SHARING GOOD NEWS
ST PAUL'S UCC DELANO MN

Volume 3 Issue 11 **November 2026**

November Calendar

11/01 Communion

11/11 Veterans Day

11/16 Council Meeting (2:00)

11/22 All Church Community Thanksgiving Worship (see last page)

11/26 Thanksgiving

Fellowship Hosts

11/01 Becker

11/08 Hussing/McDonald

11/15 Brazelton

11/22 Open

11/29 Open

Birthdays

11/12 Mike Hagerty

11/16 Pastor Karen Larson



Pictured is Pastor Karen Larson at church on October 25th for 19th the Century German Evangelical Service See pics below and on Page 5. Thanks to Pastor Kent Meyer.







Note from Pastor Karen Larson



November 2026

Slow down. Pay attention.

Be still, and know that I am God!" (Psalm 46:10a, *NRSVUE*)

This fall has been a riot of leaf color and of sparring political ads. It has also been a time of great activity in our church, with our Indonesia dinner, "Be the Church" sermons, Installation service, Season of Creation, and 19thCentury Worship. So much to be grateful for! And so much to be worn out by. ☺

And now, we pray for a quiet season.

This prayer comes as the northern hemisphere eases into longer nights and cooler temperatures, making the couch (or the deer stand) beckon. This prayer comes as we enter a season of thanksgiving for the saints and ancestors, and all the gifts they have led us to. This prayer also comes, by the end of the month, as we lean into Advent hope—the sweetest time of the church year, in my opinion.

With our sisters and brothers at Lyndale Lutheran Church, we pray for a quiet time in our democracy, for calm at the polls, and for simple acceptance of the will of the people.

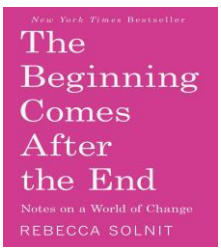
"Be still and know that I am God!" says the psalmist.

The Message Bible hears that command a little differently: *"Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at me, your High God, above politics, above everything."*

God is above all our busy-ness, our scurrying, our fears and fumbling. Thanks be to God!

Quieting with you,
Pastor Karen
(P.S. I will be on vacation November 9th-15th. Lani, Meg and Judy will lead worship on the 15th).

Fall Book Study: *The Beginning Comes After the End.*



Council has chosen *The Beginning Comes After the End* by Rebecca Solnit for a fall book study, meeting at 4:00 pm on Tuesdays Nov. 17 and 24, and Dec 1.

This short book surveys the great social, political, environmental and cultural shifts that have reshaped the world since 1960, and finds them converging toward a relational, interdependent worldview, to which authoritarianism and white Christian nationalism may simply be a desperate backlash. Solnit asks, "What if that old world is dying and a new world is struggling to be born?"

Falling Upward by Richard Rohr will be our Lenten study. In the spring, we'll read and discuss *Here Comes the Sun* by Bill McKibben. Check out all these books and join in!

Touring the Delano water treatment plant on October 21.

Where does your drinking water come from? If you're in Delano, about a million gallons a day is pumped from four wells 135-180 feet deep in the Jordan Aquifer, filtered through giant tanks to remove iron and manganese, then treated with chlorine, fluoride and polyphosphates. Cliff, Jim, Shala, Vicki, Penny, Sam and Pastor Karen toured it all with an excellent guide named Isaac. We're proud of Hal Becker's name on a plaque at the impressive facility, new in 2006!







Just in Time for Seasonal Gift Giving

We just received 100 zipper pouches handmade by young women in Liberia through *Teamwork Africa*. These pouches are lined with recycled plastic water pouches and made with colorful Liberian fabric.

For a **donation of just $5.00**, you can give a unique gift while supporting young women as they learn valuable sewing skills and earn income.

Pouches will be available during fellowship beginning in November just in time for Thanksgiving hostess and Christmas gift-giving—perfect for anyone on your list!

Lots of Fun New Colors and Prints





Fresh Start /Love, Inc.

St. Paul's UCC has been asked to participate in the Fresh Start program of Love, Inc. by providing one or two meals per session. Fresh Start is a series of weekly classes provided in a safe, encouraging environment where individuals can learn new skills, set goals and reduce stress in their home. Class topics include Affirming Potential, Boundaries, Faith & Finances, Parenting, and more! Each session starts with a hot meal for participants and their children, and includes free child care. Our participation would involve preparing the meals for 30-35 participants, transporting the meal to Westpointe Church where the classes are held, serving the meal, and quick clean-up. The sessions run for 12 weeks and St. Paul's UCC would sign up for one or two of the sessions. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please talk to Joyce or contact her at 952-797-3708 or jlspecht53@gmail.com

Dampfnudeln (German Yeast Dumplings)



