



St. Paul
Ann Arbor

Sowing **truth**. Building **faith**. Shining **love**.



Welcome to Worship

October 25, 2026

8:30 AM, Downtown Campus



St. Paul Lutheran
Church of Ann Arbor

At St. Paul Ann Arbor, we equip families and individuals to know Christ, to discover truth, and to create meaningful connections.

Reformation Sunday

Sunday, October 25, 2026 (8:30 AM)

One church
with two
locations:

Downtown Campus
420 W. Liberty St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Worship:
Saturdays @ 6:30 PM
Sundays @ 8:30 AM

Discipleship Hour:
Sundays @ 9:45 AM

Earhart Campus
495 Earhart Rd.
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Worship:
Sundays @ 10:45 AM

Discipleship Hour:
Sundays @ 9:45 AM



Welcome to St. Paul Ann Arbor!

We are so glad you're here. At St. Paul, we value **unity**. Whether you are a long-time member or visiting for the first time, we want you to feel connected to one another and to the hope we have in Jesus.

Getting Connected

Our pastors would love to meet you! If they don't get a chance to greet you before the service, please stop by afterward to say hi.

- **The Black Folder:** Guests, please find the folder at the end of your row to share your name and contact info. We'd love to know more about you!
- **What's Next?** Flip to the back page of this worship folder to see upcoming events and groups for connecting with others and serving the community.
- **Coffee & Discipleship:** Coffee is available in the gathering area off the front of the sanctuary. Also, join us Sundays at **9:45 AM** for "Discipleship Hour." Coffee, treats, and Discipleship activities for all ages!

About Holy Communion

In Holy Communion, God's people gather as Jesus taught, united in what we believe. Sharing the beliefs and practices of the **Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)**, we confess that this meal is more than a symbol. We confess (believe, speak, and live this truth):

- Jesus gives His true **body and blood** in the bread and wine of Holy Communion for the forgiveness of sins.
- God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—gives His gift of salvation in Baptism.
- We are sinners who need the gifts Jesus offers by His death and resurrection, as God promises in His inspired Word (the Bible).
- Holy Communion is something God gives His people as we gather for forgiveness and for the strength to live in God's Word by the Holy Spirit and to daily follow Jesus.

Should I commune? If you share this confession of faith, we welcome you to the table! If you have questions or hold different beliefs from those above, **we invite you to come forward for a blessing** (simply cross your arms over your chest). A pastor also would love to chat with you before or after the service to learn more.

Families with Children

We love having kids in worship! (Yes, even if they're wiggling or crying.) If you are here with children, please know there are Activity Bags and Children's Bulletins at any entrance. Need a break? A Cry Room is available at the rear of the sanctuary, while a nursery is located just below the main entrance. Our hospitality team is happy to guide you to any of these spots.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Agincourt Hymn
A Mighty Fortress

Raymond D. Burkhart (1961–2020)
Martin Luther/arr. Paul Klintworth

RINGING OF THE BELL

WORDS OF WELCOME

P: Reformation Sunday is a special day to celebrate our history by remembering the story of Martin Luther; and it is a perfect opportunity to rejoice in the freedom we have been given from sin and death through Jesus Christ alone. By gathering to receive His Word and to share in His Supper, we come to know yet again the eternal Gospel that is being proclaimed to all who dwell on earth. This good news not only sets us free from our captivity to sin and death, but it also enables us to live a life of freedom in Christ and boldly share with others how they, too, may be set free. The same Savior who speaks His Word to us says to all who will listen: “*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed*” (John 8:36).

HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”



LSB# 656

Introduction

Stanza 1: **All**

Stanza 2: **All**

Stanza 3: *Choir*

Interlude

Stanza 4: **All**

arr. Michael D. Costello (b. 1979)

WE CALL UPON THE NAME OF GOD

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made in remembrance of your Baptism.

Invocation
Matthew 28:19b

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen!**

WE TURN TO GOD, MINDFUL OF OUR SINFULNESS

Confession of Sins

1 John 1:8–9 / Romans 3:23–24 / John 8:31–32

P: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

C: **“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”**

P: “But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

C: **“We are justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”**

P: Jesus calls us to abide in His Word—to dwell and be at home in His Word. Jesus' Word is the only place where we can find the absolute guarantee of sins forgiven, hope restored, and freedom in new life granted as children of God the Father.

