



# THE SPECTRUM

The Newsletter of St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church

APRIL  
2022

**Sunday Liturgies**  
8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

**Livestream video** via  
SPR's FB page or look  
in your e-mail on  
Sunday mornings.

**Confirmation**  
In person

**Sunday School**  
On Pause

**Adult Forum**  
Returns April 24

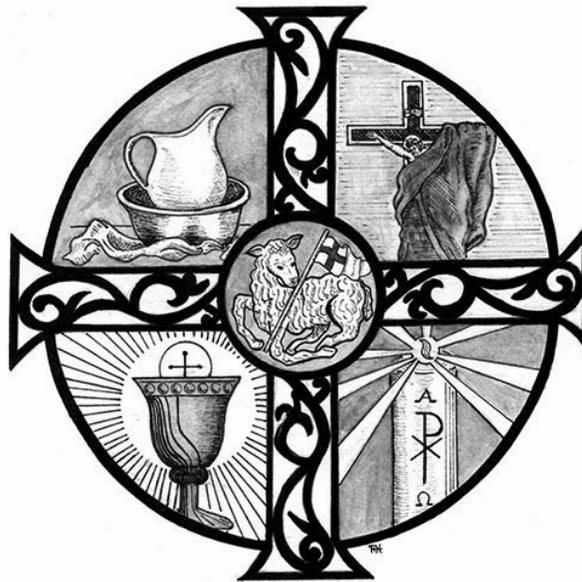
**Nursery**  
On hiatus.

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[www.stpaulref.org](http://www.stpaulref.org)

St. Paul-Reformation  
is a congregation of  
the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in  
America (ELCA).

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*The Spectrum* items, articles and columns need to be to the Parish Office by the 12th of the month. *The Spectrum* goes to the printer on the 15th of the month, and this date is hard and fast. Articles received after the 12th may or may not be included in the newsletter.



## RISEN INDEED!

April 17 is Easter Sunday, and the Church throughout the world begins the celebrations of the Lord's Resurrection for fifty days. As spring begins, we hope you will take time to join us for the totality of Holy Week:

### HOLY WEEK AND THE TRIDUUM

**Palm Sunday, April 10** | 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

**Holy Monday-Wed, April 11, 12, 13:** | Daily Spoken Eucharist at 5:00 p.m. in the West Transept

### THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

**Maundy Thursday, April 14** | 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with the washing of feet and stripping of the altar.

**Good Friday, April 15** | 7:00 p.m. Proper Liturgy and Adoration of the Cross with the passion sung in a setting by William Byrd

**The Great Vigil of Easter, April 16** | 7:00 p.m. with our neighbors from Redeemer at SPR. At 6:45, fire artists begin our celebrations on the front steps.

**Easter Sunday, April 17** | 8 and 10:30 a.m. Festival Eucharist with singers and instrumentalists.

**Ascension Thursday, May 26** | 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, West Transept

**A note:** we are hopeful that as the weather warms, we will be able to resume coffee hour outside, much as we did this past summer. Stay tuned!

IN JUST TWO WEEKS, the Church throughout the world will celebrate the resurrection of the Lord. As COVID numbers have decreased, a careful and intentional “opening up” of the world is under way, including here at St. Paul-Reformation. We are not out of the woods yet, but it seems that the cloud is lifting (if not completely gone). And, a “re-acclamation” to life as normal is something that is underway, and also something that is impossible. We will never be the same again, and we long to be the same again.

Soon, these feelings will find resonance in the Easter story: what a Sunday morning can make. The disciples had lost a lot on a Friday afternoon: Jesus himself of course, but also their hopes for a world in which God would bring about justice and mercy. When you put your hopes in something and it disappoints, what then? What do you do when those hopes collapse and shatter, and you are left scattered and confused and unable to move forward?

It's a good question, and it is not one that is new to the Christian tradition. We are constantly evaluating how to balance the reality of death with the greater reality of life. And, if anything, we have learned these past two-plus years how to do that in ways that no one signed up for or had familiarity with. Lots of things have been lost: school years gone up in smoke for children, relationships that were not able to withstand the blast, the good we assumed (once?) about our neighbors to tow the line as we care for each other. Many of these things have been crucified on the cross of unfulfilled expectations or human selfishness. It has been a bleak picture, and by the time you receive this, likely a million Americans will have died of Covid.

