

# THE SPECTRUM

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL-REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE  
2025

Liturgy  
9:30 a.m.

Nursery  
Kids with Parents  
9:15 a.m.

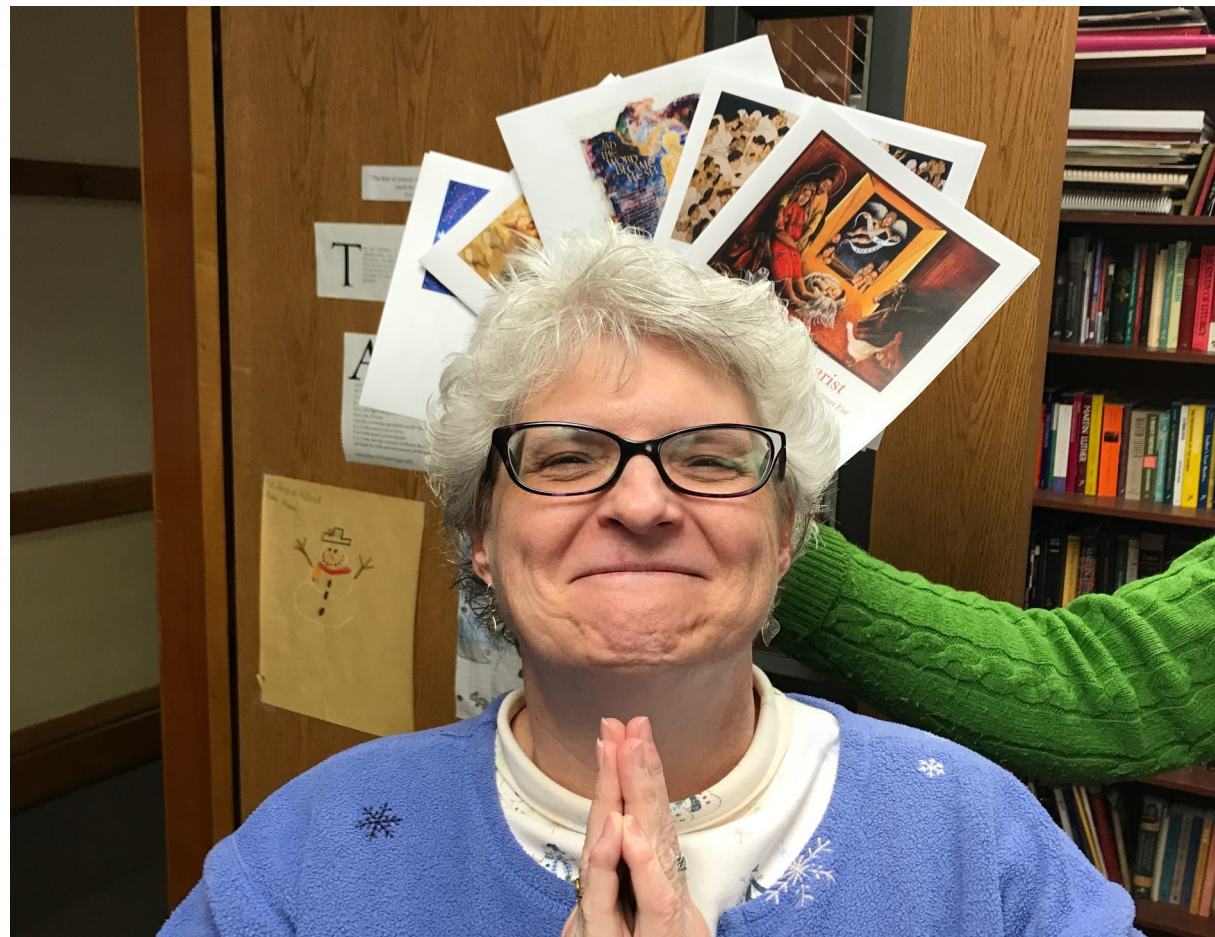
**Livestream video** via  
SPR's Facebook page  
or look in your e-mail  
on Sunday mornings.

**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 print on the 15th and this date is hard and fast. Articles received after the 12th may or may



## WELL DONE. GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT!

### ***Parish Administrator Jennifer Walding Retires***

In June, St. Paul-Reformation's Parish Administrator Jennifer Walding will retire. Jennifer has been with St. Paul-Reformation for eighteen years, wearing numerous hats and keeping the ship afloat. She begins a much-deserved retirement with her home church (Ss. Mary and Martha, Eagan), where she serves as an Episcopal priest, as well as time with her grandchildren who live in Portland, Oregon.

