



THE SPECTRUM

The Newsletter of St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church

**November
2021**

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.

*Adult Forum &
Confirmation*
In person

Sunday School
Online

Nursery
On hiatus.

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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
651-224-3371
office@stpaulref.org

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.

TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE WITH HOPE

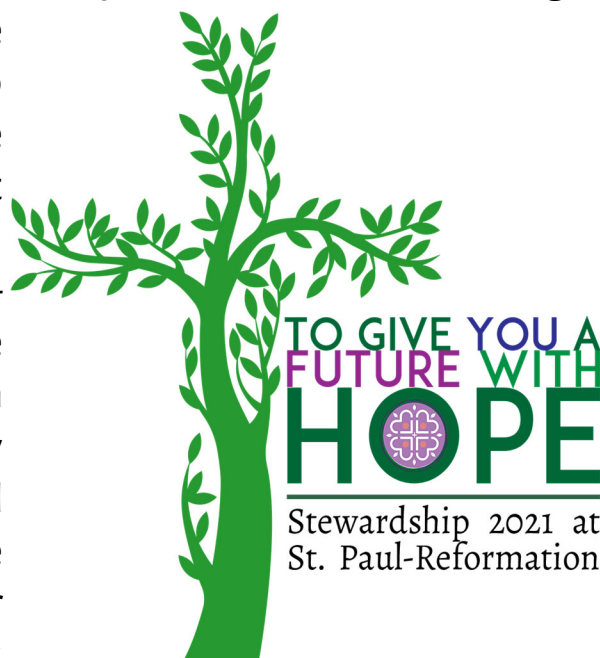
Stewardship 2021 Ends on Nov. 7!

We have had a great Stewardship Campaign this year as we have heard stories of hope, of promise, and of challenge. SPR is on the move, and we need all hands on deck to help us plan for and engage with a hopeful future. That work includes you!

As our campaign concludes, please pray and give some careful consideration to the way this community is important to you, and all the things that go on here to speak of hope in our world. The past two years

have been rough, but we remain committed to the work of God in this place and we also remain committed to using our gifts, our intellect, and our resources to build a hopeful future as a reflection of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please consider increasing your pledge for the coming year!

Please join us on **All Saints' Sunday, November 7, as we return our 2022 Commitment Cards** and re-dedicate ourselves, our resources, and our energy to the work of God in this place. It is a hopeful future, filled with work that is yet to be done and graces yet to be received. That future includes you and your gifts...and that is very hopeful, indeed!



FOR THE PAST YEAR OR SO, a dedicated team of Health Professionals from St. Paul-Reformation has met regularly to monitor COVID numbers in Ramsey County, to evaluate best practices for our life together, and to make recommendations to the Parish Council about the best ways that we can proceed forward as a community in our efforts to care for one another. This has been an extremely dedicated group, and I am so thankful that we have a collection of accomplished doctors, nurses, and public health workers in our parish; each of them deserves a huge “thank you.”

One of the greatest challenges that has arisen in their work has been how to establish guidelines that are universally applicable to every situation. After some valuable learning, we have determined that such a one-size-fits-all approach to parish activities is neither possible nor prudent, and that other factors—pastoral care, community care, etc.—need to be evaluated along with hard-and-fast rules about how we determine which activities can and should take place, and which activities can and should be put on “hold” for the time being.

This is not easy work, mostly because in times of great uncertainty there are many (me included!) who long to have clear-cut guidance on how the Church ought to proceed in every situation. As numbers fluctuate, go down, go back up, with surges and regressions, something—anything!—that might tell us how to proceed would be welcome news.

And much as I would like that and each group in the parish would like that, I’m not certain that that is possible. The Church—as it turns out—is a messy place. Situations arise that require a weighing of competing principles of importance, requiring choices that may be situational for that instance only, and not for others. An algorithm to determine an exact schedule of what can happen

and what can’t is elusive; just when the code is cracked, some new pastoral situation arises in the life of SPR that requires a new approach, balancing the very real concerns of health with a pastoral heart that calls for modification or situational adaptation. It’s hard.

