

THE SPECTRUM

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL-REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER
2024

Liturgy on 9/1
9:30 a.m.

Liturgy as of 9/8
10:30 a.m.

Nursery
Kids with Parents
9:15 a.m. or 10:15 a.m.

Godly Play/Sunday
School starts on 9/8

Confirmation begins
on 9/8, 9:30 a.m.

Adult Forum begins
on 9/15, 9:10 a.m.

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

Visit us on the web!
www.stpaulref.org

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

100 Oxford St. N.
St. Paul, MN 55104
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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 print on the 15th and this date is hard and fast. Articles received after the 12th may or may not be included.



Above: Bishop Patricia Lull leads the St. Paul Area Synod in the opening of the new Early Learning Center-East Side, a project between the Synod and Lutheran Social Service. This project—intended for immigrant families who have experienced trauma—was funded by parishes of the Synod, including SPR!

RALLY SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 8!

SPR's Program Year Kicks Off!

Rally Sunday is **September 8**, and after a relaxing summer, we hope you will join us for the numerous opportunities for service, learning, and worship as the program year begins:

- 9:00-10:00 a.m.** Pot-luck brunch, please bring something to share
- 9:00-10:00 a.m.** LSS Service Project: Assembling kits containing culturally appropriate hygiene products for highly mobile and low income youth. More information on page 6.
- 9:15 a.m.** Vivace Music for Little Ones
- 9:30 a.m.** Godly Play, Godly Play Room
- 9:30 a.m.** Confirmation, Large Classroom
- 10:30 a.m.** Choral Eucharist

Note: Adult Forum begins the **following** Sunday, September 15. See page 6 for details.

INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST *Bread-O-Rama, September 15*

All SPR kids up through sixth grade are invited to join us for our annual Instructed Eucharist on **Sunday, September 15 at 9:30 a.m.** in the kitchen. This year we will again try out our hands at baking bread that will then be used at the 10:30 a.m. liturgy. This is for parents and kids, so come and... mix, knead, and cook with us!

THIS SEPTEMBER. ST. PAUL-REF. will come to an inflection point in the journey that we have been making as a community with a family seeking asylum in the United States. It is hard to believe that it has been seven years since we welcomed the Adedigba family among us, and in that time, we have been blessed to see how this amazing family has grown and changed. As I write this, we do not know the outcome of the legal proceedings that will take place in early September. We pray—as we have for seven years—that this process ends favorably.

Christian people are called to welcome the “...stranger who resides with you...you shall love them as yourself” (Lev. 19-34). Do we always do this work well? No, certainly. But we try, and in trying, we open ourselves to the moving of the Holy Spirit who sends people and communities across our path for some reason or another, to teach us some lesson or another. The encounter of accompaniment does not leave anyone unchanged. In each other, God is teaching us.

In the coming months, we will hear much vilification of immigrants and refugees as the rhetoric of American politics heats up. It will be ugly, and it will stoke the fires of fear and distrust. The most ugly parts of our common life together will be shown in attempts to grab at power, and such attempts will—sadly—come at the expense of those who are most vulnerable among us. In Electiontide: *kyrie, eleison*.

And yet...

There are communities that are quietly doing the work of support, of accompaniment, of unnoticed graces that are forged in the fire of a disciplined Christianity rather than an emotional one seeking messiahs in places other than Christ. It turns out, as I remind our seminarians, that the church is not glamorous, or sexy, or often very

exciting. It is steady. It is, might we say, even...boring sometimes?

But hidden away in that steadiness is faithfulness, the tenacious fixation on following Jesus with consistency and longevity. The work is hard, dear Jesus-followers. It requires focus and the willingness to stick with it even when other voices are crying from the rooftops that we should be afraid, or abandon the storyline in favor of more glorious ones, or give in to the secret places of our own hearts that hide our fears. It turns out that the Body of Christ is stable, and its stability is its virtue: the promise that God is with us forever, and “...leaves us never.”

