

# THE SPECTRUM

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL-REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY  
2025

Liturgy  
10:30 a.m.

Sunday School  
Confirmation  
9:30 a.m.

Adult Forum  
9:10 a.m.

Nursery  
Staffed by Attendant  
9-11:45 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 not be included.



**Above:** St. Paul-Reformation welcomed our neighbors from Christ-Capitol Hill to celebrate the Easter Vigil, complete with slide whistles, dancing skeletons, and fire acrobats. **Below:** Easter celebrated around the world, here from our dear friends in Nahualapa, El Salvador! Good news: the resurrection touches the whole world!



**EACH TRADITION OF THE** Christian church brings various gifts to the potluck of discipleship. These gifts have defined the different traditions and infused their spirituality with unique gifts that allow each to proclaim the Gospel in specific ways.

For example, Anglicans bring the tradition of prayer to the potluck. The Orthodox bring the tradition of an emphasis on the Trinity; Roman Catholics bring social teaching. The Reformed emphasize God's sovereignty, while American expressions of evangelical fervor bring a historical familiarity with the scriptures that undergirds how they interact with God.

Lutherans, too, bring gifts to the potluck: namely, our emphasis on grace. But the way that Lutherans have historically expressed this has been through music, the vehicle that Luther declared was "...second only to theology" in its ability to express the Christian Gospel.

Of all the gifts that the church possesses, music is—at least for Lutherans—among the most important. I say this not just as someone who cares about music and finds meaning in it deeply, but as a pastor: music is the way that many, many people encounter the divine. In words and notes suspended in time, both poets and composers have reached toward heaven and—*without doubt*—heaven has reached back. It is the jewel in the crown of our Lutheran tradition, and one that the church has a profound responsibility to curate, to encourage, and to support.

Later this month, the SPR choir will be presenting J. S. Bach's "Der Herr ist mein getreuer Hirt," his Cantata 112. Bach, whom some believe to be the greatest composer who ever lived, embodied the Lutheran emphasis on music. A deeply, deeply religious man, Bach's music is endlessly creative in ways that other composers can only hope to emulate. Performing these works is a spiritual

exercise in itself; hearing them, reading the text of the cantatas, and listening carefully to the way that theology is echoed in the music is to Lutherans what saying a rosary is to Roman Catholics.

Because of this, I have asked Sr. Stacie to see to it that we perform these works at regular intervals at St. Paul-Reformation. This May, Cantata 112 will be presented in the regular Sunday liturgy as—*essentially*—the sermon.

Such grand and intricate works join other expressions of music that, also, Lutherans have a responsibility to foster. Bach is grand, to be sure; but alongside it is the faithful hope of African American Spirituals, which themselves speak of the unique ways faith has sustained God's people in times of persecution; next to those are the joyful rhythms of Latin American Christianity; next to those the uniquely Asian musical forms that, too, express faith in Jesus Christ. We make intentional efforts to provide places for all of

these (and more) in the liturgies at SPR, and—*taken together*—all of them fill out the picture that none of them alone can express fully.

The point is that music matters. It matters not as just a part of our Lutheran tradition, but also as a way that God's people have loved God going back to the creation itself. The Book of Job reminds us that "...the morning stars sang together" (Job 38:7), and Jesus' own incarnation is heralded by a virtual hymnbook full of songs (Luke's Gospel). "Praise" as a concept is, apparently, most deeply expressed in music, a medium that comes to us from the bible itself.

This is, of course, not the only way that Christians can or should express their praise of God. Some find no meaning in music, and God is speaking to them in other ways. This, too, is perfectly fine. Nonetheless, Lutherans have (and should) seek to foster music that is done well, done frequently, and



*"Jesus' own incarnation is heralded by a virtual hymnbook full of songs..."*



done intentionally so that the “dish” we bring to the potluck helps other types of Christians (and the world around us) hear the most important message of all: that God loves the world and cares about it. From there, we are strengthened to “do the work” that music—a great treasure—calls us to do in this world.  
+Pr. Patrick H. Shebeck

**FROM THE CANTOR** + On Sunday, May 11, during the 10:30 service, SPR’s own Chancel Choir will present Johann Sebastian Bach’s cantata “Der Herr ist mein getreuer Hirt” (The Lord is my faithful Shepherd). The text of this cantata is a paraphrase of Psalm 23 by Wolfgang Meuslin from 1530. The cantata was written for the second Sunday of Easter, when the hymn was appointed as the Hymn of the Day. In our lectionary, Psalm 23 appears on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter in all three years, so it is fitting for us to hear it on that day.

