



THE SPECTRUM

The Newsletter of St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church

**MARCH
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.

Confirmation
In person

Sunday School
On hiatus

Adult Forum
On hiatus

Nursery
On hiatus.

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 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.

LENTEN MATCHING CHALLENGE

SPR will support the building of a Lutheran University in Nigeria



**Lutheran
University
Nigeria**
DEMSA

St. Paul-Reformation has received a generous dollar-for-dollar matching challenge up to \$5,000.00 (for a total of \$10,000.00) to support the building of a Lutheran University in Nigeria. Spearheaded by the Minneapolis Area Synod, the challenge comes as a call from Archbishop Musa Filibus (leader of the Lutheran Church of Nigeria and President of the Lutheran World Federation) to "...education a new generation of leaders who are prepared for the complexities...of Africa's most populous country."

So far, \$327,000 has already been given to this effort, with pledges for another \$200,000. The total goal is \$500,000.00 or slightly more, and—in very real ways—the equipping and education of leaders in the Church of Nigeria has a direct impact upon our partner congregation in Pella, Nigeria. Not only will the University train pastors (it is not a seminary, per se), but will train teachers, social workers, and health-care workers.

SPR's goal is to raise \$5,000 between Ash Wednesday and Easter. This will be matched, for a grand total of \$10,000.00, a visible commitment to our global partnerships and a ringing endorsement of the Lutheran tradition in which education (the Lutheran Church was born in a University) can lift people out of poverty and promise a brighter future.

There are several ways you can give:

- An envelope will be included in your bulletin each week during Lent;
- You can also give online at www.stpauref.org/donate

Thank you in advance for you gift! Together, let us listen carefully to the Lenten discipline of "giving," and...give generously!

EVERY ONE OF Christianity's branches (denominations) has charisms and gifts that are unique to it. Like a church pot-luck, each of these bring a different "dish" to the table of how human beings understand God. Not all are the same, nor should they be (it would make for a dull meal), and the emphases of various parts of God's household have, historically, stressed certain parts of the wider tradition over others.

Lutherans have long done this; one of our dishes is called "grace," another "music." But one of the things we often forget is that among these two gifts, our tradition has always maintained a third: "education." It is important to remember that the Lutheran movement within Christianity was born in (you guessed it!) a school: a university, specifically, where Luther maintained a busy schedule teaching.

The Lutheran roots of education are deep. For instance, while Luther was teaching in a university setting, he also wrote specifically to the various princes of the Holy Roman Empire declaring that the responsibility of education was something that the state ought to do. Public education, in many ways, exists because of the gifts of the Reformation.

As Lent begins, you have an extraordinary opportunity to help this tradition flourish and grow, this time with our partners in Nigeria. As I write to you this month, plans are under way in the Church of Nigeria—who has partnered with many parts of the ELCA—to construct a Lutheran university. The Minneapolis Area Synod has been our local partner on this initiative, and SPR hopes to raise \$5,000.00 this Lent that will be matched, for a total of \$10,000.00.

Why on earth should you care about a university that is—literally—half a world away? Because it's part of our tradition, that's why; and, if

anything, our tradition has taught us (blessedly!) that education is one way that the larger themes of the Gospel may be accomplished. Namely, that people are lifted out of poverty by having access to educational opportunity. Education is a fumigator

of poverty throughout the world, and—in this way—it is very much the Church's job to see to it that all people have the dignity of education, that teachers are properly compensated and provided for, and that educational institutions are strong, viable, and funded.

This is your chance to put your faith to work! One of the Lenten disciplines is "giving of alms" (resources), and—while we often ask you to be generous—this need is important, and I hope you will join me in giving. Why do we always ask you for money? Simple answer: because the suffering of the world is not yet a thing of the past, and because (for both good and ill) we live in the richest and most prosperous country on earth. Our responsibility is to care for our siblings, and

this is a very tangible Lenten way that you can do so.

