the church in 1997 from the Crowley and Opp-Ekdahl families. It takes 15,300 lights to illuminate the 17' tree.

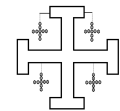
Thank you to our tree and poinsettia decorators: Lorne Frank, Greg Basil, Fernando Diaz, Marcia Opp, Doug Clark, Barb Kaiser, Ramiro Gonzalez, Deborah Bayly, Jan Bail, Jill Minetz, Ron Koepke, Cres Roewer, Doug Roewer, Char Damron

See how many of the symbols you can find. Some of the symbols are:

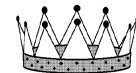
The CIRCLE, a symbol of eternity, of God.



The CROSS, in all its variations, a reminder of the saving work of Christ.



The CROWN, a symbol of the victory of Christ.



The FISH, an early Christian symbol.



The ORB, is Heaven and Earth.



The DESCENDING DOVE, represents the Holy Spirit at Christ's baptism.



The TRIANGLE, THREE INTERTWINED CIRCLES, symbols for one God in three persons, the Trinity.



The STARS are made of crosses, showing the connection between the birth and death of Jesus.



The BUTTERFLY, a symbol of the resurrection.



The DOGWOOD, branches form a cross.



The LILY OF THE VALLEY represents Christ's humility.

ALPHA and OMEGA, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet represent Jesus saying that He is the beginning and the end.



CHRISTMAS GIVING

We are going to “Fill the Sills” throughout the holiday season. Common Pantry has requested:

- ✓ protein
- ✓ diapers (adult and child)
- ✓ wipes
- ✓ feminine hygiene products
- ✓ shopping bags with handles
- ✓ cooking oil
- ✓ dish soap
- ✓ bath soap
- ✓ coffee
- ✓ kids snacks
- ✓ spices & herbs
- ✓ salt and pepper



To donate directly to the Common Pantry, go to www.commonpantry.org/.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY – BIBLE OFF BROADWAY INFO SESSION - 11:30 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Join us today at 11:30 a.m. in the Oscar Mayer Room to learn about this year's theme, schedule and ways for your kids to participate! Director Jana O'Brien will help share ways that your youth and family can help make this year the best ever!!!

DECEMBER 10 – LITTLE LIGHTS CHRISTMAS CONCERT - 5 p.m., Sanctuary

Our Little Lights students take the spotlight on Wednesday, December 10, as each class performs two songs. This brief show concludes with a group sing-a-long and a hot cocoa bar to celebrate. Get ready to see some stars in action as our littlest ones embody the heart of the Christmas spirit.

DECEMBER 13 – COOKIES WITH SANTA - 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Gym

Join us at St. Pauls for our annual Cookies with Santa event. It is a festive time full of music, cookie decorating, crafts, hot chocolate, and pictures with Santa! This event features live music provided by the Windy City Winds that is guaranteed to get everyone in the holiday spirit! To help plan our cookie count, please register here for this free event: tinyurl.com/3mkn4k53.

DECEMBER 14 – LUNCH MAKING FOR LPCS - 11:15 a.m., Kitchen

Right after church, come to SPUCC's kitchen and help make sack lunches for the residents of Lincoln Park Community Services. We provide all the needed food, but volunteers are asked to contribute \$25 each to help cover food costs for the lunches. Donations can be made via cash, Venmo, or Zelle. We're typically done by 12:15 p.m.

If you're interested, please use Church Center to sign-up: tinyurl.com/e4m9v9zz

DECEMBER 14 – DINNER MAKING FOR LPCS - 4 p.m., Kitchen

Join us in preparing and delivering dinner for residents of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. We meet at SPUCC at 4 p.m. and deliver the meal to LPCS (600 W. Fullerton) around 6 p.m. We provide the needed food, but volunteers are asked to contribute \$25 each to help cover food costs for the dinner. Donations can be made via cash, Venmo, or Zelle.

If you're interested, please use Church Center to sign-up: tinyurl.com/5dmys5hc

DECEMBER 16 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL CHRISTMAS PARTY/SING-A-LONG- 12-1:30

p.m., Social Hall - Bring whatever food you would like to share. Dress in your Christmas gear if desired. Join the caroling with Pastor Jeff at the piano. Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited. Childcare provided.

DECEMBER 16 – JANE AUSTEN 250 READING GROUP - 7 p.m., Zoom

December 16, 2025 is the 250th anniversary of Jane Austen's birth. We'll be discussing her last-published novel, *Persuasion*. Discussion over Zoom. Sign up to participate here: tinyurl.com/yez6ejw6. Contact: Pastor Jeff.

