



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

*Growing in faith. Growing in community.
Welcoming all in Jesus' name.*



SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT **Sunday, February 22, 2026**

10 AM Service of **Holy Communion**



During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH **We believe all people are created in God's image.**

Rooted in Jesus' ministry of liberation, unconditional love, and hospitality, we strive to welcome all into our community. This welcome explicitly includes those who have traditionally been marginalized in the church and society due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, racial and ethnic background, physical ability, developmental ability, citizenship/documentation status, and socio-economic status.

We hope that our young people experience God in our gathering together. Families are welcome to use the Playground in the rear corner of the sanctuary if you want more space, and to use the Playground in the narthex if you need a break from the activities in the sanctuary. Most of all, know that the joyful noise of young people in our worship is welcome!

Hearing assist devices are available in the narthex.
If you need any other help with worship,
please speak with an usher at the doors to the sanctuary.

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.

PRELUDE

"Arioso"

Franklin Ashdown

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

INVOCATION

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

Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

ELW 335 (harmony)

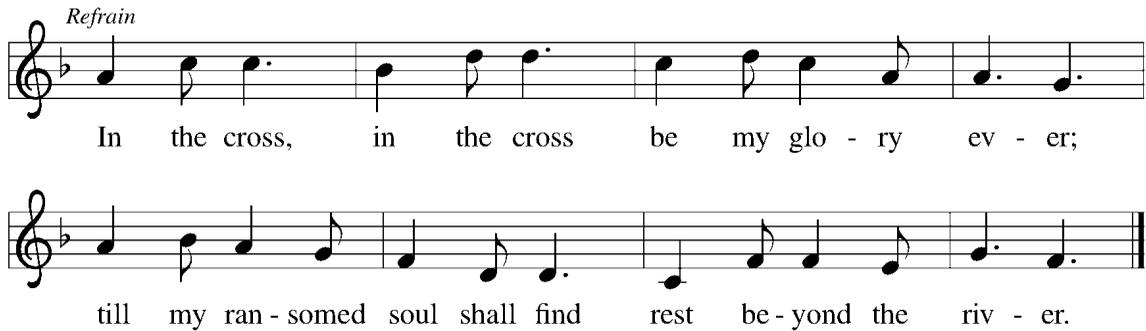


- 1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
- 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
- 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
- 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



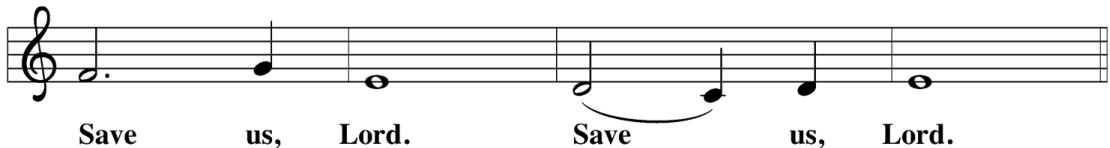
In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;
till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

LITANY FOR LENT

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every aspect he was tempted as we are. Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace in faith and penitence, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.
You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy;
you are generous to all who call upon you.

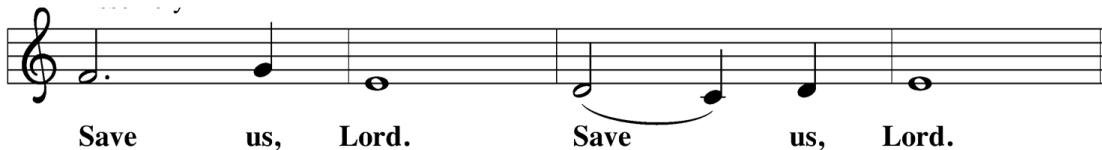


Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have taken away our sins.
On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions
and were bruised for our iniquities.
Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.

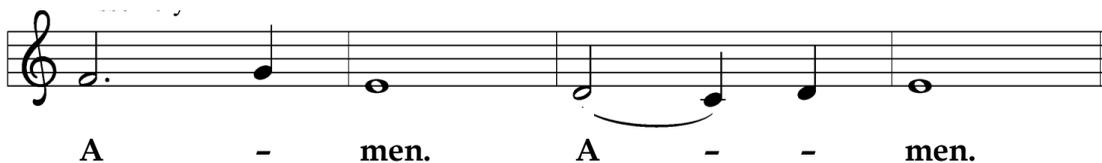
O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort,
our life and resurrections, our peace and reconciliation:
Save us, Lord. Save us, Lord.

O Christ, Savior of all who trust you,
Hope of all who die in you, and joy of all the saints:



A brief silence.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Be seated.

✠ **WORD** ✠

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

The blessing of God upon Abram

A reading from Genesis:

¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.



¹ I lift up my eyes | to the hills;
from where is my | help to come?

² My help comes | from the LORD,
the maker of heav- | en and earth.