We invite you to mark on your calendars **Sunday, July 13**, when we will formally bless Jennifer and thank her for her service with a reception after the 9.30 a.m. liturgy. In addition, we encourage you to contribute to a gift for her by visiting the "Donate" button at [www.stpaulref.org](http://www.stpaulref.org), and clicking "Walding Retirement Gift." *Thank you, Jennifer!*

**EVERY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY** has seasons of its life that grow and change. In truth, all of us are “just visiting” for a season, and then—when we leave—God’s people enter a new season with new talents, new faces, and new energy. Each season brings with it unique gifts, unique challenges, and unique opportunities that are signs of the Spirit’s work among us.

This month, we say goodbye to Jennifer Walding, who has been at St. Paul-Reformation for eighteen years, an eternity in the land of those who work in the church. She has served St. Paul-Reformation well, balancing her vocation as a priest with that of the day-to-day that happens in this place.

For me, personally, Jennifer helped a great deal when I came to serve you as your pastor. There are still things that I don’t know that I have to ask her for (“Where is the key to the front sign? How do we do such-and-such?”), and I can hardly imagine St. Paul-Reformation without her sitting at the end of the hallway.

But again, seasons change, and the comings-and-goings of all who serve the church (including most of all its members) bids us remember that the only permanence is the constant and steady love of God. This love is enough to sustain the church (always has been, always will be...). Through all kinds of trials and difficult seasons, the ship of the church has been carried on the waves by the Spirit’s power, refusing to let the little boat sink.

As we come to the Day of Pentecost, I hope that you will give some pause and some thought to how the Holy Spirit’s constant presence has been with you and with this community through thick and thin. Occasionally, I hear from members of SPR who wax poetic about former saints (“I remember this person...,” “I remember my parents...,” “I remember who sat here...”). It is important to remember that these dear saints—so important to

our life of faith in this community— were, themselves “just visiting” for a while, and (at one time) walked through these doors for the first time themselves, newcomers to this community unsure of how they would fit in or what the future might hold for them. With them, they brought new gifts: gifts of openness and change, gifts of tradition and constancy, gifts of challenge and gifts of comfort. Each of them has been required for the church to fulfill its mission to make Jesus Christ known in this world and in this city, and—without them—we would have been less.

And so, we arrive at a new season in the life of this community. As transitions take place and the leadership of SPR discerns what future ministry will look like, your prayers and your elbow-grease will be needed. Mostly, your imagination is needed: to peer into the future and see beyond the present moment to the long-term.

What is God calling us to in this place? What is hindering our movement toward that vision? What, yet, is the Spirit doing among us?

I hope you will join with me in thanking Jennifer when we gather to celebrate her in July. As she retires, we will be looking at staffing structures and ministry needs and determining how those things might change or be modified to better fit the “season” we are now in. Goodbyes can cause anxiety; they are also opportunity for new imaginings about what can be.

Mostly, I hope that you will be open to where the Spirit is calling you. Not only at SPR, but in the day-to-day of your own life. Like disciples at Pentecost who once were filled with power that came from outside themselves, so the Spirit continues—in *Christ Jesus*—to make everything new. Happy Pentecost, dear ones!

✠Pr. Patrick H. Shebeck, *pastor*



*“Each of them has been required for the church to fulfill its mission to make Jesus Christ known in this world and in this city...”*

## FROM THE CANTOR

I want to begin with a word of thanks to all the musicians who have so generously given of their time and talents over the past year in Wings of Grace handbell choir and Chancel Choir! As the choirs wrap up their work for the summer, I look back with gratitude on all you have done to serve God and neighbor through your music. Thanks as well to all the cantors and instrumentalists who have adorned our worship. What a blessing it is to serve with you!

This month I am so privileged and excited to travel to Germany for two events. Starting in spring 2024 I have been the accompanist for Exultate Chamber Choir, which has been invited to sing at the Bach Festival in Leipzig, the city where Bach spent the last decades of his musical career. We are flying to Berlin and making our way down through Bach territory.

Some highlights are Eisenach, where he was born; Cöthen, where he worked for Prince Leopold and wrote a lot of instrumental music for use at court; and the Thomaskirche in Leipzig, where he wrote most of his cantatas, including the one our Chancel Choir just sang in May. A small orchestra is traveling with the choir, and I get to play continuo on a small chamber organ and a little bit of piano.