Meuslin’s hymn text expands upon Psalm 23 in some delightful ways. For example, the pasture to which we sheep are led is full of “the sweet-tasting grass of his holy word.” The still waters are the Holy Spirit, who makes us glad. The paths on which we are led are God’s commandments, through which Jesus guides us. The oil with which our heads are anointed is again the Holy Spirit, who fills our souls with joy. The hymn is not mere translation, but itself an interpretation of a text, a little sermon in hymn form.

Bach’s cantata uses all stanzas of the hymn. The first movement is for full choir, followed by an alto aria, a bass aria, a duet for soprano and tenor, and a closing chorale for choir. Some cantatas use additional poetry or Biblical texts, but here Bach simply uses all stanzas of the hymn as his libretto. The melody that he chooses for the first and last stanzas is the chorale tune “Allein Gott in der Höh’ sei Her,” which SPR members might recognize as “All Glory Be to God on High,” a setting of the Gloria that we often use for summer liturgies. The instrumentation is unusual: in addition to strings,

he calls for two oboes d’amore, a Baroque oboe whose range is somewhere between a modern oboe and English horn. The parts stay mostly in the modern oboe range, though, so we’ll just hear regular oboes. There are also two wickedly hard parts for horn, which will be played on flugelhorn since our modern French horn is quite different from the one Bach had in mind. Horn and oboe d’amore were associated with outdoor music, so Bach is painting a musical picture of the bucolic meadow into which Jesus is leading us. Please join us for this special treat of sweet-tasting poetic grass and musical pure water!



*The Lord is my faithful shepherd  
he holds me in his protection,  
where there is nothing lacking to me  
at all of any goodness,  
he puts me out to pasture continually  
where grows the sweet-tasting grass  
of his holy word.  
He leads me to pure water  
that brings me refreshment.  
It is his holy spirit  
that makes me cheerful.  
He guides me on the right road  
of his commandments without ceasing  
on account of his name's sake.  
And though I wander in the dark valley  
I fear no misfortune  
in persecution, suffering, sorrow  
and the spiteful malice of this world,  
for you are with me constantly  
your rod and staff comfort me,  
I rely on your word.  
You prepare for me a table  
before my enemies on all sides,*

**Cantor, continued on page 5...**

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**Above:** SPR members Chris Lyman and Dorcas Adedigba were part of the packing crew at Feed My Starving Children. Thank you to all who helped!

## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

On April 5, a formidable crew of 10 people from SPR went to Feed My Starving Children in Eagan to pack meals that will get shipped around the world to kids who don't have enough to eat. It was a Saturday morning, so we were part of a large crew of volunteers, including a birthday party! In total, we packed 146 boxes of packets containing rice, soy, dehydrated veggies, and vitamin powder. That's enough for 31,536 meals! Thanks for sharing God's love, dear volunteers!

