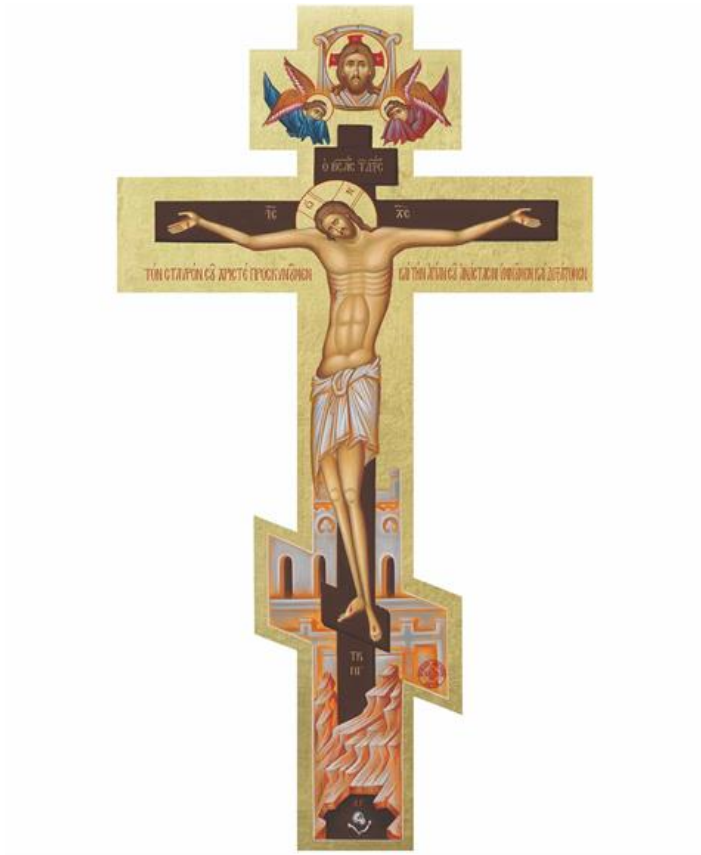




THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Holy Cross Day

Sunday, September 14, 2025 + 10:30 a.m.

PEACE BE WITH YOU.

Welcome! We are glad that you have joined us for today's liturgy! If you are a visitor today, please complete one of the ivory and red cards found in the pew rack and hand them to one of the ushers on the way out; *we have been expecting you!*

St. Paul-Reformation is the first *Reconciling In Christ* congregation in America, publicly welcoming the GLBTQIA+ community since 1982. We continue to welcome all people regardless of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, or any other background to participate in the life of this congregation. You are welcome here...*always*.

All the baptized are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If parents wish younger children to receive Communion, they may do so. We suggest that parents contact the pastors for information to inform children about Holy Communion. We believe that Christ is truly present with us in this Sacrament offering us forgiveness of sins and new life.

Children who attend worship with their families are more likely to participate in worship as adults, so we encourage families to include their children in weekly services! Activity bags and a children's bulletin are available in the Narthex, the ushers will be glad to help you find them.

You are invited to light a prayer candle near the front of the church either before or after the liturgy, or during Holy Communion. Please see that your candle is stabilized.

The SPR Nursery is staffed by attendant Anneli Wilson from 9:00 a.m. through 11:45 a.m. Little ones are welcome!

entrance Rite

Prelude

Récit and Tierce en taille from *Premier livre d'orgue*
Pierre Du Mage (1674-1751)

Stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand and turn to face the baptismal font.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

The Presider pronounces the absolution.

#66o

Entrance Hymn

Lift High the Cross

Please face the procession as it enters the nave; it is customary to bow the head as the cross passes your pew.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Kyrie

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis Deo

The assembly joins in singing the refrain:

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high-est.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord is with you.

And also with you.

The Prayer of the Day is said by the Presider.

LITURGY OF THE WORD OF GOD

Sit Children's Time

First Reading + Numbers 21:4b-9

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out, but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm + 98:1-4

The choir sings the refrain one time. All join thereafter:



Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done mar-vel-ous things!

Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory. O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations. You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing. **Refrain**

Second Reading + 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

The cantor sings the refrain one time; all join thereafter.



✠ May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Holy Gospel + John 3:13-17

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that

everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Praise to you, O Christ!

Sit **Sermon**

#323 Hymn of the Day

Stand *God Loved the World*

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Stand or **Prayers of Intercession**

kneel *The response to each petition is:*

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Stand **Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Please share the peace of the risen Christ with those near to you.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Sit **Preparation of the Altar**

God So Loved the World

Bob Chilcott

God so loved the world, so loved the world.

That he gave his only begotten son that whoso believeth in him,

Should not perish but have everlasting life.

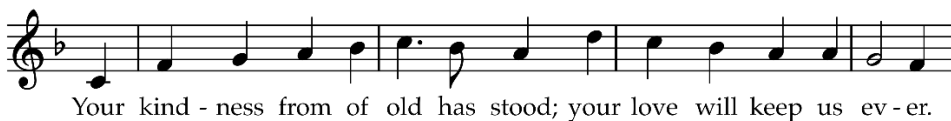
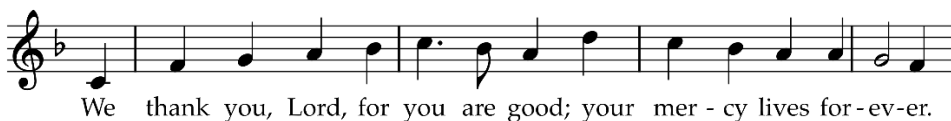
--John 3:16

If you are giving electronically, you may use the QR code at right, which is safe, fast, and efficient! Thank you!



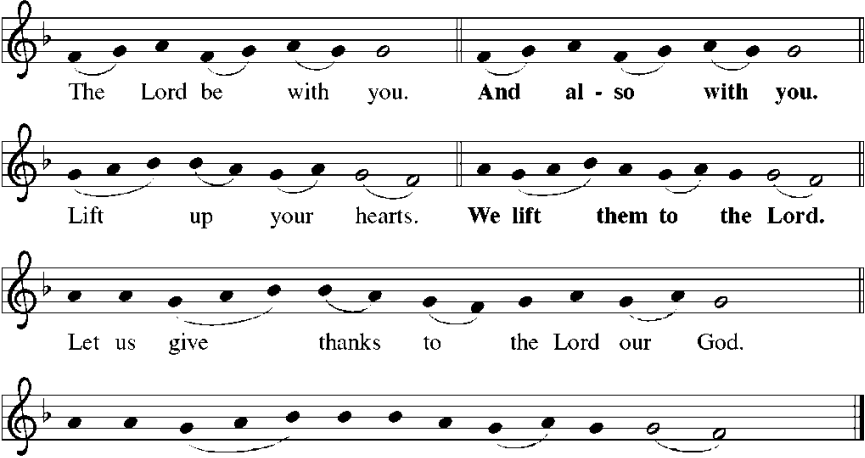
Stand **Offertory**

The assembly stands as the gifts are presented and sings:



