



St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
508 North Chicago Road
Thornton, IL 60476

Address Service Requested



The Glad Spirit St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church October – December 2025



*From One of
Our Pastors*

Dear friends in Christ Jesus,

I was very pleased to hear that St. Paul is renewing publication of its quarterly parish newsletter after a time of hiatus! That's great as it's a wonderful way to communicate with not only the members of St. Paul, but also to serve as a "voice" to reach others who are not members of the church! I was also honored to be asked to contribute a note to the congregation in this *first-in-quite-a-while* newsletter. Thank you for asking me!

In this upcoming fourth quarter of the calendar year, we will be observing many events within the life of Christ's Church here on earth.

- **The Pentecost Season** continues in early October as we continue in the

"XX Sundays after Pentecost" in the Church Year calendar. The Pentecost season is sometimes informally known as "the long green season." That is, of course, because the chancel furnishings (and the pastor's stole) use green for their color. The appointed readings for each week's service are intended to teach us, God's beloved ones, more and more about the faith into which we are Baptized. The green on the chancel furnishings symbolizes "growth" just as a green garden brings forth fruit and vegetables. Through exposure to these portions of Scripture, we Christians "grow" in the faith delivered to us by the Holy Spirit using Word and Sacrament!

- At the very end of October and the first Sunday of November, the Church takes a bit of a break from the green season of Pentecost to observe two festivals. The first will be **Reformation Sunday**. We who are

heirs of the Reformation, will again observe this festival with vigor, awe, and thanksgiving! Yes, we gather to remember that the eternal Gospel of Christ can be “lost” within a group of people through false teaching and attendant unbelief. More than one theologian has rightly said that “the Church is ever reforming.” By that, it is meant that we must always be on the lookout for false teaching and incorrect understanding of God’s Word and “reform” it out of our lives so that we ever and always walk in the “newness of life” in Christ. Red is the color of Reformation. It’s the color of blood, because just as our salvation cost our Savior His lifeblood poured out on Calvary’s Cross, so too must the Church on earth be known as “the Church militant” – ever ready to shed blood for the sake of the pure, unadulterated Gospel of Jesus. That Gospel? *We are saved from sin, death, and hell by grace through faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection from the dead for our us.* Our salvation is a gift of God to us, *not* through anything that we have done or merited on our own.

- **All Saints’ Day** will be observed on the first Sunday of November. It’s a very special day for us as we consider all those who have preceded us into the arms of our Lord Jesus and “who from their labors rest” as the great hymn (*LSB #677*) has us sing. And, of course, within that, we thank God for His promise that through faith in Christ we, too, will join them when our own journey to the heavenly Jerusalem is completed! The Color of the Day for All Saints’ Day is white, which symbolizes the purity of those who “gather around the Lamb in His kingdom” of heaven. Both Reformation Day and All Saints’ Day are *loaded* with wonderful hymns that beautifully

and powerfully augment our worship each of those days!

- **Thanksgiving** is a day that our nation originally set aside to pause and consider the incredible earthly bounty with which God has blessed our great nation. We within the church certainly consider that aspect of it all; however, we add to it! We also consider what we always do in every aspect of our lives – that our God not only provides for our earthly, material needs but also – *and far more importantly* – He provides for our utter need for holiness and righteousness through the Cross of our Savior.
- **The Season of Advent** begins in early December. Within that season of the Church Year, we Christians *don’t* “take a page out of the book” of the world! The world looks at early December and pronounces it to be “the Christmas season.” Yet, we know it as a time to *prepare* for the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus! We use those few weeks before December 24th to remember that we are sinners in need of a Savior to come rescue us from our “body of death” as St. Paul says. We also take time to see that the Lord’s promises *do* come true – although they are fulfilled in *His* time frame, *not* ours! The world is impatient, looking only for emotion and things on the surface. Not so for us Christians! We look for – and God shows us – the bigger, deeper, *and eternal* things to see and believe of what it truly means for God in Christ to enter our world as a mere Baby! The Season of Advent uses Blue for the color of the season. Blue is the color of royalty; for the birth of our Lord is, indeed, the birth of our Savior-King!
- The Christmas Season actually begins at sundown on December 24th,

Christmas Eve. Beginning that evening and throughout Christmastide, we kneel at the manger of our Lord Jesus in awe and thanksgiving that He was born for the express purpose to die for us and in our place for our sins of thought, word, and action! White is the color of the Christmas Season. White shows the purity of our sinless Savior *and* the sinlessness that we now have through our Baptism into His life, death, and eternal life!

