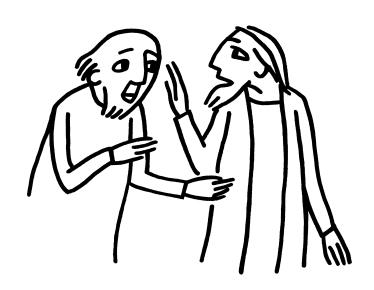
THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



September 15, 2024

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Welcome to ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:15am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave

9:00am | Choir Practice

9:30am | Education Hour with Sunday School,

Adult Forum

10:30am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave

and Online

11:30am | Coffee Hour

LIVESTREAMING

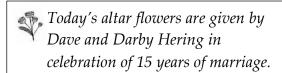
Worship is streamed on the St. Paul Lutheran Arlington Facebook page. A Facebook account is not necessary to stream, however, without a Facebook account the stream works on a computer browser only and not on a phone.

WEEKLY UPDATE NEWSLETTER

Sign up for Weekly Update newsletter by going to our website at www.stpaularlington.org and clicking on SUBSCRIBE.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY ARE:

Jennifer Parker, Altar Guild
Josh Davis, Lector
Peter Schmidt, Cantor
Kevin Kreutter, Deacon
Dan Ries, Usher
Hollie Schmidt, Livestream Broadcast
Peter and Hollie Schmidt, Coffee Guild



When the instruction for standing * appears, please stand as you are able and as seems comfortable. At the \boxtimes , you may make the sign of the cross, which reminds us of our baptism. The congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Elevation in B major from "Dix pieces pour orgue"

T. Dubois (1837-1924)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of \pm Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

* GATHERING HYMN

"If God My Lord Be for Me"

ELW 788



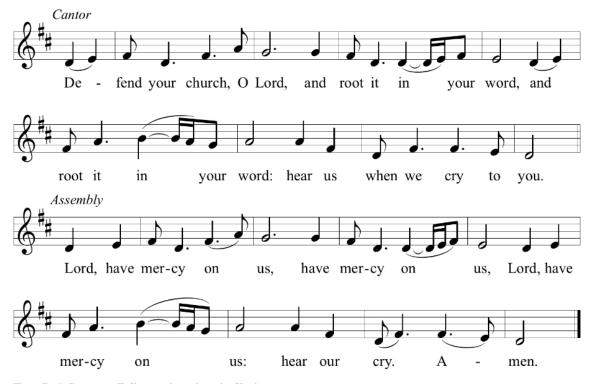
Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, adapt. Music: IST GOTT FÜR MICH, English melody, 16th cent.; arr. hymnal version

*GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

*KYRIE

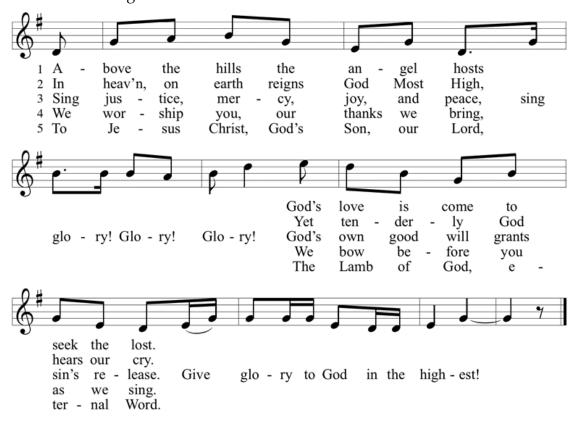




Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Kyrie Music: My Father, How Long, African American spiritual

HYMN OF PRAISE

"Above the Hills the Angel Hosts"



Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Gloria in excelsis Music: The Devil.'s Nine Questions, Appalachian traditional

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 50:4–9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love

The Lord God has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backward.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled
out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame;

he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord God who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM (read responsively early service)

Psalm 116:1-9



I love the Lord, who has ' heard my voice, and listened to my ' supplication,

for the Lord has given | ear to me whenev- | er I called.

The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave | came upon me; I came to | grief and sorrow.

Then I called upon the name ' of the Lord:
"O Lord, I pray you, ' save my life."
Gracious is the ' Lord and righteous;
our God is full ' of compassion.

The Lord watches o- | ver the innocent; I was brought low, | and God saved me.

Turn again to your rest, ¹ O my soul. for the Lord has dealt ¹ well with you.