Prayer

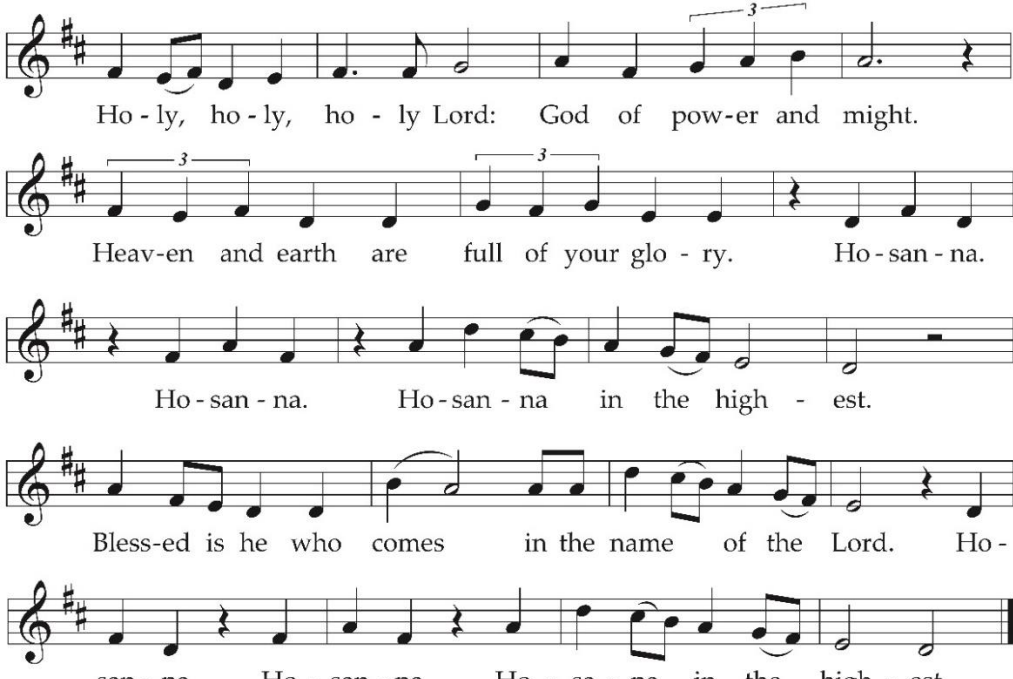
Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord: God of pow - er and might.
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na. Ho - san - na. Ho - sa - na in the high - est.

*Stand or
kneel*

Eucharistic Prayer

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power...great is the mystery of faith:



Lord, we pray that in your goodness...in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and blessing is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.



Stand

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father/Mother/God in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Holy things for holy people!

One is holy, one is Lord: Jesus Christ to the glory of God!

Sit **Agnus Dei**

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace.

The invitation to communion comes from the Lord Jesus himself: all baptized Christians are welcome to receive the body and blood of the Lord; no one is turned away. Holy Communion will be distributed by either intinction (glass chalices), or by common cup (silver chalices). If medical or health reasons dictate that you cannot receive one of the elements, please remember that the Church has always taught that Christ is present in either element alone; gluten-free wafers are available. Those wishing to receive a blessing rather than communion are invited to cross their arms.

Hymns at the Distribution

TFF#79 *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

TFF#71 *Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed*

Stand **Prayer**

SENDING

Sit **Announcements**

Stand **Benediction**

Dismissal

The eucharist is ended. Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Plein jeu and Fugue from Premier livre d'orgue

Pierre Du Mage (1674-1751)

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PARISH announcements



PRAYERS Please remember in your prayers all those sick in mind, body, or spirit: especially, John Whalen, Mark Sandberg, Hilary Hund, Jennifer Walding, Leo Treadway, LeRoy Sorenson, Joni Ripley, Janice Erickson, Susie Adams, Shirley Heyer, Anna Swenson-Seleen, Anthony Hedlund, Joe McKinney, Denine Harrell, Janyce Kovach, Cypress Stupica, Janis Lundin; *those having birthdays:* Katherine Blaine, James Halgerson, John Johnson, Dorothy Gjerdrum. *Sympathy is extended to* Carsten Slostad on the death of his brother, the Rev. Steven Slostad.

A NOTE ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION:

SPR has slightly changed how Holy Communion is distributed. In addition to continuing to offer a chalice for intinction (the glass chalices), we will now also offer communicants the common cup (silver chalices). What does this mean? As you come forward for communion and receive the bread, either move to the glass chalices for intinction; OR consume the bread and then move to the common cup.

