**About us**

**What to expect**

**Thanks for stopping by!**

Here's some quick - and hopefully useful - information

We'd love for you to be a part of our community this Sunday!

**When we meet?**

**Every Sunday**

9:30 a.m. for **Worship**.

8:30 a.m. for **Sunday Schoo**l & **Bible Study***(Except during the summer)*

10:40 a.m. **Choir** after worship.

On the third Sunday we have a fellowship time in the fellowship hall with snacks!

Through the month we have various Bible studies and meetings with the men, women and youth groups.

**What to Expect?**

**What time should I arrive?**

The service starts at 9:30am. Arriving at 9:15 usually gives you time to grab a bulletin, find some friendly faces, and settle in before everything begins.

**What should I wear?**

Although our worship style is somewhat traditional, our approach is versatile. Some people dress up, others wear jeans. We want you to feel at home so come as you are - however you are most comfortable!

**What will happen?**

We keep a relatively consistent worship format. Below is just a snapshot of our Sunday; If you're unfamiliar with certain words or concepts, don't hesitate to ask (it can even be anonymous if you want)!

* Greeting from Pastor Dan
* Song of praise (we like the Gloria Patri)
* Our faith confession
* Worship song (sometimes traditional, sometimes contemporary)
* Bible reading
* Prayer (Pastor Dan delivers this; and we join at the end with the Lord's Prayer)
* Worship song
* Bible reading
* Bible-based sermon (about 20 mins.)
* Worship song/offering collection
* Closing statement from Pastor Dan
* Closing song
* Short time of reflection/silent prayer

**When will the service finish**?

10:45 at the latest.

**Can I leave halfway through if I feel uncomfortable?**

If you feel the need, you can leave at any time!

**Will I be the odd one out?**

Nope, there are people at Saint Paul's from many different walks of life. We make an effort to welcome, be gracious, and show kindness to everyone. It's our personal misison to reflect the love God has shown us!

**Can I bring my children?**

Absolutely, children are a huge part of the church. We have Sunday school and youth group for this reason!

**Can I still come if I'm not a Christian - or even not a good person?**

Please do! The church is made up of imperfect people who know they need Jesus's saving grace in their lives. It would be strange if any of us were flawless!

**Will I be expected to do anything or give any money?**

Nope, you won't be bored, embarrassed, or asked for money (we take an offering - but it's for people committed to the Saint Paul's community, not necessarily visitors). However, you will be warmly welcomed, encouraged in your walk with God - and we hope that you would want to come again!

**What we believe**

As part of the[Reformed Church of the United States](http://www.rcus.org/), we hold fast to some core Calvanist beliefs.

We use the acronym TULIP

Although it doesn't cover everything, TULIP defines the portion of our belief system that makes our community unique.

For information on the framework that we base these beliefs on, [visit our values page.](http://www.stpaulsrcus.org/about.html#values)

**Totally Depraved**

We're imperfect by nature. All of us. It's why we need a savior!

* *For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.* [Romans 7:18](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%207.18)

**Unconditional Election**

God's saving power is unconditional; it's not based on anything he sees in us.

* *And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.* [Romans 8:30](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rom%208.30)

**Limited Atonement**

God chooses us. Because of sin, we are entirely unable to send our lost souls in the right direction.

* *No one can come to me unless the father who sent me draws him. And I will raise them up on the last day.*[John 6:44](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%206.44)

**Irresistible Grace**

Christ's sacrifice is limitless in its power.

* *When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.*  [John 10:4](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2010.4)

**Perseverance of the Saved**

We're sustained by God by the work of the Holy Spirit in our faith; He won't take it away.

* *And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.*  [Philippians 1:6](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Phil%201.6)

*Our Staff*

**Pastor Dan Schnabel**

Dan grew up throughout the midwest and overseas. He is a graduate of the International School of Brussels, South Dakota State University and Covenant Theological Seminary. He interned at a church in Illinois and then served a church in South Dakota before coming to St. Paul's. Pastor Schnabel has served St. Paul's since 2003.

Dan serves on various committees in our denomination including the RCUS Foreign Ministries Committee. He is also on the committee for [Reformed Faith and Life - French](https://www.foietviereformees.org/english-page/) as well as [Reformed Faith and Life - Armenia](http://www.christiansforarmenia.org/).

[Email Dan](http://stpaulsrcus@gmail.com/)

**St. Paul's is also served by**

**3 Elders & 3 Deacons**

**Office Manager:**

Debbie Goetze

[Email Debbie](http://stpaulsrcus@gmail.com/)

**Our Mission**

Our mission is simple: to glorify God and to share the good news of His grace, saving sinners like us, through Jesus Christ.

***And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*** [Acts 4:12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%204.12)

**Our Vision**

Our vision is multifaceted. We pray that:

Each one of us makes God's word - The Bible - the focus of our living and decision-making.

[Psalm 19:7-11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Ps%2019.7-11); [2 Timothy 3:16](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Tim%203.16)

We effectively reach into our community as individuals and as a church

[Matthew 5:13-16](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Matt%205.13-16); [1 Peter 2:9-12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Pet%202.9-12)

**Our Values**

These values - the five solas - are simply five points that detail our Reformed position on things like

* The Bible
* Faith
* Grace
* Jesus
* Life's meaning

These ancient doctrines find their roots in the gospel message, were rediscovered during the medieval Reformation, and continue to be more than just history; they are living truths to be received and embraced.