The Church has not been immune, either. Though SPR has done fairly well at staying afloat and flourishing, many of our siblings in other faith communities have not been so lucky, and the ELCA is slightly smaller now than when all this be-

gan. That does not mean that those communities were not faithful or doing good work; it means that crucifixions beyond our control sometimes wrestle away from us the things (or people) that we love and seek their destruction, and that there is little we can do to prepare or react. Do you remember where you were one pandemic ago? Would you have believed that you needed to prepare with coping skills beyond anything you had to do before?

And even so, the Lord meets Mary at the tomb. Jesus *literally* appears at the place of death (tombs are pretty final...) to speak words that offer hope for despairing people. His promise to Peter in Matthew (“...after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee.” -Mt. 26:32) is a promise of movement. None of the Gospels recount anyone actually seeing Jesus raised. We only experience the risen Jesus after-the-fact. We meet him after tests that are painful parts of our stories, after pandemics and wars and in-

justice, after all the powers of strength that have done their level best to stop the movement of God into the world have been rendered irrelevant by an empty tomb and a living God who is concerned about us. This is good news, because so much of our experience these past two years has had to be distant (at best).

Easter is a good time to shed these grave-clothes. To let them lie in the tomb and step forward (movement!) into the world to be people of faith, and people of hope, and people of joy. Life will not be the same on the other side of Easter, just as it will not be when Covid is a memory for us. The difference is that Easter will never be simply a “memory.” It will always be the power of the Lord to transform us in *real* time, in *real* ways, with *real* healing.

Be smart. Be faithful. Do not be afraid: he goes before us on his way...and that way is now our way, too.

Peace, Pr. Patrick H. Shebeck



*“Jesus literally appears at the place of death (tombs are pretty final...) to speak words that offer hope for despairing people.”*



### FROM THE CANTOR

In this month that contains the end of Lent, all of Holy Week, and the beginning of the great 50 days of Easter, I want to share with you a beautiful and striking hymn by local poet Susan Palo Cherwien (b. 1953), who sadly died at the end of 2021. Each stanza begins with an assertion that Christ is the life or death of all that is. There is a tendency to pit life against death and to believe that life is good and death is bad. But we Lutherans are “both/and” people, and we are good at holding seemingly opposites in tension with one another. One of the things I love about this hymn is the concept that death is not the antithesis of life, but the conduit to new life. Jesus’ death and resurrection join death and life, and there is no place where God is not, even in the depths of the tomb. As the death of all that is, Christ “beckons” and “welcomes” us into the darkness of the womb, where new life will appear. Christ is the necessary death of all that we don’t need: old systems, broken ways of thinking, “dusty days of uncreative strife.” Palo Cherwien was a master of creating texts that work best out loud, so I invite you to recite this hymn to yourself and enjoy its delicious literary devices like alliteration and assonance. May your Lenten journey draw you closer to God, and may your Easter celebration be joyful and blessed!

#### Christ Is the Life

Christ is the life of all that is,  
God's pure creative Word,  
whose pow'r beyond and through all space  
the worlds to Being stirred.  
Christ is the life beyond all time,  
creation's birth and breath,  
whose labor brings all things to be  
and brings all things to death.

Christ is the death of all that is;  
a broad and beck'ning tomb,  
who welcomes us from well-worn ways  
to darkness of the womb.  
Christ is the death, the sinking down  
past all desire and fear,  
whose promise in the gentle dark  
bids newness to appear.

Christ is the death of all that is,  
a bright, consuming fire,  
whose flames require our prior self  
as kindling for the pyre.  
Christ is the death of dusty days  
of uncreative strife,  
for out from fire we tread upon  
the threshold of new life.

Christ is the life of all that is,  
Beginning and the End;  
creative force, most peaceful death,  
transforming burning brand.  
Christ is the life, in whose wise love  
creation lives and dies  
and thus forevermore shall bless  
the Source, the living Christ.