An example: several months ago, SPR was approached by an AA Group to see about using our lower auditorium on Tuesday evenings. As we considered this request, we needed to balance the possibilities for disease transmission (very real) with the also-very-real mental health challenges of those in recovery who have been unable to meet in-person during the pandemic. As many of you know, a great many have suffered because of such addiction challenges, and—in that case—we determined that the risks to mental health were greater than the risks to COVID; this group was given the green-light to meet (with, of course, safety requirements) because of this pastoral concern.

On the other hand, Sunday School has been put “on hold” until the new year, because we felt that the religious education of children (a very real part of our life

together!) is something that can be done at home among families. Each week, SPR produces an at-home Sunday School lesson, and—in this case—we determined that because we had alternatives to in-person meetings, in-person Sunday school did not outweigh the potential risks of unvaccinated young ones. In this case, we made a different decision for a different case.

These are just two examples, but all of this is to say that as we live into the winter ahead, some activities may be given the go-ahead while others will be asked to wait. Please be patient as we do this work, remembering (again!) that there is not a one-size-fits-all policy for everything, nor an equation that spits out the same answer every time. Pros and cons must be weighed, always with an eye toward safety, realizing that for some the



“After some valuable learning, we have determined that such a one-size-fits-all approach to parish activities is neither possible nor prudent...”

estrangement from community can be extremely dangerous. Not always, but sometimes. As we move ahead, please remain flexible, charitable, and safe as we chart our forward course.

Peace, Pr. Patrick Shebeck

CRAFTACULAR IS COMING !

We hope to host Craftacular in the lower auditorium on the weekend before Thanksgiving: **Saturday Nov. 20 -- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday Nov. 21 -- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Masks are required** for all entering the building. We will follow guidelines for social distancing and ensure that masks and hand sanitizer are readily available.

Be a Helper!! Volunteers are needed throughout the weekend for various duties. **On Friday, Nov. 19** we will set-up vendor tables, decorate, place yard and boulevard signs, secure signage to outer doors, and price donated baked goods. Come anytime after 11:00 a.m. **On Saturday and/or Sunday**, sign up to be a greeter, bake sale helper, and/or cashier. **Look for sign-up sheets in the narthex** or contact Margaret Schuster to volunteer:

schuster.margaret.a@gmail.com

If you play an instrument, sing, juggle or dance, we've got a spot for you helping to entertain shoppers and crafters/vendors! Contact Sister Stacie at music@stpaulref.org.

Donate to the Bake Sale! We are accepting donations to the bake sale. A change this year: we are asking you to plate and cover your items with clear plastic (saran wrap). We will price them once you've dropped them off. Depending on the size plate you use, you can pre-package pie slices, 6-12 cookies, 4-6 bars, a dozen or more candy pieces, etc. You may also bring canned items, homemade jellies/jams or sauces, pickles or pickled vegetables, homemade syrup. **The added bonus:** 100% of bake sale proceeds will be donated to St. Paul-Ref's music ministry.

We have new and returning artisans, quilters, jewelry makers, knitters, handcrafted soap makers and more! All artists agree to donate 10% of their sales to

St. Paul Reformation's music ministry. *This is the premiere fundraiser and benefit for SPR's music programs.*

For more info or to volunteer, call or email Margaret Schuster at craftacularspr@yahoo.com or (612) 805-9144; or call or email Sr. Stacie at music@stpaulref.org or 651-224-3371.

BIRTHDAYS

04 Ellis Bedford, Hilary Hund, Everlyn Stampely,
Andrew Webb Wooddage, John Whalen
10 Noel Puroway
15 Noah Johnson
16 David Gjerdrum
17 David Korinko Petersen
19 Erik Dougherty, Bryan Zlimen
21 Mya Wagner
24 Kari Benson
25 Mallory Farrell

ANNIVERSARIES

07 Kris and Jon Stevens
28 Alan Bloemke and Jeff Kopseng

GLOBAL FIESTA + Because of the pandemic, this year's Global Fiesta has been postponed. We want to make sure that everyone is safe, and it simply isn't prudent in this case to move forward with this celebration. We look forward to the day when we can celebrate SPR's global partnerships again; in the meantime, please watch for ways you can be helpful and supportive of our work in El Salvador and Nigeria! Stay tuned!

