September 20, 2026

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.

PRELUDE *Adagio in D-flat* F. Liszt
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

CHIMES

INTROIT *Spirit of the Living God* Iverson
Chancel Choir
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me
Melt me, mold me, fill me use me

WELCOME Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, you who are thirsty, come and drink!
All: Come, you who are hungry, come and eat!
One: God gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry.
All: God watches over strangers and lifts up the orphan and the widow.
One: God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
All: Let us worship the source of all goodness and love!

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

* HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess our lack of trust in you.
We trust in wealth for daily bread.
We trust in violence to give us peace.
We trust in technology to save us.
Forgive us, God. Only you can save.
Free us from empty comforts and false security.
Feed us with the sound of your voice and the goodness of your love.
Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Sunday School students are invited to go to their classrooms.
If you would like to accompany your child(ren),
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.

RESPONSE

Be Holy, Hear The Whisper

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Stanza 2

Be holy, hear the whisper, that guides each word and deed
Be holy, hear the whisper, reminding us we need
To be like God, to be like God.
Be holy, hear the whisper, the warmth of love's embrace
Be holy, hear the whisper, giving us the grace
To be like God, to be like God.

Hebrew Translation - *Hakadosh baruch hu, Hakadosh baruch hu*
(the Holy One, blessed are you)

SCRIPTURE Todd Coe

Exodus 16

On the fifteenth day of the second month after they had left Egypt, the whole company of Israel moved on from Elim to the wilderness which is between Elim and Sinai. The whole company of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron there in the wilderness. The Israelites said, "Why didn't God let us die in comfort in Egypt where we had lamb stew and all the bread we could eat? You've brought us out into this wilderness to starve us to death, the whole company of Israel!"

God said to Moses, "I'm going to rain bread down from the skies for you. The people will go out and gather each day's ration. I'm going to test them to see if they'll live according to my teaching or not. On the sixth day, when they prepare what they have gathered, it will turn out to be twice as much as their daily ration."

Moses and Aaron told the people of Israel, "This evening you will know that it is God who brought you out of Egypt; and in the morning you will see the Glory of God. Yes, he's listened to your complaints against him. You haven't been complaining against us, you know, but against God."

Moses instructed Aaron: "Tell the whole company of Israel: 'Come near to God. He's heard your complaints.'"

When Aaron gave out the instructions to the whole company of Israel, they turned to face the wilderness. And there it was: the Glory of God visible in the Cloud.

God spoke to Moses, "I've listened to the complaints of the Israelites. Now tell them: 'At dusk you will eat meat and at dawn you'll eat your fill of bread; and you'll realize that I am the Lord, your God.'"

That evening quail flew in and covered the camp and in the morning there was a layer of dew all over the camp. When the layer of dew had lifted, there on the wilderness ground was a fine flaky something, fine as frost on the ground. The Israelites took one look and said to one another, man-hu (What is it?). They had no idea what it was.

So Moses told them, "It's the bread God has given you to eat." The People of Israel went to work and started gathering, some more, some less, but when they measured out what they had gathered, those who gathered more had no extra and those who gathered less weren't short—each person had gathered as much as was needed.

The Israelites named it manna (What is it?). It looked like coriander seed, whitish. And it tasted like a cracker with honey. The Israelites ate the manna for forty years until they arrived at the land where they would settle down.

* 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	*Be Holy Hear the Whisper*	Ellen and Peter Allard
SERMON	"What is it?"	Jeff Carlson

* HYMN

Here I Am, Lord

SERVICE MOMENT	Vaccine Clinic	Barb Kaiser
OFFERTORY	*Sim Shalom* Chancel Choir Nathan Streeter, tenor	Max Janowski

Grant us peace, goodness and blessing,
Grace, kindness and mercy,
To us and all your people (Israel).
Bless us our Father, all of us as one
Through the light of your presence.
Truly through the light of your presence,
Adonai our God.
You gave us a Torah of life – love of kindness,
Justice, blessing, mercy, life, and peace.
May you see fit to bless your people Israel
At all times, at every hour, with your peace.
Praised are you Adonai,
Who blesses your people (Israel) with peace.
from the High Holy Days liturgy

