



# THE SPECTRUM

The Newsletter of St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church

NOVEMBER  
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.

**Sunday School and  
Adult Forum**  
9:10 a.m.

**Confirmation,**  
9:30 a.m.

**Nursery**  
Kids with Parents  
10:15 a.m.

**Visit us on the web!**  
[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.

## STEWARDSHIP CONCLUDES

*Teach us, O God, to be Servants of Your Grace*



servants OF YOUR GRACE

STEWARDSHIP 2022 AT ST. PAUL-REFORMATION

Throughout October, we have heard stories of all the ministries at SPR as we have embarked on our 2022 Stewardship Campaign “Servants of Our Grace.” We are so thankful for all those who continue to energize, those who pray, and those who give of their resources to impact so many lives: thank you. As we conclude, we invite you to make time now to sit down, carefully consider your 2023 Pledge, and return it on Sunday, November 6. That day, you will have the opportunity to present your Pledge to God as you come up for Holy Communion. From 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. that day, we hope you will join us for a celebration pot-luck brunch in the Lower Auditorium. Please bring a dish to share! Thank you for being a “servant of God’s grace” at SPR!

## CRAFTACULAR!

**Join us on November 19 & 20**

Can you smell those lovely baked goods in the air? How about the handmade soap? Itching to get your hands on some beautiful gifts for Christmas? The Craftacular is for you! Mark your calendars now to join us on Saturday-Sunday November 19 & 20. Please see inside this issue for more information.

## THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

**Give Thanks on November 23**

Before you dig in to your turkey and mashed potatoes, remember the one from whom all good things come: God. Please join us for our **Thanksgiving Eve Service** and Turkey Day Pie at **7:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, November 23** in the West Transsept. Please bring a pie to share, the winner gets the Golden Halo!

**GRATITUDE** is something that has been present in the lectionary the last few weeks, and will be present with us as we move through November. As we conclude this year's Stewardship Campaign "Servants of Your Grace," gather together to give thanks for the saints of our world and our lives, and gather around Thanksgiving tables, I hope that you will take some time to give thanks in ways that are beyond mere sentimentality. There is much to be thankful for, and all of it comes from God. There is much to cherish, and all of it comes from God. There is much to celebrate, and all of it comes from God.

Sometimes, I think that people (me included!) need all the pieces to be in the right place before giving thanks. "Thanks" is a reactive emotion when some anticipatory life event comes to pass. There will always be a "better" future than now (and a "better" past, too!), something to look *forward* to that, when it comes into being, will cause us to give thanks to God.

But what about now? What about gratitude for the current season of our lives, imperfect as they are? There is not a time in the future when everything becomes perfect (well, there is...but it is when Jesus comes again). And much as we would idealize the past, it wasn't perfect either. Both past and future have their hiccups, their strained relationships, their broken bits that need to be taped back together the best that we can. Do not delay in giving thanks today because some perfect moment exists...far from here.

Instead, do some inventory on things. Who is present in your life and what gifts do they bring to you simply by...being themselves? Newsflash: they are not perfect, but they do not have to be for us to love them (or for them to love us). What about the beds that we sleep in, or the roofs over

our heads, or the many ways that—despite much—the world has advanced in justice and mercy (and is continuing to do so)? What of all the saints who have crossed our paths unawares in order to teach us some lesson from God? Would we have been anything without them, or were they —too—an intended gift from God for us?

None of us gives thanks as often or as profoundly as we should. We take things for granted, wait too long, or just don't get around to it because we are busy. And life is busy, to be sure. But the life of God to which all Christian people are called gently (sometimes firmly!) asks us to stop and return back to God what belongs to God, beginning with gratitude and moving on to generosity and hope. As Luther said, "God does not need your good works, but your neighbor does."

In a world so cynical and so divided, you have the opportunity to do good: do it. You have the opportunity to change lives: change them. You have the opportunity to forgive others and yourself: learn the lessons of mercy. In such giving, we always get back more than we give away and gratitude comes back to us full circle.

I am so thankful for you, the members and friends of SPR who support our common life together. I am thankful for the little ones who sing and the aged ones whose wisdom continues to be a light for us all. I am thankful for those who give, thankful for those who take, and thankful for the ordinary graces of the Church's life. It is not glamorous, perhaps, but it is real. And, from top to bottom, it is infused with the grace of Christ Jesus.

May God bless you with a grateful heart this season of gratefulness; may God bless you with a generous heart in this season of giving; may God—most of all—bless you with faith to see that those graces are **now**.