³ The LORD will not let your | foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

⁴ Behold, the keep- | er of Israel
will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;

⁵ the LORD watches | over you;
the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

⁶ the sun will not strike | you by day,
nor the | moon by night.

⁷ The LORD will preserve you | from all evil
and will | keep your life.

⁸ The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in,
from this time forth for- | evermore.

Remain seated, due to the length of the Gospel readings this season.

GOSPEL READING

John 3:1-17

The mission of Christ: to save the world

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time

into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Cris Frigm

Please stand, as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

God Loved the World

ELW 323 (harmony)



1	God	loved	the	world	so	that	he	gave	his	on - ly
2	Christ	Je - sus	is	the	ground	of	faith,	who	was	made
3	If	you	are	ill,	if	death	draws	near,	this	truth
4	Be	of	good	cheer,	for	God's	own	Son	for - gives	all
5	All	glo - ry	to	the	Fa - ther,	Son,	and	Ho - ly		



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

LENTEN CREED

Traveling to Easter with Jesus as Our Guide
<http://www.patmosabbey.org>

Let us affirm our faith:

**We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,
who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.**

**We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God,
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.**

**We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God
who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.**

**We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures,
and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.**

**We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,
and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.**

**This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.
Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss, especially Heyward..., those on our prayer list, and those we now name aloud or in the silence of our hearts...*(brief silence)*. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, especially Dean..., and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*The assembly exchanges signs and words
of God's peace, saying, **Peace be with you.***

Be seated.

✠ MEAL ✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

*In response to God's love in Jesus Christ,
we offer our gifts for service and mission.*

*At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad (the black folder) found at the end of
your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. There are also QR Codes at the
end of this worship folder for attendance, prayer requests, and online giving.*

ANTHEM

“Surely He Has Borne Our Grievs”
Sanctuary Choir

Heather Sorenson

Please stand, as you are able, and sing as the table is set.

OFFERTORY

Now Is the Time of Grace

ACS 918

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a first ending bracket over the first two measures, and a second ending bracket over the last two measures. The lyrics are: "Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion." The second staff continues the melody and concludes with a double bar line. The lyrics are: "Turn now, and seek God's face, now be - hold God's in - vi - ta - tion."

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 58:6-9
Music: TIME OF GRACE, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

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

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

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

Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, b. 1937
 Music © 1971, 1977 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert and provided them water from the rock. We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joined us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Assembly

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text: Taizé Community, alt. *Book of Common Worship*, © 1975, 1993 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.
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 Music: Carolyn Jennings, © 2009 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Those who choose not to commune are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

During the season of Lent, our communion bread is gluten-free. Non-alcoholic grape juice is available upon request.

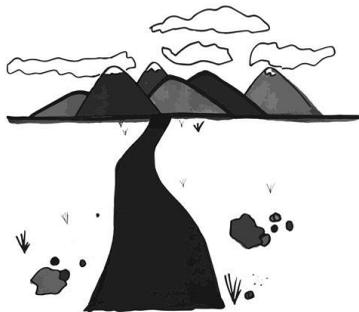
DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior

ACS 963
Found on p. 14

By Grace We Have Been Saved

W&P 25
Found on p. 15



Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior



1 Je - sus Christ, our bless - ed Sav - ior,
2 Christ says, "Come, that you may ev - er
3 This be - lieve with faith un - shak - en:
4 Christ says, "Come to me, you wea - ry;
5 Nour - ished, go to thank - ful la - bor,



took our sin a - way for - ev - er,
here re - mem - ber God's great fa - vor.
Je - sus' meal is to be ta - ken
all your bur - dens I will car - ry.
bear - ing fruit in love for neigh - bor.



bear - ing bit - ter grief and pain,
Take this bread, my bod - y; dine.
by all those with hearts dis - tressed,
There is noth - ing you can do
Those you serve can taste from you



free - dom from death for us to gain.
My blood I give for you in wine."
by all who yearn for peace and rest.
to earn this mer - cy; take it new."
what won - ders God in love will do.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, after Jan Hus, c. 1369–1415; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, and Paul Westermeyer, b. 1940

Music: JESUS CHRISTUS, UNSER HEILAND, Hohenfurt, 1410; *Enrichidion*, Erfurt, 1524

Text © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

By Grace We Have Been Saved



1 By grace we have been saved through faith and
 2 For all have sinned and fall - en short. God's
 3 God gave to earth a per - fect love through
 4 We know the wage of sin is death; thank
 5 Set free, we now have peace with God. Sal -



not by keep - ing law. God's saints be - lieved by
 plan, not one o - beyed. Christ has for all ful -
 Je - sus on the cross. While we were foes, Christ
 God, we shall re - vive. For just as Je - sus
 va - tion is se - cured. How beau - ti - ful the



what they heard and not by what they saw.
 filled the law. Be - lieve, con - fess, be saved.
 died for us. We gained by God's own loss.
 rose a - gain, we too are made a - live.
 feet of those who share this gos - pel word.