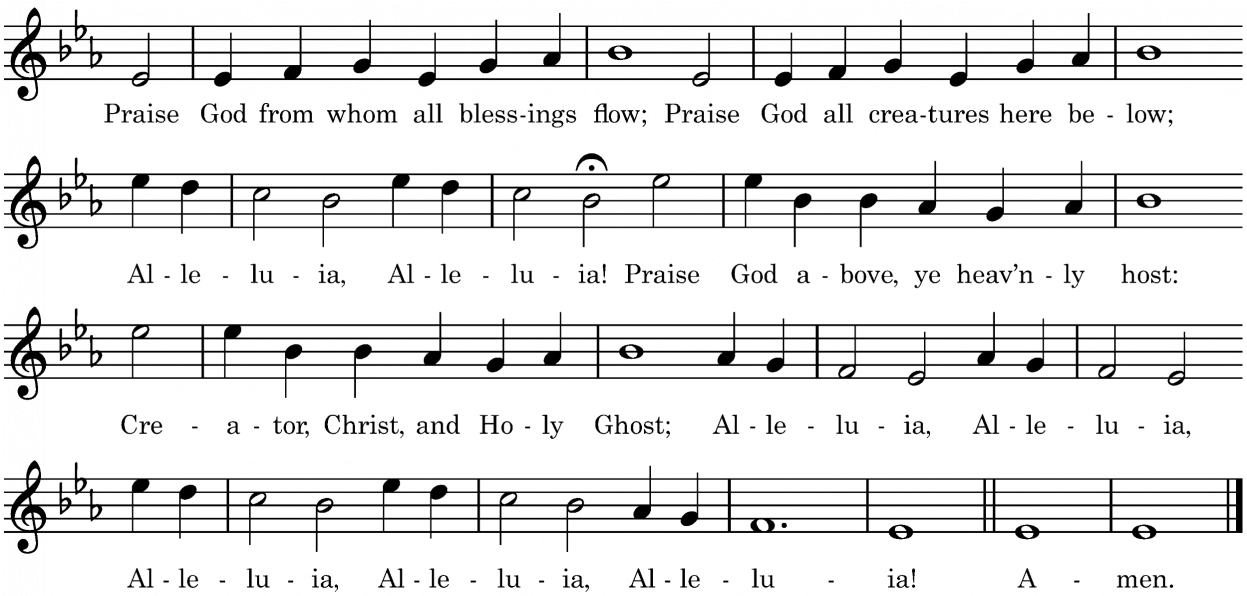
ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS

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 would like to learn more about the church, please scan the QR code.

* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH Matt Fitzgerald

THE LORD'S PRAYER

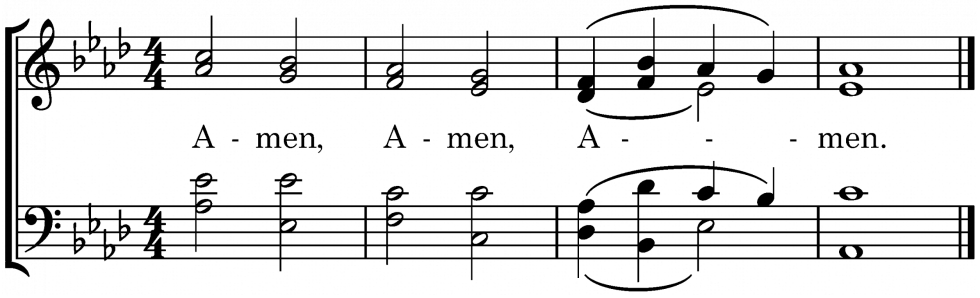
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

* HYMN

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE *I Saw the Light* Hank Williams
St. Arbucks

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

Are you going through a crisis, such as the death of a loved one, a diagnosis, a divorce, a job loss, etc? Extensively trained in Christian caregiving, Stephen Ministers are also available to listen, support and offer confidential caring on a weekly basis to our members at a mutually agreeable time. If you wonder whether this may be helpful to you, please contact Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org

Following worship all are invited for coffee and snacks in the Social Hall downstairs, directly beneath the sanctuary. If you're visiting, please stop by the Welcome Table so we can greet you.

