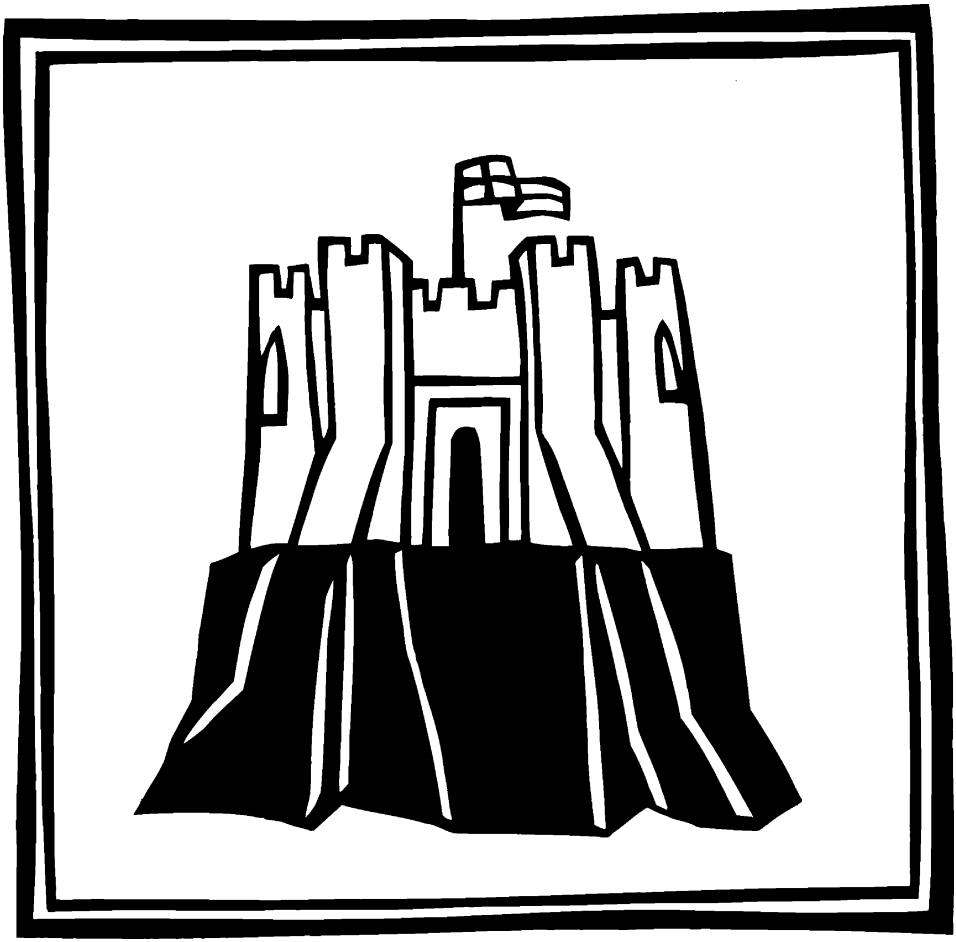
St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crookston, MN

October 25th, 2026 Reformation Sunday



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

October 25th, 2026 ***Reformation Sunday***

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PRELUDE "Built on a Rock" – Paul Manz
"Prelude and Fugue in F Major" – Lubeck

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & SHARING OF PEACE

OPENING HYMN: #654

"The Church's One Foundation" (*Please stand)*
Organ Introduction – Hustad.
Special Alternate Harmonization Arrangement – C. Shalk

INVOCATION
In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS FOR REFORMATION
All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's glory.
This is most certainly true.
But God is kind, and because of Jesus Christ, God freely accepts us and sets us free from our sins.
Here we stand. God help us! Amen.
For freedom Christ has set us free.
This is most certainly true.
Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to the yoke of slavery.
Here we stand. God help us! Amen.
God sent Jesus Christ to be our sacrifice. Christ offered his life's blood, so that by faith in him we could come to God.
This is most certainly true.
For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.
Here we stand. God help us! Amen.
God gave Christ to die for our sins and raised him to life, so that we would be made acceptable to God.
This is most certainly true.
And now, because of our Lord Jesus Christ, we live at peace with God.
Here we stand. God help us! Amen.
You have been saved by faith in God's kindness. This is not of your own doing; it is the gift of God.

