

# THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT



December 1, 2024

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Welcome to **ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## **SUNDAY SERVICES**

8:15am | Service with Holy Communion in Nave  
9:00am | Choir Practice  
9:30am | Education Hour with Sunday School, Confirmation Class and 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 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](http://www.stpaularlington.org) and clicking on SUBSCRIBE.

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### **SERVING THE COMMUNITY TODAY ARE:**

Kelli Oliver and Taryn Walsh, *Altar Guild*  
Adelaide N. and Mikayla N., *Acolytes*  
John Turner, *Lectors*  
Taryn Walsh, *Deacon*  
Marie Breitenbach, *Cantor*  
Dan Ries, *Usher*  
Hollie Schmidt, *Livestream Broadcast*  
Peter and Hollie Schmidt, *Coffee Guild*

### **WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT | December 4, 11, and 18, 7-8PM**

During the season of waiting, let us prepare our hearts and minds for Christ in community. We'll gather on Wednesdays in Advent at 7pm for different activities each week:

December 4 - Holden Evening Prayer

December 11 - Christmas Cardmaking Workshop

December 18 - Christmas Caroling

May this weekly gathering be a time of connection, care, and seasonal celebration in the darkest month of the year.

Send your 2025 pledge to Paul Ricci at [pjaricci@yahoo.com](mailto:pjaricci@yahoo.com), with your monthly or annual amount.

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

## GATHERING

### PRELUDE

Prelude in D major, WTC I, BWV 850 (8:15 am)

J S. Bach (1685-1750)

Prelude in C major from WTC I, BWV 846 (10:30 am)

*Sarah Lay, piano*

### WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God of mercy,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**  
**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We have turned away from our neighbors.**  
**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,  
**we confess that we have sinned.**  
**We plead: come to us.**  
**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:  
it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,  
in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
receive the grace and forgiveness of God  
through † Christ Jesus,  
whose day draws near.  
**Amen.**

\* GATHERING HYMN

“My Lord, What a Morning”

ELW 438

*Refrain*

My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.

1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,  
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,  
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

*Refrain*

look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

**\*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**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



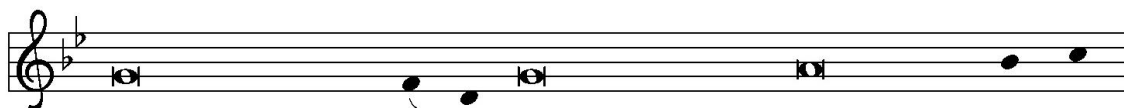
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



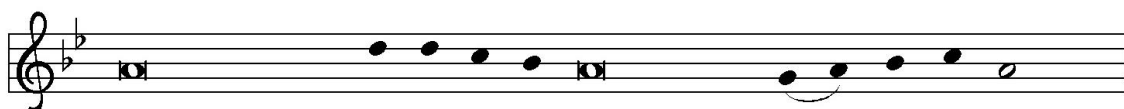
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



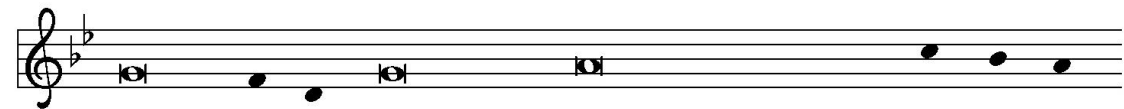
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



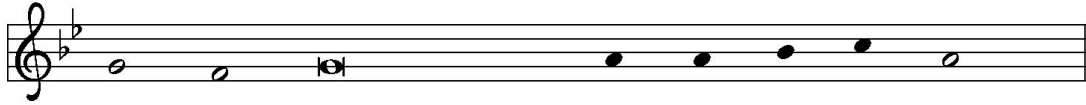
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



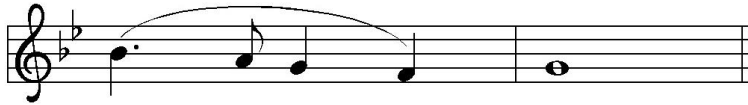
praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

### HYMN OF PRAISE



*Refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be



peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and join in the hymn of

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,

for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

ELW 257 O Come, O Come Emmanuel verses 1,3,4



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
 2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things  
 3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on  
 4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
 far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;  
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law  
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.  
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## \* ADVENT PRAYER

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace.