Special Meeting of the Congregation — Today, September 20th

Please join us for a brief congregational meeting in the sanctuary following worship today. At this brief meeting, we will do a bit of financial housekeeping in order to align our financial year with the budget approved at each year's March Annual Meeting. The congregation will vote on:

- Moving St. Pauls' annual budget year from the calendar year to April 1-March 30.
- Authorizing a one-time, three-month transition budget managed by the Church Council in the first quarter of 2027.

This change will align congregational approval of the annual St. Pauls budget with the budget's implementation. Currently, our financial year begins January 1, three months before the budget is actually approved. This bookkeeping change will not affect the timing of our Annual Giving Campaign or year-end giving statements. All are welcome to attend; St. Pauls members may vote.

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 "Worship Bags" are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL and CONFIRMATION classes are in session. K-6 students are dismissed with their teachers during the worship service, and parents pick up children immediately after the service in their classrooms.
    - K-2nd grade Room #17 (Lower Level, next to nursery)
    - 3-4th grade Room #204 (Upper Level)
    - 5-6th grade Room #28 (Lower Level)
    - Confirmands and their families meet for lunch today downstairs in the social hall following the congregational meeting.
- HIGH SCHOOL - Parents and teens should join the High School Group on Church Center for up-to-date information.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson, Matt Fitzgerald
Music Director: Stephen Edwards
Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski
St. Arbucks Quartet: Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals
Scripture Reader: Todd Coe
Communion Coordinator: Jana O'Brien
Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji
Ushers: John Balevic, David Baker, Fred Pearson
Greeters: Elaine Filus
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 in celebration of the 70th birthdays of Beatrice Jaji on the 23rd and Glen Timmerman on the 24th.

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

BORN THIS WEEK IN SEPTEMBER

We give thanks for your life at St. Pauls. A perfect way to celebrate is by giving one dollar for each year of your life to our Birthday Fund, which supports A Just Harvest.

September 20 Doug Coe, Ethan Ashley-Ferguson, Joe Harrington
September 21 Grace Stauskas, Julian Jarzebowski, Lindy McGuire, Pam Pifer
September 22 Annika Hull, Brooke Roark, Charlie Rodriguez, Phillip Elkins
September 23 Beatrice Jaji, Cosette Millard, Liz Nickerson, Seth Davis, Stefan Millard
September 24 Colin Grosshans, Glen Timmerman, Harrison Bryant, Mercedes Ridao, Rob Castle
September 25 Christie Crouch, Christine Schmidt, Kay Wilde, Matt Fitzgerald, Nicole Chaiken, Tess Scrivner, William Hutchison Gourley
September 26 Jorie Hamm, Kristi Noonan, Taylor Beebe

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.

- For Jessica Ashley's cousin, Rivers Sears, on the death of her partner, Phil.
- For Cheryl Kennedy, home from the hospital, recovering from a heart repair.
- For Ella Vincent's mother, Maggie Vincent, struggling with serious health issues.
- For our Director of Operations, Aubraea Cleveland, on the deaths of her father and grandfather.
- For Kurt Hansen's sister, Kristin, going through major life transitions.
- Charles Michod and family as they grieve the death of his wife, longtime Saint Pauls member Susan Michod.

Continue to hold these loved ones in prayer:
David Folkes, Donn Schimp, Beverley Petrunich, Doug Dobmeyer

The sanctuary is reserved monthly on the fourth Tuesday
from 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. for prayer.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY – FILL THE SILLS
This fall we will continue to fill the window sills of our sanctuary with much needed items for the Common Pantry. The most requested items are: proteins and personal hygiene (shampoos, razors, feminine hygiene, toothpaste, diapers, baby wipes, etc.). The Pantry always needs reusable bags, backpacks, duffles and roller bags for clients to transport their food items.

This past week we dropped off items collected during August. Shea Leibow, their Community and Outreach Coordinator sent the following email: "You all brought in 342 lbs of highly-needed food and personal care items! THANK YOU! We couldn't do what we do without the support of partners like St Pauls UCC.
Thank you for being such generous and consistent partners."