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*Sr. Stacie Lightner*

### FROM THE VICAR

With the days getting both longer and warmer, it seems clear that spring is well on its way! I am looking forward to the change of seasons, and especially for Easter Sunday, which we will celebrate together later this month. Between my internship here at SPR and my studies at Luther, I am staying busy and fulfilled. One of my favorite classes this term has been Early Church History, which covers the development and spread of Christianity from the first century through the Protestant Reformation. We are currently focusing on martyrdom in the early church, a topic I have found especially interesting. I am immensely grateful for the lives of these faithful Christians and their witness to Christ, and I am looking forward to deepening my knowledge of our faith's history throughout the rest of the semester.



Peace to you, *Vicar Elizabeth Callen*

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## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Parish Council met in regular session on March 8 and took action on the following items:

- Heard from the Health Professionals' Committee regarding limited lifting of restrictions due to falling COVID numbers. The team will continue to monitor things as numbers change, but a return to singing during worship was recommended, as well as removing tape from the pews to allow (recently) larger crowds to space out more. Other things remain paused until after Easter; reevaluation will happen again at the end of March.
- Approved the sale of the tower lease to the American Tower Corporation, and directed the treasurer and Vice President to negotiate favorable terms regarding this sale.
- SPR continues to show the apartment and has had many interested parties; the rent has been dropped slightly to \$1500.00/mo.
- The Parish Council will not meet at their regularly scheduled time in April, as that is Holy Week. Instead, we will meet on Tuesday, April 19.

## BIRTHDAYS

02 Henry Hanson  
 05 Laura Carrero  
 07 Carsten Slostad  
 08 Sandy Archer  
 09 Alyn Bedford, Margaret Webster  
 10 Amy Rouillard  
 12 Anna Blaine  
 16 Andy Anderson  
 22 Charles Petersen  
 23 Patty Banks, Lisa Mathieson, Sara Gjerdrum  
 26 Aklilu Gjerdrum, Sam Matenaer, Victoria Smith

## ADULT FORUM APRIL

*On Hiatus, Starts again on April 24*

In our continued efforts to be adaptable and flexible regarding the Omicron variant of COVID-19, Adult Forum is “paused” until April 24 (and, we hope, no longer than this...). We will resume the Sunday after Easter 9:10 a.m., and we hope you can join us. Our Spring Adult Forum Series, will be the study by LSS “My Neighbor is Not For Sale.” Thank you for your flexibility as we continue to be adaptable!



## HEALTH PROFESSIONALS' GROUP

*Modifications through Easter Sunday*

The SPR Health Professionals' Group continues to monitor the situation re: Covid-19, and—to that end—has recommended continuation of what has been on hold, online, and in person. We hope that as the Omicron wave dissipates we'll gather in person once again. The Group will reassess again in early March. The following is in place through Easter Sunday (April 17):

- Sunday Adult Forum: on hold;
- Sunday School: on hold;
- Coffee/Treats after the 10:30 liturgy: on hold.
- Confirmation: as usual.
- Midweek Lenten Prayer: as usual.
- Friday Noon Prayer: as usual

**ELCA YOUTH GATHERING** + Sadly, the ELCA has determined that it is not yet safe to convene the Youth Gathering that was planned for Minneapolis in the summer of 2022 due to ongoing concerns about COVID-19.. Soon, a new venue for 2024 will be announced, and we expect a large contingent of SPR youth to attend that year. Stay tuned for more information soon.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP IN UKRAINE

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia, as well as such ecumenical partners as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits.

Lutherans make up the majority of Christians in Estonia and Lithuania, and are significant in Poland and Slovakia. Lutheran Church groups are working hard on the ground to welcome and help refugees. You can give to this effort at: [https://community.elca.org/eastern-europe-crisis-response?\\_ga=2.130997647.1830664229.1647527753-893286673.1647527753](https://community.elca.org/eastern-europe-crisis-response?_ga=2.130997647.1830664229.1647527753-893286673.1647527753)



**Above:** Religious leaders from throughout the Twin Cities gathered at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis to pray for peace in the Ukraine. The service was hosted by the St. Paul Area Synod and our bishop, Patricia Lull (right), and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Several SPR members were in attendance, and Vicar Elizabeth served as one of the acolytes.