This is most certainly true.
This is the true grace of God; stand fast in it.
Here we stand. God help us! Amen.

HYMN: #729 The Church of Christ, in Every Age

GREETING
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34 (CEB)

31 The time is coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. **32** It won't be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant with me even though I was their husband, declares the Lord. **33** No, this is the covenant that I will make with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my Instructions within them and engrave them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. **34** They will no longer need to teach each other to say, "Know the Lord!" because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord; for I will forgive their wrongdoing and never again remember their sins.

PSALM 46 *(sung to the tune of #632 O God, Our Help in Ages Past)*

God is our refuge and our strength, our helper ever near.
The Lord of hosts is on our side, to shelter us from fear.

Though mountains fall and storms arise, and fearful tempests blow
Our God is with us, and he leads where peaceful waters flow.

God's steadfast help will surely come as certain as the dawn.
The Lord of hosts is on our side, so let all fear be gone!

The trembling nations hear his voice, their awesome sovereign own:
"Be still, and know that I am God, and I will reign alone!"

Come and behold what God has done, as adversaries yield
He breaks the bow and snaps the spear and burns with fire the shield.

O God, our refuge, God, our strength, accept the praise we bring,
For mercy shown by grace alone, through Christ our Savior King!

SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28 (CEB)

19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those
who are under the Law, in order to shut every mouth and make it
so the whole world has to answer to God. 20 It follows that no
human being will be treated as righteous in his presence by doing
what the Law says, because the knowledge of sin comes through
the Law.
21 But now God's righteousness has been revealed apart from the
Law, which is confirmed by the Law and the Prophets. 22 God's
righteousness comes through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ for all
who have faith in him. There's no distinction. 23 All have sinned
and fall short of God's glory, 24 but all are treated as righteous
freely by his grace because of a ransom that was paid by Christ
Jesus. 25 Through his faithfulness, God displayed Jesus as the place
of sacrifice where mercy is found by means of his blood. He did
this to demonstrate his righteousness in passing over sins that
happened before, 26 during the time of God's patient tolerance. He
also did this to demonstrate that he is righteous in the present time,
and to treat the one who has faith in Jesus as righteous.
27 What happens to our bragging? It's thrown out. With which law?
With what we have accomplished under the Law? 28 No, not at all,
but through the law of faith. We consider that a person is treated as
righteous by faith, apart from what is accomplished under the Law.

GOSPEL: John 8:31-36 (CEB)

Before: The holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

31 Jesus said to the Jews who believed in him, "You are truly my
disciples if you remain faithful to my teaching. 32 Then you will
know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
33 They responded, "We are Abraham's children; we've never been
anyone's slaves. How can you say that we will be set free?"
34 Jesus answered, "I assure you that everyone who sins is a slave
to sin. 35 A slave isn't a permanent member of the household, but a

son is. [36] Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you really will be free.

RESPONSE TO GOSPEL *(Sung to "Doxology" melody by congr.)*

Lord, You alone this work have done by Your free grace and favor,
All who believe will grace receive through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

And though the foe would overthrow Your Word and grim endeavor, What plan he tries, it always dies; Your Word will stand forever.

You are my Lord, and by Your Word, death holds no dreadful terrors; Your precious blood, my highest good, has blotted out my errors.

My thanks to You! Your Word is true; You keep Your promise ever, While here I love, Your grace You give and heaven's bliss forever.

CHOIR ANTHEM: On Christ I Stand

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON "**Built to Last:** *Finding the Bedrock in a Fragile World*"

HYMN: #517 Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

OFFERING: (Choir sings during offering)

Choir Anthem: "We Are the Church of God"

We are the church of God, a house of living stones,
A monument of unity for God and God alone.
Crowned with the cross of Christ, adorned with hope and grace,
Our windows stained with tears of joy, our altar made of praise.
Christ is the sure foundation, and from before creation,
He chose us as His own.
We are the church of God, a house of living stones,
A monument of unity for God and God alone.
A people set apart, to be a holy priesthood,
A kingdom of the heart, a nation called to praise,
A trumpet in the night. Sing Gloria, a testament of light.
Elect from every nation are joined in His embrace;
A mighty congregation, one voice of joyful praise!