## BIRTHDAYS

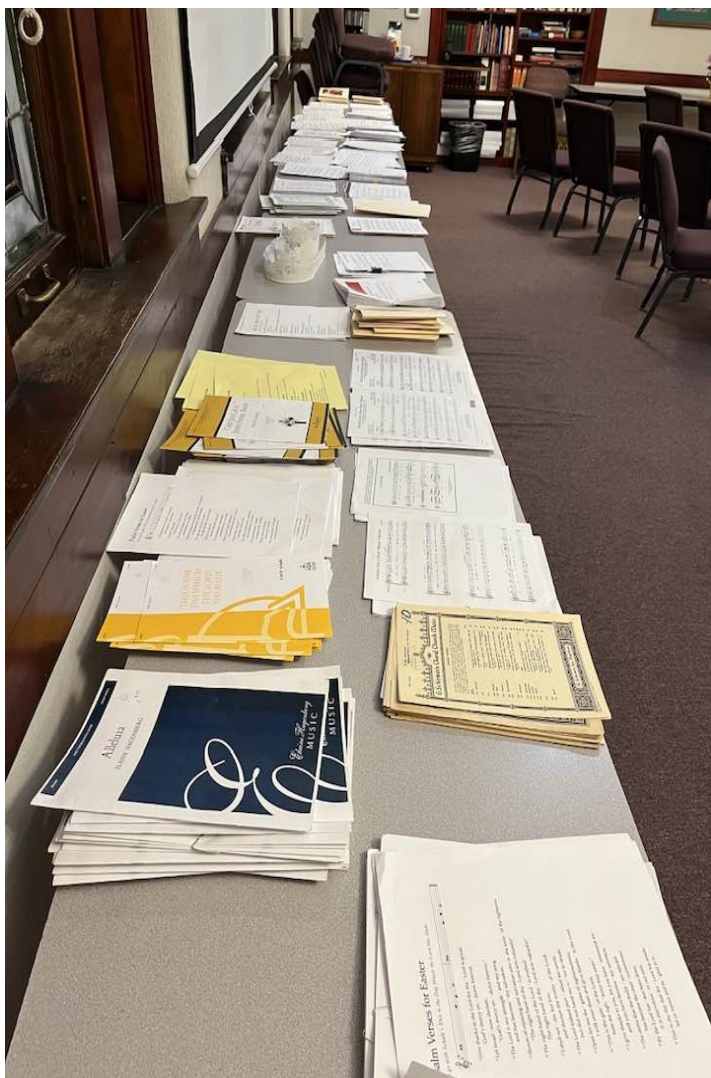
5/4 Paige Johnson  
 5/7 William Puroway  
 5/8 Dawn Puroway  
 5/10 Mikko Matala, Jamal Sanders  
 5/11 Joel Nasset  
 5/13 Andres Albertsen  
 5/15 Katie McKee  
 5/17 Bonnie Olson  
 5/21 Janice Erickson  
 5/22 Ian Matenaer, Kenyatta Peyton  
 5/24 Marilyn Harder  
 5/26 Linda Dahlen  
 5/29 Jacob Zlimen  
 5/30 Patricia Graham, Doris Ikier

## ANNIVERSARIES

5/24 Diane & Tim Brennan



**Above:** SPR's banners were flying high for Easter, while the wind of the Holy Spirit was...blowing!



**Above:** It takes an extraordinary amount of music to make Holy Week happen. Here...the remnants of the choir's work! Thank you to all who give this precious gift to SPR!

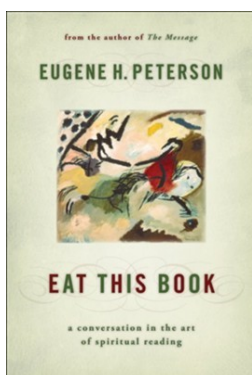


## COUNCIL CORNER

The Parish Council met on Tuesday, April 8, 2025.

- Sarah Matala, Capital Campaign Finance Committee chair, updated the Council on its work and recommended hiring the consulting firm, Mark Davy and Associates, to conduct a capital campaign feasibility study. Council approved the recommendation.
- Council continues its work on prioritizing the 2025 goals.
- Chris Lyman, Treasurer, reported on February financial results. General offerings exceeded projections, erasing the small January shortfall. Expenses met current budget projections. Pastor Shebeck reported significant savings accruing from the new phone system.

+ Kristin Benson, *Council Secretary*



## ADULT FORUM DURING IN EASTERTIDE

***“Eat this Book” by Eugene Peterson***

Sunday Adult Forum is a gem of SPR, and we hope you will join us every Sunday from 9:10-10:10 a.m. as we continue to learn together. Last year during Eastertide, we did a study on the story of the raising of Lazarus. This year we pivot, and will spend the Sundays of Easter reading Eugene Peterson’s “Eat This Book: A Conversation on the Art of Spiritual Reading.” Books are available for \$15 in the narthex and include a reading schedule.

## BUILDING COMMITTEE SURVEY

SPR’s Capital Campaign groundwork is being laid, and—to help us identify projects—we would like your input! The building could easily eat up endless amounts of money, so we need to prioritize! You can fill out a paper survey in the narthex, or online through Easter. Please be sure to identify yourself; anonymous answers will not be considered. We need to know how to contact you if we have questions about your suggestions. (continued)

The Building Committee has already identified some priorities, and as we refine these, we would like to hear what you think. *One per person, please!*

## ***Cantor, continued from page 3***

*you make my heart undismayed and fresh,  
you anoint my head for me  
with your spirit, the oil of joy,  
and you pour out fully in my soul  
your spiritual joy.  
Goodness and mercy  
follow me through my life  
and I shall remain forever  
in the house of the Lord,  
on earth in Christian company  
and after my death I shall be there  
with Christ my Lord.*

+ 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. 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!



## MAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

### Sunday, May 4, 10:30 AM

Anthony Hedlund, Amy Rouillard - Assisting Ministers  
 Peter Huckfeldt, Colleen McGuire - Lectors  
 Jan Swenson, Roman Hund, Hilary Hund, Josh Weichel - Greeter and Usher  
 Anastasia Pold, Joshua Weichel - Coffee and Treats  
 Mikko Matala - Acolyte  
 Chris Lyman - cantor

### Sunday, May 11, 10:30 AM

Aaron Brown, Victoria Smith - Assisting Ministers  
 Kathy Thomforde, Marilyn Harder - Lectors  
 Dorcas Adedigba, Kristin Benson, Eldora Pearson, Annette Hines - Greeter and Usher  
 John Johnson, Marilyn Harder - Coffee & Treats  
 Noelle Puroway - Acolyte  
 Jesse Crosby - cantor

### Sunday, May 18, 10:30 AM

Margaret Schuster, Amy Rouillard - Assisting Ministers  
 Alice Swan, Diane Aase - Lectors  
 Jim Halgerson, Joe Voss, Kristen Damberg, Jan Swenson - Greeter and Usher  
 Alice Swan, Linda Dahlen - Coffee and Treats  
 Mikko Matala - Acolyte  
 Dawn Klesk - cantor

### Sunday, May 25, 10:30 AM

Victoria Smith, Amy Rouillard - Assisting Ministers  
 Jeannie Entenza, Eldora Pearson - Lectors  
 Deanna Sande, Joshua Weichel, Anthony Hedlund, Ed Stuart - Greet and Usher  
 Eldora Pearson, Deanna Sande - Coffee & Treats  
 Daniel Adedigba - Acolyte  
 Erica Perl - cantor

## 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. The Building Committee is in the process of forming now, and an update on that will be coming next month.

The next step for the Finance Committee is to be in contact with various consultants/resources to advise this campaign. For our 2016-17 Campaign, we employed Mark Davey and Associates as our consultant, and the Finance Committee feels that this was a good use of resources and energy.

The “timeline” for this Campaign is for it to launch sometime in the fall, meaning that we will be preparing and laying the foundations (no pun intended) in the spring and summer of this year. Please pray for the success of this work as we begin, and we promise to keep you in the loop and informed as we move ahead!



## MEDICAL LEAVE

SPR's Parish Administrator, Jennifer Walding, is away on medical leave. Our prayers go with her as she navigates some health issues, and—to *that end*—we ask that you would be patient with some administrative tasks that might take a bit longer than usual. In the interim, we have hired Donna Hryniewicki, who will be working limited hours in the office; please stop in and say hello if you are in the building. If you would like to send Jennifer a card, you can simply send it to her at the Parish Office and we will see that she gets it!



**QUILTING AND KNITTING *for Charity*** Join us on **Saturday May 3 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 May 17**. 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).



### ST. GRUBBY'S DAY

**Saturday, May 3, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.**

We hope you can join us on as we scrub away the stain of sin! This is a joyful opportunity to spiff up our space for spring, and treats are provided. Come for the whole time or as long as you can. This is also the day of SPR's Quilters, so...we will join together for a potluck lunch. Please bring something to share!

**BREAKFAST CLUB** + Join us **Sunday, May 4** at the Louisiana Café on Selby Ave. after the 10:30 service. All are welcome to join this time of fellowship, good conversation and food.



**THEOLOGY ON TAP** + **Thursday, May 15, 7:00 p.m.** Bad Weather Brewing, 414 7th Street W, St. Paul—all are welcome.

**ISAIAH UPDATE** + ISAIAH kicked off a Deep Listening Campaign via forums the last three Sundays in March. There was a large number of participants who expressed their concerns about how they or their loved ones are being affected by the current political reality. A survey was used to stimulate people's thoughts. Small groups allowed people to express those pains more deeply. The goal is to increase the number of people who take the survey to more fully represent the congregation. The results of this will be communicated in early May. Please consider participating if asked. Longer term, the survey results will be combined with those of the other ISAIAH congregations in St. Paul and the East Metro.



**Above:** It takes an army (literally, people who are in the army) to arrange the flowers for Easter. Here, a fine looking crew lend their expertise to SPR's Easter decorations!

**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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ST. PAUL-REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH  
IN THE CITY FOR GOOD

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J. S. BACH'S

Cantata 112

***Der Herr ist mein  
getreuer Hirt***

**Sunday, May 11 at 10:30 a.m.**

Based on Psalm 23, Cantata 112 revolves  
around themes of God as the Good  
Shepherd.