And so God is also with those whom we accompany and who come into our lives for a season or for a lifetime. Like strands of yarn, the weft and the warp become a whole that is diminished when some strand is missing. But Christ’s Body has a remarkable ability to heal itself. When a strand of the fabric goes missing, a new strand will soon take its place, changing the final appearance slightly and reminding us that the only stability which we can lay hold of is “Jesus Christ, who is the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” (Hebrews 13:8)

Welcome the stranger. Do the work. Be open to the graces that will change your heart. Forgive, be generous of spirit, be kind. And when you are not these things, re-set at the font and try again.

Because it is ultimately unclear who is the “stranger who resides among you.” Is it visitors from far away, or is it...you? In being welcomed, we learn to welcome better. In being open to how God is changing us, we change the world in which we live, and by doing so, grow into unexpected graces that are continuing to make their presence known. God bless you in these fall days. Onward!

+Pr. Patrick H. Shebeck



“...God is also with those whom we accompany and who come into our lives for a season or for a lifetime.”

THE CHOIR SEASON KICKS OFF with our first rehearsal on **Wednesday, September 4**. New members are always welcome! If you are interested in joining Wings of Grace handbell choir or Chancel Choir, please talk to Sister Stacie.

The hymnal *This Far By Faith* hymnal (TFF) was published in 1999, making it 25 years old this year! The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians has marked the anniversary with a series of short articles in their newsletter *In Tempo*, as well as with a workshop at their gathering in Valparaiso, IN in July. *Lutheran Book of Worship* (the old green hymnal) was prepared for publication in 1978 by predecessor bodies of the ELCA and the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS). It was the first Lutheran hymnal to include African American spirituals, including “Go Tell It on the Mountain,” “Were You There,” “Let Us Break Bread Together.” “Lift Every Voice and Sing” was also included, but when the LCMS prepared their own hymnal in the 1980s, it was one of the songs they omitted due to lack of space. Leaving the Black National Anthem out of the hymnal was one factor that led LCMS members to issue a concept paper for a Black hymnal in 1990. Lutheran Brotherhood, the fraternal benefit society of the time, agreed to fund the project if it were pan-Lutheran and not just LCMS, so the ELCA joined in the preparations of the hymnal.

The end result is a book that contains three full settings of the liturgy with original music, 264 hymns, 18 psalms, and various other musical pieces for the liturgy. It was conceived as a supplement to be used alongside the primary hymnal of either denomination. There are also many non-musical treasures to find inside. I invite you to explore the non-musical items in the book sometime, perhaps during the prelude. At the workshop in Valparaiso, John Nunes, pastor and Senior Fellow at the Center for Religion, Culture, and Democracy, pointed out the National and Cultural

Resources at the back of the book. There is a forward-looking item about Juneteenth, which did not become a national holiday until 2021. There’s a great chart of the streams of musical styles that are included in the hymnal. I’d like to draw your attention especially to the essay “Worship and Culture,” which starts on page 8. It

includes a lengthy quote from the *Nairobi Statement on Worship and Culture* issued by the Lutheran World Federation in 1996. That was published just three short years before TFF, and it has become the foundation for much thinking about Lutheran worship and music ever since:

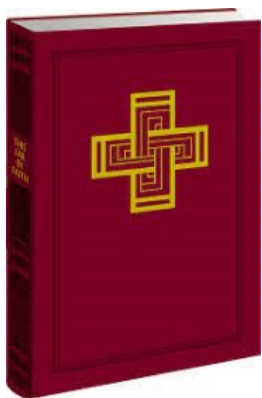
“Christian worship relates dynamically to culture in at least four ways. First, it is transcultural, the same substance for everyone everywhere, beyond culture. Second, it is contextual, varying according to the local situation (both nature and culture). Third, it is counter-cultural, challenging what is contrary to the Gospel in a given culture. Fourth, it is cross-cultural, making possible sharing between different local cultures.”

How does TFF embody those relations to culture? It is transcultural in its inclusion of items like the Lord’s Prayer and the Nicene Creed. It is cross-cultural in its inclusion of many musical styles from gospel music to African to Caribbean between the same covers. It is also cross-cultural in its inclusion of centuries-old Spirituals to brand new songs composed specifically for this book. It is contextual in that it was prepared in the 1990s, and it remains contextual every time we open the covers to sing together. It is counter-cultural every time we join together in worship to sing together and celebrate the Lord’s Supper, where are all fed.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. (Colossians 3: 16)

+ Sr. Stacie Lightner, Cantor

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UPDATE ON GOOD SAMARITAN OFFERING FOR EL SALVADOR

Thank you for your gracious donations of \$1951 for the members of our Sister Parish, Christ the Liberator, in Nahualapa, El Salvador. \$900 was wired to Pastor Conchi this month. Thank you for your generosity, and please keep our siblings in Christ in your prayers in the wake of terrible floods in Nahualapa.