The preaching schedule that has been developed has me getting to be with you for a number of these upcoming worship opportunities. For that, I'm very grateful! Yet, I'm confident that all of the pastors who God has raised up to serve St. Paul are equally grateful for the opportunity to proclaim the eternal Gospel to you!

May the Holy Spirit draw us all to faithfully attend these great opportunities that are before us! May He also equip each of you to kindly invite others to join us for these Divine Services. Prayerfully ask God to plant names in your mind to invite and then to also give you the words and courage to extend an invitation to those souls to come with you in order to encounter our Lord Jesus Who loves us (*and them!*) so very much!

God's grace and every blessing to you all in Christ Jesus, our Savior!

Pastor Ron Rock



As we enter the last three months of the year, it is a busy time for all – including Social Ministry. Everyone has so many things already filling their calendars and our Social Ministry is no exception.

What is Social Ministry?

- Simply – Serving those in need as our Lord directs us.

What does Social Ministry do?

- Many think, first of all, about the food (gift cards) we provide for those in need throughout the year.
 - In the past, we collected food items and money to purchase additional items. Now we collect money and provide gift cards for food to those in need.
- We offer prayers for the families who receive our gifts.
- We listen to those we help about their struggles and worries. We pray with them and assure them God loves them and hasn't forgotten them.
- In sharing this time with those in need, we are also blessed.

Who is Social Ministry?

- When I was asked to take over Social Ministry, I remembered those who came before me – Hazel, Judy, Sandy, Jean, and Janet – just to name a few.
- While I'm the current Social Ministry chair, we are all part of this ministry. It is our Social Ministry, and I thank you for your continued support.

What can you do to help?

- Thanksgiving is less than 8 weeks away. Please consider giving in the coming weeks to Social Ministry on your envelopes. We would love to have your donations in by November 9th so we can purchase the gift cards and get them to those in need to shop for their Thanksgiving dinners.
- We also help at Christmas time to provide additional gift cards for food. Please plan for your donations to be in by December 14th.

In His Service,
Norma Allen





Welcome to St. Paul's Let's Discuss Zoom Room!

At the last Church Council meeting we discussed the benefits of a St. Paul Zoom Room. Here are a few of the opportunities this room may provide for us:

1. Luther Small Catechism Weekly Discussion Group. (Approx. 8 weeks)
 - a) Out reach for possible new members
 - b) Refresh our Basic Christian Instruction
 - c) A Pastor will join us monthly to answer our questions!
 - d) Future Bible Study

If you are interested in joining this Weekly Discussion group please contact the church office so we can determine a day and time.

2. Tool for Confirmation Classes
 - a) Way to connect students, teachers, Elders and Pastors
 - b) No travel involved, especially during the winter months.
3. Let's Discuss 15 Minute Daily Devotions Monday-Friday 8am and 8pm. For October we are reading from **Portals of Prayer** at 8 am and 8pm we are reading from **Lutheran Hour Ministry** devotions.

Please contact the church office for further information or text the church cell phone at 312 533-1896.



Reformation Day

Lutheran Celebration & Reformationbrötchen

By Kristen Einertson and Tessa Muench

EACH OCTOBER, the Church Year gives Lutherans something to look forward to. The Festival of the Reformation is a highlight, both commemorating the day on which Dr. Martin Luther is said to have nailed his 95 Theses to the Castle Church door and reminding us of this blessed era of theological discourse that forever changed the landscape of Western Christianity. As Reformation Day always falls on the last day of the month, Oct. 31. It also serves as a gentle reminder that the church will soon enter the last month of Trinitytide and the final days of the church's annual cycle. Reformation Day offers multiple opportunities for Lutherans to celebrate. Perhaps your parish incorporates uniquely Lutheran elements into your service — using Luther's Mass, playing Bach's music or offering a special Bible study on the Lutheran Confessions.

