

Church Calendar

Monday, March 24, 2025

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers
7:30 p.m. - to 8:30 p.m. AL-Anon

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Women's Farsi Al-Anon
7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. – Pacific Discussions (AA)

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. – Remain Teachable (AA)

Thursday, March 27, 2025

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers
7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – Thursday AA

Friday, March 28, 2025

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers
7:00 p.m. – 9:45p.m. – Youth Al Anon
7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. – AA Group (Farsi)

Saturday, March 29, 2025

9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – El Nido Family Centers
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. – Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, March 30, 2025

10:00 a.m. – In-Sanctuary Service & Live Streaming
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. – Coffee Hour

Church Leadership

Rev. Dr. Dottie Escobedo-Frank
Bishop in Residence

Rev. Garth Gilliam
North District Superintendent

Rev. Vernon Kemp
Pastor

Jacqueline Tringov
Music Director

Eloisa Mondragon
Administrative Assistant

St. Paul's - Leadership Team

Diana Bruno - Administrative Chair/ Lay leader
to Conference

Deborah Davies – Staff Parish Relations Chair

Linda Graul – Finance Chair

Donald Metzger – Team Member

Jackie Adams – Team Member

Marianne Crosby– Team Member

Evelyn Arnold-McJimpson– Team Member

Vacant - Trustee Chair

Saint Paul's United Methodist Church

5619 Lindley Ave., Tarzana 91356

Office Phone: 818-708-7068

Church Email: st_paulschurch@icloud.com

Church Website: stpaulschurchtarzana.org



@stpaulstarzana



@saintpaulunited



@stpaulsunitedmethodist

For online giving and support, please go to: <https://www.stpaulschurchtarzana.org/donate>

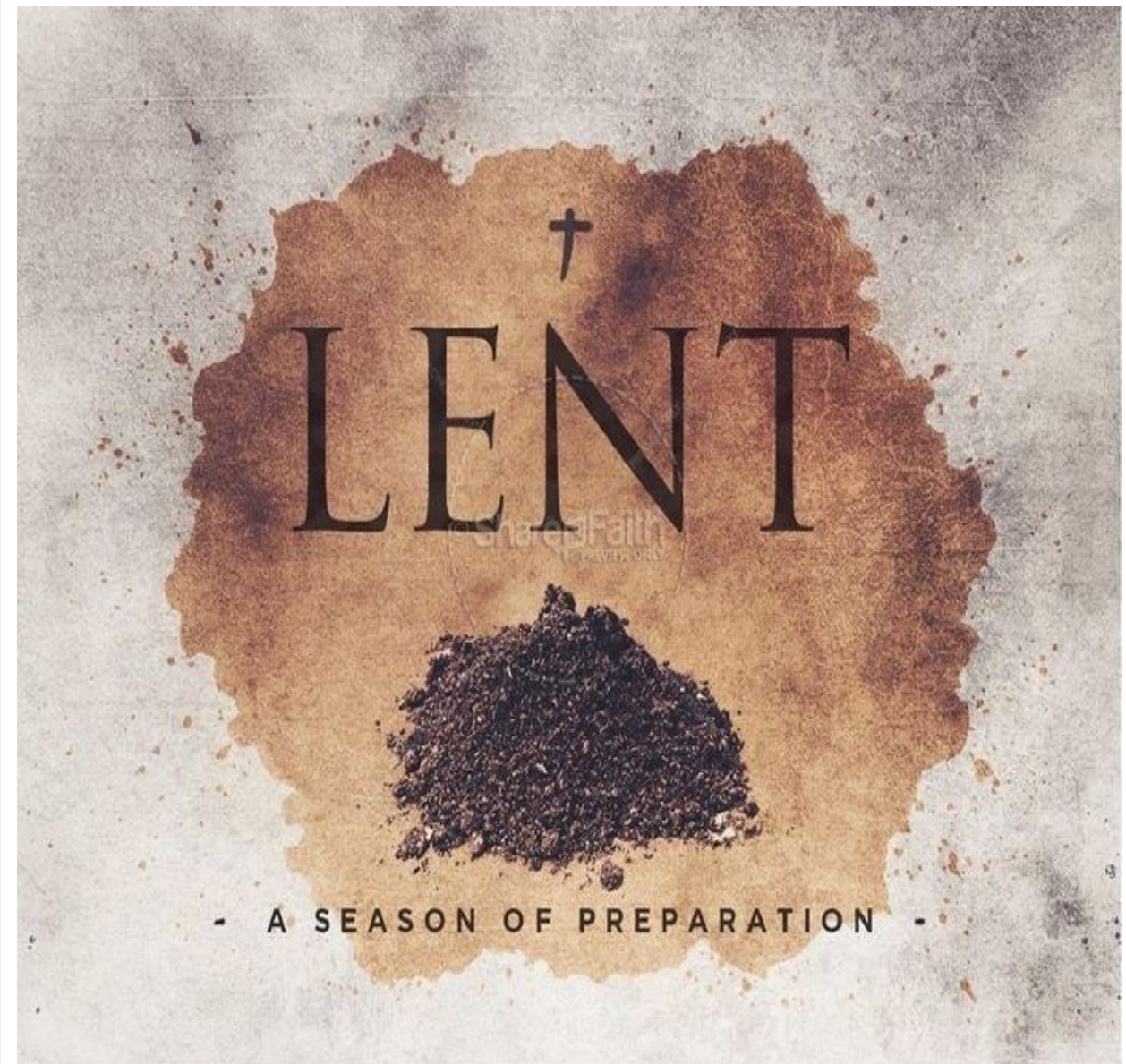
To donate via Zelle, please use our email, st_paulschurch@icloud.com.