Peace, Pr. Patrick H. Shebeck



*"In a world so cynical and so divided, you have the opportunity to do good: do it."*



## FROM THE CANTOR

November sees the end of the church year on Christ the King Sunday (this year on November 20) and the beginning of a the next on the first Sunday of Advent (November 27). The read-

ings at the end of each year turn us toward the return of Christ, a hope that continues into our Advent readings, which take us back to the time of waiting in anticipation for the birth of Jesus, while still maintaining that eschatological flavor of waiting for his return in glory. It's a big Kairos-flavored stew mingling past, present, and future, and I love it! I came across a hymn by John Ross Macduff, a Scottish pastor, written in 1853. Is it about the second coming of Christ or is it about Jesus' birth? I think the answer is a good Lutheran both/and! It uses the phrase "the mighty advent chorus" in stanza 3, but stanza 2 refers to Jesus' "bitter cross and pain," and stanza 4 says, "soon the risen Christ shall come." Is this hymn meant for Christ the King Sunday, or for Advent 1? You be the judge! Either way, the refrain in each stanza is "Christ is coming! Christ is coming!" Amen! Lord Jesus quickly come!

1 Christ is coming! Let creation  
from its groans and labor cease;  
let the glorious proclamation  
hope restore and faith increase:  
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!  
Come, O blessed Prince of Peace.

2 Earth can now but tell the story  
of your bitter cross and pain;  
we shall yet behold your glory,  
Lord, when you return to reign:  
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!  
Let each heart repeat the strain.

3 With that blessed hope before us,  
flute are tuned and harps are strung.  
Let the mighty advent chorus  
onward roll from tongue to tongue.  
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!  
Let each heart repeat the song.

4 Long your exiles have been pining,  
for your promised rest and home;  
but in heavenly glory shining  
soon the risen Christ shall come.  
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!  
Joyful shout the victory psalm.

If you would like to be part of a committee to explore the possibility of commercial composting services for our church building, please contact Sister Stacie by email: [music@stpaulref.org](mailto:music@stpaulref.org)  
+ Sr. Stacie Lightner

## FROM THE VICAR

It seems like the fall is flying by. I am enjoying my classes at the seminary this term, especially my class on the Triune God and the World. I've found the opportunity to delve so deeply into the mysteries and wonders of the Christian faith to be engaging and life-giving, even though trying to wrap my mind around some of the heavy theological concepts proves difficult. Last month, I met with the Minneapolis Area Synod as a part of my ongoing ELCA candidacy process and am happy to share that I have been endorsed as a candidate for ministry. I will meet with the synod again come spring for the final round of interviews. Of all the aspects of my journey through seminary, I am most grateful that God has led me here to St. Paul-Reformation, which has been such a wonderful and supportive place for my learning and growth.



## THEOLOGY ON TAP

Thank you to everyone who made it out to our first Theology on Tap event of the year. If you missed it, never fear! We meet again November 17, 7 p.m. at Lake Monster Brewery (550 Vandalia Street, St. Paul). Bring yourselves and your theological wonderings - I look forward to our time together!  
+ Vicar Elizabeth

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## HEALTH PROFESSIONALS' GROUP

The Health Professionals Group met in mid-October to review current data and trends. Based on this review we are recommending the following:

- As of October 16, **masks are encouraged but not required** for all Church activities. Please make a decision that is good for you while honoring the choices of others. We're still all in this together!
- If you are feeling ill or under the weather, please stay home and join us via livestream.
- We continue to strongly urge you to get vaccinated, boosted, and take all necessary precautions to remain safe and smart.



**HANDEL'S MESSIAH:  
SPR GROUP**  
Join us on Sunday,  
**December 18 at 2:00 p.m.**

On Sunday, December 18th, SPR will take a trip to the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in St. Paul to hear the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra present Handel's *Messiah*. This is planned in conjunction with the Adult Forum Presentation that morning by Dr. Paul Westermeyer of Luther Seminary ("Handel's *Messiah*: Christmas Favorite or Baroque Trash?"). Fifteen tickets have been reserved and they will go fast...so, be sure you sign up in the Narthex starting November 18th. Tickets are \$33.00. You can also reserve one by e-mailing SPR's Administrative Assistant, Cindy McArthur: [assistant@stpaulref.org](mailto:assistant@stpaulref.org).



**Above:** SPR was thrilled to welcome our partner Pastor from El Salvador, Pr. Conchi, to the Global Fiesta on October 9. Stay tuned for details on an upcoming trip in the next year or so...

