

THE SPECTRUM

THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. PAUL-REFORMATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

**MARCH
2024**

Liturgies

8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School

Confirmation

9:30 a.m.

Adult Forum

9:10 a.m.

Nursery

Kids with Parents

10:15 a.m.

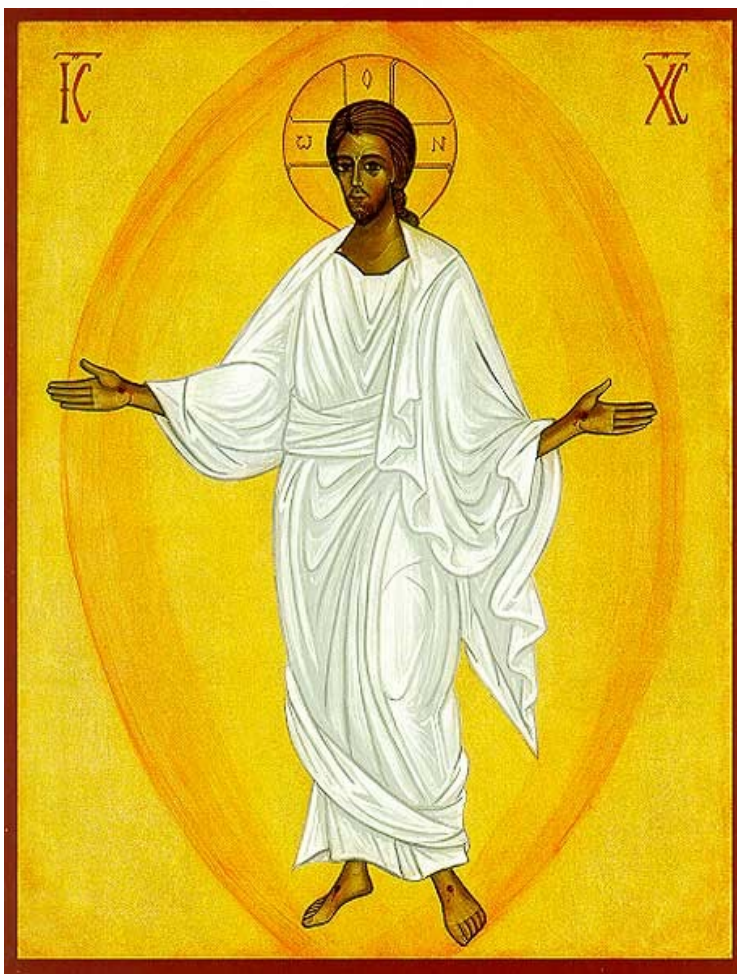
Livestream video via
SPR's FB page or look
in your e-mail on
Sunday mornings.

Visit us on the web!
www.stpaulref.org

St. Paul-Reformation
is a congregation of
the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in
America (ELCA).

100 Oxford Street N.
St. Paul, MN 55104
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The *Spectrum* items, arti-
cles and columns need to
be to the Parish Office by
the 12th of the
month. The *Spec-*
trum goes to print on the
15th and this date is hard
and fast. Articles received
after the 12th may or may
not be included. ter.



EASTER!

Easter Sunday is particularly early this year: March 31. For the remainder of Lent and into the Easter season, there is a great deal going on at SPR, and you are invited to join us in community during these great fifty days of hope. Baptisms, new members, new opportunities for learning, and a host of other events are taking place for young and old. As the Body of Christ is raised up, we hope that you, too, will find signs of new life at St. Paul-Reformation!

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

HOLY MONDAY THROUGH HOLY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25—27
5:00 p.m. Spoken Eucharist, West Transept

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 28
7:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29
Noon until 3:00 p.m. Church Open For Prayer
7:00 p.m. Proper Liturgy with Adoration of the Cross

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER, MARCH 30
7:00 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (285 Dale Ave, Saint Paul)

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. with brass, choir, and organ
10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt for children

IN THE COMING MONTHS. you will be asked to participate in various discernment processes that will be initiated by the Parish Council to set goals for SPR's future. As part of our work together, the Parish Council will be seeking your advice and wisdom on how SPR might proceed on some large-scale projects, and if you think—as members of this dear community—that the time is ripe for such undertakings. It is important that you make your voice heard in these endeavors, as we will rely upon you to bring them to completion.