C: **"If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

P: Today, Jesus calls us to come to Him, confess our sins, and be filled with His pardon and peace. He will renew us by His Word, strengthen us at His Table, and send us forth with His blessing to proclaim His message of freedom to all creation.

C: **Gracious and merciful Father, because our entire lives are to be ones of repentance, we humbly bow before You and confess our sins.**

We have turned away from the truth of Your Word, choosing to hear a voice filled with disappointment and empty promises.

By what we have thought, by what we have done, and by what we have failed to do, we have broken Your commands and are deserving of Your punishment.

For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ, set us free from this captivity. Enable us by Your Holy Spirit to live under You in Your kingdom, and to serve You in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Amen.

(We observe a moment of quiet reflection as we consider our own sinful condition)

GOD TURNS TO US, EAGER TO FORGIVE

*Absolution
John 20:19–23 / 8:36*

P: Friends in Christ, we join with all God's people throughout the world in thanks and praise for the salvation found in His grace alone through faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The unfailing Gospel of Jesus Christ— His life, death, and resurrection, is the central truth in His life-saving, life-changing Word. It has the power to set us free from sin as we cling to our Savior by faith. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you for all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen!**

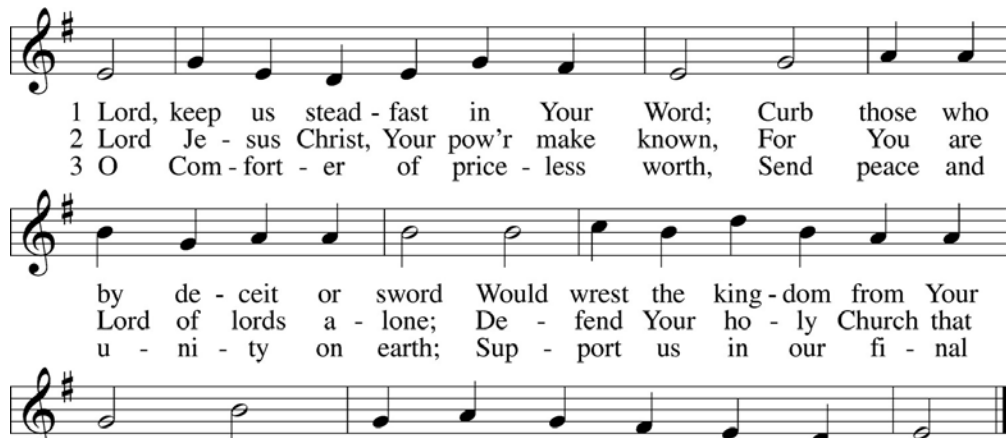
P: "If the Son sets you free,

C: **You will be free indeed!"**

OUR RESPONSE

"Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"

(LSB# 655)



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in Your Word; Curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, Send peace and

by de - ceit or sword Would wrest the king - dom from Your
Lord of lords a - lone; De - fend Your ho - ly Church that
u - ni - ty on earth; Sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son And bring to naught all He has done.
we May sing Your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife And lead us out of death to life.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Salutation & Collect

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Almighty and gracious Lord, pour out Your Holy Spirit on Your faithful people.

C: **Keep us steadfast in Your grace and truth,**

P: Protect and deliver us in times of temptation,

C: **Defend us against all enemies,**

P: And, through the abiding Word of Your Son,

C: **Free us from our sin that we may know Your saving peace;**

P: Through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

We Hear the Word of God

FIRST READING ✠ Revelation 14:6–7

⁶ Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. ⁷ And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.” (ESV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE ✠ Romans 3:19–28

¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— ²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law. (ESV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

*Therefore we will not fear though the earth be removed,
and the mountains be carried away to the very midst of the sea.
Though the waters roar and the mountains quake at His majesty.
There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God,
the holy place of the tabernacle, the holy place of the Lord.
God is in the midst of her; She shall not be moved:
He shall defend her from the night through the dawn.*

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted above all nations, I will be exalted upon the earth.

(Congregation joins) **A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
His everlasting love will guide us from above.
All glory to His name, from age to age the same:
His kingdom is forever!**

...Forever, and ever, and ever. Amen!