JAZZ FEST IS SEPTEMBER 14 Volunteers Needed!

SPR will have a booth at the 2024 Selby Avenue Jazz Fest, on **Saturday, September 14, 11:00**

a.m.—7:30 p.m. We are in need of some volunteers to staff the booth, pass out stickers, and generally join with our community as we celebrate good music and good food. Sign-up in narthex to volunteer.

WHAT IS CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM AND HOW DO WE RESPOND TO IT?

Two sessions on Christian Nationalism are being offered by Pastor Rolf Olson, Pastor Jim Erlandson, and Jerry Gale, State Coordinator for Christians against Christian Nationalism – Minnesota. These run Sunday September 8, 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (285 Dale St N, Saint Paul), and Sunday September 29, 2:00—4:00 p.m. at Hamline United Methodist Church (1514 Englewood Ave, Saint Paul). These are open to the community and will discuss the dangers of

Christian Nationalism to the Church and to the nation, and how we respond as Christian people. These are free and open to the public, and we hope you will mark your calendars now to join this important discussion.

EL SALVADOR TRIP MISSION TRIP TO EL SALVADOR

A mission trip to El Salvador is planned for **Saturday October 26 - Saturday November 2**. If you are interested in learning more about the trip and joining us for the week, contact Sandy Iverson or Linda Dahlen. It's an exciting time in El Salvador with the election of a new bishop this October!

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS

Blessing of the Animals + Saturday Oct. 5, 11:00 a.m. Observed in honor of St. Francis' Day (Oct. 4), well-behaved pets of all kinds are invited to join us for a brief liturgy on the front steps.

Stewardship Campaign begins on Sunday **October 13** under the theme *For God All Things are Possible*

Theology on Tap October 17 at 7:00 p.m. Gambit Brewing, Minnehaha Ave, St. Paul, 55106—all are welcome.

Reformation Sunday Evening October 27, 5:00 p.m. *Formula Missae et Communionis*. The first order of the Lutheran worship. Followed by a German-themed reception of beer and food.

EL SALVADOR PROFILE

Greetings. My name is Anna Guadalupe Masa. I am studying for licensure in Theology, and have been assisting Pastor Conchi at Cristo Libertador. I have been able to move closer to my goal of becoming a pastor, thanks to your commitment to support me in my studies. I thank God for what you are doing together with the hand of God to enable my efforts. Soon, because of this, I will be able to serve my community and my church. I give thanks to God every day for the blessings that you have given me. May God always bless and guard you.



COUNCIL CORNER

The Parish Council met on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, to discuss and act on the following issues.

Council moved to adopt the Endowment Fund proposal with an amendment to change the title to Mission Endowment Fund to align with the church constitution.

Pastor Shebeck gave an update on the three pillars of SPR's Faith Formation scaffold: Sunday School, Confirmation and Adult Forum. All speakers have been scheduled for the Adult Forum through the end of this year. Sunday School will be managed this year as it was last year.

The church constitution has been thoroughly reviewed by Chris Thomforde and Susan Martyn. There is a proposal to adopt the ELCA Model Constitution which will be considered at the next Council meeting.

Chris Thomforde is the new chair of the Personnel Committee. The committee has begun a comprehensive review of its personnel policies and practices.

Revenue continues to track with projections with a small surplus, while expenses are slightly over plan.

Respectfully submitted

+Kristin Benson, *Council Secretary*

RALLY SUNDAY SERVICE PROJECT

On **Sunday, September 8**, as part of the Rally Sunday events, we will be assembling hygiene kits for low-income youth served by Lutheran Social Services. Please join us in the lower level during the Rally Sunday brunch at 9:00 am to help us put these kits together. *All are welcome.*

ENDOWMENT FUND APPLICATION PROCESS

Got an idea? Let's hear it!