It is appropriate that the beginnings of such new tasks begin in Eastertide. At the end of this month, the center of our whole Christian life together will take place, and—of course—I urge you to take all of this seriously and set aside time in your life for these observances. Not just Easter Sunday, but the whole of the Triduum is important and necessary to give us a picture of the fullness of Jesus' passion and resurrection.

"New life" is part and parcel of how the Church has understood Easter, and the "death of death" infuses every aspect of the Church's life, even outside of this season of joy. It is—like the spring soil—time to plant seeds and carefully tend the garden, seeing to it that the seeds flourish in due time. We are looking ahead, and will need you to look ahead with us, because the "new life" that is promised in Easter and which infuses the Church is the gift of God to all our members, each of whom have unique gifts and resources to launch SPR into the next chapter of our life together. Who is responsible for the life of this parish? You.

In an age of a generalized removal from death, people do not give consideration to their own mortality in ways that they did in the past. For most of our lives, we are far-removed from death, only having to encounter it at an arm's length and

even then in ways that are sterilized and distant from the places that we call home. "The death of death" seems like a kind of agreeable idea, much like doubling the vanilla in a cookie recipe: it's the kind of thing that people can agree to.

But in Easter, we are taking this seriously enough to claim—for Christians—that it is life-changing. Your life, and all our lives, live in the world on this side of the tomb, in a post-resurrection world. Jesus is alive, meaning that God has done away with even the distant deaths we will one day experience.

In the meantime, there is work to be done to spread this good news and help others—some of whom already live in death—to make their way out of the tomb. I have been so heartened by the wonderful response of SPR to the needs of the Warming Hub this past month. For many of our guests, life is extremely difficult. But the resurrection comes in many forms, and—in some cases—it comes as a tube of toothpaste or a pillow on

which to rest tired heads in a safe place away from danger. As we continue to ask you about our mission and life together, I hope you will keep in mind how and where the resurrection is taking place, and how and where you (and we as a group) are being called into the mission that God is already doing. Remember: the work is not ours. The work is God's. We are simply the day laborers who are entrusted with participating in (and rejoicing in) the already-creative work of the Spirit.

All of this is to say that, in this time of resurrection and new life, we want to hear your ideas, thoughts, and hopes for new life in this community and beyond. God is doing wonderful work here; our goal is to invite others into this work, not only to change the world, but because the Gospel (he is risen indeed) has changed us.

Happy Easter to you all, +Pr. Patrick H. Shebeck



"Your life, and all our lives, live in the world on this side of the tomb, in a post-resurrection world."



THIS LENT. I would like to share with you some stanzas of Susan Palo Cherwien's hymn "As Your Spirit in the Desert." Desert imagery is common in our lectionary readings and consequently our hymnody during Lent. The Gospel reading for the first Sunday in Lent is always Jesus in the wilderness. In this year of lectionary cycle B, Mark's description is quite brief: after Jesus' baptism "the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him." (Mark 1: 12-13) You'll have to look up the story in other gospels if you want more details!

The desert also features prominently in the Old Testament readings, which center on the covenants God has made with us. The passages we heard in February tell of the covenant with Noah (Lent 1) and Abram (Lent 2). This month, the topic is Moses and the Israelites on their sojourn in the wilderness. On March 3, we hear the portion of the Law commonly referred to as the Ten Commandments. On March 10, we stay in the desert and hear the story of Moses fashioning a bronze serpent to lift before the community for healing. Our Gospel reading from John that morning turns us toward Jesus' death and resurrection, saying, "And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 'that whoever believe in him may have eternal life.'" On March 17, Jeremiah tells us of a new covenant that God will make with us. The lectionary calls us out of the wilderness and toward the new covenant given by Jesus of his presence in the body and blood every time we gather for Holy Communion. All the covenants are still valid – God does not break promises. The good news is that God is with us wherever we go. God is there in the wilderness times of our lives just as God is there when we experience Easter joy. Here are some stanzas to remind us that God blesses and sustains us even in our struggles:

*As your Spirit in the desert
led the Christ to dust and stone,
so instill our hearts with courage
now to cross where Christ has gone.
Let us cross into the wilderness
so to walk where Christ has gone.*

*As your fire and cloudy pillar
Israel's tribes to Canaan led,
may your presence be our comfort,
may your manna be our bread.
Let us cross into the wilderness
with God's manna as our bread.*

*God of desert, God of promise,
you have bid us journey on
through the days of dust and darkness
to the rising of the dawn.
Let us cross out of the wilderness
to the rising of the dawn.*

--Susan Paolo Cherwien

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+ Sr. Stacie Lightner

ST. PAUL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC WINDS: YOU'RE INVITED!

