

THE SPECTRUM

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL-REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY
2025

Summer 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

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.



FOR FREEDOM CHRIST HAS SET US FREE!

June Celebrates the Gift of Freedom...In Many Ways!

In June, St. Paul-Reformation joined with many in our community to celebrate and encourage events that reminded us of the freedom that we share in Christ Jesus. Both Juneteenth and Twin Cities Pride were occasions for SPR members to gather, celebrate, and learn. Above, a contingent from SPR attends the Minnesota Orchestra's Juneteenth celebrations, which featured works by African American composers, musicians, and artists.

Later in June, SPR members helped to staff our booth at Twin Cities Pride, handing out our now-famous stickers and welcoming festival goers to learn more about SPR, welcoming churches in general and...simply to be a Christian presence. In all these things, we are reminded of Paul's words to the Galatians: "For freedom Christ has set us free!"

THIS JULY. CHRISTIANS AROUND the world will be observing the 1700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed. This is a major religious event, and Lutherans around the world will join our siblings in other Christian traditions to celebrate and remember the ongoing work of the first “ecumenical council” that met between May and July of 325 to promulgate the creed that we say.

What does a creed that is 1700 years old have to do with now? A lot, actually, and a closer examination of the concept of *confession* places the Creed in the tide of current events, calling us as Christians to again live and act as if there is only one God (which there is).

Growing up, I was taught the adage (as perhaps you were, too) that if you “stand for nothing you’ll fall for anything,” and recent anxiety in our national life exhibits this well. Of course Creeds are inadequate descriptions of the Godhead, but they do have the capability of helping us to *confess* in difficult times who is Lord (and who is not).

As the Nicene Creed was being formulated, the Western Roman Empire was collapsing. It would take another century or so before it completely fell apart, but what had once been the storied and powerful Rome was disintegrating into factional division, competing claims on legitimacy, and institutions that no longer were able to bear the weight of threats from both within and without. By this time, the Emperor had moved the Western Capital to Milan, while the Eastern Roman Empire continued to function from Constantinople. And, while the east continued on until 1453, the West was falling to pieces.

As things went from bad to worse in the West, people began looking to sources of authority other than the government (which had clearly failed). The more things change the more they stay the same, and—of course—established voices in the

West bemoaned the fact that with the rise of Christianity, the pagan gods of Rome had allowed the West to collapse as punishment. This argument continued on for a great while, but in the midst of this, the growing Christian church had to figure out what it was called to do and what—in a world that was collapsing—it was called to confess.

Empires, as you know, collapse. They all eventually buckle under the weight of their own greed, infighting, or inability to provide opportunity for all. Oligarchies rise while poverty and inequality increases, and—in so doing—the Empire weakens from within. Enemies are sought out to explain the collapse: Christians, for example. These days: immigrants, the one trans athlete playing a sport in all of Nebraska, or the Pride t-shirts at Target.

All of which demands of Christians that they make their confession. Who, in fact, is your

Lord? Who is your God? What matters in an ultimate way, and what will you do when your confession of the Gospel comes under attack?

Enter: the Creeds. The three creeds give us the language to confess in a world of competing deities, competing ideologies, and twisted perversions of Christianity itself. Their language—beautiful, inadequate, precise, lofty—attempts to give voice to who the Christian community has said the Trinity is. The Nicene Creed’s opening words are the most important: “We believe in **one** God.” Not more, no matter what earthly rulers would tell us.

It is the Christian’s duty—so says Martin Luther—to pray for “peace and good government.” When the ideals of morality are abandoned and the empire appears in danger of collapse, the church finds itself...where it has been before: called to be the society of mercy, of justice, of compassion, and of confession that is “always being made new” in Christ Jesus.

—Pr. Patrick H. Shebeck, *pastor*



“Who, in fact, is your Lord? Who is your God? What matters in an ultimate way, and what will you do when your confession...comes under attack?”

FROM THE CANTOR

July 28 is the commemoration of Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), George Frideric Handel (1685-1757) and Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672), three composers whose compositions were influential on generations of Lutheran musicians. What is a commemoration, you ask? In some traditions, people pray to saints for help in times of need. In the Lutheran church, we remember ordinary people whose lives made visible God's grace in the world. We are all saint and sinner, including those women and men in the commemoration list in the front of our hymnal. We take a moment to remember their lives and contemplate how they demonstrate God's work and love for the world, even through the flawed vessel of regular people.