After a process of revision, the Parish Council has instituted a new (and much simpler) process for procuring funds from the SPR Endowment. Have an idea for a ministry or need? The process is simple: send an e-mail with your idea to Parish Secretary Kristen Benson, and how much you are requesting. The Parish Council will make final deci-

sions, but we are interested in the ideas you have! The new Endowment Policy (with timeline) is available on SPR's website under the "Serve" tab. An email communication with an informal proposal and amount is due by November 1; decisions will be announced in early January.

BIRTHDAYS

07 Kasarah Archambault, Casey Damberg,

Hazel Hansmeier, Anthony Hedlund,

Coltrane Kaip

08 Alan Bloemke, Mike Hagedorn

13 Heidi Klutz

18 Jim Hagedorn

19 John Johnson

20 Dorothy Gjerdrum

22 Tina Proctor

23 Eric Beckman

24 Jeff Kopseng, Lay'ani Stuart

25 Shirley Heyer

26 Gwen Peyton

28 Brian Olson, Sharon Torkelson

29 Solveig Harriday, Cynthia Peyton

ANNIVERSARY

03 Deanna and Gary Sande

07 Carla Hagen and Leroy Sorenson

29 Christopher Taykalo and Michael-jon Pease

A MOMENTOUS DAY APPROACHES

Since the fall of 2017, we have been blessed to accompany Mosunmola Dorcas Adedigba and her children, Daniel, Elizabeth and Deborah, on their journey to the day their request for asylum in our country would be decided. That day has come, **Sept. 6, 1:30 p.m., at the Fort Snelling Immigration Court, Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Suite 1850, Fort Snelling. If you are able, gather in their support at the courthouse that day.** If it were up to us, we would enthusiastically say **YES!** to them who are our beloved friends, neighbors, fellow citizens and members of St. Paul- Reformation. As it is, an immigration judge will interpret applicable laws to decide their case. Please keep them in your prayers through the coming weeks. Questions? Contact Tim or Sandy Iverson, 651-238-7724.

SEPTEMBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Thank you to all the volunteers who help make the 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning services “run.”

September 1, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, 9:30 a.m. Summer Liturgy

Amy Rouillard and Bonnie Olson, *Asst. Ministers*
Karen Hanson, Colleen McGuire, *Lectors*
Henry Hanson, *Acolyte* Carsten Slostad, *Cantor*
Lay’ani Stuart, Laura Stuart,
Jan Swenson, Cheri Gohr, *Greeters/Ushers*
Karen Allard, Eldora Pearson, *Coffee/Treats*

September 8 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 a.m. Liturgy—Rally Day

Amy Rouillard, Anthony Hedlund, *Asst. Ministers*
Aaron Brown, Kathy Thomforde, *Lectors*
Mya Wagner, Daniel Adedigba, Lu Beckman,
Elizabeth Adedigba *Acolyte* Erica Perl, *Cantor*
Joe Herbert, Joe Voss, Bonnie Olson,
Greeters/Ushers

Sept. 15, Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Bonnie Olson, Victoria Smith, *Asst. Ministers*
Peter Huckfeldt, Susan Martyn, *Lectors*
Sebastian Badilla, *Acolyte* Dawn Klesk, *Cantor*
Kristen Damberg, Eldora Pearson,
Jan Swenson, *Greeters/Ushers*
Eldora Pearson, *Coffee/Treats*

September 22, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jamie Block, Ian Block, *Asst. Ministers*
Linda Dahlen, Karen Hanson, *Lectors*
Henry Hanson, *Acolyte* Chris Lyman, *Cantor*
Cheri Gohr, Anne Halgerson, Lay’Ani Stuart,
Laura Stuart, *Greeters/Ushers*
Karen Allard, Linda Dahlen, *Coffee/Treats*

September 29, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Aaron Brown, Amy Rouillard, *Asst. Ministers*
Carla Hagen, Diane Aase, *Lectors*
Matias Badilla, *Acolyte* Jesse Crosby, *Cantor*
Anthony Hedlund, Margaret Schuster, Joe Voss,
Greeters/Ushers
Carla Hagen, Teresa Ortiz, *Coffee/Treats*

ADULT FORUM is back, starting September 15! We gather on Sunday at 9:10 a.m. in Tidemann Hall. We have an incredible line up of speakers, and this is a “gem” of St. Paul-Ref’s life together. Join us to learn, discern and discuss.