## LENT IS NOT (QUITE) OVER...

The forty days of preparation for Easter continues.. The season of Lent calls us to three “disciplines” to prepare us to meet the Lord at his resurrection: Fasting (refraining from excess), almsgiving (generosity of heart and resources), and prayer (contemplation). To this end, we invite you to:

### Wednesday April 6

6:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer, church

### Fridays April 1 and 8

12:00-1p.m. Contemplative Prayer, West Transept, church

## FORGIVE: LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Lenten midweek worship (Holden Evening Prayer) will finish on Wednesday, April 6 6:30 p.m. In lieu of our LISTEN Series, this year each week will feature a short homily on *forgiveness*:

- *Forgive Yourself (4/6)*

## APRIL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

We are so thankful for all the volunteers who help make Sunday morning “run.”

### April 3 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Margaret Schuster, Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*  
 Kathy Thomforde, Joe Herbert, *Lectors*  
 Ellis Bedford, *Acolyte*  
 Dawn Klesk, *Cantor*  
 Krisi Matenaer, Jim McGowan,  
 Jan Swenson, Deanna Sande, *Greeters/Ushers*

### April 10 Palm/Passion Sunday

Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*  
 Linda Dahlen, Mya Wagner, *Lectors*  
 Nadia Ramirez, Juan Ramirez,  
 Abby Hanson *Acolytes*  
 Erica Perl, *Cantor*  
 Jim McGowan, Open, *Greeters/Ushers*

### April 17 Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter

Dorcas Adedigba, Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*  
 Jim McGowan, Kelly Bartnick, *Lectors*  
 Noah Johnson, Paige Johnson, Chloe Proctor Alexander Salo, Juan Ramirez, Nadia Ramirez, *Acolytes*  
 Dawn Klesk, *Cantor*  
 Jim McGowan, Open, *Greeters/Ushers*

### April 24 Second Sunday of Easter

Jamie Hocmuth, Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*  
 Cheri Gohr, Alyn Bedford, *Lectors*  
 Ellis Bedford, *Acolyte*  
 Victoria Smith, *Cantor*  
 Diane Hushman, Eldora Pearson,  
 Anne and Jim Halgerson, *Greeters/Ushers*  
 Diane Hushman, Deb Horne, *Coffee/Treats*

**BIBLE MATTERS. VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAYS** + Because the Bible does matter, you are invited to join us each week on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Watch the weekly emails for up to date information.

## LENTEN MATCHING CHALLENGE UPDATE

*SPR will support the building of a Lutheran University in Nigeria*

St. Paul-Reformation has received a generous dollar-for-dollar matching challenge up to \$5,000.00 (for a total of \$10,000.00) to support the building of a Lutheran University in Nigeria. Spearheaded by the Minneapolis Area Synod, the challenge comes as a call from Archbishop Musa Filibus (leader of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria and President of the Lutheran World Federation) to “...education a new generation of leaders who are prepared for the complexities...of Africa’s most populous country.”

So far, \$327,000 has already been given to this effort, with pledges for another \$200,000. The total goal is \$500,000.00 or slightly more, and—in very real ways—the equipping and education of leaders in the Church of Nigeria has a direct impact upon our partner congregation in Pella, Nigeria. Not only will the University train pastors (it is not a seminary, per se), but will train teachers, social workers, and health-care workers.

SPR’s goal is to raise \$5,000 between Ash Wednesday and Easter. This will be matched, for a grand total of \$10,000.00, a visible commitment to our global partnerships and a ringing endorsement of the Lutheran tradition in which education (the Lutheran Church was born in a University) can lift people out of poverty and promise a brighter future.

There are several ways you can give:

- An envelope will be included in your bulletin each week during Lent;
- You can also give online at [www.stpauref.org/donate](http://www.stpauref.org/donate)

Thank you in advance for you gift! Together, let us listen carefully to the Lenten discipline of “giving,” and...give generously!