This particular year, I am going to be in the stomping grounds of these three composers in the weeks around their commemoration! I am the accompanist for Exultate Chamber Choir, which has been invited to sing at the Bach Festival in Leipzig. We will sing right next to his grave in the church of the Thomaskirche. This is where Bach worked from 1723-1750. His early tenure was spent composing one cantata per week for use on Sundays. He also compiled and newly composed many organ pieces based on Lutheran chorales while there. Exultate is also performing in Köthen, where Bach served the Prince Leopold as Kapellmeister, director for all the music making at court. The court was Calvinist, so elaborate music was not used in worship. However, the prince was himself an accomplished musician and lover of music, and during this time Bach wrote most of his famous instrumental music like the Brandenburg Concertos, the unaccompanied cello suites and violin partitas, and the orchestral suites. The chamber orchestra members will be playing one Brandenburg Concert movement at our concert in Köthen, right in the room where it might have been played.

At the end of the choir tour, the Holy Spirit conveniently arranged it so that the Kaiserswerther



Generalkonferenz will be held in Dresden the following week. Kaiserswerth is the name of the town where the motherhouse that sent the first deaconesses to North America is located, and the conference is held every three years. I am so excited to go meet people from other diaconal communities who trace their roots back to the same institution. And, wait for it, Dresden is where Heinrich Schütz spent most of his career! He was recruited for his singing voice as a teenager to serve at court in Kassel, and later served as court composer to the elector of Saxony in Dresden. He twice spent time in Venice studying with the great composers of the Italian style, Giovanni Gabrieli and later Claudio Monteverdi. Schütz brought the polychoral style back to Dresden, mastering the idiom and adapting it to the German language. Then, when the Thirty Years War (1618-1648) ripped Germany to shreds and made performing music written for such large forces impossible, he adapted and wrote beautiful solo motets and cantatas for one singer and accompaniment.

Both Bach and Schütz adapted their work to the needs of the time. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit will also inspire us to be nimble and serve God and neighbor with the gifts that we have been given.

+Sr. Stacie Lightner, *Cantor*

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BIRTHDAYS

7/7 Timothy Brennan
 7/9 Anna Korinko, Anna Xiaoyan Swenson-Seleen
 7/10 Mara Badilla
 7/12 Danette Allrich-Osano, Steven Ruth
 7/14 Terry Boxie
 7/15 Philip Boe, Robert Colbert
 7/17 Stephen Winfield
 7/18 Matias Badilla, Miguel Ramirez, Joie Voss
 7/19 Daniel Adedigba
 7/20 Marilyn McGowan
 7/22 Timon Iverson
 7/23 John Hushman, Joni Ripley
 7/25 Claryssa Haugrud
 7/27 Leila Carrero, Elisabeth Haen, David Matenaer, Adam Salo
 7/28 Patrick Shebeck
 7/30 James McGowan
 7/31 Elliot Yang

ANNIVERSARIES

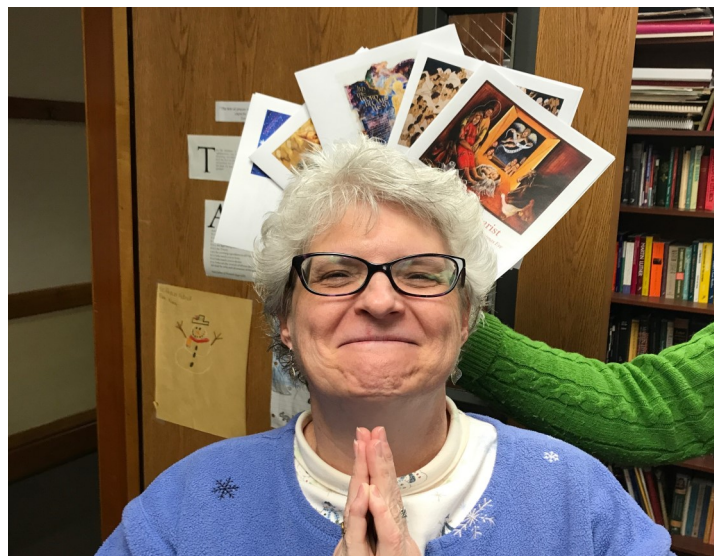
7/4 Jeannie and Matthew Entenza
 7/11 Liz Haen and John Rent
 7/12 Sandy and Timon Iverson
 7/15 Lois and Richard Gehrman
 7/16 Ted Johnson and Sonya Schober-Johnson
 7/29 Drew & Dawn Puroway
 7/31 Bonnie & Brian Olson

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*



Above: What awaits Jennifer in retirement? No more bulletins, that's for sure!

PARISH 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 Delta Gift Certificate for her to visit her son and granddaughters in Portland Oregon. You can give online at 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!*

ASSOCIATE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

+ SPR is in the process of hiring a new "Associate for Children and Family Ministry" to support the many young ones (and families) we have coming up. Our hope is to have someone in place by mid-August. Stay tuned as we update this position!

COUNCIL CORNER

The Parish Council met on Tuesday, June 10, 2025.