DECEMBER 21 – YOUTH BAKE SALE TO SUPPORT LA TIENDITA AT SOCIAL HOUR -

11 a.m., Social Hall

A St. Pauls high school student and her friends are volunteering at La Tiendita, a free store that supports immigrant families. Their bake sale will raise funds to create winter care packages for migrant families. So enjoy some homemade baked goods and help families in need!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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!



DECEMBER'S BLAST FROM THE PAST

For many years, "The Christmas Tree Ship" captained by Herman Schuenemann, "Captain Santa", a St. Pauls member, brought trees down from the north and docked at the southwest corner of the Clark Street bridge to sell his trees and also give them away to those in need. On November 23, 1912, Schuenemann's ship went down in a storm near Two Rivers, Wisconsin, and all aboard perished. Schuenemann's wife, Barbara, and daughters, Elsie, Hazel and Pearl, continued the business into the 1930s. A bronze plaque on the bridge, given by St. Pauls, commemorates the sinking.

ADVENT MARKET ITEMS NEEDED

This year's Advent Market is on Sunday, December 14, and will help fund our outreach and benevolence to provide legal support for our migrant family friends and church members. We need new or gently used items such as jewelry, candles, frames, handmade items, Christmas decorations, toys, etc. (Please, no clothing unless it is holiday specific.) Drop-off dates are **today, December 7**: 9 a.m.-12 p.m., **December 12**: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and **December 13**: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Questions, please text or email Carrie Bruggers at (773) 294-4446 or crbruggs@gmail.com.

LITTLE LIGHTS HOLIDAY FUNDRAISER

The holiday season is officially here - a time of excitement, gratitude, and generosity. We are partnering with PaperPie, which offers a variety of curated packages including thank-you cards, notepads, celebration cards, tote bags, and more. This fundraiser is live through December 15. Just click the link, choose any of the assorted options, and your items will be shipped directly to your home - simple as that! Please share the link with extended family, friends, neighbors, or anyone who wants to support our wonderful Little Lights program. Order here: tinyurl.com/mry7dcmt and reach out to erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org with questions.

HARVEST RECIPES

The Green Team invites St. Pauls to taste vegetarian recipes suitable for the holidays. Recipes will be provided.

NEW MEMBER CLASS – FEBRUARY 1, 2026

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. See upcoming dates here: spucc.org/new_member_classes.

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.

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 Keci 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.

"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.

LITTLE LIGHTS ENROLLMENT 2025-2026

Fall Incentive Rewards program: Register for 25-26 classes by December 2025 and receive \$500 off tuition! 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.

CREATION CORNER- provided by Green Team

Celebrating Five Degrees Centigrade

In 2025, President Trump directed the United States withdraw from the Paris Agreement, a treaty which identifies climate mitigation and emission goals. U.S. participation will end in January 2026.

Since the Paris Agreement began, global warming HAS declined to five degrees centigrade, from a previously anticipated seven to nine degrees centigrade.

This slowing does not meet the original target of below two degrees centigrade by the end of the century; nonetheless, the five degrees IS an advance which needs to be acknowledged, and even celebrated, as it reflects new energy technology and the action of millions of people globally across all sectors.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS

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

St. Pauls UCC
Giving Campaign 2026
October 12, 2025 – January 11, 2026
Total: \$773,669
Total households pledged: 131

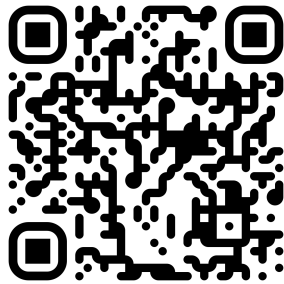
\$1,000,000
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\$100,000

What More Are We Building?

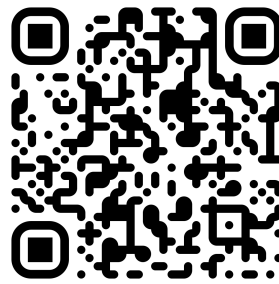
WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

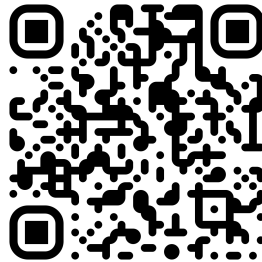
JOIN A GROUP



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

The ***Christmas Eve Concerto***, *Concerto grosso in G Minor, Op. 8, no. 6* was composed by Achangelo Corelli (1653-1713) as a result of a commission by Cardinal Pietro Ottoboni. The date of its composition is unclear, but there was a performance on Christmas Eve in 1690 for its patron, although it wasn't published until after Corelli's death. It is scored for strings and continuo, which is usually a harpsichord or organ. Corelli had a lasting effect on music in the Baroque period with the creation of the forms for the sonata and concerto. He also made the violin the principal instrument of orchestras. His fame spread from his home in Italy throughout Europe. He became known as "the new Orpheus" (the prince of musicians).