**Amen.**





*Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.*

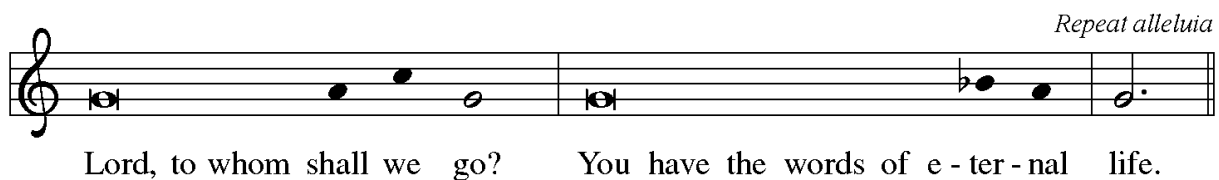
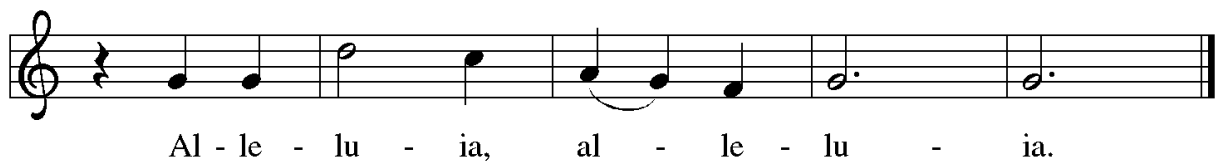
**H**ow can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (10:30 service)



The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said: “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON “Waiting, Working, Watching”

Vicar Sam Menapace

“There is a Longing in our Hearts”

*Refrain – All*



There is a long-ing in our hearts, O Lord, for you to re -



veal your - self to us. There is a long-ing in our



hearts for love we on - ly find in you, our God.

*Leader or All*



1 For jus - tice,	for free - dom,	for mer - cy:
2 For wis - dom,	for cour - age,	for com - fort:
3 For heal - ing,	for whole - ness,	for new life:
4 Lord, save us,	take pit - y,	light in our



hear our prayer.	In sor - row,	in grief:
hear our prayer.	In weak - ness,	in fear:
hear our prayer.	In sick - ness,	in death:
deep - est night.	We call you;	we wait:

*Refrain*



be near; hear our prayer, O God.

Text: Anne Quigley, b. 1955  
Music: LONGING, Anne Quigley

## 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.*

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

God of righteousness, your people live in hopeful expectation of your coming. Fill your church with renewed passion for our shared mission, and deepen our relationships with other Christians and other faith traditions in our local community and across the world. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the cosmos, all creation shows that your presence is near. Help us sense your goodness and love in the sun and moon, in sprouting leaves and bare branches, in the roaring sea and quiet breeze. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of the nations, your reign extends over all principalities and powers. Give leaders and all in authority hearts for justice and peace. Encourage efforts to enact policies that benefit the common good. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of change, you accompany us through life's transitions. Be near to all who are changing jobs, moving, welcoming children, or facing the loss of loved ones. Sustain those who are ill or suffering, especially Alice, Dan, Lynn, Marilyn, Meredith, Owen, Paul, and Susan. In times of change, remind us of your steadfast love. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of community, your Spirit holds us together. Sustain our care for one another. Inspire us to seek new ways to live together and to embrace the diversity of thought and identity in our communities. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of memory, we give you thanks for faithful ones who have died, especially Francis Xavier, John of Damascus, Nicholas, Bishop of Myra and Ambrose, Bishop of Milan. Tend to our grief and sorrow with renewed trust in your promise of abundant and eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**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.**

TEMPLE TALK

ANTHEM (10:30 service)

The Yearning

Craig Courtney (b. 1954)

There is a yearning in hearts weighed down by ancient grief and centuries of sorrow. There is a yearning in hearts that in the darkness hide and in the shades of death abide, a yearning for tomorrow.