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SYNOD CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

+ The Saint Paul Area Synod will be launching 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. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months, and a line by which you can donate will be included in your Stewardship Materials this year.

THANKSGIVING EVE EUCHARIST



Thanksgiving Eve Service and Turkey Day Pie will take place at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 24** in the West Transept. Please bring a pie to share, the winner gets the Golden Halo!

THANKSGIVING MEAL DRIVE FOR HALLIE Q. BROWN

+ The Hallie Q. Brown Community Center is raising funds for its annual



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Thanksgiving Food Drive. **Donations of \$25 will cover the cost of Thanksgiving meal baskets for clients and their families.**

SPR members can make donations online, through the mail, or through the collection envelope in the Narthex. In addition, Vicar Elizabeth will don the Vicar's Turkey Costume to announce this in the coming weeks. Please join us in

this important work—it's a tangible way you can make a difference in our community! Questions? E-mail vicar@stpaulref.org, or speak with Mike Banks.

NEW MEMBERS

+ Have you noticed some new faces in SPR's pews? We hope you have, and we are delighted to welcome a sizeable class of new members who have chosen to make SPR a part of their journey in Christ Jesus. Over the coming months, we will be including information on these wonderful people so that you can get to know them better! We welcome among us:

- **Kelly Bartnick and Alex Wuebker (below)** who were married at SPR on New Years' Eve of 2020. Kelly serves as the communications and volunteer manager at RISE! In Spring Lake Park; Alex works in inventory and supply chain planning for Sleep Number.



- **Jean and Stewart Scott**
- **Susan Martyn**
- **Marumba Tete**
- **Mary Kasten**
- **Joe Herbert**

We welcome all of these new members to SPR, who will be formally received among us on the Baptism of the Lord Sunday in January. Welcome!

BLACK NATIVITY

+ SPR's Confirmation class will be heading off to Penumbra Theater's Black Nativity on Sunday, December 19 at 4:00 p.m. (please note the time change). You can join us even if you were confirmed long ago, and this St. Paul tradition is a moving and incredible presentation of the Christmas story. You can sign up in the narthex; tickets are \$32 each.



NOVEMBER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

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

November 7—All Saints Sunday

Bonnie Olson, Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*
 John Whalen, Alice Swan, *Lectors*
 Claudia, Abby, Henry Hanson, Joie Voss, *Acolytes*
 Jim Bowen, *Cantor*
 Brian Olson, Kristen Damberg, Dorcas Adedigba,
 Eldora Pearson, *Greeters/Ushers*
 Alice Swan, *Coffee/Hospitality*

November 14

Jamie Hocmuth, Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*
 Kristen Damberg, Cheri Gohr *Lectors*
 Miguel Rodriguez, *Acolyte*
 Dawn Klesk, *Cantor*
 Jan Swenson, Jim McGowan, Katie McKee,
Greeters/Ushers
 Jan Swenson, Linda Dahlen, *Coffee/Hospitality*

November 21—Christ the King

Victoria Smith, Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*
 Peter Huckfeldt, Alice Swan, *Lectors*
 Paige and Noah Johnson, Tanner and Kaydee
 Rouillard-Horne *Acolytes*
 Erica Perl, *Cantor*
 Tim and Sandy Iverson, Dorcas Adedigba,
 Deanna Sande, *Greeters/Ushers*
 Alice Swan, *Coffee/Hospitality*

November 28 First Sunday of Advent

Bonnie Olson, Elizabeth Callen, *Asst Ministers*
 Carla Hagen, Kathy Thomforde, *Lectors*
 Lillie Eiken, *Acolyte*
 Jim Bowen, *Cantor*
 Diane Hushman, Krisi Matenaer, Jim McGowan,
 Tamika Ramirez, *Greeters/Ushers*
 Carla Hagen, Teresa Ortiz, *Coffee/Hospitality*

HOLY EUCHARIST LIVESTREAM

As SPR has regathered for in-person worship, we remain committed to livestreaming the regular Sunday Eucharist from now until forever!