The repertoire the group will perform includes a couple of motets and some cantata movements by Bach and other important church composers like Pachelbel. The choir will also sing works by American composers like Larry Flemming, who was the founder of the National Lutheran Choir and William L. Dawson, the brilliant arranger of African American spirituals. We will perform Randall Thompson's *Frostiana*, which was commissioned by the town of Amherst to commemorate its bicentennial in 1959. It sets poems of Robert Frost to music. If you would like to hear the music before we leave, come to a "bon voyage" concert on **Saturday, June 7 at Normandale Lutheran Church, 6100 Normandale Road, Edina at 7:00 PM** or on

**Sunday, June 8 at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church, 5011 31st Avenue South, Minneapolis at 4:00 PM.**

After the tour is over, the Holy Spirit conveniently arranged for the triennial Kaiserswerth General Conference to be held the following week in Dresden! This is the worldwide organization of mother houses that spread from the original mother house founded by Theodore and Friederike Fliehn in Kaiserswerth, Germany, in 1836. The Deaconess Community traces its roots to this institution. I won't be visiting the original mother house, which is in a different part of Germany, but I will get to meet deaconesses from all over the world!

Organists Pam Carlson and Jim Hild will be holding down the organ bench until I get back. Have a blessed beginning of summer, and I will see you in July! + Sr. Stacie Lightner, *Cantor*



## SUMMER LYCEUM: CONFIRMATION...FOR ADULTS?

Believe it or not, a sizeable group of adults at SPR have requested a time to re-do their confirmation instruction (great is the mystery of faith...). While we can't do a full three years in just a month, now is your opportunity to re-engage with some basics of the faith and the Lutheran tradition. Our tour through confirmation is for anyone who was distracted the first time (teenagers never are...), or those who are new to the Lutheran tradition who would like to know more. **SPR's Summer Lyceum will run each Wednesday in June (June 4, 11, 18, 25) from 6:30-8:00 p.m.** You can join us for one, or for all. The Good News: everyone passes, and you don't have to memorize a thing!



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## BIRTHDAYS

6/4 Dorcas Adedigba  
 6/5 Jean Scott  
 6/6 Aaron Brown  
 6/8 Joe Voss  
 6/9 Jean Mendenhall  
 6/10 Margaret Schuster  
 6/13 Colleen McGuire  
 6/15 Sharon Lee  
 6/16 Charlize Badilla  
 6/18 Linda Nygren  
 6/19 Deborah Adedigba, Alice Swan  
 6/21 Lois Gehrman  
 6/25 Jamie Block  
 6/27 Will Thompson  
 6/28 Sebastian Badilla  
 6/30 Ted Johnson, Kalkidan Olson, Mark Sandberg

## ANNIVERSARIES

6/2 Margaret Schuster and David Weiss  
 6/7 Sandra and Phillip Archer  
 6/14 Anne and James Halgerson  
 6/21 Colleen McGuire and Tom Dunn  
 6/30 Anna Korinko and Charles Petersen



## JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION WITH THE MINNESOTA ORCHESTRA

**Join SPR for this special event on Thursday, June 19!**

+ This can't-miss concert is a celebration and exploration of Black ritual and spirituality through the music of the African diaspora. A wide array of instruments, traditions and guests take center stage in this powerful program under the baton of Kedrick Armstrong. Guests are also invited to explore a vibrant curated vendor space in the lobby, featuring ten African-American-owned businesses. Tickets are \$25, and you can sign up in the narthex at SPR! See you there!



## TWIN CITIES PRIDE

**SPR's Presence at Pride: Over Thirty Years and Counting!**

+ Each year, SPR hosts a booth at Twin Cities Pride in Loring Park, where we hand out our (now) famous stickers,

greet festival goers, and generally remind folk that God's loving embrace welcomes all. In these days of renewed anxiety for GLBTQIA+ communities, our presence as the church is more important than ever. Please join us in taking a two-hour shift at Pride; it's easy, fun, and...you serve as a warm and welcoming presence to many who have been hurt by organized religion. Sign up is in the narthex, or online via your weekly Friday e-mail!

## NICAEA AT 1700

This summer, Christians from around the world will observe the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed. This confession of faith—one of three creeds of the church—was the result of the church's response to Arianism, a heresy that believed that



Jesus had been created by the Father. This proposed that there was a time when Jesus was not in existence, at odds with the church's understanding of him as "...begotten, not made." To iron this out, a Council was called in what is now Iznik, Turkey, by the Emperor Constantine I. Two hundred bishops gathered to sort this matter out, and—by one legend—the eastern Bishop Athanasius (from whom we get the Athanasian Creed) slapped Arius (who came up with the Arian heresy). Even if not entirely based in history, it shows that...church meetings sometimes go south. We will be remembering this anniversary in the Prayers of Intercession for the duration of the time that the Council met, from late May until the end of July.