## COUNCIL CORNER

The Parish Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 11, and hear updates/took action on the following matters:

- Heard an update on the sale of the Tower Lease to American Tower, Inc. We expect to close on this sale by the end of the year. Various inspections, structural logistics, and other matters have to be ironed out by engineers, but all is on schedule;
- Financials: SPR remains, essentially, on budget. This will produce a budget deficit at the end of the year, and Parishioners will be asked on their Pledge Cards to make an additional donation to lessen this impact;
- The Parish Council held a reception for Pr. Conchi and heard from many SPR members the importance of our El Salvador relationship. We continue to affirm this deep friendship, and look forward to a trip coming up in the near future;
- Attendance continues to increase steadily from week to week as people are coming back; this is great news, and we remain excited to welcome everyone back to SPR;
- The Parish Council will host the Stewardship Brunch on Nov. 6 as we return our pledge cards;
- The Parish Council will begin working on a constitutional bylaw change to SPR's Constitution concerning the number required for a quorum. Why this? The proposed change will allow a "quorum" to be defined as a certain percentage of average Sunday attendance rather than a set percentage of the total membership. This will more accurately reflect actual participation in the life of the parish. This will be presented in anticipation of the Annual Meeting in January. Please watch for more details soon.
- A huge thank you is extended to all who helped to make the Global Fiesta and Pr. Conchi's visit such a success. We are indebted to so many who graciously opened their hearts, their homes, and their lives to support this partnership: thank you from the Parish Council!

**ADULT FORUM** is at 9:10 a.m. in Tidemann Hall. We have an incredible line up of speakers. Join us to learn, discern and discuss.

## November All Sundays



### MY NEIGHBOR IS NOT FOR SALE

Minnesota has one of the highest rates of human trafficking in the United States. In this four-part study by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, we will gather as a parish to

learn about human trafficking in our midst and how Christian communities can be advocates for victims. Pr. Patrick leads the first three sessions; Joy McElory of LSS' Cherish All Children leads the capstone session.

## BIRTHDAYS

04 Ellis Bedford, Hilary Hund, Evelyn Stampley.  
Andrew Webb Woodage, John Whalen

10 Noelle Puroway

12 Joe Herbert

15 Noah Johnson

16 David Gjerdrum

19 Erik Doughty, Brian Zlimen

21 Mya Wagner

24 Kari Benson, Susan Martyn

25 Mallory Farrell

## ANNIVERSARIES

07 Kris and Jon Stevens

28 Jeff Kopseng and Alan Bloemke

**BIBLE MATTERS** Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the large Sunday School room in the lower level. **Not meeting on Wednesday November 23.** Please join us for this time of study, fellowship, and learning as we look forward to the coming week's lectionary texts.

**THE 11TH ANNUAL CRAFTACULAR & HOLIDAY BAKE SALE IS COMING!!** This sale benefits St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church's music ministry and lifts up the talents of local artisans, authors, jewelery makers, knitters, photographers, potters, quilters, soap makers, stone crafters, wool felters, woodturners, and more. Wonderful opportunity for buying unique Christmas presents.

### Dates:

### Basement set up and decorating:

- Friday Nov. 18, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

### Sales days:

- Saturday, Nov. 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **and**
- Sunday, Nov. 20, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Are you enjoying a bountiful garden?** Do you can, jam, bake or jelly? Plan on donating jars of pickles / preserves & acres of baked goods to the Bake Sale!

**Or bring baked goods galore:** cakes, muffins, cookies, candies, bars, pies, or dessert breads. And, 100% of bake sale proceeds will be donated to St. Paul-Ref's music ministry.

**You can help!!** Volunteers are needed for set-up on Friday, staffing the Bake Sale area, greeting customers, and helping to clean up on Sunday.

### Get ahead with your holiday or birthday shopping.

All artists agree to donate 10% of their sales to St. Paul Reformation's music ministry - it is the premiere fundraiser for the music programs. In 2021, the combination of baked goods sales and artists donations brought in \$1950 for music ministry!

**For more info or to volunteer,** contact Margaret Schuster at [craftacularspr@yahoo.com](mailto:craftacularspr@yahoo.com) or call (612) 805-9144; or email Sr. Stacie at [music@stpaulref.org](mailto:music@stpaulref.org).

## NOVEMBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

We are so thankful for all the volunteers who help make Sunday morning 10:30 a.m. service “run.”

### November 6 + All Saints Sunday

Bonnie Olson, Elizabeth Callen *Asst Ministers*  
 Kelly Bartnick, Aaron Brown, *Lectors*  
 Chloe Proctor, Daniel Adedigba,  
 Juan Ramirez, *Acolytes*  
 Erica Perl, *Cantor*  
 Anthony Hedlund, *Greeters/Ushers*  
 Karen Allard, *Coffee/Treats*

### November 13 + 23rd Sunday after Pentecost,

Victoria Smith, Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*  
 Sunday School Students, *Lectors*  
 Friday Rouillard-Horne, *Acolyte*  
 Jamie Hocmuth, *Cantor*  
 Deanna Sande, Anne and Jim Halgerson, Kay Pekel  
*Greeters/Ushers*  
 Deb Horne, Deanna Sande, *Coffee/Treats*