You can also observe this day at home: Throw a Reformation-themed party, crack open a German beer and belt out "A Mighty Fortress" or "Thy Strong Word" in a hymn singalong. To add an educational element to your celebration and month-long reflection on this era, familiarize yourself with the lives and hymns of the great Lutheran hymn writers. Philipp Nicolai, Johann Heermann and Paul Gerhardt are great examples of men who proclaimed the Gospel message through music ~ the LCMS commemorates them all together on Oct. 26. Giving us the "king of chorales" (LSB 516) and "queen of chorales" (LSB 395), along with dozens of other rich hymns, these men left us a treasure trove of Lutheran music that embodies the clear proclamation of the Gospel that was at the heart of the Reformation. We also encourage you to try out this Reformationbrötchen (Reformation Roll) recipe, a special pastry that incorporates the symbol of Lutheranism: the Luther rose. Also known as Luther Brot, this roll is a well known, historically appropriate pastry for the day. It is even said to have come from Luther's own household and to be a treat he himself enjoyed, purportedly invented by his wife. Consider joining the generations of Lutherans who have enjoyed this treat in honor of the Reformation and worked to faithfully proclaim the Gospel through the ages.

Reformationbrötchen

1 cup warm milk
1 packet yeast
4 Tbsp. butter
1/4 cup sugar
1 egg
3-3 1/2 cups flour
1/2 cup raisins
1/3 cup chopped almonds
12 Tbsp. red jam of choice
1 tsp. lemon or orange zest
Powdered sugar for dusting (optional)

1. Mix together the yeast and the slightly warmed milk in a small bowl. setting aside for a few minutes.
2. Cream the butter and sugar together. Then beat in the egg and add the milk mixture. Gradually mix in the flour until a soft and slightly sticky dough forms. Add the raisins and almonds.
3. Knead the dough until smooth. coat with a bit of oil, cover with a towel. and place it in a warm spot to rise for about 1 hour.
4. Preheat the oven to 350°F. On a floured surface, roll out the dough into a rectangle and cut into 12 even-sized squares. Roll the individual squares flat again.
5. Fold the corners of each square into the center, pressing down gently. Put the squares on lined baking sheets. Place 1 Tbsp. of jam in the center of each roll.
6. Bake for about 15 minutes or until golden brown. Let the rolls cool completely before dusting with powdered sugar, if desired. and the lemon or orange zest.

Dr. Kristen Einertson and Tessa Muench are both pastors' wives and mothers. Together, they run All the Household. a blog for Lutheran liturgical living (allthehousehold.com)

Reprinted from *The Lutheran Witness* October 2025



We'd love to see you in worship. Our worship services are every Sunday at 9:30 AM. If you are unable to attend it can be viewed on Facebook live at www.facebook.com/splcms/videos . A previous recording is also available. Bulletins for the services are available for viewing or download on our website at www.splcms.org/worship .



The Spirit of Christmas

The crowds asked John, "What should we do?" John told them, "If you have two coats, give one to someone who doesn't have any. If you have food, share it with someone else." Luke 3:10-11 (CEV)

Unscramble the letters and write the word correctly in the space provided.

1. ETRE _____
2. NLDHIECR _____
3. SOATC _____
4. EVGI _____
5. AHRES _____
6. IRFTU _____
7. ODOF _____
8. OOGD _____

Answer at
<https://www.splcms.org/index.php/newsletters/puzzel>



Scan me!



**Thanksgiving Service
Sunday, November 23, 4:00 p.m.
St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
508 N. Chicago Road
Thornton, IL 60476**

**Guest Speaker: N.I.D.
President
Rev. Dr. Allan Buss**



**You are invited to the annual Turkey
Dinner following the service**

Please RSVP by November 16th call or text the Church cell: 312-533-1896 or email office@splcms.org, with number of guests and the name of a side dish or dessert to share, turkey and drinks are provided.