HOLY GOSPEL..... ✠ John 8:31–36

³¹ So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”³³ They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.³⁵ The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever.³⁶ So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (ESV)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN

"Salvation unto Us Has Come"



(LSB# 555)



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come By God's free grace and
 3 It was a false, mis - lead - ing dream That God His Law had
 5 Yet as the Law must be ful - filled Or we must die de -
 7 Let me not doubt, but tru - ly see Your Word can - not be



fa - vor; Good works can - not a - vert our doom, They
 giv - en That sin - ners could them - selves re - deem And
 spair - ing, Christ came and has God's an - ger stilled, Our
 bro - ken; Your call rings out, "Come un - to Me!" No



help and save us nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus
 by their works gain heav - en. The Law is but a
 hu - man na - ture shar - ing. He has for us the
 false - hood have You spo - ken. Bap - tized in - to Your



Christ a - lone, Who did for all the
 mir - ror bright To bring the in - bred
 Law o - beyed And thus the Fa - ther's
 pre - cious name, My faith can - not be



world a - tone; He is our one Re - deem - er.
 sin to light That lurks with - in our na - ture.
 ven - geance stayed Which o - ver us im - pend - ed.
 put to shame, And I shall nev - er per - ish.

MESSAGE

"The Son Sets You Free"

Rev. Dr. Ted Hopkins

John 8:31-36

**Let ev'ryone abide and dwell
In Jesus' Word forever;
His Truth shall then be known full well,
And from sin's bond will sever.
For in that Word His love we see:
By Jesus' grace we are set free,
And in His hands belonging!**

Text: ©2026 Kirchenlied S. Schreiber, b. 1685

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

We Worship the Lord with Our Offerings

During the Offering, please let us know you're here! For members and guests who have our Church Center app, we ask you to please take a moment to Check In and let us know you are in worship with us today. For our guests and members who do not have our Church Center app, we invite you to please fill in the requested information in the Friendship Pad (the black folder located at the end of the pew at the center aisle). Please pass it along for anyone else who might need it.

Want to give electronically? Simply scan the QR code here:
For other giving options, see the end of this worship folder.



VOLUNTARY

The Prayers We Bring to God



(LSB# 778)

Grant peace, we pray, in mer-cy, Lord; Peace in our time, O send us!

For there is none on earth but You, None oth-er to de-fend us.

You on - ly, Lord, can fight for us. A - men.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above, for freedom from our sins, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for freedom to serve our Lord and one another, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who freely offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYERS for THIS DAY

(As prompted) P: Lord, in Your mercy,
C: **hear our prayer.**

P: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer
Matthew 6:9-13

C: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

A Foretaste of the Great Feast in Heaven



CHRIST'S WORDS ESTABLISH THE LORD'S SUPPER

Words of Institution
1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: *Take, eat; this is ✠ My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me.* In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying: *Drink of it, all of you; this is ✠ My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.*

Sharing the Peace of Christ

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: **Amen.**

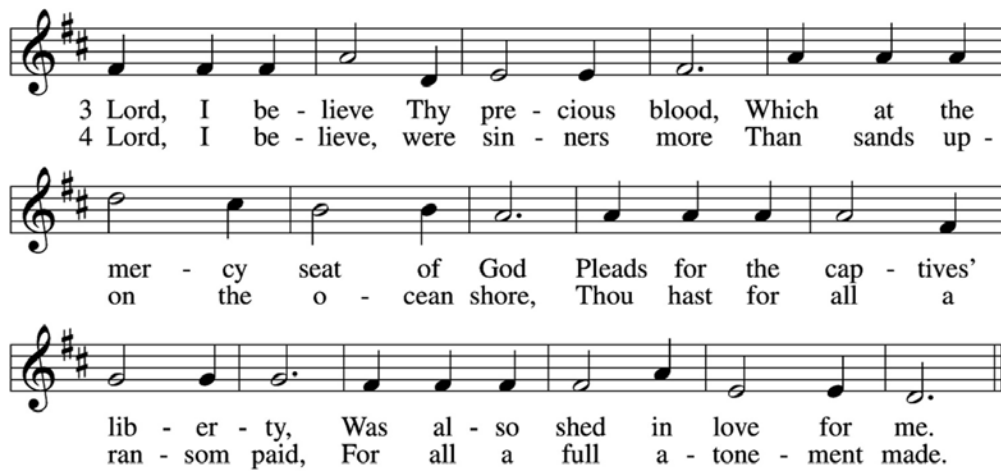
Pax Domini
John 20:19

An ancient and significant gesture in worship is the **Sharing of Peace**. This tradition, rooted in Scripture (1 Peter 5:14; Romans 16:16), recognizes that one of the biggest dangers in the body of Christ is disunity—both from grievances not forgiven and from not knowing our neighbors. When we extend our hand to another, we identify with Jesus, who entered into our world, came to know humanity from the inside, and restored peace between God and all people. When we share the peace of Christ, we desire to know and be at peace with everyone who comes into our midst, especially those we are meeting for the first time.