They remind us of what is central to Scripture and what is critically important for the Bible-based church to teach, preach, and live out before the watching world.

Scripture Alone

* The Bible is our ultimate and only trustworthy authority for faith and practice. This means that everything we learn about God, his world, and all other authorities should be interpreted in the light of Scripture. God's Infallible and inerrant word gives us everything we need for our theology.

[2 Timothy 3:16-17](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Tim%203.16-17); [2 Peter 1:20-21](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/2%20Pet%201.20-21)

Faith Alone

* We are saved solely through faith in Jesus Christ because of God's grace and Christ's merit. We are not saved or declared righteous by our works. God grants salvation not because of the good things we do, and despite our sin.
* Through The Holy Spirit, He chooses to exercise his grace, and gives us new hearts, so that we trust in Christ and are saved through faith.

[Ephesians 2:8-9](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph%202.8-9); [John 3:16](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%203.16)

Grace Alone

* God graciously preserves and keeps us. When we are faithless toward Him, He is still faithful.
* We can only stand before God by his grace as he mercifully attributes to us the righteousness of Jesus Christ (and attributes to Jesus the consequences of our sins). Jesus' life of perfect righteousness is counted as ours, and our records of sin and failure were counted to Jesus when he died on the cross.

[Ephesians 1:7](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Eph%201.7)

Christ Alone

* God has given the ultimate revelation of himself to us by sending Jesus Christ; only through God's gracious self-revelation in Jesus do we come to a saving, transforming knowledge of God.
* Because God is holy and all humans are sinful, neither religious rituals nor good works mediate between us and God. Jesus and His sacrificial death alone can atone for sin.

[John 14:6](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2014.6); [Acts 4:11-12](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Acts%204.11-12); [Hebrews 4:15](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Heb%204.15); [1 Timothy 2:5](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Tim%202.5); [1 Peter 2:9](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Pet%202.9)

Glory to God Alone

* Glory belongs to God alone. God's glory is the central motivation for salvation, not improving the lives of people - although that is a wonderful byproduct.
* God is not a means to an end - He is the means and the end.

[Revelation 4:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Rev%204.11); [1 Corinthians 10:30](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Cor%2010.30); [1 Peter 4:11](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/1%20Pet%204.11)

Giving

In the Old Testament God commanded that a tithe, ten percent, of all that He has providentially blessed us with be given back to God. We read in [Lev. 27:32](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lev.%2027.32) ***‘concerning the tithe of the herd or the flock, of whatever passes under the rod, the tenth one shall be holy to the LORD****(see also* [*Numbers 18:26*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Num%2018.26)*,* [*Deut. 14:24*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Deut.%2014.24)*,* [*2Chron. 31:5*](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Chron.%2031.5)*).*Even with the idea of offering the first fruits([Lev. 2:12](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Lev.%202.12)) giving must be done trusting God will provide ([Prov. 3:9-10](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Prov.%203.9-10)). The tithe was for the support of the Tabernacle & Temple and the work of ministry. It was also for the upkeep and repair of the temple ([Neh. 10:38](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Neh.%2010.38), [Haggai 1:4-11](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Haggai%201.4-11)). It was also used to meet the needs of foreigners, orphans and widows ([Deut. 26:12-13](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Deut.%2026.12-13)).

Now since the New Testament builds on and clarifies the Old Testament, what does our unchangeable God([Mal. 3:6](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Mal.%203.6)) desire of us now as His church? In the NT we still see the command to support the ministry of the word of God ([1Tim. 5:18](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Tim.%205.18)), widows ([1 Tim. 5:9-10](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Tim.%205.9-10))& poor([Rom. 15:26](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Rom.%2015.26)). While Christ fulfill the law, we still are to obey the moral law out of thankfulness. Nowhere do we see a command that tithing is done. Christ even praises the widow who gave her two mites([Luke 21:3-4](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Luke%2021.3-4)). Why? Because of her heart attitude! Now that Christ, not with silver or gold but His precious blood has redeemed us, we must now look at giving back to the Lord with a new attitude! ***Not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver*** ([2 Cor. 9:7](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/2%20Cor.%209.7))*.* Interesting enough if God puts the burden on a heart, because of ability([1Cor. 16:2](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Cor.%2016.2), [1Pet. 4:10](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Pet.%204.10)), the NT even expands the OT command telling us to give in liberality([Rom. 12:8](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Rom.%2012.8)) knowing ***its more blessed to give than receive***([Acts 20:35](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Acts%2020.35)).Our purpose now, with eternal life in view, is to be rich to God storing up treasures for the life to come([1 Tim. 6:17-19](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/1%20Tim.%206.17-19)).

Missions

Through the [Reformed Church of the United States](http://www.rcus.org/) and various other groups St. Paul's Ev. Reformed Church supports works in the Philippines, Kenya, Democratic Republic of Congo, France and other areas.

We support a lot of different local needs with the local food shelf, [Feed My Starving Children](https://www.fmsc.org/) and various other groups.

We support [Reformed Faith and Life - French](https://www.foietviereformees.org/english-page/), [Christians for Armenia](http://www.christiansforarmenia.org/), [Reformation2Germany](https://www.facebook.com/reformation2germany/) as well as [Westminster Biblical Missions](http://wbminc.org/).