CREED –Paraphrased - **"This is Most Certainly True"**
Sung to melody - "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

In God the Father we believe, who made all things by whom we live, Who for our daily needs provides, from harm and danger safely hides, For this, obedient praise is due, for this most certainly is true!

True God, true man, Lord Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God was sacrificed. Upon the cross His life He gave and rose triumphant from the grave. Because He lives, we shall live too. Oh, this most certainly is true!

The Holy Spirit now is sent, active in Word and sacrament,
To bind the Church below, above, in cords of sin-forgiving love
As those who have been born anew. Oh, this most certainly is true!

HYMN: #652 Built on a Rock
Arrangement – S. Drummond Wolff

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
Each petition concludes: God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is our privilege and our joy to give you thanks and praise, Lord God, because you created all things in order to dwell in covenant love with your people. When that covenant was broken, you promised to make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, in which you would put your law within them and write it on their hearts; you would be their God, and they would be your people. They would all know you, from the least of them to the greatest; for you would forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.
In the fullness of time, you sent your Son to be our righteousness, our redemption, and our peace. Through his life, death, and resurrection, you justify us not by works of the law but by grace through faith alone. You have set us free from the bondage of sin and from the burden of earning your favor. You have liberated us from judging one another and called us to live as beloved children, united in grace and bound together in love.
In the body and blood of Jesus you made that new covenant, and in his death and resurrection we are bound to you and you to us for evermore.

WORDS of INSTITUTION
…Great is the mystery of faith
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung by the congregation)*
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.

COMMUNION INVITATION and DISTRIBUTION

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Each group at the altar rail will be dismissed with a blessing. Please give a family Communion card to an usher. Please follow the guidance of the ushers as you come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

Distribution Hymns:

 # 462 Now We Join in Celebration

 # 480 O Bread of Life from Heaven

Prayer after Communion: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

BLESSING

God all mighty, God most merciful ☩ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen.**

HYMN: #504 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
Organ Introduction - Cherwein

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Follow Jesus. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE: "We Thank Thee, God" – J.S. Bach

SUNDAY BULLETIN

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN

October 25th, 2026 **Reformation Sunday**

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

For those who need healing in body, mind, or spirit:

Julie Love	Eunice Sondrol	Darleen Jackson
Katie Bakken	Julian Bertils	Marlo Moren
Highland Branvold	Nancy Eia	Lowland family
Trevin Monahan	Nash Erdman	Stuart Hanson
Mark Peterson	Glorrayne Casmey	Lucile Torkelson
Delores Sandager	Carol Chaffee	Kari L Trudeau
Luanne Devos	Loren Sanderson	Jim Erickson
Tammy Frohlich		

For our missionaries: Steve & Kelly Solheim
City of Joy Rwanda

For our servicemen: Brandon Johnson D.J. Brace

Please keep them in your prayers this week.

If you have prayer requests, please contact the church office at 218-281-3638 or our prayer chain coordinator, Marian Bakken: (h) 218-281-1584, (c) 218-275-3143, marianbakken@gmail.com.

MISSION

To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all people

1214 University Avenue – Crookston, Minnesota 56716
Website:stpaulscrookstonmn.com
facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn
Phone: 218-281-3638 Email: stpauls@midconetwork.com

Ministers	St. Paul's members
Council President	Anna Peterson
Pastor	Rev. Curt Peterson
Organist	Mary Ann Knotek
Webmaster	Anna Peterson
Treasurer	Betty Arvidson
Financial Secretary	Kathie Barnes
Custodian	Marilyn Flateland
Administrative Assistant	Tammy Frohlich

THANK YOU TO THOSE SERVING TODAY!

Ushers	Punky Johnson, Nancy Bruggeman, and Carol Solheim
Scripture Reader	Kathy Normandin
Communion Server	Carol Johnson
Acolyte	Vincent Peterson
Fellowship	Youth Cinnamon Rolls
Altar Guild	Dan and Brandi Halland
Offering Counters	Kathie Barnes and Vicki Trudeau
Livestream	Garrett Guzman

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICE TEAM

The **Remarkable November Team** is coming up! Please take a look at the calendar to begin signing up. Thanks a bunch!