Easter is coming, and so is a new university across the world that will be made possible because of you and the gifts you give. Countless lives will be touched through the teachers that are trained there, the nurses who learn to care there, and the many other professions that will—through educational possibility and joyful service—transform the lives of people we haven't met (and may never meet), but who are—nonetheless—deserving of opportunity and care.

And a last question: when we reach Easter day, might you remember this work? Might you see here a glimmer of the resurrection, made visible in a classroom wherein dwells the possibility of new life? I hope you will.

Peace, Pr. Patrick H. Shebeck, Senior Pastor



"...when we reach Easter day, might you remember this work? Might you see here a glimmer of the resurrection, made visible in a classroom wherein dwells the possibility of new life?"



FROM THE CANTOR

This Ash Wednesday, the quartet will be singing a piece by Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941). He was born near the Welsh border into a musical family. He was a boy chorister

at the prestigious chapel of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, until his voice broke. He served as an organist as he studied composition at the Royal College of Music, eventually earning his doctorate. The piece the choir will sing is the last movement of *A Short Requiem*, which was written 1915 in honor of those who died in World War I. The text, however, is much older and not specifically meant for a funeral. It is a poem called "Vox ultima crucis," or "the last voice from the cross," by the Benedictine monk John Lydgate (c. 1370-c.1451). He wrote poems in many of the forms used by Chaucer (c. 1340-1400) and in Middle English. Without the poem's title, we don't know who the narrator is until the final line, when it becomes clear that Jesus is speaking to us. Jesus calls us forward on our pilgrimage, helping us turn our attention away from earthly concerns and toward heaven, our true "heritage." The usage of the word "heritage" has changed over time. In Lydgate's day it didn't mean something that you got from your forebears, like an inheritance. Instead, it mean your allotted portion, your own individual possession. I find this poem to be very poignant as we enter a time of Lent and continue our journey through the pandemic. Jesus bids us press onward, calls us friend and sibling, and reminds us that we are the ones for whom he died and rose again.

I find that, even though it looks foreign at first, if you kind of squint and turn your head sideways, you can read Middle English. So here is the original poem, followed by the more modern version of the text that the choir will sing on Ash Wednesday:

*TARYE no lenger; toward thyn heritage
Hast on thy weye, and be of ryght good chere.
Go eche day onward on thy pylgrymage;
Thynke howe short tyme thou hast abyden here.
Thy place is bygged above the sterres clere,
Noon ertly palys wrought in so statly wyse.
Come on, my frend, my brother most entere!
For the I offered my blood in sacryfice.*

*Tarry no longer! Toward thine heritage
Haste on thy way, and be of right good cheer;
Go each day onward on thy pilgrimage;
Think how short time thou shalt abide thee here.
Thy place is built above the starre's clear;
None earthly palace wrought in so stately wise.
Come on, my friend, my friend most dear!
For thee I offered my blood in sacrifice.
Tarry no longer!*

Sr. Stacie Lightner

FROM THE VICAR

Spring has yet to fully arrive, but spring semester at the seminary is in full swing. I am taking three classes this term: Old Testament Prophets & Poetry, History of Christianity, and Preaching, and continuing my internship here at SPR part time. It is hard to believe that after this semester, I will be halfway done with my studies. I am thankful for all that I've learned thus far, especially from my time in this community, and especially grateful that I have another year left.

I would like to extend my thanks to all those who made gifts during last month's Souper Bowl Day of Caring, and to our confirmation students for their help in collecting the donations. Together we raised more than \$1,157 for the Hallie Q. Brown Food Shelf to help our neighbors in need. I am very grateful for this congregation's generosity, both of spirit and of resources—it truly makes a difference, both in our community and in the world.

Thank you as well to everyone who turned out for February's Theology on Tap. We had a wonderful time together, enjoying good beer as we wrestled with some big theological questions. Stay tuned for more information about the next Theology on Tap event in May—maybe by then it will be warm enough for us to be outside!

