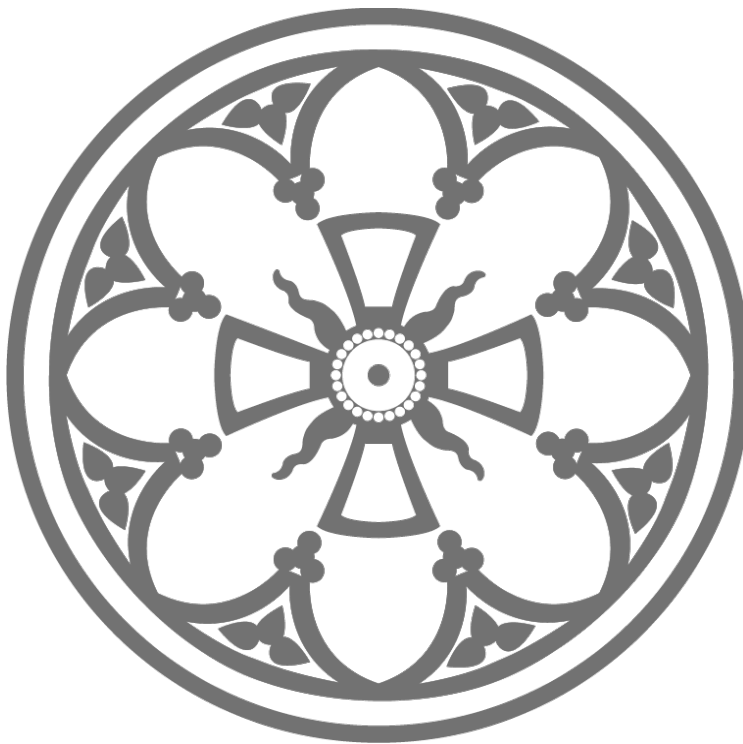




THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 21

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through
the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

WELCOME! St. Paul's Church builds bridges — to God, to one another, to the city and beyond. We are glad you have joined us today.

During Ordinary Time, we gather as the people of God, week by week, to meet Christ, dying and rising in our midst. Christ's presence is revealed in our liturgical gatherings in Word and Sacrament, and in us, as members of Christ's Body, by our daily lives of ministry to others in concrete acts of love and caring.

This service booklet, *The Book of Common Prayer* (red), *The Hymnal 1982* (blue), and *Wonder, Love and Praise* ("WLP," green paperbound) provide the resources needed for participation in our worship. Please silence your cell phones.

MUSIC NOTE

This morning we welcome our new Organ Scholar, Evan de Jong. Evan is from Oak Park, IL where he was an active member of Grace Episcopal Church. It was there that he learned to play the organ, then went to Oberlin for his undergraduate degree in organ. Evan is now pursuing his master's degree in organ from the Eastman School of Music. Welcome Evan!

THIS MORNING'S OFFERINGS

Childcare available every Sunday at 10:00.

Sunday School for children in PK-5th grade upstairs from the Parish Hall at 10:00.

Adult Forum and Adult Formation meet each week at 9:00 in the Vestry and Cadigan Rooms.

Please ask an usher for help in finding these locations.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S LITURGIES

Readers: Tim Dewart, Susan Jones (8:00)

Christopher Moore, Brent Johnson, Nancy Curtis (10:15)

Eucharistic Ministers: Suzy Spencer (8:00)

Andrew Ferrante, Kevin Frisch, Nancy Andrus (10:15)

Altar Guild: Jackie Barnes, Judy McGrath, Louise Moore, Jennifer Bleecker

Ushers: Doug Kelley, Duane Swanson, Les Kernan, Malual Thongjang (10:15)

ASL Interpreter: Luane Haggerty (10:15)

Live-Stream Operator: Leif Johnson (10:15)

Sexton: Dave McEntee

Cover illustration by Sonja Slother

*Before worship, let God speak to you. During worship, speak to God.
After worship, speak to one another.*

VOLUNTARY Sonata in the Style of Handel William Wolstenholme
Largo

✠ *indicates to stand as able.*

✠ HYMN 348 Lord, We Have Come at Your Invitation *O quanta qualia*

✠ OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

✠ GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (*spoken at 8:00, see pew card at 10:15*) John W. W. Sherer
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

