

THE SPECTRUM

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL-REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER
2024

Liturgy
10:30 a.m.

Nursery
With an Attendant
9:00-11:45 a.m.

Godly Play/Sunday
School
9:15 a.m.

Confirmation
9:30 a.m.

Adult Forum
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.



FOR GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE

STEWARDSHIP 2024 AT ST. PAUL-REFORMATION

STEWARDSHIP BEGINS

October 13-November 10

Every fall, SPR asks its members to recommit to the work of Jesus Christ in this place. This year, we center this work on the theme “For God, All Things Are Possible.” Over the four weeks of Stewardship, you will be hearing stories of “possibility” in the Holy Scriptures, as well as the various ministries that make an impact in our city and our world. Throughout this time, we ask you to think about how SPR is making a difference in this world for good, and how your gifts and blessings are a part of that work. We rely on you—the generous members of SPR—to enliven this work with your gifts. As we look ahead, please plan on joining us on Sunday, November 10th (Consecration Sunday) as we celebrate all that the past year has accomplished at SPR...and what the future holds! Remember: for God, all things are possible!

MANY MEMBERS OF ST. PAUL-REF.

support over 100 children and youth in our partnership with El Salvador, a partnership that has now been part and parcel of our lives (and the lives of our friends at Christ the Liberator) for over fifteen years. In October, SPR will be sending another delegation to El Salvador to bring our greetings, to accompany our siblings in that place, and to deepen the ties of friendship that bind us together in Christian love. This trip will include new members of SPR and old ones, all of whom will learn together.

Global partnerships are just one way that the gifts of this community are making a difference. While we support this work in El Salvador, the financial gifts that you give to SPR are also accomplishing other things of which you may not be aware; your impact reaches far and wide, and some highlights are worth mentioning.

This past August, the St. Paul-Area Synod opened its East Side Preschool in partnership with LSS. Intended to be a safe learning space for immigrant families, this preschool is specifically designed to work with families and children who are fleeing from national trauma. Research has shown that early intervention in the lives of children with traumatic pasts can interrupt cycles that can bring down entire families for generations. This has been a bold vision on behalf of the Synod, and the preschool—completely full—already has a waiting list for those interested in participating. Each congregation of the St. Paul Area Synod—including SPR—has donated to this project, making this work possible in ways that will extend the love of Christ to neighbors we may never meet. Did you know that you help run a preschool? You do!

But that is not all. Just two weeks ago (as I am writing to you), SPR donated fifty “street kits” to homeless youth who are living in the city of St. Paul. Each of these kits contained hygiene

products for teens who—for various reasons—do not live at home. With these kits come resources for safety, for shelter, and for help. These, too, are distributed (literally) just down the street from SPR.

And there is more...

SPR will once again host the Women’s Warming Hub this winter, now in its third year. After a steep learning curve in the first year, last year’s shelter went much better. We look forward to welcoming these guests again in the cold Minnesota winter months, and “warm hearts” at SPR also extends to “warm nights” amidst dangerous temperatures. Intended to be “low barrier” for entry, some guests have experienced (or are experiencing) extremely difficult circumstances. By “welcoming all, as Christ,” we seek to live what we say: that all are welcome.

As I write to you, the wonderful leaders of Meals Ministry are already prepping to care for SPR members through the ministry of hospitality this Saturday. Their labor of love does not only provide food to our ill or shut-in members, it creates bonds of community among those who help. “In giving, we receive” is eminently true.

Closer to home, SPR has welcomed new members from various religious backgrounds into this parish community. Some of these have been lifelong Lutherans, while others have found their way to this place via other routes, led by the Holy Spirit to live out their faith here. From young families to single people, SPR has welcomed these people with open arms, and we are excited to learn from them as they help us all to remain faithful members of Christ’s Body.

We could go on and on, and these highlights are only scratching the surface (truly) of the many ministries that occur at SPR. As we head into what promises to be a stressful political season in our



“God is doing good things here, and you are a part of that story...”

nation's life, I urge you to remain focused on these examples of "good" in our midst. God is doing good things here, and you are a part of that story no matter if you have been in this parish your whole life, or are just getting on board. We work together to make a difference, and we will not buy into the notion that "good" is not possible or that love of neighbor is simply too hard. It is not. It is, in fact, our work as Christian people, and your gifts help us to do that.