## COUNCIL CORNER

The Parish Council met on Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

Karen Hanson, Personnel Committee member, presented two proposed revisions to the children/vulnerable adults policy. Council approved both proposals; one simplifying wording and one aligning mandatory training for volunteers with the training provided by the Synod.

Chris Lyman, Council Treasurer, provided March financial results showing offerings and expenses largely in line with projections. The new internet and phone services, introduced earlier this year, will provide significant savings.

+ Kristin Benson, *Council Secretary*



## CONSORTIUM CARISSIMI COMES TO ST. PAUL-REF

Consortium Carissimi was founded in 1996 while I was living in Rome, Italy. I returned stateside in 2005 and a new face to Consortium Carissimi appeared in 2007 as an official nonprofit 501(c)(3). This Minnesota-based performing ensemble continues mission of uncovering and bringing the long-forgotten Italian baroque music of the 16th and 17th centuries to 21st century audiences. It does so through live concerts, master classes, recordings and publications. Consortium Carissimi bears the name of the Giacomo Carissimi, whose music was known for its simple, fresh approach to text, melody and accompaniment. I had commissioned some years ago, a portative organ for the ensemble by a good friend and colleague, Paolo Costa.

I am very pleased that we will now have a place for our organ at St. Paul-Reformation Church. I know that Sr. Stacie will make good use of it for concerts and liturgical celebrations. The concerts on June 7 and 8 at 2:00pm will be centered around the organ and our patron Saint, *Cecelia*. Consortium Carissimi will turn their attention to “beyond the alps” with the *Odes* dedicated to her by John Blow

and Henry Purcell. Tickets are available at [consortiumcarissimi.org](http://consortiumcarissimi.org) or at the door.

--Garrick Comeaux

## FROM JENNIFER WALDING

Hello members of St. Paul-Ref. After 17 (!) years as the Parish Administrator I am retiring as of May 31. This decision was brought on by a combination of my current health condition and that I turned sixty-five in April. I have gotten to know so many of you, your families and think of many of you as friends. I will miss you. I will miss the Staff and some aspects, but not all, of the work. Working in a parish and with a congregation that worships God and follows Jesus and the Holy Spirits movement to be so involved with each other, in the neighborhood, the community, and the world has been wonderful. SPR will remain in my prayers. Don't think you'll never see me again - who knows where and when I'll pop up!

What retirement looks like for me is in flux but I anticipate the following: continue my non-stipendiary position as the Priest-in-Charge at my Episcopal parish; travel to Portland more often to see my son, daughter-in-law and granddaughters; catch up with friends, walks, reading, camping, bird-watching; and volunteering in my community. I am looking forward to what God has planned for my future. Peace be with you

+Jennifer Walding, *Parish Administrator*

## CARDS AND GIFT TO JENNIFER WALDING

In thanksgiving for seventeen years of service, SPR will give a gift to Jennifer Walding at her retirement celebration on Sunday, July 13. Our gift? A roundtrip ticket to visit her son and granddaughters in Portland Oregon. You can give online at [www.stpaulref.org](http://www.stpaulref.org) by clicking “donate” in the upper right. From there, look for “Walding Retirement Gift.” Likewise, cards can be sent to the parish office. Thank you!



## JUNE MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Thank you to all the volunteers who help make the 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning services “run.”

### Sunday, June 1, 9:30 AM

Ian Block, Jamie Block - Asst. Ministers  
 Susan Martyn, Karen Hanson - Lectors  
 Cheri Gohr, Kristen Damberg, Jan Swenson, Ed Stuart - Greeter and Usher  
 Karen Allard, Anastasia Polda - Coffee and Treats  
 Mikko Matala - Acolyte  
 Carsten Slostad - cantor

### Sunday, June 8, 9:30 AM

Aaron Brown, Joe Voss - Assisting Ministers  
 Mike Banks, Ellis Bedford - Lectors  
 Dorcas Adedigba, Kristin Benson, Hilary Hund, Roman Hund - Greeter and Usher  
 Steve Ruth, Marjie Ruth - Coffee & Treats  
 Noelle Puroway, Sebastian Badilla, Lu Beckman, Mya Wagner - Acolytes  
 Joshua Weichel - cantor