You can find today's livestream and past livestreams by visiting our YouTube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/@saintpaulschurch7968/streams>

Pastor Vernon's Email: V_kemp2000@yahoo.com

Pastor Vernon's cell phone: 323-864-5967



March 23, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Pastor Vernon Kemp

Our Mission is to be: The Beacon of the Valley

Lighting 'The Way' of Jesus

Growing Disciples and Community in God's Love and

Sending the Hope and Joy of Jesus into the World



The Beacon of The Valley

3rd Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

March 23, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Theme Ideas

Repentance, a central theme of Lent, cannot be ignored in today's lessons. Jesus's words are clear: repent or perish. Isaiah's words, "Let the wicked forsake their ways," echo Christ's. Paul's writing gives a strong warning from Israel's history to the Corinthians and to us today: "God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down." But repentance is not merely a cessation of sin or a halting of that which is not pleasing in God's sight; it is more than that. Repentance also carries the idea of turning around in a new direction, of doing a one-eighty in your life. Isaiah invites us to embrace the abundant life that God offers us.

****Indicates to stand if able**

Prelude "The Anthem" Jacqueline Tringov

Invitation and Gathering

Gathering Words Pastor Vernon Kemp

**Processional "O How We Love Jesus" UMH #170

****Call to Worship** Liturgist, Lukman Alli

L: Seek the Lord while God is to be found.

P: Call upon God while God is near!

L: Repent of unrighteous ways.

P: It is never too late to turn to God!

L: Get rid of evil thoughts.

P: Let us turn to God, that God may have mercy on us!

L: For God will pardon our sins and cleanse us of our transgressions.

P: We will praise God for the new life we have found!

L: Alleluia!

P: Alleluia!

PRAYER
list...

Bill Lashbrook Jacqueline Tringov Ronald Lowe & Family
Bonnie Jay Ellie Harrison Virginia Perry
Tom Lawler Bert & Charlene Taylor Pattye Anderson
Mildred Porter & Family Marilyn Miracle Marianne Crosby
Henry Wright-Lindo Carmen Bornn-Vincze Stephanie Breton
Mr. & Mrs. John Shirley Hawkins Mrs. Didi Gulasarian

Church Family Please keep in prayer the family of Rev. Dr. Afrie Songco Joy, who faithfully shepherded our congregation from July 1994 to June 2000. We were informed that she has transitioned to her heavenly home this week. To honor her life and legacy, a Facebook Live event of her funeral will be available for those who wish to join in remembrance and prayer. May God's comfort and peace be with all who mourn her passing.

If you are seeking prayer and would like your name to appear on the prayer list, please contact the office no later than Wednesday noon via telephone or email.

"Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

James 5:16



LENTEN REFLECTION:

As we enter the third week of Lent, take a moment to pause and reflect. Where are you on your Lenten journey? Have you remained steadfast in your commitments, or have there been moments of struggle? What have you given up, and how has it drawn you closer to God?

Lent is not just about sacrifice but about transformation—letting go of what distracts us and embracing what brings us deeper into faith. How is God working in your heart during this season?

Share your thoughts and reflections as we walk this path together.



L: Lord, you are our God.

P: We will praise you with joyful lips.