- Ed Stuart met with Council to provide a follow up to the Spring Isaiah listening sessions. He presented background information on Isaiah as well encouraged SPR to continue and strengthen its support for this important organization.
- Pastor Shebeck provided an update to the recruitment efforts for the office administrator and Youth and Family positions. Initial and second interviews are being conducted by Pastor and the Executive Committee of the Council.
- Chris Lyman, Council Treasurer, provided April financial results. Revenue for April was slightly below projections, but preliminary May revenue show increase over projections. Expenses in certain categories were above expectations but savings accrued from others. Overall, SPR is in good financial condition.
- The Capital Campaign feasibility study is set to begin this summer. Once completed, the results will be presented for discussion in an Adult Forum in September. The Council will then present the results to the congregation for its approval.

+ Kristin Benson, *Council Secretary*

NEW PRESIDING BISHOP TO BE ELECTED

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will gather for its triennial Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix in early August. The main item on the agenda is the election of a new Presiding Bishop; Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has served two terms for a total of twelve years and is retiring.

What is a “Presiding Bishop?” The United



Above: Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has served for twelve years as the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA.



Above: Noelle Puroway was confirmed on Pentecost.. Here, she is pictured with her parents Dawn and Drew and Pr. Shebeck. A special thank-you to Eric Beckman who has shepherded (once again!) SPR's Confirmation Class!

States is divided into sixty-five “Synods,” geographic areas (the word *synodos* means “to walk together”). Each Synod has its own bishop, elected by its Synodical Assembly. Over these is the Presiding Bishop, who leads the Churchwide Organization, ordains Synodical bishops, leads the ELCA, and serves as the public face of the denomination.

As this process moves along, a nominating committee has “pre-identified” candidates for this position, some of whom are Synodical bishops and some of whom are not. These nominees (and others, potentially, from the floor) go to the Churchwide Assembly, a gathering of “Voting Members” (not “delegates,” as they are not “representative,” *per se*), who are sent from each Synod based upon its size. The Voting Members begin their work using the “ecclesiastical ballot,” which is done in secret and usually goes through a few rounds before a new Presiding Bishop is chosen.

The new Presiding Bishop will be consecrated at Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis this November. Please pray for the Voting Members of the Churchwide Assembly as they begin this extremely important work!

JULY MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

Sunday, July 6, 9:30 AM

Ian Block, Jamie Block - Asst. Ministers
Cheri Gohr, Hilary Hund- Lectors
Roman Hund, Margaret Schuster, Kristen Damberg, Hilary Hund - Greeter and Usher
Linda Dahlen, Anastasia Pold - Coffee and Treats

Ellis Bedford - Acolyte
Carsten Slostad - cantor

Sunday, July 13, 9:30 AM

Dorcas Adedigba, Amy Rouillard - Assisting Ministers
Kayla Ulsby, Jan Swenson - Lectors
Deanna Sande, Anne Halgerson, Jim Halgerson, Pat Graham - Greeter and Usher
Steve Ruth, Marjie Ruth - Coffee and Treats
Elizabeth Adedigba - Acolytes
Joshua Weichel - cantor

Sunday, July 20, 9:30 AM

Margaret Schuster, Victoria Smith - Assisting Ministers
Amy Rouillard, Colleen McGuire - Lectors
Joshua Weichel, Cheri Gohr, Hilary Hund, Roman Hund - Greeter and Usher
Karen Allard, Joe Herbert - Coffee and Treats
Matias Badilla - Acolyte
Chris Lyman - cantor

Sunday, July 27, 9:30 AM

Ian Block, Jamie Block - Assisting Ministers
Cynthia Peyton, Kathy Thomforde - Lectors
Kristen Damberg, Pat Graham, Sara Gjerdrum, Joshua Weichel - Greet and Usher
Lu Beckman - Acolyte
Mike Banks - 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, July 5 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.

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, July 19**. 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.



BREAKFAST CLUB + Join us **Sunday, July 6** 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!

PARISH ANNIVERSARY AND PICNIC + An annual SPR tradition, the 142nd Anniversary of SPR will happen at our Parish Picnic. This will take place at the Como Park East Pavillion at **9.30 a.m. on Sunday, July 27**. This is a pot-luck, so...please bring a dish to share.



Above: Because Easter was so late this year, the choir year also went late...with their last official Sunday being Pentecost. This dedicated group puts in an **enormous** amount of time to make music in this place...thank you! **Below:** Juan Ramirez snapped a photo with Pr. Patrick as SPR blessed those moving on to new educational ventures!



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



The 49th Annual (!) Winfield Awards took place at the St. Paul Intercontinental Hotel, honoring and celebrating scholar-athletes of color. Here, Steve Winfield greets SPR members Ed Stuart and Jim McGowan!