✠ COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray. O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

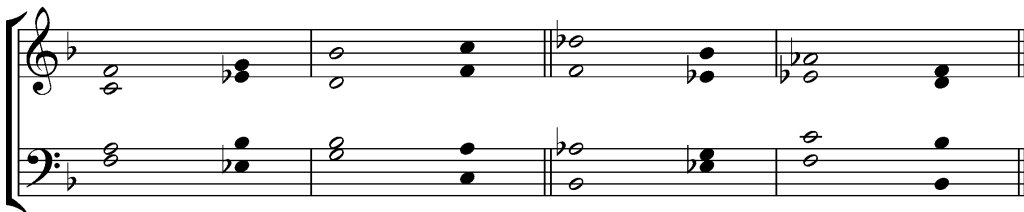
Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-8 (*Said at 8:00; Sung by ALL at 10:15*)

Chant: Harrison



- 1 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in / you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over / me.

- 2 Let none who look to you be put to / shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their / schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O / Lord, *
and teach me your / paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and / teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day / long.
- 5 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and / love, *
for they are from ever-/ lasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my trans-/ gressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O / Lord.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the / Lord; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his / way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing / right *
and teaches his way to the / lowly.

SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Reader The Word of the Lord. *People* Thanks be to God.

✠ HYMN 339 (*stz 1 & 2*) Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness *Schmücke dich*

✠ HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

✠ HYMN 339 (*stz 3*) Deck Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness *Schmücke dich*

SERMON

The Rev. Dan Burner

A brief period of quiet reflection follows the sermon.

✠ NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were

made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

✠ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and those in need.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek Truth.

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Kara our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in the Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, praying especially for...

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We give thanks for...

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

✠ CONFESSION OF SIN

Deacon We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

**Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
in your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown,
things done and left undone;
and so uphold us by your Spirit
that we may live and serve you in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

✠ EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please greet one another in Christ's Name. Words of welcome and announcements are then made.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

✠ SAID AT 8:00 **All things come of thee, O Lord,
and of thine own have we given thee.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Loving Shepherd of Thy Sheep John Rutter
Loving shepherd of thy sheep, keep thy lamb, in safety keep; nothing can thy power withstand, none can pluck me from thy hand. I would praise thee every day, gladly all thy will obey, like thy blessed ones above, happy in thy perfect love. Loving shepherd, ever near, teach thy lamb thy voice to hear; suffer not my steps to stray from the straight and narrow way. Where thou leadest I would go, walking in thy steps below, till before my Father's throne I shall know as I am known.

✠ AT THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS: HYMN 376 (*stz. 3, sung by all*) *Hymn to Joy*
**Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother: all who live in love are thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.**

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

The Presider adds a proper preface, concluding...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

✠ SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS *(see pew card)*

John W. W. Sherer

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

The congregation may remain standing or kneel, as the Presider continues.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

✠ **AT THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

A period of silence is kept.

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Presider The gifts of God, for the people of God.
All are welcome at God's table.

All are encouraged to come forward for Communion at the direction of the ushers. The Sacrament is given in both kinds: bread and wine. If you are not able to go to any of the stations, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers are available.

COMMUNION ANTHEM The Lord Is My Shepherd Howard Goodall
The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for you are with me, you will comfort me. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

✠ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

✠ THE BLESSING

✠ HYMN 344 Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing *Sicilian Mariners*

✠ THE DISMISSAL

The children and Deacon dismiss the people, saying,
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY Sonata in the Style of Handel William Wolstenholme
Minuet

PRAYER LIST

We entrust into your unfailing care, Merciful God...

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; Kara Wagner Sherer, our Bishop; and
the Clergy, Staff, and Lay Leaders of St. Paul's Church

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Church of Bangladesh

In the Diocese Cycle of Prayer: Church of St. Luke & St. Simon Cyrene, Rochester

Bob, Sarah Wilson, Brendan Pessimone, Beverly Brooks, Walter Rohlin, Maryann
Plaia, Adele, Frank Holiday, Peter Merrill, Jack Worboys, Abby, Chris, Mallory,
Mary Jane Thomas, Claudius Scott, Mara Hazzard-Wallingford, Lois, Donna
Gear, Scott, Bertha Simpkins, Amelia Smith, and Bill Dewart

Those who have died.