L: Lord, you are our God.

P: Our souls thirst for you.

L: Lord, you are our God.

P: We behold your power and majesty.

L: Lord, you are our God.

P: We will bless you all of the days of our lives.

P: Amen!

Music Selection

“Let Jesus Lead You”

St. Paul’s Choir

Praise Sentences

Liturgist, Lukman Alli

New every morning is your mercy, O God.

You save us from our transgressions.

You bless us with steadfast love and mercy.

In true repentance, we find new life.

Opening Prayer

Liturgist, Lukman Alli

Gracious and eternal God, you call us into a new way of being and give us so many second chances in life. May your love wash over us, as we turn toward you from our sinful ways. Mold us as your people in new and powerful ways, that we may be true disciples of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Hymn

“Amazing Grace”

UMH #378

Proclamation and Response

Prayer of Confession

Liturgist, Lukman Alli

God, you call us to step more deeply into ourselves as we amend and awaken to who you desire us to be. Let us acknowledge our transgressions in stillness and in silence So that may prepare our hearts for change.

Moment of silence...

We confess that we have not always brought forth good fruit. In the midst of chaos and frenzy, we have often lost our way. Our feet have strayed from the place where we met you. Our egos have kept us from noticing our missteps.

Yet, with you, we know there's another chance for change. There is another opportunity to bear good fruit. In a world full of spoiled and rotten produce and systems designed to kill, We are called to be the change that sustains generations. Let us lean with you into this chance for transformation.

Music Selection "Why We Sing" St. Paul's Choir

Words of Assurance

You are given another chance!
God has heard your cries.
Turn again to the Lord.
Find comfort and strength in God's eternal love for you.
As God's grace and mercy abounds. God is with us in the change.
God's everlasting arms embrace us.
Each of us is beloved, affirmed, and set free.
Be healed. AMEN.

Liturgist, Lukman Alli

Pastoral Prayer

Passing of the Peace of Christ

Let us be known as children of the Most High by sharing our love with all as we pass the peace of Christ.

Music Selection "Falling in Love with Jesus" St. Paul's Choir

Invitation to the Word

Let us delight in the law of the Lord, and meditate on God's teachings, day and night.

Liturgist, Lukman Alli

****Scripture Readings**

Luke 13:1 – 9

Liturgist, Lukman Alli

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Music Selection "Here's My Heart Lord" St. Paul's Choir

Lenten Reflections



How can I be more intentional in my prayer life during Lent?

How can I deepen my trust in God throughout this Lenten journey?

How can I use my time and resources to serve others during Lent?

What small, daily sacrifice can I offer as a reminder of Christ's love?

What habits or distractions are keeping me from fully living as a disciple of Christ?

Who in my life needs encouragement, and how can I offer it?

What daily action can I take to remind myself of Christ's presence and purpose?

How does Jesus' sacrifice shape my understanding of God's love and grace?

How can I make more room in my life for holy living?

Is there someone I need to forgive or reconcile with, following Christ's example?

Witness and Writing

MARCH

Birthdays

3/5 - Audrey Davis
3/6 - Warren Walker
3/11 - Dr. Angela Moore
3/12 - Rev. LLC Hammond
3/17 - Leslie Baidoo
3/25 - Trevor Doherty
3/26 - Ginny Thomas
3/28 - Colleen Budge
3/30 - Eli Cox
3/30 - Daniel Cox

March Anniversaries

3/17 - Deborah and Steve Davies
3/26 - Jim and Loni Betterton

If we are missing your birthday or anniversary, or you would like us to add someone else's to the Birthday and/or Anniversaries list, please call 818-708-7068.



Response to the Word

Liturgist, Lukman Alli

Light:

shining, burning, beacon, warmth, glowing, showing, salvation, love.

Rock:

stronghold, fortress, foundation, strength, protection, redeemer, salvation, love.

Hen:

mother, parent, safety, care, protection, nurture, salvation, love.

Jesus:

prophet, blessing, transformer, promise, fulfillment, savior, salvation, love.

Music Selection

“Order My Steps”

St. Paul's Choir

Song of Preparation

“Change Me”

St. Paul's Choir

Sermon

“Fruitful or Barren?”

Pastor Vernon Kemp

Thanksgiving and Communion

Altar Call/Invitation to Discipleship

Liturgist, Lukman Alli

If you would like prayer, you may kneel at the altar and a prayer warrior will pray with you. You are also welcome to light a candle.