**Lutheran  
 University  
 Nigeria**  
 DEMSA

**BUILDING UPDATE** + The Office Suite and Apartment are currently being shown for leasing. The Tuesday Crew has returned to the multiple repair projects needed around the building.

**MEALS MINISTRY!** + Once a month, SPR members help each other by preparing and delivering meals for members who may find it challenging to always have a home-cooked meal. Meals cooked in the church kitchen at **9:00 a.m. on Saturday April 16.** Volunteers are needed; if you can chop, cook, package, measure or just like to socialize, please join us. The alley door will be open. Your contributions for this ministry are greatly appreciated. For more information please contact Gwen Peyton, [gwenpeyton5@gmail.com](mailto:gwenpeyton5@gmail.com).

**BREAKFAST CLUB** + is on **Sunday, April 24,** after the second liturgy at the Louisiana Café. This informal time of fellowship is simply to help you get to know your SPR neighbors better...and to enjoy the best breakfast in St. Paul. No reservations are required, simply head to the Louisiana Café on Dale/Selby after the second liturgy and you'll be good to go!

**QUILTING for Charity** on hiatus in April. Join us on **May 7 at, 10:00 a.m.** You can sew, arrange blocks, iron, tie layers together, cut fabric! Work on your own projects. Join in on the fun! Bring a snack to share. Coffee provided. Contact Gwen Peyton at [gwenpeyton5@gmail.com](mailto:gwenpeyton5@gmail.com).

**SYNOD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** + The Saint Paul Area Synod has launched a Synod-wide Capital Campaign under the theme of "Planting Hope." Much is envisioned for the Campaign, including a partnership venture with Lutheran Social Service to build a service center on the East Side of St. Paul. The Campaign goal is 2.7 million dollars, and

lead gifts are already underway. As part of SPR's Annual Stewardship Campaign, about \$2700.00 has been pledged so far from SPR for this effort. Interested in giving? We'd love to talk to you! You can e-mail Pr. Shebeck at [pastorpatrick@stpaulref.org](mailto:pastorpatrick@stpaulref.org), and we can get you hooked up with ways you can give.

**THE SPECTRUM: A NEW LOOK** You may have noticed that the *Spectrum* looks a bit different this month as our printer has gone out of business. Please bear with us as we make this transition!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** will continue on pause through Easter April 17 as we get through this latest rise in COVID-19 diagnoses in our community. We want to make sure it is safe to return, and—following the advice of the Health Professionals' Group—we think that it is prudent to hit "pause" on this. Every week, however, you can find a "Virtually Sunday School" lesson in the Sunday E-mail. Watch for updates as we continue to be flexible. Our **hope** is for a limited return after Easter, a sort of "soft opening." Please watch announcements as we continue to monitor infection rates.

**COUNTERS NEEDED** + SPR is in need (always!) of some additional Sunday morning counters. What does this entail? It's fast and easy work, but exceptionally important as we hold in place financial controls that help us to run a tight ship. Is this glamorous work? Not exactly, but it's super important—and a very real way you can help SPR. Training is provided, the time commitment is about once a month. Contact Pam Peyton to volunteer: [pam\\_peyton@yahoo.com](mailto:pam_peyton@yahoo.com).

**DONATE TO SPR USING YOUR SMARTPHONE!** *A great way to donate whether you are at church or out and about!* Now you can give from anywhere in the world! It's fast, easy, and secure. Search your app-finder for "**GivePlusChurch**," download it, click "sign up," and follow the instructions. You can donate to either the Good Samaritan Fund or the Parish General fund (in addition to your regular pledge). Give it a try! **Thanks to all who are using this quick and easy way to donate!**

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❖ P A R T I N G S H O T ❖

ORGANSOUP AT ST. PAUL-REFORMATION



**Thursday, April 7 at 12:10 p.m.**  
**Dr. Jacob Benda, organ**

Dr. Jacob Benda is Director of Chapel Music and organist at the University of St. Thomas. Dr. Benda has been featured as a recitalist and lecturer at Yale University, Christ Church Cathedral (New Orleans), the East Texas Pipe Organ Festival, and currently is Dean of the Twin Cities Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

*Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate...these will go to the Hallie Q Brown Foodshelf.*