Let's keep FILLING OUR SILLS for our neighbors in need. Donations can be placed on the sanctuary window sills any Sunday. If you would like to donate directly to the Pantry you may use the following QR code.

TODAY – GREAT LAKES CLEAN-UP - 1 p.m. - 2 p.m., Offsite
The Alliance for the Great Lakes works to protect the Great Lakes, our source of drinking water. Today offers an opportunity to help with the annual beach cleanup, collecting and counting trash to support pollution research and protect our shoreline.

- Fullerton Beach from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (possibly longer), in conjunction with Lincoln Park Presbyterian. This activity is part of a celebration, and St. Pauls is invited to an ice cream social beforehand. Ninon Freeman from the Green Team will be there. Register here: tinyurl.com/4f836rdp

Please let Ninon Freeman know you are going at nlanda05@yahoo.com, and ALSO sign up as appropriate at greatlakes.org. Children and youth under 18 need to be accompanied by an adult.

SEPTEMBER 21 - PEACH JAM MAKING - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., Offsite
Have you ever wanted to learn how to make jam? Join St. Pauls Social and host Jan Bail for a hands-on “jam session” to make peach jam. Bring a friend and join us for a paJAMa party. Wear your pajamas, and please bring a pair of new large pajamas to be donated to the guests at the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. Each person will go home with their very own jar of jam, and the remainder of the jam will be given to the LPCS for their guests to enjoy. We’ll be jammin’! R.S.V.P. to janbail@me.com, Church Center: tinyurl.com/3pj9v2wy or text (773)472-5678. There is a class maximum.

SEPTEMBER 22 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., Social Hall & Gym
"End of Life Decision-Making Before End of Life" facilitated by Lynn Dysktra Davis. Adults of all ages are invited. Connect with new and old friends with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun and discussion. After lunch, all are welcome to continue the afternoon with a Labyrinth Walk in the gym from 1:30–2:30 p.m. Take a few quiet moments to walk, reflect, and recharge. Childcare provided; register at tinyurl.com/une5bdd9

SEPTEMBER 22 - AFTER SCHOOL LEGO CLUB - 4:30–5:30 p.m., Room 017
Young builders aged 5 –13 and their parents or guardians are invited to use their imaginations to build and create together with LEGO bricks. This free club builds creativity and community connection in a fun environment. Join us anytime during the hour to participate. Register: tinyurl.com/nhj6m8nj

SEPTEMBER 23 - YOUNG ADULT WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP - 7 p.m., Off-site
If you're 22 to 35, join us on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. for a weekly summer Small/Life Group at a member's apartment. Form stronger bonds with women at church, make new friends, and grow in your faith! For more information, email youngadults@spucc.org.

SEPTEMBER 26 - OKTOBERFEST - 1:00 - 8:00 p.m., Courtyard
Oktoberfest is just a few weeks away, and we are looking forward to tapping into the excitement of this Bavarian tradition with authentic German food, local Oktoberfest beers, live music and dancing, a jumpy-house, and other fun activities. This year's live entertainment will include acclaimed children's entertainer, Laura Doherty (1:30 – 3:00 p.m.), and the Midwest's premier oompah band, Die Musikmeisters (3:30 – 7:30 p.m.).

It takes over 100 volunteers to pour 700 beers, serve 500 brats and hot dogs, and run kids' activities for seven hours. Can we count on you to join our team? As a volunteer, you will work a 2-hour shift and receive a free food/drink ticket.

You will also meet new friends and can help extend St. Pauls' hospitality to our guests and neighbors. Please sign up at: tinyurl.com/yf4ehv42

SEPTEMBER 27 - GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP - 11:30 - 12:45 p.m., Room 211
You don't have to grieve alone. Grief can feel overwhelming, isolating, and difficult to explain. Our peer-led Grief Support Group offers a safe, welcoming, and supportive space for people who are grieving to come together, share their experiences, listen to others, and find connection. What to Expect:

- A welcoming and supportive environment
- Opportunities to share your story—or simply listen
- Conversations about coping with grief and loss
- Support from others who understand

- Practical ways to care for yourself during the grieving process
- Respect for each person's unique experience and pace