Music Selection

“I Could Sing of Your Love Forever”

St. Paul's Choir

Invitation to the Offering

Liturgist, Lukman Alli

Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure...running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

Now is the time for us all to offer our tithes and gifts to Almighty Christ by placing them in the Love Offering box. Those who are worshipping with us online, you may mail your offering or send it via Zelle using our email. St. Paul's is most grateful to each of you for your financial support

Music Selection

“Just Want Praise You”

St. Paul's Choir

**Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #94

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!”*

**Offertory Prayer

Liturgist, Lukman Alli

Faithful God, our guide and sustainer, as we offer these gifts, may they bear fruit for your kingdom. In this solemn season of Lent, we remember your call to repentance and renewal. Help us tend the soil of our hearts so that we may grow in faith and bear witness to your grace. Use these offerings to bring hope to those in need and light to those in darkness. May we live as your fruitful servants, trusting in your abundant mercy. In the name of Christ who calls us to new life, we pray. Amen.

Announcements

Liturgist, Lukman Alli

[Heartfelt Thank You for a Wonderful Chili Cook-Off!](#)

We give thanks to God for the **warmth of fellowship** and the **joy of community** we shared at last Sunday's **Chili Cook-Off!** Whether you joined us by cooking, tasting, or simply enjoying time together, your presence made this event special. It was a beautiful reminder of how we are called to gather in **love and service.** ✨ **Special Thanks To:**

Sequin & Jada Joans • Paul Ukpong • Pastor Kathy Huck • Diana Bruno • Jackie Adams. We are grateful for your participation and dedication! May we continue to grow in **faith, friendship, and service** as we journey together. **Thank you, and God bless!**

[Women's Support Group](#)

Join Us for Empowerment, Encouragement, and Faith-Filled Fellowship!

Ladies, we're excited to come together again on March 30th for another meaningful gathering! Each meeting is a chance to share, grow, and strengthen our faith in a loving and supportive community. See you there!

[Coffee Hour Coming up](#)

Come and share in fellowship and joy as we gather for Coffee Hour after the service on **March 30th**. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect, uplift one another, and strengthen our bonds as a church family.

Mark your calendars! On April 6th, Coffee Hour will also be back after service

We look forward to seeing you there! All are welcome

♥ [Lets Serve Together!](#) ♥

About My Father's Business invites YOU to be part of something special! We're hosting a **Hygiene Care Kit Party**, and we'd love for you to join us in spreading kindness and care. The event will be held on March 29th

at 4:00pm in Cappleman Hall. Plus, we'll enjoy a delicious meal together, catered by Stonefire Grill! We'll set up a fun assembly line, making it easy for everyone to help build. Come be a blessing! If you'd like to join, please sign up by calling the office or let [Ellie](#) know personally. We can't wait to serve alongside you!

[Senior Fit](#)

We're exploring the possibility of offering Senior Fit classes twice a week, and we'd love to know if you're interested! If you're interested, please give our office a call at (818) 708-7068 to let us know. We're looking forward to hearing from you

🌸 ✨ [Celebrate Easter Sunday with Us!](#) ✨ 🌸

He is Risen! Join us Easter Sunday April 20th as we rejoice in the miracle of Christ's resurrection and the boundless love and grace of our Lord. After our uplifting worship service, we invite you to stay for a joyful Easter Sunday Brunch, filled with fellowship, laughter, and delicious food.

But that's not all! Get ready for an egg hunt like no other! 🥚🌸 Children (and the young at heart!) are invited to dash, search, and discover colorful eggs filled with sweet treats and special surprises. Who knows? You might even find the Golden Egg!

Come celebrate faith, family, and fun as we rejoice in God's love and the joy of Easter morning!

All are welcome! We can't wait to see you there!

[Coffee Hour](#)

If you're interested in hosting a future coffee hour, we'd love to have you! Please reach out to **Jackie Adams** or **Diana Bruno** to sign up and set a date.

[Sending Forth](#)

**Benediction

Pastor Vernon Kemp

God has called you to bear witness to hope and goodness. Know that you have been healed of all that prevents you from serving God. Go forth with God's love and blessing to bring Good News to this hurting world. **AMEN.**

**Closing Song

“As You Go, Tell The World”

St. Paul's Choir

[Lectionary Scripture Readings](#)

Isaiah 55:1 – 9

Psalms 63:1 – 8 (UM778)

1 Corinthians 10:1 – 13

Luke 13:1 – 9