For you have rescued my | life from death, my eyes from tears, and my | feet from stumbling;

I will walk in the presence | of the Lord in the land | of the living.

SECOND READING James 3:1–12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

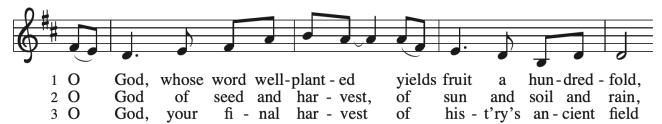
Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

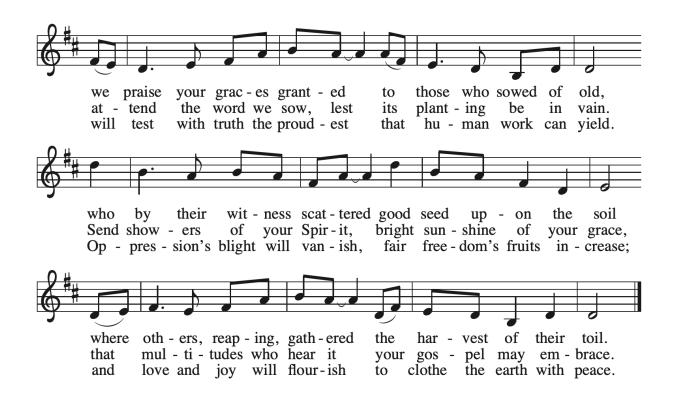
How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (10:30 only)





Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

* GOSPEL Mark 8:27–38

The holy gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The gospel of the Lord.

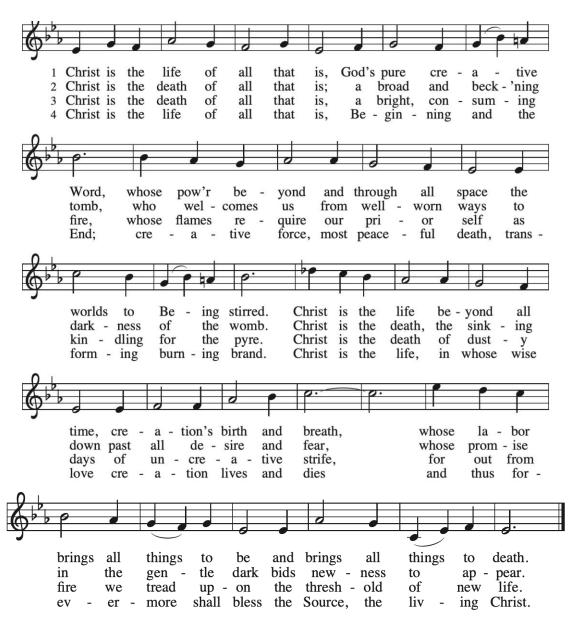
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON "The God He Needs"

Pastor Ross Goodman

* HYMN OF THE DAY

"Christ is the Life" ACS 927



Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953 Music: COE FEN, Kenneth Naylor, 1931–1991

APOSTLE'S CREED

In response to the gospel, let us confess the faith of the church:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The leader will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read aloud the other prayers as they feel called.

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church throughout the world. Form us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships, and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who govern nations, tribes, and cities, especially places in conflict, including the Middle East, Ukraine, Russia, Sudan, Pakistan, and Haiti. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and wellbeing of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who grieve, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who are ill, especially Clifford, Dan, Lynn, Marilyn, Meredith, Owen and Susan. Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff, and all who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember our beloved dead, who with the great cloud of witnesses bear witness to your saving grace. We give thanks for the faithful examples of Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, and Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

* PEACE

Keep your hands close together or make the peace sign if you'd rather not pass the peace with touch.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

ANTHEM

"Lord Jesus, Be My Song"

ELW 808

MEAL

* OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

You may give an offering through the Givelify app by scanning this QR code:



* GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ;

