

ST. PAUL connections

MONDAY, DEC. 4

8:45am Preschool
6pm Survivors of suicide loss support group

TUESDAY, DEC. 5

8am Madison Market setup
8:45am Preschool
12:30pm Madison Market

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 6

8:45am Preschool
9:30am Staff meeting
5pm Book Corner open
5:30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics
5:30pm Christmas pageant speaking practice
6pm All choirs rehearse
6:15pm Men's Bible study
6:30pm Confirmation
6:45pm Christmas pageant group rehearsal
6:45pm High school midweek recharge

THURSDAY, DEC. 7

8:45am Preschool
9:30am Heart.Soul.Mind. Bible study
2pm Neighborhood schools volunteer party
6pm CC Conversations
6pm Centering Prayer
6:30pm Open Spirit rehearsal
6:30pm 2136 young adults
7:15pm Personnel meeting

FRIDAY, DEC. 8

8:30am Rosecrance training
8:45am Preschool
9am Moms' Morning

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

8am Christmas pageant dress rehearsal
8am Second Saturday Men
9am Motherless Daughters
9am Membership inquiry class
5pm Book Corner open
5:30pm Worship

SUNDAY, DEC. 10

8am Worship/Choral Advent
9am Book Corner open
9:20am Worship/Choral Advent
10:45am Sunday morning learning for all
11:45am Worship
12:30pm Stewardship phone bank
4pm Christmas pageant
6:30pm Sunday Night Live small groups
7:15pm SNL



KEEP AWAKE

The phrase "keep awake" shows up several times in Mark's gospel. During this season of Advent, the weeks leading up to the celebration of Christmas, most people don't really need to be told to "Keep awake!" Many of us may already be operating in a state of sleep deprivation. We're startled into extra wakefulness with dinners, gift buying, parties, or school holiday programs. There's more risk of us being over-cafeinated or over-scheduled than overly sleepy.

But maybe Mark's words are an invitation to a different kind of wake-up call. The promise of Advent is that God is always at work in the world, bringing new beginnings and new life to all people. So this Advent season, amidst all sorts of busyness, keep awake and be watchful for the surprising ways God shows up in the world. Look for the presence of Christ. This is a way of being awake and alert that might actually be restful and give us peace.

today at st. paul

December 2 & 3 - Advent 1

Preaching:
5:30/9:20 Sara Olson-Smith
8:00/11:45 Katy Warren

Worship notes:
8:00am St. Paul Quartet
9:20 am Chorale

Communion served at all services

Readings: Isaiah 64: 1-9; 1 Corinthians 1: 3-9; Mark 13: 24-37

next weekend

December 9 & 10 - Advent 2/Choral Advent

Preaching:
5:30/9:20 Peter W. Marty
8:00/11:45 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

Worship notes:
8:00 St. Paul Quartet; Chorale
9:20 am Alleluia, Jubilate, Cantate, & Youth choirs; Chorale

Communion served at all services

Readings: Isaiah 40: 1-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8

Privacy laws prevent hospitals from automatically informing churches of members admitted. You can easily notify our pastoral care staff of a hospitalization: 563-326-3547 x211 or becky@stpaulqc.org.

Hospitalized: (*released as of Nov. 30)

*Jennie Barnds
*Fonda Corson
Elaine Meinert
*Debbie Melton
Jack Miller
*Karen White

Birth:

Lawson Rehn, son of Kerri & Kyle Rehn, little brother of Briar; born 11/25

With sympathy:

Linda & Jim Hoepner, her brother DeWayne Johnson
Rikka & Eric Stewart, her grandfather Francis Jeffery

WOVEN together

St. Paul members: Have you pledged for 2018? Thank you for taking care of this commitment as soon as possible. With hearts of faith, we enter the coming year enthusiastic for serving in Christ's name. The financial pledges of every St. Paul household make 2018 possible. Think as generously as your faith and blessings allow.

To pledge yourself to St. Paul's Daily Ministry, please direct your purple pledge card in envelope to Marcia Robertson, stewardship coordinator, or make your pledge online at stpaulqc.org/pledge-2018.

staff connections

PASTORS

Peter W. Marty *Senior pastor*
Sara Olson-Smith *Associate pastor*
Katy Warren *Associate pastor*
Kelsey Fitting-Snyder *Pastor in residency*
Joshua Kestner *Pastor in residency*
Ron Huber *Visitation pastor*

COMMUNICATIONS

Ann McGlynn *Director of communication*
Lauren Brown *Artistic director*
Becky Harper *Adm. asst. to sr. pastor*
Karen Holden *Book Corner manager*
Griffin Rasche *Communications intern*

OPERATIONS

Todd Byerly *Operations director*
Paula Durham *Business manager*
Jennifer Garvey *Receptionist*
Tessa Hahn *Business office assistant*
Marcia Robertson *Stewardship coordinator*
Harris Schneekloth *Campus and grounds*
Matt Spencer *Building manager*
Jim Akright *Custodial/Maintenance*
Paul Caldwell *Weekend host*
Terry Haru *Evening host*
Ron Mullen *Weekend host*
Joe Wollett *Evening host*