No one is required to share. We'll meet one Sunday a month. Led by Stephen Ministry Leader Joe JaQuay. You can sign up to join the group here: tinyurl.com/hktte7xd

OCTOBER 1- DECEMBER 18 - JUMPSTART GYM – 9-10 a.m.
Children ages 5 and under with a caregiver are invited Thursdays and/or Fridays to run, jump, and climb in St. Pauls beautiful full-sized gym and tumbling mat area! Space and equipment provided for your little ones to burn some energy and get those bodies moving. Sign up for a small fee, combo discount for both days. Register here: tinyurl.com/4zph5muw

OCTOBER 2- DECEMBER 18 - STAY & PLAY – 10-11:30 a.m.
Our toddler playgroup meets on Friday mornings for parents/caregivers to meet and build community together. Children accompanied by an adult get to play and preview a preschool class setting for a small fee. Spots are limited and registration is required. Select your date(s) here: tinyurl.com/3bhcd6vy

OCTOBER 3RD - RIVER RESTORATION – 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Offsite
The Green Team, in conjunction with Friends of the Chicago River, is inviting St. Pauls to help in restoration and clean-up: Clark Park, 3400 North Rockwell Street (on the North Branch of the Chicago River, between Addison and Belmont).

Supplies will be provided. Activities will include clean-up, trail maintenance and native plant maintenance.

We have been requested to provide AT LEAST 15 volunteers. Waivers for children and youth are necessary. Please contact Ninon Freeman at nlanda05@yahoo.com if you and your friends and family are interested.

OCTOBER 4 – 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. Don't forget to bring your COVID vaccine card and your Medicare or insurance card! **Register now** at tinyurl.com/kroger-scheduler to book your appointment!

1. **Enter the Benefit Code**: Use **SPUCCVAC26** when prompted.
2. **Select Your Vaccines**: Choose which vaccines you want to receive
3. **Find an Appointment**:
   - Select **10/4/2026** for the date.
4. **Pick Your Time**: Choose your preferred time slot.
5. **Check Your Eligibility:** Provide your information to confirm eligibility for vaccination.

6. **Patient Details**: Enter your contact, address, and basic info for healthcare records.
7. **Complete Consent**: Finish by filling out and electronically signing the consent form.

OCTOBER 11 - MEAL-MAKING FOR LPCS - 11:15 a.m. & 4 p.m., Kitchen
Join us in the kitchen to prepare meals for the residents of Lincoln Park Community Services. We have two opportunities to serve:

- Lunch-making: 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Help us assemble sack lunches right after church. Sign up for Lunch: tinyurl.com/e4m9v9zz
- Dinner-making: 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. Prepare dinner at the church and help deliver the meal to LPCS (600 W. Fullerton). Sign up for Dinner: tinyurl.com/5n92ywpk

OCTOBER 13 - FALL READING GROUP - 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., ZOOM
Our monthly Reading Group continues on September 8 and October 13 with *Rivermouth* (A Chronicle of Language, Faith and Migration) by Alejandra Oliva. Carrie Bruggers will lead what promises to be lively discussions. On November 10, Lydia Murray will lead our adventure with *The Book of the Dun Cow* by Walter Wangerin, Jr. All discussions are over ZOOM at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Questions? Contact Marti Pechnyo at mpechnyo@gmail.com. Join us! Sign up here: tinyurl.com/yjutaszj

OCTOBER 15 – MOMS' GROUP - Thursday, 9:15 a.m., Nursery
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. R.S.V.P. to lnickerson@spucc.org.

OCTOBER 17- HALLOWEEN OPEN GYM – 9:30-11:30 a.m.
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. RSVP here: tinyurl.com/yc53hpua

OCTOBER 18 - CALMING OUR NERVOUS SYSTEM & LABYRINTH WALK - 11:15 a.m., Gym - Join us after worship for a discussion of ways we can calm our nervous system and cultivate a more relaxed and peaceful mind based on the newest neuroscience research. We will then walk the labyrinth, which is an ancient spiritual practice that can help us achieve this relaxation, peace, and a deeper connection with God. All are welcome. Register and learn more: tinyurl.com/3z9j4tt9

OCTOBER 17 & 18 - OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO - 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Onsite

For the first time ever, St. Pauls will open our doors as one of the sites for Open House Chicago, a free public program of the Chicago Architecture Center where buildings around the city are open to the public to visit. Hundreds of visitors will be coming to visit our beautiful church, and we need YOU to be one of our volunteer greeters and welcome folks into St. Pauls. No experience necessary!