Peace, Vicar Elizabeth



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COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council met in regular session in February and took action on the following items:

- An enormous thank-you is owed to Luke Hanson who has served as Parish President this past year. Luke has helped to shepherd us through COVID-19 and has done much work behind-the-scenes to keep SPR running and flourishing. Thank you, thank you, thank you!
- Likewise, a huge debt of gratitude is owed to Sarah Matala who—though not going off Parish Council—will move out of the treasurer role as we continue to plan for the future of Sunday School. Thank you, Sarah, for your faithful work among us!
- New officers were voted in: Kari Benson will serve as Parish President; Alyn Bedford will serve as Vice President; Victoria Smith will serve as Secretary; John Rent moves into a new role as Treasurer.
- Heard the report of the Health Professionals' team who continue to urge caution. For now, things will remain "on pause" until Easter.
- Appointed a task force to examine and weigh the possible plusses and minuses of the tower lease, with a possible sale of that lease. This will be a long-term project.
- Pam and Cynthia Peyton have graciously been showing the apartment, and SPR has had a lot of walk-throughs;
- Similarly, Aaron Brown will begin work in earnest on renting of the Office Suite. The challenge here is that many firms have gone to a completely at-home work model, a structure that has been particularly impactful in regard to non-profit organizations.
- The Synod Conference Assembly met on Saturday, February 10. No elections happened in the South-Central Conference this year, but the conference did vote to change its name to "City Conference." This will be ratified by the Synod Council. In attendance were Pr. Patrick Shebeck, John Rent, and Kari Benson, all of whom will serve as SPR Voting members to the Synod Assembly in May of 2022 at St. Andrew's Church.

BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Paul Lindell, Russell Rent
- 02 Sr. Stacie Lightner
- 03 Jan Swenson
- 05 Mike Banks, Ava Osano
- 06 Carlos Ramirez
- 07 Kaj Reinholdt
- 08 Holly Tischer
- 12 Carol Hamlin
- 13 Karen Hanson, Kathy Thomforde
- 15 Henry Rent
- 16 Susie Adams,
- 18 Gary Reetz, Sonya Schober Johson
- 20 John Rent
- 26 Max Rouillard-Horne
- 29 Lee Lundin
- 30 Dick Kennedy
- 31 Kim Zlimen

ANNIVERSARIES

- 03 Jim and Marilyn McGowan



HEALTH PROFESSIONALS' GROUP

Modifications through Easter Sunday

The SPR Health Professionals' Group continues to monitor the situation re: Covid-19, and—to that end—has recommended continuation of what has been on hold, online, and in person. We hope that as the Omicron wave dissipates we'll gather in person once again. The Group will reassess again in early March. The following is in place through Easter Sunday (April 17):

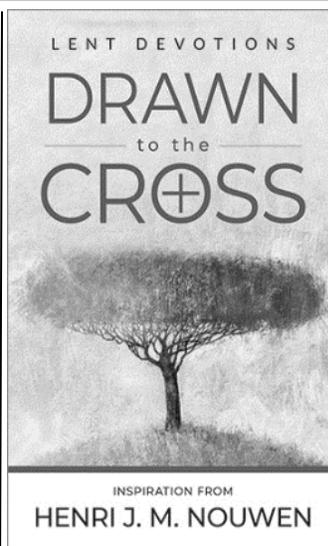
- Sunday Adult Forum: on hold;
- Sunday School: on hold;
- Coffee/Treats after the 10:30 liturgy: on hold.
- Confirmation: as usual.
- Midweek Lenten Prayer: as usual.
- Friday Noon Prayer: as usual

ADULT FORUM MARCH AND APRIL*On Hiatus Until April 24*

In our continued efforts to be adaptable and flexible regarding the Omicron variant of COVID-19, Adult Forum is “paused” until April 24 (and, we hope, no longer than this...). We will resume the Sunday after Easter 9:10 a.m., and we hope you can join us. Our Spring Adult Forum Series, will be the study by LSS “My Neighbor is Not For Sale.” Thank you for your flexibility as we continue to be adaptable!

ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

+ Sadly, the ELCA has determined that it is not yet safe to convene the Youth Gathering that was planned for Minneapolis in the summer of 2022 due to ongoing concerns about COVID-19.. Soon, a new venue for 2024 will be announced, and we expect a large contingent of SPR youth to attend that year. Stay tuned for more information soon.

**DRAWN TO THE CROSS — LENTEN DEVOTIONAL**

Draw near to Christ through daily Lenten contemplation of his personal and infinite devotion to you. Henri J.M. Nouwen, one of the most beloved spiritual thinkers of the 20th century, wrote poetically about drawing closer to the cross of Christ in a way that has touched the hearts of readers the

world over. Excerpts from Nouwen’s inspiring insights are paired with original reflections and prayers in this booklet for each day of Lent, as we come to understand more deeply the meaning of the cross in terms of humility, service and sacrifice. Available Ash Wednesday (pending delivery).

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

The forty days of preparation for Easter begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. The season of Lent calls us to three “disciplines” to prepare us to meet the Lord at his resurrection: Fasting (refraining from excess), almsgiving (generosity of heart and resources), and prayer (contemplation). To this end, we invite you to:

Ash Wednesday

6:00 p.m. Individual Confession, *church*

7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes, *church*

Wednesdays During Lent

6:30 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer, *church*

Fridays During Lent

12:00-1p.m. Contemplative Prayer, West Transept, *church*

FORGIVE: LENTEN MIDWEEK WORSHIP

Lenten midweek worship (Holden Evening Prayer) will be happening starting Wednesday, March 9 at 6:30 p.m. In lieu of our LISTEN Series, this year each week will feature a short homily on *forgiveness*:

- *Forgive Your Enemies (3/9)*
- *Forgive The Past (3/16)*
- *Forgive the Future (3/23)*
- *Forgive the Church (3/30)*
- *Forgive Yourself (4/6)*

MARCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

We are so thankful for all the volunteers who help make Sunday morning “run.”

March 2 Ash Wednesday

Victoria Smith, Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*
Peter Huckfeldt, Cynthia Peyton, *Lectors*
Nadia Ramirez, Noah Johnson,
Claudia Hanson, *Acolytes*
Dawn Klesk, *Cantor*
Deanna Sande, Open Spots, *Greeters/Ushers*

March 6 First Sunday in Lent

Margaret Schuster, Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*
Susan Martyn, Kelly Bartnick, *Lectors*
Paige Johnson, *Acolyte*
Erica Perl, *Cantor*
Jim and Anne Halgerson, Krisi Matenaer
Tom Webb, *Greeters/Ushers*

March 13 Second Sunday in Lent

Margaret Schuster, Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*
Alice Swan, Marilyn Harder, *Lectors*
Juan Ramirez, *Acolyte*
Carsten Slostad, *Cantor*
Dorcas Adedigba, Roman and Hilary Hund,
Tamika Ramirez *Greeters/Ushers*

March 20 Third Sunday in Lent

Bonnie Olson, Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*
Shirley Henning, John Whalen, *Lectors*
Henry Hanson, *Acolyte*
Abby Hanson, *Cantor*
Krisi Matenaer, Jim McGowan,
Eldora Pearson, Jan Swenson, *Greeters/Ushers*

March 27 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Victoria Smith, Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*
Carla Hagen, Colleen McGuire, *Lectors*
Daniel Adedigba, *Acolyte*
Jamie Hocmuth, *Cantor*
Dorcas Adedigba, Cheri Gohr,
Roman and Hilary Hund, *Greeters/Ushers*

HOLY EUCHARIST LIVESTREAM + SPR's Sunday Eucharist is livestreamed every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. via SPR's Facebook page, or at 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.”