- The livestreamed service will take place on **Sundays at 10:30 a.m.** You can access it via any computer, tablet, or...even your phone.
- The liturgy will be the Holy Eucharist;
- The livestream will be linked to SPR's website, as well as being livestreamed simultaneously on SPR's Facebook page;
- All liturgies will be archived. You can watch them anytime



BREAKFAST CLUB returns on Sunday, **November 21**, after the second liturgy at the Louisiana Café. This informal time of fellowship is simply to help you get to know your SPR neighbors better...and to enjoy the best breakfast in St. Paul. No reservations are required, simply head to the Louisiana Café on Dale/Selby after the second liturgy and you'll be good to go!



ISAIAH
Faith in Democracy

ISAIAH Saint Paulites will be voting November 2 to establish a cap on rent increases by a predictable, reasonable percentage of 3% per year to prevent price gouging and excessive spikes in rent costs. Our city is majority renters, 60% of renters are non-white and ~6% of our non-white student population have experienced homelessness during the school year. More renters are struggling with housing cost-burden, housing instability and homelessness. Rent stabilization is one way to address these issues, the education gap and advance a caring economy across race, class, and ward as well as get voters to the polls during this typically low turnout election. Join the campaign this Fall by registering for one or more actions. Questions? Contact Ed Stuart.

BIBLE MATTERS

Because the Bible does matter, you are invited to join us each week on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. either via Zoom or in person in Tidemann Hall. Watch the weekly emails for up to date information.

ADULT FORUM

9:10 a.m. in the Lower Auditorium. We have an exciting lineup of speakers. Join us!



Nov. 7 Sun Yung Shin A Good Time For The Truth

신 선 영 Sun Yung Shin was born in Seoul, Korea and was raised in the Chicago area. She is a poet, writer, and cultural worker. She is the editor of *What We Hunger For: Refugee and Immigrant Stories on Food and Family* (2021) and of *A Good Time for the Truth: Race in Minnesota*, author of award winning poetry collections *Unbearable Splendor*, *Rough, and Savage*; and *Skirt Full of Black*, co-editor of *Outsiders Within: Writing on Transracial Adoption*, and author of bilingual illustrated book for children *Cooper's Lesson*.



Nov. 14 Josh Crossan MN EdAllies

Josh Crossan serves as Executive Director of EdAllies, and sets the direction for the organization's work to ensure that all MN students, especially those most underserved, have access to a great education. Josh works with EdAllies to advocate for underserved communities, seeing that they get the resources and support they need to provide robust and excellent education.



Nov 21 Commissioner Toni Carter, Ramsey County

Toni Carter serves as the District 4 Commissioner, leading on important issues at the local, state, and national level. She represents the district in which St. Paul-Reformation is located, as well as other parts of St. Paul. Carter is active in the Association of Minnesota Counties, the National Association of Counties (where she serves as the chair of the Health Counties Initiative). Carter is committed to the delivery of efficient county services, eliminating disparities in county systems, and raising grassroots awareness of county decision making processes.



ELCA YOUTH GATHERING 2022

Open to All SPR Youth in Grades 8-12

The ELCA will host its summer youth gathering in Minneapolis from July 24-28, 2022. Plans are already underway to have a sizeable contingent go from SPR, and this opportunity is open to any youth who are in 8th-12th grade in the fall (now) of 2021. The cost is \$350, and financial aid is available from the ELCA. If you have not attended an ELCA Youth Gathering before, this is a great opportunity to see the breadth and size of the Church. Attendees will stay downtown in hotels (required) to get the full experience, and we are—additionally—seeking some parent chaperones to join Vicar Elizabeth in leading the charge on this. Interested? Early Bird Registration closes November 22, so it's time to get moving! E-mail either Vicar Elizabeth or Pr. Patrick if you are interested in going; registrations are processed through the parish office as a congregation, not individually. You can learn much more at www.elca.org/YouthGathering



Above: SPR members Susie Adams and Linda Dahlen pose for a picture after Breakfast Club in September!