October, November & December at a Glance

10/12	9:30	18 th Sunday after Pentecost	Pastor Rock
10/19	9:30	19 th Sunday after Pentecost	Pastor Klein
	10:30	Church Council Meeting	
10/26	9:30	Reformation Sunday Observed	Pastor Rock
	10:30	Reformation Luncheon Please Bring a dish to share.	
Don't forget to change your clocks. Fall Back			
11/2	9:30	All Saints Day Observed	Lay Leaders
11/9	9:30	22 nd Sunday after Pentecost	Pastor Klein
11/16	9:30	23 rd Sunday after Pentecost	Pastor Rock
		Veterans Day Observed	
11/23	9:30	Last Sunday of the Church Year	Pastor Rock
	4:00	Thanksgiving Service	Pastor Buss
	5:15	Turkey Dinner	
11/30	9:30	First Sunday in Advent	
12/3	9:30	Wednesday Midweek Advent Service	Pastor Fluechtling
	10:30	Fellowship Breakfast	
12/7	9:30	2 nd Sunday in Advent	Pastor Rock
12/10	7:00 ^{pm}	Wednesday Midweek Advent Service	Pastor Fluechtling
	6:00 ^{pm}	Fellowship Meal Detail will be posted in Weekly bulletin	
12/14	9:30	3 rd Sunday in Advent	
12/17	9:30	Wednesday Midweek Advent Service	Pastor Fluechtling
	10:30	Fellowship Breakfast	
12/21	9:30	4 th Sunday in Advent	Pastor Rock
12/24	6:00 ^{pm}	Christmas Eve Service	Pastor Buss

October

- 2 Nicole Golembeck
- Barbara Hoeksema
- 3 Sandi Ovalle
- Connor Sheridan
- Judy Wilmington
- 7 Kaylee Krieger
- 8 Chris Altmann
- 10 Phillip Rick
- 12 Judy Bloom
- 13 Madelaine Zander
- 14 Payton Vandommelen
- 15 David Hudson Jr.
- Ashley Orendorff
- 16 Nicholas Plecas
- 17 Coral Middleton
- Annelise Rodenberg
- 18 Dolly Tatgenhorst
- 19 Jayden Wisely
- 21 Daniel Zander
- 22 Barry Diekelman
- Nolan Gallagher
- 25 Donald Pearson
- Erik Schassburger
- 29 Joyce Arsenault
- 31 Janice Reichert

November

- 1 Kimberly Callahan
- 5 Andrew Bahm
- 6 Sarah Pfeifer
- 8 Laura Schassburger
- 9 John Chiattello
- Robbie Jarden
- 10 Anthony Conway
- Nicole Reichert
- 14 Alexis McGrath
- 16 Matthew Farris
- 18 Cayden Parker
- 21 Nicholas Carr
- 24 Deb Brandy
- Judy Diekelman
- 27 Travis Middleton
- Dustin Tatgenhorst
- Danielle Zander
- Sean Zander
- 28 Brenda Jarden
- Hope Krieger
- Bert Wilmington
- 29 Samantha Kolosh
- 30 Ellen Krencjarz
- Jennifer Olson

December

- 5 Olive Dunne
- 6 Hunter Riordan
- 13 Dana Tatgenhorst
- 15 Tara Schultz
- Judy Swazes
- 16 Jillian Krencjarz
- Bill Sommer
- 17 Robert JaBaay
- 18 Kristen Dunne
- 19 Margaret Loitz
- 21 Joshua Hurson
- 30 Chris Baker
- 31 Shawn Conway



Wish These Friends a
"Happy Birthday!"

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church



SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

To be Announced.
In January

LETS DISCUSS

By Zoom .
To Begin Soon

St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church
508 N. Chicago Road
Thornton, IL 60476
Landline (708) 877-6564
Church Cell 312-533-1869
office@splcms.org

www.splcms.org
www.facebook.com/splcms

Church Office Hours
Monday thru Friday.
In Person by Appointment
By Phone 9 to Noon

Contact the church office to submit
personal testimonials about what God
has done for you. Or original art that is
inspirational or humorous to the artist.

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Chairman Bill Sommer
Vice Chairman David Bloom
Recording Sec. Tracy Middleton
Financial Sec. Robert Brandy
Treasurer Mary Sella
Elder Henry Sella
Eric Schaussburger
Brian Wiltjer
Jerry Wiltjer

Trustee

Stewardship Diana Carr
Evangelism Debi Brandy
Social Ministry Norma Allen
S. S. Super.
Asnt. Super.
Adult Director
Youth Director