"Peace be with you." ✠ "The peace of Christ be with you."

PREPARATION

(LSB# 563)



3 Lord, I be - lieve Thy pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve, were sin - ners more Than sands up -
mer - cy seat of God Pleads for the cap - tives'
on the o - cean shore, Thou hast for all a
lib - er - ty, Was al - so shed in love for me.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.

WE COME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Communion Distribution

Please note before receiving Holy Communion: *Please read the brief statement of our beliefs, "About Holy Communion", found at the beginning of our worship folder. Our pastors would be happy to meet with you to discuss our beliefs further, and help prepare you for Communion.*



Hymns: "By Grace I'm Saved"
"O Love, How Deep"

LSB# 566

LSB# 544

WORDS OF PEACE AND JOY

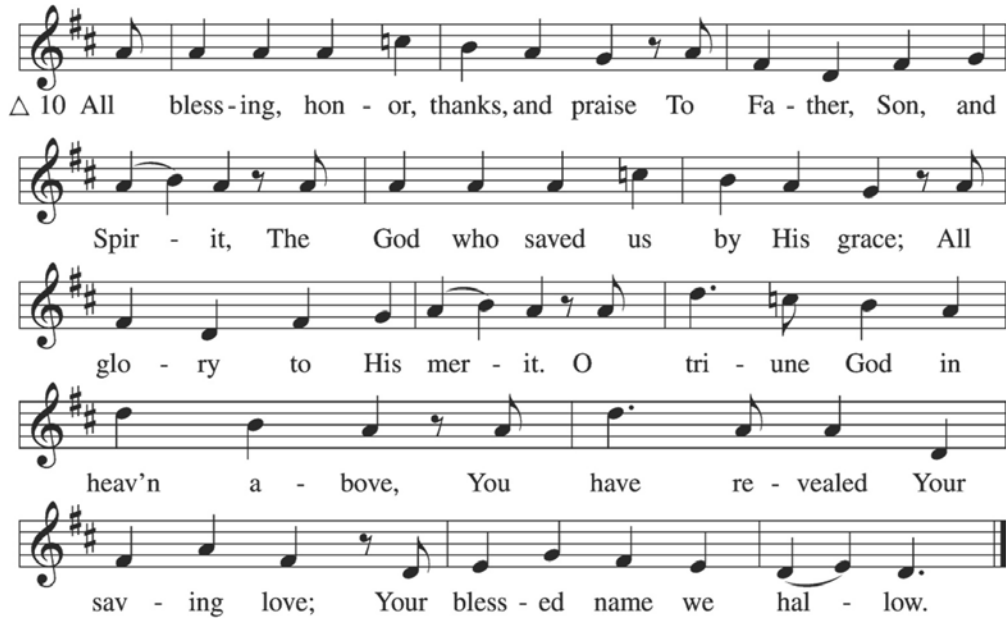
Communicants' Dismissal

- P: Now may this Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in ☩ peace!
- C: **Amen.**

Reformation
+ LORD KEEP YOUR PEOPLE
STEADFAST IN YOUR WORD +

WE DEPART WITH THANKS AND PRAISE

Post-Communion Canticle
(LSB# 555)



△ 10 All bless-ing, hon - or, thanks, and praise To Fa - ther, Son, and
Spir - it, The God who saved us by His grace; All
glo - ry to His mer - it. O tri - une God in
heav'n a - bove, You have re - vealed Your
sav - ing love; Your bless - ed name we hal - low.

TAKING IT HOME

John 8:31,32,36 (ESV)

- P: [Jesus said,] "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. ...
C: **So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."**

WE RECEIVE THE BLESSING OF GOD

Benediction
Numbers 6:24–26

- P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with His favor and ☩ give you peace.
C: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS





POSTLUDE

Ebenezer

Thomas J. Williams (1869–1944)
adapt. Paul Klintworth



Our Worship Servants

Liturgist/Preacher: Rev. Dr. Ted Hopkins
Lay Reader: Tory Zollinger
Director of Music: Dr. John Boonenberg
Instrumentalists: St. Paul Brass & Percussion Ensemble
Greeters/Ushers: Tim & Barbara Adler
Hospitality: Nancy Niemela
Elder: Michael Woon

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St. Paul Stephen Ministry

Are you feeling overwhelmed, grieving a loss, or navigating a health crisis? SPAA is here for you. Our trained Stephen Ministers offer compassionate, confidential, and Christ-centered care, providing the support you need during challenging times. Contact Cherise Callahan at 734-395-8775 to connect with a Stephen Minister who will offer a listening ear and a caring heart.