As we move through this campaign, I hope you will join me in increasing your pledge for the coming year. God has been good this past year at SPR, and the blessings that we have received as individuals and families are for the purpose of sharing. Let us share. Let us do the good work of Christ Jesus. Let us "proclaim liberty to the captive and the year of the Lord's favor," because "...with God, all things are possible."
+Pr. Patrick H. Shebeck, Sr. Pastor



OCTOBER 26 IS THE DAY WE

commemorate three important hymnwriters of the church: Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann, and Paul Gerhardt. They were all pastors who served in German-speaking lands, but it's important to remember that Germany is still centuries away from being a unified country.

Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608) was born in Waldeck in Central Germany and served as a pastor in the town of Herdecke, where he was at odds with the Roman Catholic town council, and fled to Unna in Westfalia. This was a region where there was a lot of Calvinist influence, and Nicolai wrote on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. But worse than theological conflict, Nicolai had to contend with the plague: in 1597, he conducted as many as thirty funerals a day! But during this time, he still had the time and inspiration to write "Wake, awake, for night is flying" and "O Morningstar, how fair and bright," known as "the king and queen of chorales."

Johann Heermann (1585-1647) lived his life in a German-speaking Lutheran part of the Holy

Roman Empire that is present-day Poland. He was his parents' only surviving child, and grew up to fulfill his mother's promise that if her son survived, he would become a pastor. He was able to serve only from 1611-1634 due to ill health and throat infections that caused him to lose his voice frequently. Retirement from preaching duties gave him more time to write hymns, though, three of which are in ELW and one of which, I feel, is an absolute requirement for Good Friday: "Ah, holy Jesus." His work demonstrates a transition point from early didactic Lutheran hymns meant to teach theology to more personal, subjective themes, such as this stanza:

*For me, kind Jesus, was thine incarnation,
Thy mortal sorrow, and thy life's oblation;
Thy death of anguish and thy bitter passion,
For my salvation.*

Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676) served in the area around Berlin, and also lived a life marked by the tragedy of the Thirty Years' War and the deaths of four of his five children and his wife. He lost his pastorate after standing up for Lutheran orthodoxy. He wrote lengthy multi-stanza hymns that were meant to be broken up and used at different times throughout the worship service. Eight of his hymns are included in ELW, included "O sacred head, now wounded." Like Heermann, Gerhardt uses lots of first-person language in his hymns. Considering the great difficulties of his life makes the assurance of this stanza even more extraordinary:

*If God my Lord be for me, I am a host defy;
For when I pray, before my foes, counfounded fly.
If Christ, my head and master, befriend me from above,
What foe or what disaster can drive me from his love?*

Amen! May we all rest in such confidence!

+Sr. Stacie Lightner, Cantor

The Spectrum Published Monthly

St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church

100 Oxford St N St. Paul, MN 55104

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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.

EL SALVADOR TRIP MISSION TRIP TO EL SALVADOR

A mission trip to El Salvador is planned for **Friday October 25 - Friday November 1**. We are excited to be sending a delegation to our partner parish, Cristo Libertador (Christ the Liberator). It's an exciting time in El Salvador with the election of a new bishop this October. Please keep this delegation in your prayers as well as the community in Nahualapa.

QUILTERS AND KNITTERS *for Charity* is 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, October 19**. 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 October 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 food. No agenda: just fellowship!



FORMULA MISSAE AND GERMAN RECEPTION

Reformation Sunday, October 27 at 5:00 p.m.

Please join us as we observe Reformation Sunday using Luther's original revision of the mass: his "Formula Missae" of 1523. This liturgy is as it would have been celebrated by Luther himself at St. Mary's Church in Wittenberg, Germany. A German reception follows in the Lower Auditorium.

BOOK OF THE DEAD + Starting October 6 and in preparation for All Saint's Sunday (November 3), please write the names of those dear to you in the Book of the Dead at the front of the church. These names will be read and remembered on All Saints'.