LEARNING

Ryan Bailey *Director of faith formation*
Karen Strusz *Preschool director*
Andy Langdon *Director of youth ministries*
Michelle Juehring *Director of children's ministries*
Dana Welsler *Neighborhood schools*
Tammy Hermanson *Residency administrator*
Teresa Whitbeck *Childcare team leader*
Michelle Henry *Youth ministries intern*

MUSIC

Chris Nelson *Director of music ministries*
Bill Campbell *Contemporary music*
Linda Allebach *Assistant organist*
Nathan Windt *Chorale director*
Dan Pepper *Youth choir director*
Katie Casey *Children's choir director*
Sara Harless *Children's choir director*
Margaret Thompson *Children's choir director*
Kyle Schneider *Contemporary worship assistant*

Choral Advent

Next Sunday, 8:00 and 9:20 a.m.

Let the glories of song – and an impressive intergenerational gathering of all St. Paul choirs – carry you into the beauty of the Advent season. From preschool choristers to adults, Choral Advent Sunday is a joyful tradition for preparing the way for Jesus' birth.



Blue Christmas

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 6 p.m.

This service of longing and hope is designed for anyone who may not feel like celebrating this season. During the holidays, grief, illness, loneliness, and loss can be magnified.

The Blue Christmas service acknowledges this pain, while offering hope and comfort for the broken-hearted. In the gathering darkness of December, anticipate Jesus, light of the world.

THIS SUNDAY

KIDS & YOUTH

LEARNING FOR KIDS & YOUTH (10:45-11:30 AM)

- ▶ Ages 3 & Pre-K: Main Level
- ▶ Grades K-2: Upper Level, Friendship Hall
- ▶ Grades 3-5: Lower Level
- ▶ Grades 6-12: Lower Level

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE (SNL), GRADES 9-12 (7:15-8:30 PM)

SNL gathers most Sunday nights at St. Paul. It's a strong framework for high school youth to live, grow, and serve joyfully. It's also a fun place to get re-charged before school on Monday morning. Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org, 326-3547 x228

LEARNING FOR ADULTS (10:45-11:30 AM)

- ▶ *The Sun Will Be Darkened:* Today's gospel reading urges us to pay close attention to the world around us, lest we miss God's hand at work. Hear stories and see beautiful images from one St. Paul person's journey to witness this summer's solar eclipse. Dana Taylor, St. Paul member. In the Chapel.
- ▶ *The Songs of Luke (1 of 3):* Prepare for the coming of Christmas by listening carefully to the songs of Luke's gospel. Learn why Zechariah, Mary, the angels, and Simeon could not contain their praise in prose. Judy Schroeder, St. Paul member and Valparaiso deaconess. In the Luther Loft.
- ▶ *The Bible project:* Using just one page of creative illustrations and diagrams, discover the key themes of each book in the New Testament. Ephesians with Pastor Sara Olson-Smith. In Room 208.

NEXT SUNDAY

- ▶ *Christmas at the Movies:* Ryan Bailey, director of faith formation. In the Chapel.
- ▶ *The Songs of Luke (2 of 3):* Judy Schroeder, St. Paul member and Valparaiso deaconess. In the Luther Loft.
- ▶ *The Bible project:* Using just one page of creative illustrations and diagrams, discover the key themes of each book in the New Testament. Romans with Pastor Josh Kestner. In Room 208.

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP: Please join others for coffee, doughnuts, juice, and conversation in the gathering areas on the main level.

A BLUE BOOK, "Welcome to St. Paul," is situated in every pew near the aisle seat. Please take a moment to share your name and pass the book. As it returns to you, glance at other names and look for your chance to greet one another after worship. The warmth of your greeting can brighten the whole day.

NURSERY: We believe children belong in worship. But if your child needs a break, please assist other worshipers and seek out our staffed nursery in the "Kid's Corner" in the Library Commons. Silent pagers available. For nursing moms, a designated room is available to you, just 20 feet left of the elevator.

CHILDREN: Children's messages are a part of our Sunday services at 9:20 and 11:45 a.m. Special bulletins are available from an usher. Worship bags for children are at entrances to the Sanctuary.

COMMUNION: The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. Adults and children who do not commune are invited to come forward, crossing arms upon the chest for a blessing. Communion is distributed by a practice called intinction; please touch your wafer lightly to the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available at all stations. Grape juice is available on Sundays in the potery chalice at the station furthest left.

FAITH RESOURCES: A library and the nonprofit Book Corner on the main level provide wonderful resources for growing your faith. Check them out.

MEMBERSHIP: A one-session Membership Inquiry Class is offered once each month for those interested in exploring what membership at St. Paul involves. The next opportunity will be on **Saturday, Dec. 9, 9-11:30 a.m. OR Thursday, Jan. 11, 6:30-9 p.m.** Childcare is available on request. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups, at the Info Center, or call 326-3547.