Noon Concert on Wednesday, March 13

Join us for a free, noontime Coffee Concert, featuring members of Saint Paul Conservatory of Music's Winds faculty!

Artists will include:

Brendon Bushman, oboe
Paul Kovacovic, piano
Jake Meyer, clarinet
Allyson Partin, french horn
Thomas Strommen, saxophone

The program features works by Mozart, Glass, Sierra, Weber, and Reinecke.

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LENTEN LISTEN SERIES

Beyond Homelessness

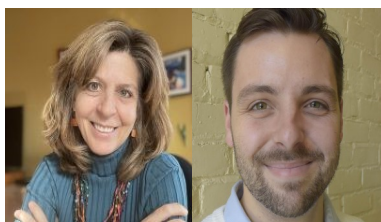
Because SPR is serving as a site for the Ramsey County Warming Hub, it made sense that this year's LISTEN Series would be a more in-depth study of homelessness and the factors that contribute to "a culture of displacement." Steven Bourma-Prediger's book by the same title is our guide, with speakers joining us from various agencies and government bodies that work on this issue. This book—and our work with the women's shelter—are both efforts to fulfill one of the three Lenten disciplines: *generosity (almsgiving)*. As we prepare for Easter, this is a great opportunity to enter more deeply into this subject so that SPR can continue to work on where God may be calling us with this ministry. We hope you will plan on joining us Wednesdays in Lent at 7:10 p.m.

LENTEN WEDNESDAYS:

- 5:30 p.m. Soup Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

LISTEN SERIES SPEAKERS

Several speakers will join us for our Lenten LISTEN series to discuss with us their work on homelessness. Offering different perspectives on causes and remedies for homelessness, these speakers will compliment our reading well.



We welcome:

Wednesday March 6
Anne Mavity and
Harlan Buckalew,
Minnesota Housing
Partnership + The

Minnesota Housing Partnership is an organization that works on policy matters in the Twin Cities related to homelessness. Anne Mavity serves as the Executive Director of MHP, and Harlan Buckalew serves as program director.

Wednesday March 13—Group Discussion on “Beyond Homelessness” + We will debrief on our learning so far...what have you observed, and what has surprised you?



Wednesday March 20—Josh Leopold, MN Dept. of Health Homeless Response Team. + Josh Leopold Senior Advisor on Health, Homelessness, and Housing for the MN Dept. of Health, and will be speaking to us about the

State's response to homelessness. He has worked extensively on the metro area encampments, Shelters, and how homelessness intersects with incarceration.

WARMING HUB HAS BEGUN: DONATIONS REQUESTED

Thank you for making our Warming Hub an appreciated and giving place. Visitors stay overnight, sleeping on soft foam beds. Donations to needs for the warming hub have been awesome. Boxes of blankets, hygiene items, socks, gloves, and mittens are so appreciated. If you wish to donate, boxes are labeled in the narthex. If you prefer to offer money to purchase items, please make your check to the church with “Warming Hub” written on the check Or donate online through the Donation Button on our website. Donation needs ongoing through March.

Donations Requested: Boxes for the donated items are in the narthex:

Clean Blankets, Clean Pillows and cases (any kind); Women's Mittens, gloves, socks, scarves (no hats, they have plenty); Women's Hygiene items (deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap, body or baby wipes, body lotion, tampons, pads, band aids, nail clippers).

See page 7 for blanket making project.