Our Offerings and Gifts

Looking for different options to financially support the ministry of St. Paul through your regular offerings or one-time gifts?



Download the **Church Center** app from the Google Play or Apple App stores and navigate to "Give"



or Scan the **QR Code** to give immediately through Church Center

or Visit <https://st-paul-lutheran-church-ann-arbor.churchcenter.com/giving>



or Mail checks to: **St. Paul Lutheran Church**
420 W Liberty St
Ann Arbor, MI 48103



For more giving information, go to: <https://www.stpaulannarbor.org/give/>

2026-2027 SPAA Attendance and Offering						
Month	Attendance	Offering	Budget	Bud. Var.	Prior Year	PY Var.
July	255	\$ 87,223	\$ 90,569	\$ (3,346)	\$ 85,561	\$ 1,662
August	319	\$ 97,105	\$ 97,260	\$ (155)	\$ 92,582	\$ 4,523
September	-	\$ -	\$ 114,288	\$ -	\$ 108,717	\$ -
October	-	\$ -	\$ 118,332	\$ -	\$ 112,763	\$ -
November	-	\$ -	\$ 142,975	\$ -	\$ 135,822	\$ -
December	-	\$ -	\$ 171,440	\$ -	\$ 163,097	\$ -
January	-	\$ -	\$ 121,025	\$ -	\$ 91,986	\$ -
February	-	\$ -	\$ 134,636	\$ -	\$ 128,052	\$ -
March	-	\$ -	\$ 117,968	\$ -	\$ 118,257	\$ -
April	-	\$ -	\$ 99,376	\$ -	\$ 112,360	\$ -
May	-	\$ -	\$ 113,215	\$ -	\$ 107,685	\$ -
June	-	\$ -	\$ 109,416	\$ -	\$ 104,079	\$ -
YTD	287	\$ 184,328	\$ 1,430,500	\$ (3,501)	\$1,360,960	\$ 6,185



News & Upcoming Events

Don't miss out! Sign up for our e-News at: www.stpaulannarbor.org/news-and-events



Join us for our “Awaken” Workshop - November 13 & 14

Want to share your faith with more confidence? Jesus calls us to share the good news, but many of us aren't always sure where to begin. In connection to St. Paul's Welcoming Community Vision, we're partnering with Multipli to offer Awaken, a free training in relational evangelism. Learn simple tools for sharing the gospel, practice real conversations, and receive coaching, feedback, and encouragement along the way. This isn't about having all the answers. It's about taking a step of faith and learning to be more intentional in the relationships God's already given you. Scan the QR code for more details on this workshop and to sign up.



Welcome Moments - Share your stories with us!

Welcome Moments are seemingly ordinary moments when we notice God at work: bringing us grace through others, deepening relationships, encouraging us in faith, or opening doors for us to serve, love and share Jesus with our neighbors. We invite you to pray every day, asking God to open your eyes to His welcome opportunities.

As you notice a welcome moment, please share it with us! Together we want to discover the many ways God is at work in and through our Welcoming Community. Simply scan the QR code to share your stories.

Bach Vespers - Sunday, November 15 at 4pm (Downtown Campus)

Save the date and invite your friends and neighbors! St. Paul Ann Arbor offers another in its well-loved Bach Vespers series, presenting the beloved cantatas, passions, and oratorios of Johann Sebastian Bach in their original context—the beautiful Vespers liturgy. Professional soloists (Claudia Boonenberg, Jennifer Goltz, Brian White, and Benton DeGroot) and orchestra join Ann Arbor community singers, the St. Paul Bach Choir, St. Paul Brass Ensemble, and The Boychoir of Ann Arbor in what has become a wonderful Ann Arbor tradition. The cantata for the November 15th performance is BWV 147, Herz und Mund und Tat und Leben. Join us for this opportunity to experience this exquisite repertoire in the manner it was presented in Bach's day!