### November 20 + Christ the King Sunday

Jamie Hocmuth, Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*  
 Peter Huckfeldt, Mya Wagner, *Lectors*  
 Abby, Henry, Claudia Hanson, Carlos Ramirez,  
*Acolytes*  
 Dawn Klesk, *Cantor*  
 Kristen Damberg, Anthony Hedlund,  
*Greeters/Ushers*  
 Alice Swan, Linda Dahlen, *Coffee/Treats*

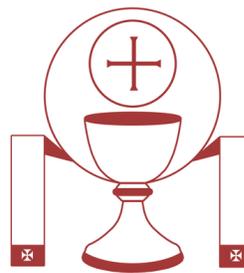
### November 27 + First Sunday of Advent

Bonnie Olson, Joe Voss, *Asst Ministers*  
 Jan Swenson, Cheri Gohr, *Lectors*  
 Andrew Webb Woodage, *Acolyte*  
 Jim Bowen, *Cantor*  
 Tom Webb, Tamika Ramirez, Margaret Schuster,  
 Jim Halgerson, *Greeters/Ushers*  
 Carla Hagen, Teresa Ortiz, *Coffee/Treats*

**HOLY EUCHARIST LIVESTREAM** + SPR's Sunday Eucharist is livestreamed every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. via SPR's Facebook page, or at [www.stpaulref.online.church](http://www.stpaulref.online.church). Similarly, SPR now has a YouTube channel where services are archived. Simply go to YouTube and search “St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church.”

## THANKSGIVING MEAL DRIVE FOR HALLIE Q. BROWN +

Every year, SPR partners with the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center to provide Thanksgiving meals for members of our community in need. **Donations of \$30.00 will help with the cost of Thanksgiving meal baskets for clients and their families**, and envelopes will appear in your bulletins starting in October as well as the one included in this edition of the *Spectrum*. You can also make donations online through the SPR website (“Donate”). Sharing makes the cranberry sauce taste sweeter...thank you in advance!



## ORDINATION OF JONATHAN NERDIG

SPR's former Vicar, Jonathan Nerdig, has completed the candidacy process and has been called to serve as Assistant Pastor at Ascension Lutheran Church in Brookings, South Dakota. Jonathan's Ordination will be held at SPR on **Saturday, December 3 at 1:00 p.m.**, Bishop Patricia Lull will serve as the Ordinator. You are invited to join in this joyful celebration, one that would not have been possible without you, the members of SPR, serving as patient teachers. A reception follows, please wear red!

**QUILTING *for Charity*** Join us on November 5 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).

**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 November 12**. Volunteers 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 hiatus until December. Why? Because on the first Sunday of the Month (November 6), we will have our Stewardship Brunch. See you on December 4! All are welcome to join this time of fellowship

**BUILDING UPDATE** The Tuesday Crew has been working on multiple repair, improvement and winterizing projects needed around the building. Winterizing items: locking down windows, insulating doors, bleeding air from hot water radiators, putting away or sealing off A/C units, review of snow and ice removal requirements. Planning light installations on north side long sidewalk. Discussions on replacing halogen lights with LED lights in the sanctuary ceiling. Thanks to all who volunteer to keep this building and the spaces inside in condition to use and rent out. The Saint Paul Conservatory of Music has settled in to spaces for lessons and classes.

## DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

**Advent** begins on Sunday, November 27. We enter “Year A” of the lectionary (the year of Matthew). See you there!

**Saint Nicholas on December 4** + An SPR tradition, we invite children below twelve to join us in person or via livestream. A highlight of the year, St. Nicholas and his entourage will delight, teach, and help us to understand the upcoming miracle of Christmas. Children are invited to leave their shoes in the narthex to be filled with...a surprise!

**Advent Tea on December 7 at 10:00 a.m.** with the Central High School Chamber Singers.

**A French Baroque Christmas: La Grande Bande** Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m.

**Twin Cities Girls’ Chorus Holiday Concert:** Sunday, December 11 at 3:00 p.m.

**Christmas with the Elizabethan Syngers:** Thursday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, December 17 at 4:00 p.m.

**Christmas Eve, Day, 1st and 2nd Sundays of Christmas and Epiphany Services** + The birth of our Lord is celebrated this year on:

- **Christmas Eve**, 4:00 and 10:30 p.m., Saturday, December 24;
- **Christmas Day**, 10:30 a.m., Sunday, December 25;
- **Christmas I**, Sunday January 1 at 10:30 a.m. —please note: one liturgy this day.
- **Epiphany**, Friday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m. at SPR with St. Clement’s Episcopal

**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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**ST. PAUL-REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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A CRAFT SALE OF DIVINE PROPORTIONS

# Craftacular!

Local artisans, crafts, and gifts for the holiday season!

Saturday, November 19 + 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Sunday, November 20 + 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.