If you are taking the common cup, be of good courage: **firmly** take the chalice from the hand of the assistant and take a sip. This is most stable if you firmly grab the entire chalice, rather than...some awkward dance where we pour it down your throat. The common cup is then wiped and turned for the next person. **A note on hygiene:** numerous studies have been undertaken that have concluded that the common cup is as sanitary – *and in some cases more sanitary* - than intinction. Why? Because a.) the wine does not come into contact with fingers, one of the most germ-ridden parts of people's bodies; b.) the silver of the chalice has anti-microbial properties that naturally reduce the number of germs as the chalice is turned for each communicant; and c.) the chalice is wiped with a purificator, reducing the amount of bacteria by almost 90% (according to a CDC study on this very matter). Believe it or not, if you are concerned about germs...then you should consider the common cup. Yay, Science! *You do you...whatever works best for you!*

THEOLOGY ON TAP + Thursday, September 18, 7:00 p.m. St. Paul Brewing, 688 Minnehaha Avenue East, Saint Paul, MN 55106—all are welcome!



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, September 20**. 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.



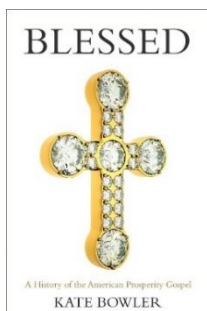
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE: Thank you to all who participated in SPR's Capital Campaign Feasibility Study; your input and feedback was invaluable. We have now received the report of Mark Davy & Associates (our Capital Campaign fundraising consultant), and – according to the study – SPR does have both the capacity and the will to undertake this campaign. *What happens next?* Because this is a community effort, two meetings should be on your radar: 1.) An **Informational Meeting on Sunday, September 28** during Adult Forum time (9:10 a.m.) where you can ask questions, pose suggestions, and seek clarification on anything on your mind as we move ahead; and 2.) A **Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, October 5** immediately following the 10:30 a.m. liturgy (about 11:45) to approve the launch of the campaign “Built in Hope, Renewed in Faith.” All confirmed members are eligible to vote on a motion to proceed with the Campaign. *See you there!*



AN EVENING WITH ARCHBISHOP FILIBUS + Join us at SPR for an evening with the leader of the largest Lutheran Church in the world and former President of the Lutheran World Federation, Abp. Musa Filibus. A conversation about the Nigerian Church, both joys and challenges, will mark our time together. **Tuesday, September 30, 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

FALL ADULT EDUCATION...COMING UP:

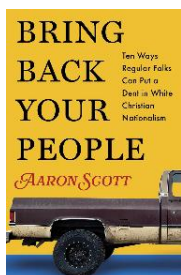
For the autumn months, SPR will read three books together in efforts to understand – *and confront* – White Christian Nationalism.



BLESSED: A HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN PROSPERITY GOSPEL

September 21, October 5, October 12, 9:10 a.m. The first of the three books we will be reading together is “Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel.” The merging of religion and politics begins with the merging of religion and wealth, and Kate Bowler’s thinking lays the foundations for the second and third books in our series. Join us for one...or all, of the four sessions.

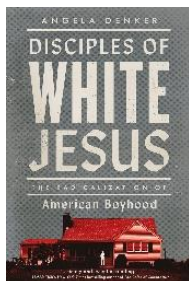
Books are available in the narthex, with a reading schedule, for \$25; it is also available on Kindle (and other electronic forms) for significantly less.



BRING BACK YOUR PEOPLE: TEN WAYS REGULAR FOLKS CAN PUT A DENT IN CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

October 19 & 26, November 2 & 9, 9:10 a.m.

The second of these is “Bring Back Your People: Ten Ways Regular Folks Can Put a Dent in White Christian Nationalism.” Christian people are called to confront twisted readings of the Gospel that harm neighbor, and Aaron Scott gives us practical tips on how to do it. Led by SPR member Carla Hagen. Books available mid-September, \$16 each.



DISCIPLES OF WHITE JESUS: THE RADICALIZATION OF AMERICAN BOYHOOD

November 16, 23, & 30, December 7, 9:10 a.m.

The third of these is “Disciples of White Jesus: The Radicalization of American Boyhood.” In this book, author Angela Denker examines how racism, masculinity, and religion mix together in dangerous ways, creating the toxic brew of White Christian Nationalism.

Books available mid-October, \$14 each.