FROM THE CANTOR

One of my favorite poets is George Herbert (1593-1633). He was born in Wales and became a priest in the Church of England. Ralph Vaughan Williams set poems chosen from

several of his collections in *Five Mystical Songs* for tenor with choir and orchestra. You might be familiar with one movement, “The Call,” because it is included in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* as a hymn. This month I have another of his poems bouncing about in my brain, “King of Glory, King of Peace” because I have planned an anthem that sets this poem for Christ the King Sunday on November 21. Herbert is a master of using different poetic devices, and one of the things that I love about this poem is its rhyme scheme. In each stanza, the first line rhymes with the third and the fifth line rhymes with the seventh. The even numbered lines in the whole poem all rhyme with each other. In fact, the even numbered lines are all either the word “Thee” or “me!” The first stanza tells of how God has heard and answered the prayers of the narrator. The second stanza has a great line in it: in gratitude for the forgiveness of sins, the narrator says joyfully, “and the cream of all my heart I will bring Thee.” The response to God’s love can only be the very best of all we have: the rich delicious cream, not a thin, watery offering. In the third stanza the “me” disappears altogether. Only “Thee” remains in the rhyme scheme, giving us an example of being turned outward toward God and less focused on ourselves. The third stanza also starts with my favorite sentiment in the poem: “Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise Thee.” God inspires such abundant praise that it cannot be contained by a mere Sunday. God’s praises are to be sung throughout the whole week.

May this poem inspire your own worship this month!

King of glory, King of peace,
I will love Thee;
and that love may never cease,
I will move Thee.
Thou hast granted my request,
Thou hast heard me;
Thou didst note my working breast,

Thou hast spared me.
Wherefore with my utmost art
I will sing Thee,
and the cream of all my heart
I will bring Thee.
Though my sins against me cried,
Thou didst clear me;
and alone, when they replied,
Thou didst hear me.
Sev'n whole days, not one in sev'n,
I will praise Thee;
in my heart, though not in heav'n,
I can raise Thee.
Small it is, in this poor sort
to enroll Thee:
e'en eternity's too short
to extol Thee.

Sr. Stacie Lightner

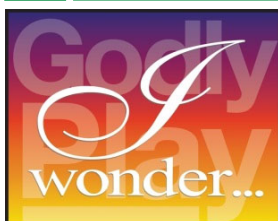
FROM THE VICAR



Between my internship here at St. Paul-Ref and my classes at the seminary, the fall has been very busy! Still, I am happy to be here and greatly fulfilled by my work and my studies. I am grateful that God has called me to ministry, even when these days of formation get stressful, and especially grateful to get to learn and grow in this community. My favorite class this term is Lutheran Confessional Writings, in which we’re studying the confessions of the Lutheran Church as set forth in the *Book of Concord*. It has been illuminating for me to consider both the historical context of these writings, as well as their relevancy today—God’s grace, after all, is eternal!

I would also like to say thank you to everyone who made it out for our first Theology on Tap discussion. We had a lively conversation about Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. Stay tuned for more details about the next Theology on Tap discussion in December—I hope you can make it!

Rev. Sem. Elizabeth Callen



SUNDAY SCHOOL will remain “virtual” until Christmas. Why? We remain cautious as we continue to watch COVID-19 numbers, aware that children under twelve have

not been vaccinated. To give this a few months to “shake out,” a Sunday School lesson will be provided each week via e-mail, and we hope that you will take seriously this opportunity to learn at home. We expect (as of now!) that Sunday School and Godly Play will return full force after the New Year.



Meals Ministry

Food from God and St. Paul-Ref!

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 November 20**. 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



QUILTING for Charity Sat.