Callie Darco Ron and Susan Hann
Carol Solheim

November's Worship Team has gotten smaller. Please sign up to help even if it is not your month, and contact the office if you would like to be added to the November team!

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK

Revelation 7:9-17 **Psalm 34:1-10, 22**
1 John 3:1-3 **Matthew 5:1-12**
Readings for November 1st, 2026 **All Saints' Sunday**

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9am- 2pm, and Tuesday 12-5 pm. Please leave a message after 2 pm on the answering machine/drop something in the mailbox (north side of building)/call ahead. Pastor Curt is usually in the building but may be out on other church business.
Worship via Facebook: facebook.com/stpaulscrookstonmn

Sunday, October 25 ***Reformation Sunday***
8:45 am **Sunday School/Adult Bible Study**
10:00 am **Worship and Communion**
11:00 am **Fellowship**

Monday, October 26
8:30 am **LWR Quilting**
6:30 pm **Church Council**

Tuesday, October 27
7:00 am **Men's Coffee Fellowship**
7:00 pm **AA**

Wednesday, October 28
8:30 am **Senior Quilts**
7:00 pm **Confirmation**
7:00 pm **Choir practice**

Thursday, October 29

Friday, October 30
Pastor's Day off **Church office closed**

Sunday, November 1 ***All Saints Sunday***
8:45 am **Sunday School/Adult Bible Study**
10:00 am **Worship and Communion**
11:00 am **Fellowship**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

October 18th, 2026 **Attendance: 53**

Our gifts towards Budget:

Sunday Envelopes	$3,099.35
Loose Offering	$ 0.86

Other (non-budget) Receipts:

Improvement Fund	$ 10.00
Food Shelf	$ 10.00
Memorials	$ 20.00

Needed weekly towards 2026 Budget:	$4,675.42
Total received towards Budget	$3,100.21
Total (non-budget) Receipts	$ 40.00
Total Received	$3,140.21

Thank you, Church, for the support you always provide!



The most recent Treasurer's Report was approved at the last Church Council meeting. You can review it in the bulletin or web bulletin from October 4th or contact Tammy in the office and she can provide a copy.

SPECIAL MESSAGES

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

You are invited to join us in the family room for our Adult Bible Study. Each week, we gather in the family room to read and discuss that morning's scripture readings. Please join us for this time of dwelling in the Word each Sunday morning at 8:45 am.

WOMEN'S BOOK READ

St. Paul's Women's Book Read will meet on **Sunday, November 15th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.** Our November book is ***"The Bell in the Lake"*** **by Lars Mytting.** Alvern & Carol will lead discussion and host. We will get our own books for this read. We extend a warm welcome to all who may be interested. Join us for lively discussions and Christian fellowship!

THIS WEEK IN FAITH FORMATION:

This morning, our Sunday School kids took a break from their usual lessons and enjoyed some Veggie Tales. During music time, they began to practice some songs for our Christmas Program.

This Wednesday, our **Confirmation** students are exploring **Spiritual Disciplines** and how intentional practices help us draw closer to God. The lesson centers on Acts 2:42-47 and the hymn *Lord Whose Love in Humble Service*.
Students will be diving into three main areas of practice:

- **Acts of Commission:** Things we actively choose to do, including community worship, prayer, digging into Bible study with a new symbol-mapping method, and the original Christian discipline of serving those in need.
- **Acts of Omission:** Things we intentionally step away from to focus on faith, such as keeping a true Sabbath rest, finding moments of solitude and silence, or fasting from everyday distractions like electronics.
- **Sharing the Gospel:** What it means to follow the Great Commission through ethical evangelism rooted in honesty, humility, and respect for others.

At-Home Conversation Starter: Ask your student what everyday distractions they could "fast" from periodically to create more

space for their faith, or share a time when you practiced intentional silence!

BIBLE PRESENTATION SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 15TH!

We are excited to celebrate a special milestone in the faith journeys of our young people! On Sunday, November 15th, during worship, we will be presenting age-appropriate Bibles to several groups of our youth to support their continued spiritual growth:

- **Preschoolers** who have recently started Sunday School will receive the *Spark Story Bible*.
- **2nd Graders** will receive the *CEB Deep Blue Kid's Bible*.
- **6th Graders** who have begun their confirmation journey will receive the *NRSV Lutheran Study Bible*.