Greeters will be spaced throughout the church to help direct people through our building. We'll need nine greeters for each of the two-hour shifts on Saturday between 9:30-5:30 and Sunday between 11:30-5:30. You can sign up for more than one shift. Questions? Contact Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org. You can sign up for a Volunteer Greeter shift here: tinyurl.com/3sth5mek

OCTOBER 20 – RETIREMENT GROUP MEETING – 10 a.m., Parlor
Please join other retirees to discuss our transition paths, what's meaningful, what's on our minds, what brings (and has brought) us joy and sorrow, what's keeping us occupied, and what's next. For more information, contact Jana O'Brien at (708) 846-9415 or janaobrien1@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 28 - COOKIES FOR A CAUSE - 5 p.m., Kitchen
Join us on Wednesday, October 28th at 5:00 p.m. for an evening of fellowship and cookie baking for the LPCS and A Just Harvest. We bake hundreds of cookies, enjoy dinner in fellowship, and have a lot of fun! Service hours can be earned. Please R.S.V.P. to Gloria Joseph: glrjoseph@yahoo.com or Marcia Volk at: marcia@volkonline.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION
Please register for Nursery/Preschool childcare, K-6th Sunday School, 7th and 8th grade Confirmation, and High School classes by scanning this QR code.

FEED MY SHEEP
This fall, we're focusing our attention on hunger: doing something hands-on about it and learning more about its root causes and solutions. Feeding hungry people was a priority of Jesus, and so, beginning in October, we're increasing our monthly volunteer opportunities for you to cook meals for LPCS. Beginning September 27th,, we'll have three Adult Faith Formation sessions after worship about how our faith

speaks to hunger as well as how to address its root causes. Our first gathering will include LPCS CEO Cheryl Hamilton-Hill. We hope you'll join us in putting our hands and hearts to work!

To volunteer for an upcoming meal, sign up at the links:

Make lunch right after church on a Second Sunday of the Month
tinyurl.com/4s7ybs2c

Make Dinner from 4-6 on a Second Sunday of the month
tinyurl.com/yhc2t82b

Make lunch on a Thursday, from 10:30-12:15
tinyurl.com/mr3fbfrv

If you'd like to contribute to the cost of the meals, you can donate here and select "community meals fund" from the menu: https://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving. And remember to keep helping us "fill the sills" each Sunday for the Common Pantry.
3, 2, 1 Friends in Christ - New (very) Small Groups! Registration begins today, September 14. Groups begin meeting on October 8.
Friendship in Christ - Spiritual friendship rooted in God for the purpose of helping each other follow Jesus.

3,2,1 - Three people gather for a two-hour meal or coffee once a month. Saint Pauls will provide conversation outlines, group norms, and a prayer guide. Register with two friends as a group, or individually to be matched with two new friends. Groups will meet twice over two months and then decide whether to continue for an additional six months. Friends will get to know one another, rejoice and commiserate together, and pray for one another. The aim is to have fun, make strong connections, go deeper with God, and follow Jesus. We will build skills in prayer, discernment, and listening, while speaking truthfully about the most important aspects of life and faith. We'll kick off with an October reception on October 8th at 6:30 p.m. at the parsonage for everyone who registers. Here, we'll meet each other and get oriented. Register here: tinyurl.com/f6r39jd7

"Prefer a larger group? You might love ..."

SACRAMENTAL LIVING HOMEGROUP
"God comes to us disguised as our lives."
If you're intrigued by this idea -- and would like to explore what this means within a community -- we invite you to join us in a new homegroup. We will share a simple meal together and have conversations about practices which help us experience God in daily living. Topics will include contemplative prayer, taking a Sabbath, fasting, and giving. We will gather every other Friday evening from 6:00-7:30 p.m. starting on October 2 through December 11 at the home of Brian and Teri Odom at 2669 N.