Refrain



Oh, how I love Je - sus! Oh, how I love Je - sus!



Oh, how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!

Text: Rusty Edwards, stanzas; Frederick Whitfield, refrain
 Music: OH, HOW I LOVE JESUS. North American traditional

Text © 1997 Selah Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved.

*After all have communed and returned to their places, **remain seated.***

BLESSING AND PRAYER

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

Amen.

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

LIFE OF THE CHURCH – ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

BENEDICTION

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

All Who Believe and Are Baptized

ELW 442 (harmony)

Found on p. 17

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God!

Postludes, a festive element of worship, are not played during Lent.

All Who Believe and Are Baptized



1 All who be - lieve and are bap - tized shall see the Lord's sal -
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray, grant us your Ho - ly



va - tion; bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, they are a
Spir - it; help us in our in - fir - mi - ty through Je - sus'



new cre - a - tion; through Christ's re-demp-tion they will stand a -
blood and mer - it; grant us to grow in grace each day by



mong the glo - rious heav'n - ly band of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.
ho - ly bap - tism, that we may e - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George T. Rygh, 1860–1943, alt.
Music: ES IST DAS HEIL, *Etlich christlich Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1524

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ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Jeanine Heath
Lector:	Victoria Kenyon
Bread Provider:	Heidi Burch
Altar Guild:	Linda Radwick

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 1, 2026

ADULT FORUM

Pastor Cris will spend some time with our Lenten Psalmody as we journey toward Holy Week. The rich readings this year include some favorites...Psalm 121, 95, 23, and 130.

Join the conversation on **Sunday mornings at 8:30 AM** (March 1,8,15,22). The study will also be held at **6:45 PM on Thursday evening** (March 5,12,19,26).

LENTEN SUPPER AND STUDY

The Reconciling In Christ (RIC) Committee invites you to a Lenten Supper and Study of the documentary "1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture." We gather for soup, screening, and study on **Wednesdays in March** (4, 11, 18, 25), **6:00-7:30 PM**. Join us for food, fellowship, and thought-provoking discussion.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS

As we head into the season of Lent, you might want to consider adding some time of prayer to your routine. There are hard copies of a devotion from Renewing Works (an organization that sponsors the Reconciling in Christ program and works for LGBTQIA2S+ justice) and from ELCA World Hunger in the narthex.

SOUNDING BRASS FOR EASTER

Our brass ensemble will rehearse for Easter on Mondays starting tomorrow, **March 2, at 4 PM**. If you play trumpet, horn, or trombone join us in the sanctuary.

ST. PAUL'S PRESCHOOL BLACK HISTORY MONTH ART SHOW

Our children have been learning about influential African American artists and exploring their unique styles and creativity. They have worked hard to recreate and be inspired by some of these powerful pieces, and we are so proud of their work! Come celebrate creativity, culture, and the incredible contributions of African American artists with us! We invite you to stop by the side hallway to view our Black History Art Show and see the children's beautiful masterpieces on display.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY FOOTPRINT IN THE SAND GIFT BAGS

Know someone who might be struggling with something in their personal life? The Membership Ministry Team has purchased little gift bags containing an inspirational verse and a pocket coin for you to share. These can be found on the table in the narthex along with pocket crosses, prayer squares, and greeting cards.

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY LOOKING FOR NEW PARTICIPANTS

Looking for a new way to engage in the life of our community? Our team is seeking to add a few new members. We only meet four times a year for planning purposes. Together we find ways to encourage the congregation to welcome visitors, reach out to less active members, and support our saintly seniors. We have the joy of supporting potential members by participating in two sessions of Amazing Grace classes annually. So if you think this could be a good fit for you, please contact our chair - Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com.

TIME TO ORDER EASTER FLOWERS

Order forms for flowers to decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday, April 5, are available in the narthex. Orders must be received no later than Sunday, March 22 so that we can secure our order with the nursery. (Enter a QR Code?)

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY

March 8 is Girl Scout Sunday! Come celebrate 114 years of Girl Scouting at Coffee hour.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Just a reminder to set your clocks ahead one hour before bed on Saturday night.



Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.



The Reverend Cris Frigm

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Dr. Rae Watts

302-368-0064 ext. 201

School Director stpaulschool701@outlook.com

Church Council

Susie Olson (*President*), Anne Sullivan (*Vice President*), Phillip Gerecke (*Secretary*), Mary Collins (*Treasurer*), Laura Blenderman, Heidi Burch, Kristine Cassar, Mark Deschere, Ian Kenyon.

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast - articles are due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM to office@stpaulsnewarkde.org. Late submissions will be shared the following week.



Worship Attendance



Prayer Requests



Electronic Giving