Parents of children in these groups, please contact Pastor Curt ahead of time so we can make sure we have a Bible ready and reserved for your child.

Please join us in worship to support, encourage, and pray for these young members of our congregation as they take this important step in exploring the Word together!

PRAYER AND REFLECTION

- **The Cracks We Manage:** The sermon points out that a failing foundation rarely announces itself with a crash; instead, it starts with small cracks we try to manage or paint over. What are some of the false foundations (like our accomplishments, reputation, or religious heritage) we are tempted to rely on, and why do they inevitably fail when the "ground shakes"?
- **The Spiritual Résumé:** Martin Luther was exhausted by trying to pour a righteousness solid enough to survive God's judgment. Where do you find yourself keeping a "quiet résumé" of your good deeds, and how does the reality of grace—a ransom *already* paid—free you from that exhaustion?
- **Hired Hands vs. Household Members:** Jesus notes that a slave lives with the constant fear of being thrown out for breaking a rule, but a son or daughter is a permanent member of the household. How does knowing you cannot be "voted off" or fired by God change the way you live out your faith day-to-day?

- **The Law on Our Hearts:** Jeremiah 31 speaks of God moving in and engraving the law on our hearts, rather than handing us a blueprint from a distance. What is the difference between trying to follow an external set of rules and living from an internal promise that "I will be your God, and you will be my people"?
- **Lowering the Drawbridge:** We often sing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," but the sermon warns against the church making *itself* a fortress that locks the world out. What does it practically look like for our congregation to lower the drawbridge and be a welcoming sanctuary for those whose lives feel like shifting sand?

For Reformation Sunday, this week's Morning and Evening Blessings are from The Small Catechism:

THE MORNING BLESSING

In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say:

"God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen."

Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you wish, you may in addition recite this little prayer as well: "I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would also protect me today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen."

After singing a hymn perhaps (for example, one on the Ten Commandments) or whatever else may serve your devotion, you are to go to your work joyfully.

THE EVENING BLESSING

In the evening, when you go to bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say:

"God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen."

Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you wish, you may in addition recite this little prayer as well:

"I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today. I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to

protect me tonight. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen."
Then you are to go to sleep quickly and cheerfully.

THE READINGS ON THIS DAY

REFORMATION

During the sixteenth century, some German Lutheran churches celebrated an annual thanksgiving day for the Reformation, and in 1667 the festival was set for October 31 or the Sunday prior, since on this date in 1517 Martin Luther posted the Ninety-five Theses on the Wittenberg church door. The date on which to commemorate the life and achievements of Martin Luther is February 18, his death day in 1546. The point of the festival is the continuing need for perpetual reformation of all churches, rather than Lutheran self-congratulation.

John 8:31-36

It is not the church, or any one church, that is truth; rather, Jesus Christ is truth. No church can claim ownership of the word; rather, Jesus Christ is the Word. The son is free, that is, free to remain in the house. We gather around that word to receive the truth and experience life in the Father's house.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The oracle from Jeremiah is appointed because of its promise that God will continue a covenant of grace. Christians have seen that new covenant, and the forgiveness of sin and knowledge of God it brings, as embodied in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and renewed at the Supper—"the new covenant in my blood."

Romans 3:19-28

This excerpt from Romans is appointed because it summarizes the biblical gospel so transformative for Martin Luther. It is faith in Christ that saves, not "law," that is, religious practices stipulated in the Torah, nor by "boasting" in our church either. The church is called perpetually to renew its faith in God's grace.

Thank You for Supporting Lutheran World Relief! A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated quilters who faithfully gather every Monday to make quilts and assemble care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Because of your hard work and the generosity of our congregation, 13 volunteers came together on Thursday, October 22, to pack **181 quilts, 100 baby care kits, and 144 school kits** to be shipped wherever they are needed most in the world!

We also want to extend a special thank you to:

- Everyone who generously donated school supplies and baby care items.
- Our confirmation students for helping assemble and pack the school kits.
- The volunteers who helped pack and load the boxes on Thursday.
- **Grove Mechanical** for generously providing the use of their trailer to transport everything to the drop-off site in Grand Forks.

Thank you all for sharing your time, talents, and resources to bless others!