THEOLOGY ON TAP + **October 17, 7:00 p.m.**

Gambit Brewing, Minnehaha Ave, St. Paul, 55106—all are welcome.

WARMING HUB UPDATE St. Paul-Reformation will again be hosting overnight guests. Details to be worked out. Stay tuned!

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, September 10, 2024, to discuss and act on the following issues.

- Council reviewed the ongoing work by Chris Thomforde and Susan Martyn on the SPR Constitution and Bylaws. The constitution will be presented at the Annual Meeting in January 2025.
- Revenue through July continues to track with projections with a small surplus, while expenses are in line with the budget.
- Stewardship Drive begins October 13th and members will be asked to reflect on their giving.

BIRTHDAYS

01 Tom Webb
 04 Matt Entenza, Jean Milton
 05 Sarah Matala
 09 David Kohn
 11 Pam Peyton, Blake Webb Woodage
 22 Kristin Benson, Shirley Schaefer
 26 Marianne Anderson
 30 Tristen Baier
 31 Abby Hanson

ANNIVERSARIES

04 Laura and Phil Boe
 15 Krisi and David Matenaer

ADEDIGBA FAMILY UPDATE

The Adedigba Family (whom St. Paul-Reformation has been accompanying in the asylum process) was to have their final immigration hearing in September. Their case has been dismissed, which places their status in another category, and means that additional legal work must be done. This does not mean that they have been granted asylum. Please keep Dorcas, Daniel, Elizabeth, and Deborah in your prayers as this process continues to unfold. We will keep you abreast of any new developments.

RALLY SUNDAY SERVICE PROJECT UPDATE

Thanks to all who helped with SPR's Rally Sunday Service Project for LSS. Together, we made fifty "street kits" for youth living in homelessness in St. Paul. These will be distributed by Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota. If you would like to sponsor a kit, each one is \$25, and you can simply write "LSS Kits" in the memo line and send it in. Thank you to all who helped!

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 decisions, 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.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL TICKETS

Saturday, December 14 at 1:30 p.m. + Every December,

we try to plan some kind of musical "Christmas thing," and last year we had numerous requests that that "thing" be the NLC Christmas Festival. Tickets are \$20.00 each, and the performance will be at the Basilica of St. Mary in Minneapolis. You can either sign up in the back starting in mid-October, or register online. We have 15 tickets reserved...get yours now!



OCTOBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

October 6, Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Ian Block, Kathy Thomforde, *Asst. Ministers*
Victoria Smith, Annette Hines, *Lectors*
Elizabeth Adedigba, *Acolyte*
Jamie Block, *Cantor*
Kristen Damberg, Bonnie Olson,
Joe Herbert, Margaret Schuster, *Greeters/Ushers*
Alice Swan, Margaret Schuster, *Coffee/Treats*

October 13 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Aaron Brown, Margaret Schuster, *Asst. Ministers*
Mark Sandberg, *Lectors*
Lu Beckman, *Acolyte*
Mike Banks, *Cantor*
Dorcas Adedigba, Kristin Benson,
Anthony Hedlund, Eldora Pearson, *Greeters/Ushers*
Anne Halgerson, Karen Allard, *Coffee/Treats*

Oct. 20, Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Ian Block, Victoria Smith, *Asst. Ministers*
Alice Swan, Jamie Block, *Lectors*
Noelle Puroway, *Acolyte*
Jim Bowen, *Cantor*
Hilary and Roman Hund, Joe Herbert,
Jan Swenson, *Greeters/Ushers*
Alice Swan, *Coffee/Treats*

October 27, Reformation Sunday

Anthony Hedlund, Kathy Thomforde, *Asst. Minister*
Amy Rouillard, Joe Voss, *Lectors*
Lu Beckman, Ellis Bedford,
Matias Badilla, Sebastian Badilla, *Acolyte*
Dawn Klesk, *Cantor*
Bonnie Olson, Joe Herbert,
Joe Voss, *Greeters/Ushers*
Linda Dahlen, *Coffee/Treats*

ADULT FORUM We gather each 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:



October 6

Baked Into the Cake: Consumerism in America + Dr. Tracy Deutsch, Assoc. Professor at University of Minnesota, and a coeditor of the journal *Gender and History*. She is the author of multiple articles and essays. Her current research uses Julia Child's biography to study the emergence of food as a crucial object in middle-class life in the mid-twentieth-century US.