DISCOVER & CONNECT

SUNDAY NIGHT LIVE: Tonight, Dec. 3, high school students will meet at Target on Elmore and 53rd at 6:30 p.m., as a service project to purchase Christmas gifts for residents at HDC. Small group leaders will transport youth to church to wrap presents during SNL, finishing at 8:30 p.m. Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org

2136, a ministry for adults in their 20s and 30s, gathers Thursday, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Join us in making Christmas cards to hand out when we go caroling on Dec. 21. Come ready to craft and practice some Christmas carols. Pastors Josh Kestner, joshua@stpaulqc.org, and Kelsey Fitting-Snyder, kelsey@stpaulqc.org

CC CONVERSATIONS is a first Thursday of the month discussion opportunity open to all, 6 - 7:15 p.m. Discuss faith, politics, and culture with Peter Marty through ideas inspired by articles

and news in The Christian Century (CC) magazine. Pre-readings for Dec. 7 session are: "Wilderness," especially essay selections 3, 4, 6 and 9 in the series (pp. 22-27) and, "After the glass factory" (pp. 28-31), both in the 11.8.17 issue of CC. Also read "Side by side with Islam" (pp. 26-29) in the 11.22.17 issue of CC. Onsite copies on a special shelf in the library are available for reading.

SECOND SATURDAY MEN: Saturday, Dec. 9, at 8 a.m. (note earlier start time), all St. Paul men are welcome to gather for service, fellowship, and discussion. The idea is to strengthen guys in their faith. Todd Byerly, todd@stpaulqc.org

MOTHERLESS DAUGHTERS: Second Saturdays, 9 a.m., in the Church House Living Room, next gathering Dec. 9. Open for any woman who has experienced mother-loss at any time. Nicole Rathje, rathjefamily@gmail.com

OF SPECIAL NOTE

JOANNA ROLAND RETIRES FROM ST. PAUL PRESCHOOL: Joanna has retired as of Nov. 29. She's led the St. Paul Preschool for nearly two decades and has also played a key role in St. Paul's children and family ministries, as well as congregational hospitality. If you'd like to donate to a retirement gift for Joanna, please write a check to St. Paul clearly marked for "Joanna Gift." You're also invited to drop a written expression in the basket this weekend, Dec. 2-3.

MEMBERSHIP INQUIRY CLASS: Join a group of others Saturday, Dec. 9, 9-11:30 a.m., exploring life and faith in this place. Find out what the commitments, values, and directions are for this

congregation. Sign up at the Info Center or online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES, a new position at St. Paul for 10-hours/week (10-months/year) is now open. This individual will have a gift for working with volunteers, a love for children and their faith lives, and a willingness to commit one week-day and two hours on most Sundays for work with children's ministries. Send letter of interest and resume to: SPLCchildrensministries@gmail.com. Applications and interviews will be reviewed as they arrive.



SEASON OF ADVENT

ADVENT ART: All are invited to participate in an Advent art project. On a table in the gathering area are some pieces of paper and markers. Your task is to write a word on that paper that describes what this season of Advent means for you. (Additional creative riffs on the theme are welcome.) We'll use all those expressions to create something beautiful to be revealed in coming weeks.

THE BOOK CORNER is stocked with Advent books, devotionals, and calendars, as well as nativities, ornaments, children's Christmas books, chocolate, and lots of gift ideas. The Book Corner will be open at 5 p.m. every Saturday and Wednesday during Advent. Check the sign on the door of the Book Corner for extended hours.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS will decorate the front of the Sanctuary as Christmas approaches. If you would like to donate a plant in memory or in honor of a loved one, orders may be placed in the church office or by mail no later than Sunday, Dec. 10. The cost for each plant is \$10. Forms are available at the Info Center. Payment is due at the time of order.

WOULD YOU BE A CHRISTMAS GREETER? Welcome people into the warmth of St. Paul on Christmas Eve. As people flow into church, a handshake, a smile, and a cheerful greeting mean so much. Could you spread some Christmas joy for about 30 to 45 minutes of your time before a particular worship service? Please contact Jennifer Garvey, 563-326-3547, jennifer@stpaulqc.org.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS: ADVENT DEVOTIONS

The December season of waiting and watching is near. Beginning on Dec. 3, read short stories and meditations written by St. Paul people. Sign up to receive these daily devotions by email at: www.ow.ly/TGYC5.



SEASON of ADVENT

Sunday school Advent gathering | Sundays, Dec. 10 & 17

Children & youth are invited to participate in the Wash & Brush ingathering to be distributed to families at Family Resources. On Dec. 10, bring soap and shampoo. On Dec. 17, bring toothbrushes and toothpaste. Collection tables will be placed in the Education Wing.

Youth Advent Event | Sunday, Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m.

High school small groups will gather at Target in Davenport to shop for Christmas gifts for residents at the Handicapped Development Center.

Youth Christmas caroling | Sunday, Dec. 17, 5:30-8 p.m.

Students in grades 6-12 will gather at church for a pizza dinner followed by an evening of Christmas caroling around the community.