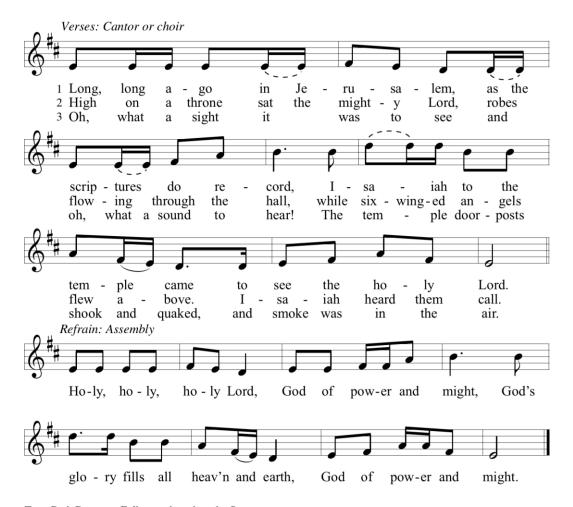
who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Sanctus Music: Shady Grove, Appalachian traditional

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

* LORD'S PRAYER

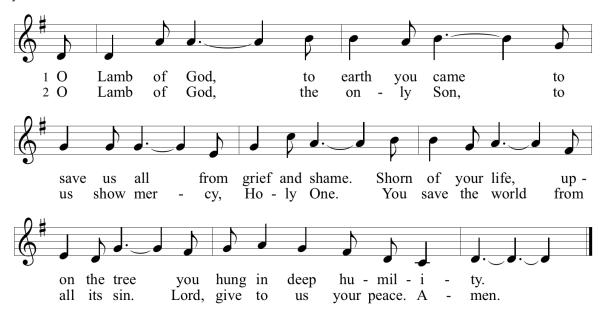
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

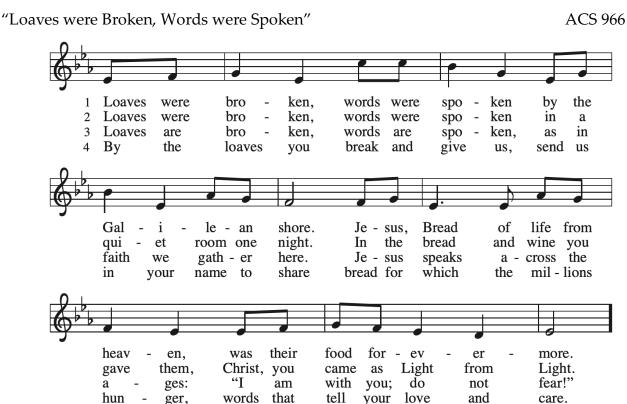
All are welcome to receive the bread and the wine. Gluten free wafers are available on request. Both wine and grape juice are available in each tray; the wine is red and the grape juice is white.

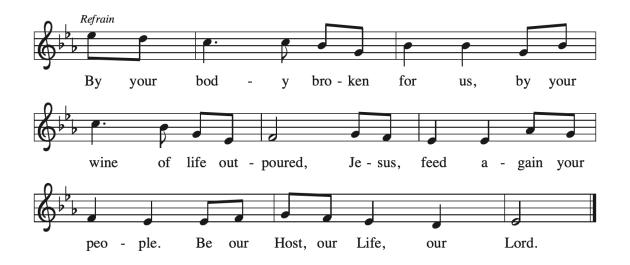
Come forward in the center aisle starting at the front of the church. The pastors will motion the first people forward.



Text: Beth Bergeron Folkemer, based on the Agnus Dei Music: The Suffolk Miracle, Appalachian traditional

COMMUNION HYMN (10:30 only)





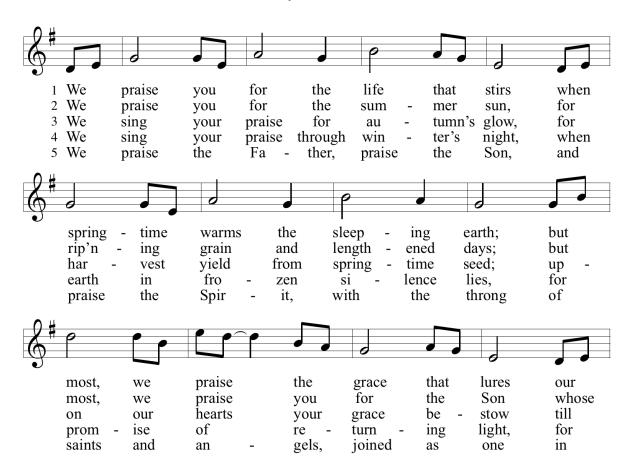
Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007 Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

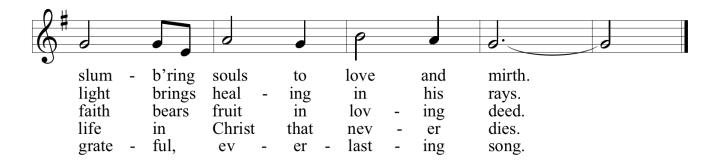
* TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

* POST COMMUNION CANTICLE (10:30 only)





Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr.