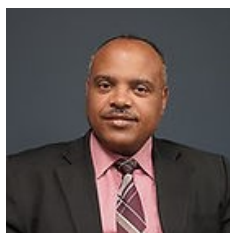
SEPTEMBER 15 Women in the Early Church

Jennifer Wojciechowski, Luther Seminary. Jennifer is an assistant professor of church history. Prior, she taught in the religion department at Augsburg University. She is author of the book “Women and the Christian Story: A Global History” and numerous articles in publications including Word & World and Minnesota History. Her research focuses on women’s history, American history, and the intersection of religion and social reform.



SEPTEMBER 22 Sara Liegel, Interfaith Action: Project HOME

Since 2001, Sara has directed Interfaith Action’s Project Home program, which provides emergency shelter to hundreds of children and their parents/guardians each year in Ramsey County, MN. Sara has previously worked in child protection services in multiple states and currently serves on many board. Sara serves as the Board Chair for the Federal Emergency Shelter and Food Program (ESFP) Local Advisory Board in Ramsey County.



SEPTEMBER 29 African Economic Development Solutions

Gene Gulu, African Economic Development Solutions. African Economic Development Solutions had a simple goal: we want our clients to build businesses that create jobs with livable wages. We want families to own homes and to break free of poverty. We strive to connect and build vibrant communities with creativity and social connection. Gene Gulu serves as founder and Executive Director.

QUILTERS AND KNITTERS *for Charity* is not meeting in September. Please join on **Saturday, October 5, 10:00 a.m.** Contact Gwen Peyton at 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, September 21.** Volunteers needed; please join us. The alley door will be open. Your contributions for this ministry are greatly appreciated. For more info please contact Gwen Peyton, gwenpeyton5@gmail.com.



BREAKFAST CLUB +

Join us Sunday September 1 at the Louisiana Café on Selby Ave after the 9:30 service. All are welcome to join this time of fellowship, good conversation and food. No agenda: just fellowship!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES UPDATE

Thank you for the donations of school supplies for our neighbors. A total of 47 Backpacks and many supplies were donated for an estimated value of \$2,000 of supplies to support neighborhood kids.

BIBLE MATTERS

Bible Matters is on hiatus the week of September 4. Please join us again **on Wednesday, September 11 at 10:00 a.m.** in the lower auditorium for this time of study, fellowship, and learning as we look forward to the coming week's lectionary texts.

BUILDING UPDATE + The Tuesday Crew and others continue working on multiple repair, improvement projects. Summer is a busy time.

Projects:

- Remove wooden step from Oxford stairs.
- Implement solution for outdoor flags to stay on poles.
- Determination location to hang TV in nursery for Sunday morning service viewing.
- Continue to advise Coda on painting projects.
- Measure rooms in Conservatory space and draw up dimensions floor map.
- Install 1 and adjust brightness of 4 new lights.
- Determine cause of circuit breakers popping in Teen Room and Large Kitchen.

Staff: Fire Alarm Box replacement coordination. Refrigerator replacement. Apartment leased as of August 16. Extend lease to Music Conservatory. Assist with needs of Brass Camp. Discuss Fall building use with Conservatory. Coordination with water company. Coda Wilson painted all 3 levels of elevator doors and stair rails on Oxford and Laurel stairs. Dusted the entirety of Tidemann Hall. Began organization project in Worship Supply Closet. Coda has replaced Charlie Ninow as the Sunday Morning Livestream Technician.

Professionals: Fire Alarm Box replacement. Fire extinguishers testing and replacement.

Thanks to Pam Peyton for showing the apartment and to Sandy Iverson for working with Jennifer to replace the large refrigerator.

Thanks to everyone who keeps this building repaired and up and running!

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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PARTING SHOT



Oh, be joyful! A sizeable group of SPR members gathered August 12 for
“Lutheran Night at the Twins.”