APRIL HAPPENINGS: HOLY WEEK AND THE TRIDUUM

+ It is hard to believe that Easter is around the corner, and we hope that you will make it a priority in your life and your spirituality to join us as we celebrate the Lord's passing over from death to life:

Palm Sunday, April 10 | 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Holy Monday-Wed, April 11, 12, 13: | Daily Spoken Eucharist at 5:00 p.m. in the West Transept

THE PASCHAL TRIDUUM

Maundy Thursday, April 14 | 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with the washing of feet and stripping of the altar.

Good Friday, April 15 | 7:00 p.m. Proper Liturgy and Adoration of the Cross with the passion sung in a setting by William Byrd

The Great Vigil of Easter, April 16 | 7:00 p.m. with our neighbors from Redeemer at SPR. At 6:45, fire artists begin our celebrations on the front steps.

Easter Sunday, April 17 | 8 and 10:30 a.m. Festival Eucharist with singers and instrumentalists.

Ascension Thursday, May 26 | 7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, West Transept

A note: we are hopeful that as the weather warms, we will be able to resume coffee hour outside, much as we did this past summer. Stay tuned!

BIBLE MATTERS. VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAYS + Because the Bible does matter, you are invited to join us each week on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Watch the weekly emails for up to date information.

BUILDING UPDATE + The Office Suite and Apartment are currently being shown for leasing. The Tuesday Crew has returned to the multiple repair projects needed around the building.

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 will be cooked in the church kitchen at **9:00 a.m. on March 19**. Volunteers are 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 + We are putting a temporary “pause” on Breakfast Club until after Easter. This means that we will gather again (hopefully!) on Sunday, April 24. Please watch announcements carefully in case there are any changes.

QUILTING for Charity Sat. March 5, 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.

SYNOD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN + The Saint Paul Area Synod has launched a Synod-wide Capital Campaign under the theme of “Planting Hope.” Much is envisioned for the Campaign, including a partnership venture with Lutheran Social Service to build a service center on the East Side of St. Paul. The Campaign goal is 2.7 million dollars, and lead gifts are already underway. As part of SPR’s Annual Stewardship Campaign, about \$2700.00 has been pledged so far from SPR for this effort. Interested in giving? We’d love to talk to you! You

can e-mail Pr. Shebeck at pastorpatrick@stpaulref.org, and we can get you hooked up with ways you can give.

THE SPECTRUM: A NEW LOOK You may have noticed that the *Spectrum* looks a bit different this month. This is because our publisher, J. S. Paluch, has gone out of business at the end of 2021. Please bear with us as we make this transition!

SUNDAY SCHOOL will continue on pause through Easter April 17 as we get through this latest rise in COVID-19 diagnoses in our community. We want to make sure it is safe to return, and—following the advice of the Health Professionals’ Group—we think that it is prudent to hit “pause” on this. Every week, however, you can find a “Virtually Sunday School” lesson in the Sunday E-mail. Watch for updates as we continue to be flexible.

COUNTERS NEEDED + SPR is in need (always!) of some additional Sunday morning counters. What does this entail? It’s fast and easy work, but exceptionally important as we hold in place financial controls that help us to run a tight ship. Is this glamorous work? Not exactly, but it’s super important—and a very real way you can help SPR. Training is provided, the time commitment is about once a month. Contact Pam Peyton to volunteer: pam_peyton@yahoo.com.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING TOTAL Thank you to everyone who donated online and in-person to feed our neighbors through the Hallie Q Brown Food Shelf. Received to date is **\$1,157 in donations with more anticipated**. Thank you to all who gave! We are so grateful for your generosity, and for your willingness to partner with us in this important work!

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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❖ P A R T I N G S H O T ❖

ORGANSOUP AT ST. PAUL-REFORMATION



Thursday, March 3 at 12:10 p.m.
Sarah Garner, organ

Sarah Garner is the Director of Music at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mound. She received her Master's Degree in organ performance from Southern Methodist University, and an undergraduate degree from the Eastman School of Music. She is an active member of the Twin Cities American Guild of Organists.