The text for ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*** was written by the great English hymn writer, Charles Wesley (1707-1788). He wrote more than 6,500 hymn texts. The composer of HYFRYDOL, Roland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887), was from Wales and was only 19 when he composed this piece. Yes, we sang this last week too, but it is too beautiful and full of meaning not to sing again.

The tune for ***Lift Up Your Heads***, TRURO, was composed by Charles Burney (1726-1814). Burney was a music historian and composer. He apprenticed with a well-known English Baroque composer, Thomas Arne (1710 -1778). The words were written by the famous English Hymnist and Methodist preacher, Charles Wesley.

John Rutter, now Sir John, (b. 1945) composed his setting of the ***Magnificat*** in 1990 on a commission from a group of choirs. It premiered that same year in Carnegie Hall with the composer conducting. The text is known as the "Canticle of the Blessed Virgin Mary" found in the Gospel of Luke 1: 46-55. Rutter was inspired by the setting of the same Latin text by Bach, but found "following in Bach's footsteps" a daunting prospect. He has always been influenced by Latin American music and rhythms and found this to be a way to express the joy of a very young Mary finding out that she had been chosen to carry God's child. Rutter also chose to depart from the traditional text in Luke by inserting a choral setting, *Of a Rose, A Lovely Rose*, a 15th century English text comparing Mary to that rose, which also reminds us of the carol, *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*. He also added the *Sanctus* from the Ordinary of the Mass in the *Quia fecit mihi magna* movement. In the final *Gloria Patri*, he inserted the antiphon chant from the Feast of the Blessed Virgin before the final *Amen*. The original version of Rutter's ***Magnificat*** is for full orchestra and large choir. He also arranged a version for chamber orchestra and organ which is what is being heard this morning.

Chancel Choir

Kurt R. Hansen, Music Director

Kevin Dziersawski, Organist

Karina Kontorovitch, Rehearsal pianist

Sopranos

Katie Alrutz

Amy Bashiti

Sue Coe

Lenore Ettinger

Nadia Jimenez

Gay Kelly

Jennifer Kew

Karin Magnuson

Nancy Pifer *

Ashley Shaluga

Grace Stauskas

Meg Tazelaar

Annika Victorson

Kecia Waldschmidt

Christie DeForest Ward

Pam Woll

Altos

Susan Arjmand

Cindy Ball

Amy Barton

Lois Basil

Terry Brancaccio Hansen

Carrie Bruggers

Breanna Coe *

Micki Fayhee

Karen Johnson

Winnie Kearns

Jana O'Brien

Amy Petersen Beck

Pat Ruch

Jade Luo Santos

Lola Stevenson

Tenors

Todd Coe

Andy Davis - Librarian

Lorne Frank

Ninon Freeman

Doug Heyboer

Rick Peterson

Sare Scanlan

Nathan Streeter*

Basses

Bill Borden

Jim Brandt

Jeff Carlson

Doug Coe

Allen Heineman

Graham Hicks

Mark Huddle

Julian Jarzebowski

Lee Lichamer *

Mark Mosley

Mark Swanson

* Section leader

Rutter Magnificat Orchestra

Hannah Barton, Orchestra contractor

First Violin

Hannah Barton, *Concertmaster**

David Repking

Sarah Kim

Second Violin

Sophie Petroski

Aasheetta Parikh Bawa

Ashley Pensinger-Sok*

Viola

Seth Pae

David Beytas

Cello

Erica Lessie

Ross Penniman*

Bass

Hanna Wilson-Smith

Harp

Phyllis Adams

Flute

Alexander Day

Oboe

Grecia De Leon

Clarinet

Jay Savoy

Bassoon

Nyketa DiCesare

French Horn

Natalie Grana

Timpani

Sarah Good Mosley*

Percussion

Matt Plaskota*

Organ

Kevin Dzierzawski

*St. Pauls Member

Special Music Theme 2025-2026

Joyful Sounds

Enjoy another year of special music during worship services.

Mark these dates in your calendar!

Sunday, March 15, 2026 - Lenten Cantata

***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

ABOUT ST. PAULS

Making a Joyful Sound in the City!

St. Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ+ people.

From founding Chicago's largest provider of social services to at-risk children to starting a home for the elderly, from housing protestors at the 1968 Democratic Convention to hosting Lincoln Park's first MLK day march against violence on Chicago's streets, we are proud to make a joyful sound in the city.

Most important, during the past 180 years we are glad to have introduced thousands of children and adults to the amazing, inclusive, life changing, uplifting love of God. We do so in worship that is traditional, but far from conventional.

Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald, mfitzgerald@spucc.org

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

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 Narthex.



WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and
our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children,
grandparents and families of all configurations.

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to LGBTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

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