Ingredients
The Dough
The Ingredients)or The Steam Pot
Instructions
6 cups all-purpose flour
4 1/2 teaspoons dry yeast
6 tablespoons sugar
2 cup milk, warm
a pinch of salt
6 tablespoons butter, melted
3 egg yolk from a medium-sized egg
1 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
3/4 cup butter
3/4 cup sugar
1 cup milk

1. Add the flour, salt, sugar, melted butter, egg yolk, and vanilla extract to a large mixing bowl. Add the milk with the dissolved yeast - or instant yeast if you're using that kind of yeast.
2. Knead the mixture with the spiral dough hooks of your electric mixer. Slowly add the milk. Keep kneading until the mixture forms a ball that doesn't stick to the sides of the bowl anymore.
3. Use your hands to shape the dough into a nicer looking ball, then cover the bowl that holds the ball of dough with a dishtowel or lid. Place the bowl in a warm spot without draft for 60 minutes to allow the dough to rise.
4. After the 60 minutes are up and the dough has increased in size, sprinkle a little bit of flour on your countertop. Knead the dough briefly, then roll it into a thick sausage.
5. Cut the dough into 5 pieces of equal size. Form a small ball out of each piece of dough. Make sure that the "seams" are at the bottom of the ball so that the top looks relatively smooth .Press down on the top of the ball slightly so it gets a little squished. Let the balls of dough rest for another 15 minutes.
6. In the meantime, heat the butter, sugar, and milk on low heat in a large pot with a lid on the stove.
7. After the 15 minutes are up, place the balls of dough into the pot, leaving some space between them (they will increase their size significantly). Place the lid on the pot and DON'T LIFT IT AGAIN until the dumplings are done. Otherwise, they might deflate.
8. Steam the dumplings on medium heat for around 5-6 minutes, then turn the heat down slightly and steam them for approx. 18-22 more minutes. Ideally, you use a pot or large flat-bottom saucepan with a glass lid so that you can see the dumplings rise. When the milk has evaporated you will no longer see bubbles forming on the bottom of the pot/pan and less steam will be produced on the inside of the lid. When you reach this point, leave the lid on for another minute so the dumplings can get a nice browned bottom (but not burn so watch/listen carefully). If you don't have a pot with a glass lid, just make sure to listen really carefully. The sound from inside the pot will change when the milk is gone - it will sound more like a sizzling. When lifting the lid, make sure that no water droplets hit the dumplings.
9. Serve the dumplings right away. They taste delicious with homemade vanilla sauce!

More Pics of 19th Century German Evangelical Service

















Election Day 2026 Shared Prayers

The people of Lyndale ELCA Lutheran and St. Paul's UCC churches covenant to pray through the hours of Election Day, November 3, in solidarity with each other and in support of the voters, citizens and residents of this country. Please join in prayer at the appointed hour—knowing that others are praying with you. If that's not possible, use the prayers at the times your schedule requires.

Conclude each prayer with this song:

Christ our peace, you break down the walls that divide us
Christ our peace, you make us one body in you © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc. By Marty Haugen

7 AM – Beginning the Day in Prayer

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Gracious God, on this Election Day, we come before you with our hopes, concerns, and anxieties. We give thanks for the privilege and responsibility of participating in our democracy. Guide all who vote today. May the way be clear, the process fair, and every eligible voter free from intimidation or fear. Bless election workers and volunteers with patience, strength, and kindness. Help us listen to others with humility, respect our differences, and seek the well-being of all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

12 NOON – Praying with Humble Hearts

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Holy One, Creator of the universe and Lover of our souls, we come back to you now at mid-day with prayers for all who are volunteering today to serve our nation, our neighbors, and the common good. Bless and sustain election judges, poll workers, poll chaplains, drivers and other helpers throughout this long and tiring day. May they be renewed in community and driven by a sense of sacred responsibility. As we pray, may the Spirit of Jesus Christ connect one to another. Amen.

5 PM – Praying with Thanksgiving and Trust

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Gracious and faithful God, As Election Day moves toward evening, we bring our prayers to you with thanksgiving. We are grateful for all who have voted and those helping others to do so now. Guide the people entrusted with receiving, counting, and safeguarding every vote. Calm anxious hearts and grant patience to those awaiting results. Whatever the outcome, remind us that our calling to love our neighbors, seek justice, and work for peace continues. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

8 PM – Praying with Peaceful Hearts

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Good and gracious God, thank you for bringing us to this hour when the polls close in our state. Pour out your Spirit now on all election administration officials at the precinct, county and state level, that every vote is respectfully handled, properly transferred, accurately tabulated, and rightly certified. May the night ahead be one of calm and careful work together. Regardless of the outcome, we trust you with our lives and our futures, as we seek to follow the way of Christ. Amen.

9 PM – Praying Before We Take Our Rest

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As we prepare for sleep, stay close, Beloved, not just to us but to all candidates and office holders. As they choose when to claim an election win or concede a loss, give them a spirit of honesty and integrity. Keep our nation from all deception, fraud, and violence. Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work or watch or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, all for your love's sake, Amen.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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