November 13, 9:00 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

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Parish Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 12 and heard/took action on the following matters:

- The organ motor is in process and we are hopeful that it will be repaired by Christmas.
- Motion proposed and approved to authorize the Building Committee to hire Reuben Ardila—the contractor who worked on the kitchen—to proceed on the apartment in the amount of \$10,800.
- SPR’s cell phone tower lease increases in revenue in 2022, and steps are now being taken to determine how best to make use of that space. This might include selling the lease outright, or working with consultants to procure other vendors (cell phone companies) to use the space.
- Heard progress on the 2021 Stewardship Campaign “To Give You A Future With Hope” that will conclude on All Saints’ Sunday, November 7;
- We were happy to welcome Alice Swan of the Health Professionals’ Team to speak to us about rising COVID-19 numbers in Ramsey County. We continue to monitor this situation and take the advice of the Team, aware that the parish will need to be nimble, and that plans may need to be altered as we move into the winter. This team has done great work with a very frustrating situation, and any ‘one-size-fits-all’ policy for every activity is neither practical nor prudent. We continue to evaluate things as they come up and will make decisions accordingly.
- Heard financial reports that have been impacted by extraordinary expenditures in the second half of this year: the organ and the apartment. Baring those, SPR is essentially on track;
- The second PPP loan has been submitted for forgiveness, which will happen soon.

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!**

BUILDING UPDATE

SPR's building committee has been hard at work preparing the apartment for rental. The kitchen cabinets are currently being removed, straightened, sanded, repainted and replaced. Carpet bid has been accepted. Work will soon begin on bathroom/kitchen renovations. The lower kitchen is completed and being used regularly. A very damaged tree on the east side of the property was removed. Thanks to all who have volunteered to get these spaces back to working order!

ORGAN REPAIRS

SPR has contracted with the Obermeyer Organ Company (the firm that services our instrument) to replace the organ motor. This has taken a long time because the old organ motor—that has failed—is particularly heavy and removing it is particularly difficult. During the pandemic, much industry has shut down, including (believe it or not!) the builders of organ motors. While the wheels are turning on this (pun intended), it will be Christmas at the earliest that the instrument is repaired. In the meantime, we continue to make use of the gallery digital organ as well as the piano. Stay tuned!

ORGAN SOUP: POSTPONED

Because the organ needs work (above), Organ Soup will be postponed until the new year. We will be working to reassign the artists as well as those who have volunteered (thank you!). We look forward to celebrating the renewed instrument with you in January!

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

Advent begins on Sunday, November 28. We enter “Year C” of the lectionary (the year of Luke). See you there!

Saint Nicholas and Santa Lucia on December 5 + An SPR tradition, we invite children below twelve to join us in person or via livestream.

Christmas Eve, Day, 1st and 2nd Sundays of Christmas and Epiphany Services + The birth of our Lord is celebrated this year on:

- **Christmas Eve**, 4:00 and 10:30 p.m., Friday, December 24;
- **Christmas Day**, 10:30 a.m., Saturday, December 25;
- **Epiphany**, Thursday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m. at SPR with St. Clement's Episcopal
- **Christmas I**, Sunday December 26 at 10:30 a.m. —please note: one liturgy this day.



Above, below, left: A sizeable contingent from SPR walked in support of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). And not only this, but SPR was joined by...the Incredibles (below) on their way around lake Phalen. Thank you to all who walked!



HAPPENINGS

Below first picture: SPR Group listens to Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs share Healing Stories on the Sacred Sites Tour.

Second picture: Group walks the site of the Dakota concentration encampment following the Dakota and U.S. War. They are spreading a pinch of sacred tobacco to honor them.



Below: Brian Sullivan of the Obermeyer Organ Company and their electrician stand in front of the organ motor...which has become possessed by demons. A new one is on the way!



Left, below: creatures of all kinds gathered with Vicar Elizabeth to celebrate God's good creation and the witness of St. Francis of Assisi with our annual "Blessing of the Animals." Much barking took place, which we take to be hymns of praise.



Below: Murumba Tete, Luke Hanson, Jessa Anderson-Reitz enjoy time together at Theology on Tap.



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❖ PARTING SHOT ❖



Above: Several members of SPR's (large!) Confirmation Class gather around the font on an October Sunday.
What have we learned? Baptism is where our life in God begins and ends!