Almighty God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on your Church, St. Paul's,
and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we
may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our
ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

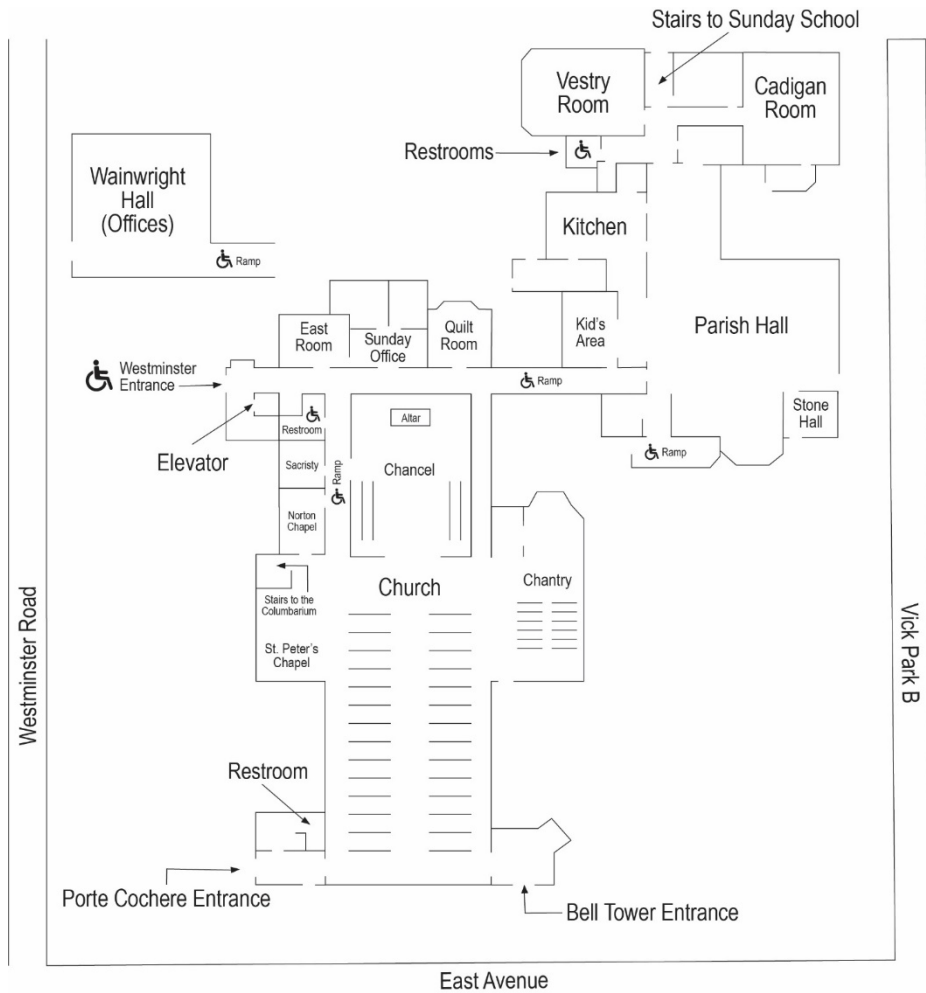
*Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

FLOWER MEMORIALS

The flowers this Sunday are given to the Glory of God and
in honor of Dean Arvan

When immigrants live in your land with you, you must not cheat them.
Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your
citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants
in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 19:33-34 (CEB)



All are invited to make a gift to support our mission:

As the plate is passed. • By scanning the QR code at the left. • Online at stpaulsec.org/donate. • By texting PAUL to 73256 and following the prompts.

Thank you for your generosity!