There is a yearning, a yearning for the promised One, the Firstborn of creation. There is a yearning for the Lord who visited His own, and by His death for sin atoned, to bring to us salvation.

Emmanuel, Emmanuel within our hearts, the yearning.

There is a yearning that fills the hearts of those who wait the day of His appearing.

There is a yearning when all our sorrows are erased and we shall see the One who placed within our hearts the yearning.

## MEAL

\* OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,  
you made the whole world,  
even the farthest stars,  
and you draw near to feed us.  
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine.  
Strengthen us with this food  
that we may live in expectation  
for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

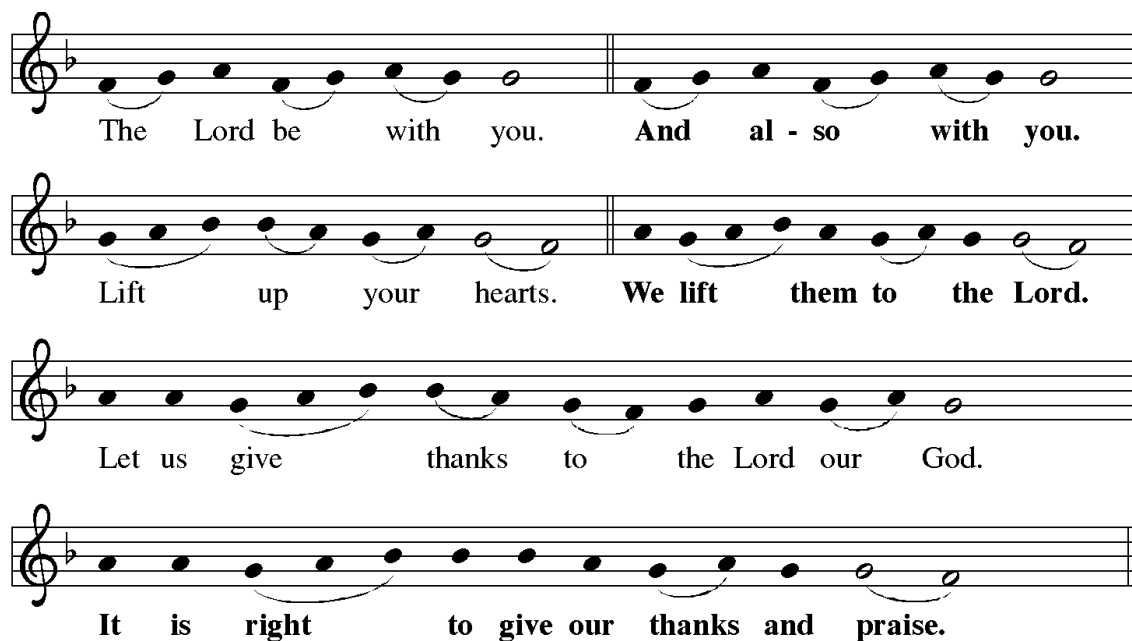
**Amen.**

## OFFERING



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

## \* GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. **And al - so 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.


You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,  
through whom you will also make all things new  
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

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:


(8:15 service sing in unison)




Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and



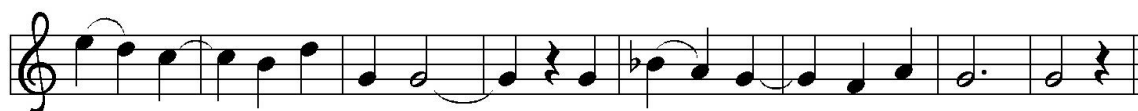
might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:  
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.  
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel,  
Word of God incarnate,  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