BIBLE MATTERS + Please join us this coming **Wednesday, September 17, at 10:00 a.m.** in the lower level for this time of study, fellowship, and learning as we look forward to the coming week's lectionary texts.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR is offering its first-ever Children & Youth Choral Festival, open to all singers in grades 5-9 (regardless of faith or school affiliation) on **Saturday, October 11**, and will take place at Normandale Lutheran in Edina from 9am-3pm. No audition or preparation is required for this event. Singer registration is \$25 and includes a festival t-shirt and lunch. An end-of-day concert will take place at 2:30 and is free for all who wish to attend. Register by **Sept 21** to receive \$5 with promo code EarlyBirdYouth2025. Registration closes after **October 1**.



CRIME SYNDICATE T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE! + There are still a handful of Crime Syndicate* t-shirts available, in various sizes! They are \$21 and are out in the Narthex. Cash or checks can be placed in the envelope on that table. Remember what Luther said: if you're going to sin, sin boldly!

*Lutheran Social Service is the largest provider of social services in the state of Minnesota, and has been called a "money laundering scheme" by members of the current administration, which has given rise to a humorous rebuttal: that Lutherans are members of a "Crime Syndicate."

ACDA-MN TO HOST GOLDEN VOICES CHORAL FESTIVAL + A Celebration of Music for Adults 55+. Opportunity for seasoned singers to participate in the Golden Voices Choral Festival, hosted by the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota (ACDA-MN). This one-day festival on **Saturday, November 15, 2025**, is specially designed for adults aged 55 and older who love to sing and connect through music. Whether you're a lifelong choir member or simply enjoy lifting your voice in song, this event promises to be enriching, joyful, and inspiring. Rehearsals are from 8 a.m. -2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran in Stillwater, with a concert at 2 p.m. at St. Andrew's Lutheran in Mahtomedi. For more information and to sign up go here: <https://acda-mn.com/golden-voices-choral-festival/>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY + Our congregation partners with Every Meal to provide weekend food assistance for children at Capitol Hill Magnet School who may be experiencing food insecurity. Volunteers place food bags in school lockers at **noon on Fridays** for about an hour (with occasional schedule changes for school holidays). While we have regular helpers, we often need at least one additional volunteer each week. Even occasional help makes a meaningful difference. To volunteer, please contact Krisi Matenaer at Kmatenaer@comcast.net.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is on hold until our new Associate for Faith Formation is hired (stay tuned!).

saints and holy ones this week

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258; Tuesday, September 16, 2025 + Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.

Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179; Wednesday, September 17, 2025 + A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.

Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961; Thursday, September 18, 2025 + A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.

Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996 (TFF); Saturday, September 20, 2025 + A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF 9/14

Sunday, September 14, Holy Cross		Thursday, September 18	
9:10 a.m.	Adult Forum	7:00 p.m.	Theology on Tap
9:30 a.m.	Confirmation	Saturday, September 20	
10:30 a.m.	Choral Eucharist	9:00 a.m.	Meals Ministry
11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour	Sunday, September 21	
Tuesday, September 16		9:10 a.m.	Adult Forum
12:00 p.m.	Pastors' Text Study	9:30 a.m.	Confirmation
Wednesday, September 17		10:30 a.m.	Choral Eucharist
10:00 a.m.	Bible Matters	11:30 a.m.	Coffee Hour
6:00 p.m.	Handbell Choir		
7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir		

LEADERS IN THIS LITURGY

Rev. Dr. Patrick H. Shebeck	<i>Presider</i>
Sr. Stacie Lightner, DMA	<i>Cantor</i>
Ian Block, Margaret Schuster	<i>Assisting Ministers</i>
Jim McGowan, Colleen McGuire	<i>Lectors</i>
Dorcas Adedigba, Sara Gjerdrum,	<i>Ushers/Greeters</i>
Anne Halgerson, Jim Halgerson	
Dawn Klesk	<i>cantor</i>
Sebastian Badilla	<i>Acolytes</i>
Anne Halgerson, Jim Halgerson	<i>Coffee and Treats</i>



ST. PAUL-REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

100 OXFORD STREET NORTH, SAINT PAUL MN, 55104 + WWW.STPAULREF.ORG