COUNCIL CORNER

SPR's new Parish Council met in regular session on Tuesday, February 13 and took/heard action on the following matters:

Officers

- The following people were elected officers by the Parish Council: Alyn Bedford (President); Susan Martyn (Vice President); John Rent (Treasurer); Kristen Benson (Secretary).
- The council discussed at some length goals that each member was then asked to brainstorm about during the meeting. These were submitted to the President, and will be consolidated into a whole and shared with the congregation soon.
- The Parish Council discussed soliciting input from the congregation regarding the timing for a coming Capital Campaign. More information on this will be coming soon, and the congregation will be asked if they feel that we are approaching the time when such an endeavor should be undertaken.
- Susan Martyn reported on the status of the Warming Hub; SPR is seeing between 15-40 women a night who come/go throughout the evening. The congregation will be asked for donations of various items to support the shelter.
- Heard financial information; SPR ended the year with a slight deficit (as per the Annual Meeting);
- At the Annual Meeting, the Parish Council and Pastor pledged a mid-year meeting to deal with matters related to the Endowment. This meeting will take place on Sunday, July 21.
- An working group was established to hash out matters related to that meeting, and will meet before the next parish council meeting to bring a proposal to the full Council.
- The Tower rent check has arrived, and will be re-invested in March along with the proceeds from last year in a CD.

BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Paul Lindell, Russel Rent
- 02 Sr. Stacie Lightner
- 03 Jan Swenson
- 05 Mike Banks, Ava Osano
- 06 Carlos Ramirez
- 07 Jake Kutz, Kaj Reinholdt
- 08 Holly Tischer
- 13 Karen Hanson, Kathy Thomford
- 15 Henry Rent
- 16 Susie Adams
- 18 Gary Reetz, Sonya Schober Johnson
- 20 John Rent
- 26 Max Rouillard-Horne
- 29 Isaiah Kutz, Lee Lundin

ANNIVERSARY

- 01 Marilyn and Jim McGowan

ST. GRUBBY'S DAY

Saturday March 9, 9:00 a.m. until noon

It is time for a spring cleaning at SPR, and we invite you to join us for St. Grubby's Day. Bring some elbow grease, a good attitude, and a willingness to put in some muscle and we will tackle spaces throughout the church to spiff them up for Easter. All are welcome to join us...it's fun!

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Thursday, March 21 at Barrel Theory Brewing

248 East 7th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55101

We gather for our occasional beer...with a side of theology! For the young and young-at-heart, this gathering will discuss some theological topics that will jog your mind and your soul. All are welcome!

OUTREACH: HOLY WEEK DOOR HANGERS

Friday March 22 10:00 a.m. to noon.

SPR's Christmas door hangers were such a hit that we're doing it again! Off we will go into our neighborhood to invite our neighbors to join us for Holy Week and Easter. Please dress warmly, and bring a brown-bag lunch to eat after we are done in the Lower Auditorium. See you there!

MARCH MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

March 3, Third Sunday In Lent

Luke Hanson, Jessa Anderson-Reitz, *Asst. Ministers*
Colleen McGuire, Shirley Henning, *Lectors*
Daniel Adedigba, *Acolyte* Chris Lyman, *Cantor*
Kristen Damberg, Margaret Schuster,
Jan Swenson, Tom Webb, *Greeters/Ushers*
John Johnson, Tom Webb, *Coffee/Treats*

March 10, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Jamie Block, Kathy Thomforde, *Asst. Ministers*
Anthony Hedlund. John Whalen, *Lectors*
Henry Hanson, *Acolyte* Carsten Slostad, *Cantor*
Dorcas Adedigba, Kristin Benson, Joe Herbert,
Deanna Sande, *Greeters/Ushers*
Linda Dahlen, *Coffee/Treats*

March 17, Fifth Sunday In Lent

Ian Block, Bonnie Olson, *Asst. Ministers*
Mike Banks, Hilary Hund, *Lectors*
Elizabeth Adedigba, *Acolyte* Jamie Block, *Cantor*
Anne and Jim Halgerson,
Roman Hund, Cheri Gohr, *Greeters/Ushers*
Anne and Jim Halgerson, *Coffee/Treats*

March 24, Palm/Passion Sunday

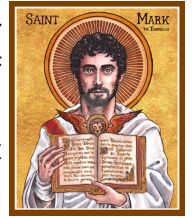
Amy Rouillard, Kathy Thomforde, *Asst. Ministers*
Victoria Smith, Aaron Brown, *Lectors*
Mya Wagner, *Acolyte*
Jim Bowen, *Cantor*
Sandy and Tim Iverson, Anthony Hedlund,
Greeters/Ushers
Sandy and Tim Iverson, *Coffee/Treats*