Music: Prospect, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of the abundant table, you have refreshed our hearts in this meal with bread for the journey.
Give us your grace on the road that we might serve our neighbors with joy; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

* BLESSING

May God bless and keep us. May God's face shine on us and be gracious. May God look on us with favor and + give us peace. **Amen**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* SENDING HYMN

"What a Fellowship, What a Joy DivineGod, Whose Almighty Word"

ELW 774





Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1919

Music: SHOWALTER, Anthony J. Showalter, 1858-1924

* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Fughetta in D major from "Dix pieces pour orgue"

T. Dubois (1837-1924)

Pastor Liz Retires

Dear wonderful people of Saint Paul,

Greetings to you all in what is so far a lovely September. After much prayer and thought, I have made the decision to retire from my role as a pastor of Saint Paul Lutheran Church.

It is hard to believe, but we have been together for five years. I came to you as a veteran pastor, as a relatively new widow, and as someone looking for ways to be. Pretty soon after my first visit to Saint Paul, Ross, whom I had met years before, found ways for me to assist in the pastoral schedule at Saint Paul. We continued on that path with Vicar Samm through the early winter. And then came the pandemic.

We all needed to find new ways to be the church and the congregation of Saint Paul in a world in which actually being together was not safe. With Ross's leadership, Samm's technical expertise, and a lot of determination on all of our parts, we began to have regular worship. We also had regular adult forums and coffee hours and began to have a sense of ourselves as a congregation once again. As the pandemic shut-down dragged on, we found ways to be the church in a whole new dimension. And everyone contributed to that effort!

And eventually, though it took years, we began to return to "normal." As all of this occurred, my "helping out" expanded and I embraced the congregational council approved role of associate pastor. I have truly enjoyed being with all of you, moving through the church year and its rhythms. It has brought me both peace and happiness.

After these years of a fulfilling vocation exercised once again, it is now time to retire anew. Because I had previously retired, the synod does not hold me to the general requirement that pastors must leave their congregations upon retirement. However, I must be very quiet and truly make a break with my role as pastor here, especially for the first few months. I will ask your help in all of this, indeed as you have all helped me so very much in the past five years. My last Sunday as pastor will be the Feast of All Saints, 3 November.

You, the people of Saint Paul, have truly given me a gift. I cannot thank you enough.

In Christ's peace take care,

Liz

ANNOUNCEMENTS and UPCOMING HAPPENINGS

at **SAINT PAUL**



NEW SCHEDULE STARTS | September 15

We have returned to a new Fall schedule on September 15. There will be an early worship service at 8:15 am, choir practice at 9:00 am, a 9:30 am education hour with Sunday school and the Adult Forum, a 10:30 am worship service that will also be streamed online on Facebook, and a coffee hour at 11:30 am. Confirmation class will begin October 6 during the education hour.

AUTUMN ADULT FORUM | September 15 - October 27

<u>September 15</u>: Vicar Sam will introduce herself during this first Adult Forum and present "The Wisdom of Reality Television".

<u>September 22-October 27</u>: The Gospel of John – A Beginner's Guide to the Way, the Truth and the Life. As so many of us have found, the Gospel of John can be problematic. But its beauty and depth also form some of the core tenets of our faith. Pastor Liz will be the primary leader of this six week session on the Gospel of John.



929 Concord Turnpike Arlington, Massachusetts 02476 www.stpaularlington.org | 781-646-7773

Staff

The Reverend Ross Goodman, Pastor
The Reverend Liz Senft, Pastoral Associate
Samantha Menapace, Vicar
Ana Zecic Jeffers, Director of Music
Paul Ricci, Business Administrator
Sarah Carter, Children, Youth and
Families Director
Jennifer White, Parish Administrator
Dennis O'Brien, Church Property Manager

Church Council and Officers

Elizabeth Heichler, President
Monique Airasian, Vice-President
Eric Haugen, Treasurer
Kerri Frick, Secretary
Norma Ofsthun, Financial Secretary
Mark Olson, Financial Secretary
Kristen Anderson
Eric Carlson
Peter Hedlund
Kevin Kreutter
Bob Sniffen
Sandy Walker
Taryn Walsh





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