October 13

Ain Day Yung: Our Home + Sheri Riemers, Executive Director of Ain Dah Yung Center, Minneapolis. Meaning "Our Home" in Ojibwe, Ain Dah Yung Center provides a healing place within the community for American Indian youth and families to thrive in safety and wholeness.



October 20

How Divided is America...Really? + Dr. Howard Lavine, University of Minnesota. Dr. Lavine’s work centers on the psychological underpinnings of mass political behavior. His current work focuses on human rights, populism, partisan asymmetries, and the intersection of race and political context on public opinion.

October 27

The Church on Wheels! + ELCA Deacon Kari Olsen, Director and Mission Developer of Schobi's Table, serving with an eye towards food ministry. Note: Deacon Olsen will preach on Reformation Sunday.



WELCOME AVA HACKER!



We are delighted to welcome Ava Hacker as our **SUNDAY MORNING NURSERY ATTENDANT** from 9:00 - 11:45 a.m. each Sunday. Ava is a sophomore on the swim team at St. Kate's University studying nursing with a minor in ASL.

EVERY MEAL - FEEDING CHILDREN

Volunteers Needed for Food Distribution

Volunteers sought to help distribute food bags to students at Capitol Hill Magnet School in St. Paul throughout the school year. This effort is part of the Every Meal program, which provides essential weekend and break-time meals to children who may experience food insecurity when school meals are unavailable. Volunteers are needed on Fridays from noon to 1 pm. If you are available to assist or would like more information, please contact Krisi Matenaer at kmatenaer@comcast.net.

NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

THANKSGIVING MEAL DRIVE FOR HALLIE Q. BROWN

You can help a family in need! Every year, SPR partners with the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center to provide Thanksgiving meals for members of our community in need. **Donations of \$30.00 will help with the cost of Thanksgiving meal baskets for clients and their families. More information in the November Spectrum on how to donate.**

BIBLE MATTERS

Please join us on **Wednesdays 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.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Give Thanks on November 27 Before you dig in to your turkey and mashed potatoes, remember the one from whom all good things come: God. Please join us for our **Thanksgiving Eve Service** and Turkey Day Pie at **7:00 p.m.** on **Wednesday, November 27** in the West Transept. Please bring a pie to share, the winner gets the Golden Halo!

NAHUALAPA SCHOLARSHIPS

November is the time for Scholarship donations to begin for the January 1 school year start. More information in November Spectrum.

13TH ANNUAL CRAFTACULAR

This sale benefits St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church's music ministry and lifts up the talents of local artisans, authors, jewelry makers, knitters, photographers, potters, quilters, soap makers, stone crafters, wool felters, woodturners, etc.

Sales days - Saturday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **and** Sunday, Nov. 24, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Are you enjoying a bountiful garden? Do you can, jam, bake or jelly? Plan on donating jars of pickles / preserves.

Or bring baked goods galore. 100% of bake sale proceeds are donated to the Music Ministry.

You can help!! Volunteers are needed for set-up on Friday, staffing the Bake Sale area, greeting customers, and helping to clean up on Sunday.

Get ahead with your holiday or birthday shopping. All artists agree to donate 10% of their sales to St. Paul Reformation's music ministry - it is the premier fundraiser for the music programs.

For more info or to volunteer, contact Margaret Schuster at craftacularspr@yahoo.com or call (612) 805-9144.

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
I N T H E C I T Y F O R G O O D

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PARTING SHOT

Formula Missae et Communions

Luther's first revision of the Lutheran mass from 1523

Now for the fourth year, we gather on Reformation Sunday Evening (October 27) at 5:00 p.m. for the first order of Lutheran worship as it would have been celebrated by Luther himself at St. Mary's Church in Wittenberg. Intended for use in "city and university churches," the "new" Lutheran order followed closely the medieval Latin mass...with some important changes.

A German-themed reception follows with local beer and German goodies.