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S

8:00 am: Holy Eucharist (Chantry)

9:00 am: Adult Forum—Christian Nationalism (Cadigan Room)

9:00 am: Adult Formation—Visio Divina Bible Study (Vestry Room)

10:00 am: Sunday School & Nursery Care

10:15 am: Holy Eucharist (Church)

11:30 am: Fellowship Hour (Parish Hall)

11:30 am: Chorister's Rehearsal (Church)

Monday, September 28th

10:00 am: Archives Team (Stone Hall)

7:00 pm: Book Group (Zoom)

7:00 pm: ACA Survivors (Stone Hall)

Wednesday, September 30th

9:00 am: Wednesday Women AA (Stone Hall)

Noon: Holy Eucharist (St. Peter's Chapel)

6:00 pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal (Church)

7:00 pm: St. Paul's Choir Rehearsal (Church)

8:15 pm: Young & Restless AA (Stone Hall)

Thursday, October 1st

3:00 pm: Book Group (Wainwright)

6:00 pm: AA Meeting (Stone Hall)

8:30 pm: Academy Group AA (Stone Hall)

Saturday, October 3rd

10:00 am: Annual Pet Blessing (Church Lawn)

10:30 am: Debtors' Anonymous (Quilt Room)

8:00 pm: AA Saturday Group (Stone Hall)

NEWS AND NOTICES

- ❖ Our **Annual Pet Blessing** will be held next Saturday, October 3rd at 10:00 am.
- ❖ **Book Group:** Beginning this week, we are holding a book group to share in reading together Elaine Pagels' The Historical Mystery of Jesus. The study will meet in two ways: one over Zoom starting Monday evening, Sept. 28th at 7:00 pm, and one in person starting Thursday, October 1st at 3:00 pm, in Wainwright. Both sessions will cover the same material, so you can attend whichever fits best into your schedule! If you are interested or have questions, contact Nancy Gear at (nancy.gear@gmail.com) or 585-305-5727.
- ❖ **Search Committee Update:** The Search Committee will be receiving from the Diocese submissions from three interested candidates this week. To hopefully expand the field of candidates, the deadline for submissions will be extended to October 15th. Prior to that date, the Committee will review the materials received from the Diocese. Please feel free to contact a member of the Committee if you have any questions. Thank you for continuing to keep the Committee and this process in your prayers.
- ❖ **THANK YOU to John, Bob, Dave, and everyone else** who helped out for your work arranging, cleaning, setting up, and so many other things over the past two weeks for the Fringe Fest! St. Paul's hosted 14 events and welcomed over 1500 people during the festival!
- ❖ **Adult Forum class on Christian Nationalism** continues at 9:00 am in the Cadigan Room, focusing on the sin of Christian Nationalism, its appeal, its dangers, and how it works against many tenets of Christianity itself. This class is led by Rev. Dan.
- ❖ **Adult Formation class on Visio Divina** continues every Sunday at 9:00 am in the Vestry Room. This prayer practice uses scripture and visual images, often classic works of art, to engage our hearts and minds in a new way and help us experience the presence of God.
- ❖ **Altar Flowers:** There are opportunities to donate altar flowers on Sunday, October 11th, "In memory of" or in "celebration of" an event. Please call Nancy Andrus at 406-8545 or email nancyandrus308@gmail.com.

ST. PAUL'S STAFF

The Reverend Dan Burner
Interim Rector

The Reverend Sue Ouellette, PhD
Deacon

Amy Welker
Director, Children & Youth Faith Formation

Bob Potter
Property Manager

Dave McEntee
Maintenance Associate

Judy McGrath
Parish Accountant

The Reverend Jay Burkardt
Assistant Rector

Dr. John W.W. Sherer
Organist and Director of Music

Evan de Jong
Organ Scholar

Sonja Slother
Director of Communications & Digital Ministry

Natosche Holt
Wedding Coordinator & Wainwright Maintenance

Lisa Werner
Accounting Assistant

Susan Hall & Dorrie Champlin
Sunday Childcare

ST. PAUL'S VESTRY

Officers

Wardens: Erin Glanton & Ingrid Stanlis

Treasurer: Rick Harrison • *Clerk:* Judy McGrath

Class of 2026

Floyd Bayley
Laura Carr
Chari Krenis

Class of 2027

Lila Kennedy
Les Kernan
Abuk Mabut

Class of 2028

Swing Harre
Doug Kelley
Christopher Moore



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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585-483-0472