### Sunday, June 15, 9:30 AM

Ian Block, Kathy Thomforde - Asst. Ministers  
 Sara Gjerdrum, Linda Dahlen - Lectors  
 Kristen Damberg, Sara Gjerdrum, Joe Herbert, Eldora Pearson - Greeter and Usher  
 Carla Hagen, Teresa Ortiz - Coffee and Treats  
 Daniel Adedigba - Acolyte  
 Margaret Schuster - cantor

### Sunday, June 22, 9:30 AM

Kathy Thomforde, Amy Rouillard - Assisting Ministers  
 Alice Swan, Mike Banks - Lectors  
 Pat Graham, Annette Hines, Deanna Sande, Margaret Schuster - Greet and Usher  
 Marjie Ruth, Steve Ruth - Coffee & Treats  
 Henry Hanson - Acolyte Chris Lyman - cantor

### Sunday, June 29, 9:30 AM

Aaron Brown, Amy Rouillard - Asst. Ministers  
 Kristen Damberg, Mya Wagner - Lectors  
 Joe Herbert, Roman Hund, Eldora Pearson, Jan Swenson - Greet and Usher  
 Karen Allard, Teresa Ortiz - Coffee & Treats  
 Noelle Puroway - Acolyte  
 Drew Puroway - cantor



## FEASIBILITY STUDY

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

SPR is in the preparatory stages of a major Capital Campaign, and our goal is to keep you updated on developments as they occur. Right now, the Finance Committee has been formed and has met, chaired by Sarah Matala; this month, we signed our contract with Mark Davy & Associates (the capital campaign consultant) who are beginning their work to execute a feasibility study this summer.

What is a “feasibility study?” The feasibility study’s purpose is to establish the realistic giving capacity of the congregation for the campaign. Through interviews, conversations, and questionnaires, the results of this study—based on the information gathered from the congregation—will be presented to the Parish Council: either “yes, go ahead!” or “No, not right now.”

Meanwhile, the Building Committee continues to gather bids from various contractors for work on the sanctuary, the sound system, Lower Auditorium, and exterior lighting (among other projects). The process of getting bids takes a long time, as (generally) we do not simply receive one bid without getting a competing bid. The goal of this part of the Building Committee’s work is to be able to prioritize projects and put dollar figures to potential improvements.

Please continue to pray for the work of the Capital Campaign, and—as you are looking ahead—please know that you might get a call from one of our consultants asking for your input. Your voice is important in this process, and your opinions and thoughts matter very much.

**QUILTING AND KNITTING *for Charity***

Join us on **Saturday June 7 at 10:00 a.m.** You can sew, arrange blocks, iron, tie layers together, cut fabric! All knitters, crocheters, and quilters invited. Work on your own projects. Join in on the fun! Bring a snack to share; coffee is 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 are cooked in the church kitchen at **9:00 a.m. on Saturday June 21**. 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).

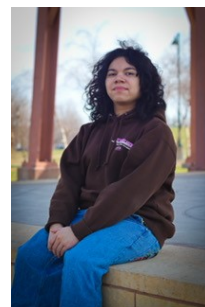
**CONGRATULATIONS. GRADUATES!**

SPR is home to three seniors graduating from High School this June. As they complete this chapter of their study and move on to the “next big thing,” we hope you will join us on Sunday, June 10 as we celebrate their accomplishments and bless them on their way:



**Daniel Adedigba** is graduating from St. Paul-Central High School and will be attending Bethel University in Arden Hills. Daniel has played baseball at Central and is the recipient of the Winfield Award this year. He will be studying Business Administration at Bethel.

**Noah Johnson** is attending the University of Minnesota- Twins Cities College of Science and Engineering Honors Program. Noah is graduating from Open World Learning (OWL) in Saint Paul. He has played ultimate frisbee, and will be studying computer science at the University.



**Juan Ramirez** will be graduating from Saint Paul Public Schools Online High School (Washington Technology). His plans after graduation are to take some time off of academics, work in retail, and explore his talents, and pursue his love of making music.



**BREAKFAST CLUB** + Join us **Sunday, June 1** at the Louisiana Café on Selby Ave. after the 10:30 service. All are welcome to join this time of fellowship, good conversation and good food...all are welcome to join us!

*Above: Pastor Kirsten Fryer (Bethlehem in the Midway) and her daughter happened by SPR just as the noontime bells were ringing and snapped this photo!*

**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. If you are giving electronically, you may use the QR code on the right, which is safe, fast, and efficient! 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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## PARTING SHOT



*In early May, SPR's choir performed Bach's Cantata "Der Herr ist mein getreuer Hirt." Here, Miriam the Musical Cat—who allows one of our choir members to live with her—is learning the score.*