\* 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.*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN (10:30 service)

“Christ, be our Light”

ELW 715



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



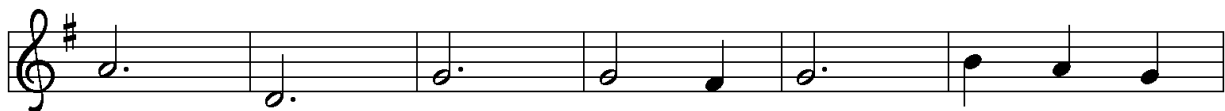
truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



*Refrain*  
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957  
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

\* TABLE BLESSING

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

**Amen.**

\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous God,  
we thank you for the gift of life,  
for the bread of salvation.  
We thank you for coming among us,  
for leading us into peace.  
We thank you for showering us with mercy,  
for sending us into the world.  
Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us  
as we feed the hungry in your name.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

\* BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

“People, Look East”

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing  
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is  
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the  
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,  
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,  
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,  
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look  
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.  
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965  
 Music: BESANÇON, French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

\* DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.  
**Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D major, WTC I, BWV 850 (8:15 am)  
Invention in A minor, BWV 784 846 (10:30 am)

J S. Bach (1685-1750)  
*Sarah Lay, piano*

ANNOUNCEMENTS *and* UPCOMING HAPPENINGS  
*at* **SAINT PAUL**



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS | Due by December 2nd**

Order your poinsettias that will decorate the church for the Christmas Eve Services (and that you can take home after the 8pm service). They will come in 6.5 inch pots in a choice of white, red or pink and are \$15. Any dedications that will be printed in the bulletin. You have the option to pay through Givelify with the notation "for poinsettia." Order forms on the table in the Upper Narthex.

**ASCENTRIA HOLIDAY GIVING TREE 2024 | Starting November 17 – December 8**

Social Ministry invites you to participate in the Annual Holiday Giving Tree to support Ascentria's Unaccompanied Refugee Minors and Unaccompanied Children Program. If you would like to help fulfill Christmas wishes for one of 24 kids, please stop by to select a child and which gifts you want to provide. We will be staffing tables to receive tags, and to drop off gifts at both the 8:15 and 10:30 services starting November 17. All gifts must be clearly labeled with the child's name, and be returned to church unwrapped by Dec 8.

**CHURCH DIRECTORY**

Scan the QR code at right to access our church directory, or email the parish administrator to send it to you via email. [parishadmin@stpaularlington.org/](mailto:parishadmin@stpaularlington.org/). Paper copies are available in Upper Narthex.

**ADULT FORUM IN DECEMBER**

There will be no Adult Forums Dec. 1 and 29. December 8, 15, and 22 "The Bible Project" For December we will feature the creative format and graphic presentations from The Bible Project as a basis for discussion and exploration. Dec. 8 Overview. Dec 15 and 22 The beginnings of Matthew and Luke, including the birth of Jesus.

### **SUPPER CLUB AT ST. PAUL | December 7, 6:00, ongoing**



We have started a Supper Club which will take place on the 1st Saturday of the month. Come when you are able, bring a dish to share and enjoy some time with other members of the congregation. All are welcome to join!

### **ARLINGTON EATS NEEDS**

As you go shopping in the next few weeks, consider putting some of our Spotlight items on your shopping lists: **Baking powder, Chocolate chips, Cornmeal, Cornstarch, Brown sugar, Dry yeast, Cocoa powder, Parchment paper, Baking soda, Sugar Baking mixes, Cereal, Kids' toothbrushes, Kids' toothpaste.**

### **GATHER GROUPS FORMING | Starting in January 2025**



We are once again forming Gather Groups. This is a great way to get to know other people in the church. These groups meet January through June at members' homes, outdoor spaces, or anywhere that you can think of! All of our members are encouraged to participate! Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/8TRnAYuTnYp7LqRRA>



# SAINT PAUL

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

ARLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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

## Staff

The Reverend Ross Goodman, *Pastor*  
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



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