Orchard St. #1, Chicago. Please contact Brian at brian.c.odom@gmail.com for further details and to R.S.V.P.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PLEDGE REMINDER AND INFORMATION
This December will mark the end of the three-year pledge/giving window for the *Campaign to Expand and Elevate Our Openness*. To save on our bridge credit interest, please try to complete your planned giving by that time. Some important info to note:

- If you give by check, please note the capital campaign in the memo line.
- If you give by securities, contact Claire Haraburda (capcamcoordinator@spucc.org) for instructions.
- If you have already or plan to set up an automatic deduction for your campaign giving, be sure to contact Claire at the email above to tell her to stop these payments once your capital campaign pledge or giving commitment is fulfilled.
- We welcome new campaign giving from our new or non-pledged members to help fully pay for our beautiful new courtyard and now fully accessible St. Pauls!

Bless you for your generosity and thank you for completing your planned giving to this truly transformative St. Pauls endeavor!

REFUGEEONE: WINTER COAT AND BOOT DRIVE
RefugeeOne is making plans to help their clients with warm winter clothes. There is an Amazon gift registry 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 Monday, October, 19th so that RefugeeOne will receive them in time to distribute them. Amazon link: tinyurl.com/3xbc5zv2 Thank you!

VOLUNTEER WORSHIP TRANSPORTATION
Help a fellow member attend Sunday worship by providing transportation assistance for Mary Stainton on selected Sundays. Volunteers will meet Mary at Warren Barr (66 W. Oak St.) at approximately 8:15 a.m. and ride the PACE bus with her to St. Pauls, then accompany her on the return trip around 12:00 p.m. (times may vary slightly each week). Your support helps ensure every member can fully participate in our church community. For more information or to volunteer, please call or text (205)799-8979.

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF
Critical help is needed for Venezuelans following the recent earthquakes. Immediate impacts include loss of shelter, infrastructure, disruption of basic services, and psycho-social distress. Long-term impacts are expected to include prolonged

displacement and loss of livelihoods.. The UCC is working with Global Ministry partners to deliver aid. You can find out more and donate to the efforts here: tinyurl.com/4v7ejndv

POP TAB COLLECTION MILESTONE

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Ronald McDonald pop tab collection bin. With our last donation, we surpassed the 100 pound donation mark! That's 100 pounds of pure aluminum that is being recycled to benefit the programs of our local Ronald McDonald House. Keep popping those tabs. Our donation bin is located in the Social Hall!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

After our founding in 1843 and the schism which resulted in the establishment of First St. Pauls Lutheran, our membership skyrocketed. This was the result of political unrest in Germany. German refugees flooded Chicago so much that our pastor, Reverend Hartmann, could not keep up on calls to members living south and west of the Chicago River. With our support, these members in 1858 formed the Zion German Evangelical congregation. It was founded on the west side near Ashland & 14th St. In the mid-1920s, the church moved further west to the Austin neighborhood at 5442 W. Van Buren. It dissolved in the early 1970s due to the changing neighborhood.

CREATION CORNER by Green Team

Protecting Migratory Birds

Chicago is part of the Mississippi Flyway. Millions of birds will be passing overhead during the next week, mostly overnight. The Audubon Society recommends that citizens:

1. Turn-off non-essential outdoor and indoor lights between 11:00 p.m. and 6 a.m. This will help birds from becoming disoriented by light.
2. Apply decals or tape to windows to break up reflection.
3. Keep cats indoors, particularly at night when tired birds are resting in bushes.
4. Stock feeders and provide fresh water.
5. For the long-term, plant native trees and shrubs to provide food and shelter. If you find an injured bird contact Chicago Collision Monitors 773-988-1867.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

CONNECT & GROW

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SPECIAL SERVICES

KIDS ACTIVITIES

NEW MEMBERS

HOLIDAYS

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 the next Sunday bulletin**. Share personal announcements/events on our Facebook group page, St. Pauls Together.
Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you.

NEW! OPT-IN TO TEXTING FROM ST. PAULS

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

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.