March 31, Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Sunday

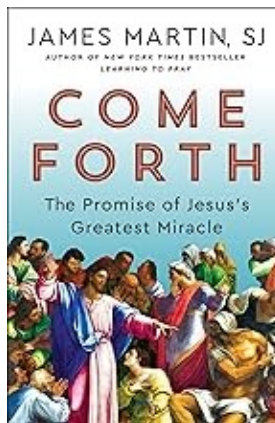
Aaron Brown, Kathy Thomforde, *Asst. Ministers*
Cynthia Peyton, Amy Rouillard, *Lectors*
Chloe Proctor, Aspen Rouillard-Horne, *Acolytes*
Dawn Klesk, *Cantor*
Sandy and Tim Iverson, Anthony Hedlund,
Greeters/Ushers

ADULT FORUM is on Sundays at 9:10 a.m. in Tidemann Hall. This is a “gem” of St. Paul-Ref’s life together. Join us to learn, discern and discuss.

Throughout March, we continue our **study on the Gospel of Mark**. Even if you have not joined us thus far, you can “merge in” to the discussion at any time. Please join us as we finish this up!



There will be **no Adult Forum** on Palm Sunday, March 24, or Easter Sunday, March 31.



We resume on **Sunday, April 7**, with James Martin’s book *Come Forth! The Promise of Jesus’ Greatest Miracle*. Accessible and interesting, Martin’s book has won wide acclaim for his writing style, scholarship, and down-to-earth conversation with the reader. Books are available for \$17 with a reading guide in the narthex, starting in March. Please plan on joining us!

COMING SOON: A NEW COHORT OF THE WAY

SPR is seeking members who would be willing to serve as mentors for new members in our Adult Formation program, “The Way.” We are not completely certain of dates yet, but most likely this group will begin with our group of new members after Easter and conclude sometime in the early summer. We are excited to welcome these new parishioners, and thrilled that God has called them here. If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please email our Cantor, Sr. Stacie Lightner at: music@stpaulref.org This program is as rewarding for mentors as it is for our new folk, and we seek to grow more deeply into Christ...together.

QUILTERS MAKING TIED FLEECE BLANKETS Join us on **Saturday March 2 10:00 a.m.** to cut and tie fleece for 9 blankets for our Warming Hub guests. Donations can be made online or in the offering plate to reimburse this fund for the fleece. Any additional support will be used to make more blankets. Join in on the fun! Bring a snack to share. Coffee 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 cooked in the church kitchen at **9:00 a.m. on Saturday March 16** 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 March 3** at the Louisiana Café on Selby Ave after the second service. All are

welcome to join this time of fellowship, good conversation and food. No agenda: just fellowship!

BUILDING UPDATE + The Tuesday Crew and others continue working on multiple repair, improvement projects.

Projects:

- Take down Epiphany Star
- Install outlet in pink bathroom

- Repair light outside elevator vestibule
- Put Christmas trees in storage bags.
- Install carpet in narthex west corner.
- Repair lock in Pastor's office.
- Insulate open area and install thermostat to more properly heat Conservatory space.
- Set up and take down tables for funeral.
- Several small but necessary repairs.
-

Staff: Organize for and welcome Warming Hub guests and staff. Discuss and plan changes in internet and phone for cost reduction.

Professional: IT tech discuss reduction in internet and phone costs. Pressure valve tests on boilers. Thanks to all who volunteer to keep this building and spaces inside in condition to use and rent out.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Easter Sunday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m.

Little ones are invited to join us for an Easter Egg hunt prior to the second liturgy on Easter Sunday on the SPR grounds. Hidden around will be plastic Eggs with treats, reminders of the meaning of the day, and prizes. Parents are invited to join the little ones, and this activity will go for about...20 minutes or so, just enough time to snatch up some eggs and make it into church!

BIBLE MATTERS

Please join us **on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.** via **Zoom** for this time of study, fellowship, and learning as we look forward to the coming week's lectionary texts.

No Bible Matters on March 27.

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
IN THE CITY FOR GOOD

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PARTING SHOT

PALM SUNDAY YOUTH BREAKFAST

9:00 a.m. until 10:10 a.m.

Palm Sunday, March 24

***Free-will donations will be accepted to support
Confirmation and youth at SPR!***