

journey



What are you looking for?

Did you know that the first words Jesus speaks in the Gospel of John are a question?

Following the soaring, poetic language of the prologue at the very beginning of the book (“In the beginning was the Word” and all that), the first character we meet in the story is John the Baptist, who immediately points us to Jesus. When we encounter Jesus, along with two of John’s disciples, he asks them, “What are you looking for?” They don’t answer his question. Instead, they reply with another question, “Where are you staying?” He doesn’t answer their question, either, but before the exchange becomes exasperating for the reader he says simply, “Come and see.”

If you read those first words of Jesus in John 1:38 and feel like he’s talking to you, then I would say the gospel-writer has done his job effectively. Either way, try to imagine Jesus asking you the question, “What are you looking for?” What would you tell him? Maybe you would tell him you are looking for hope, clarity, or a way out. Maybe you would ask where to find meaning or fulfillment in life. Maybe you would say, “I’m looking for a cure,” or “I want someone to tell me why life has turned out this way.” Perhaps you would ask for his advice on a really tough decision you need to make. There are as many possible questions as there are inquirers, but regardless of the specifics of our questions, I suspect we would all get the same sort of response.

If the Gospel of John’s representation of Jesus is a reliable indication, we probably shouldn’t get our hopes up for a straightforward answer. Rather than information, Jesus is likely to give us an invitation. When asked about his accommodations in John 1, Jesus pulls his questioners and us along by saying, “Come and see.”

I’ll be the first to say that claiming Jesus is the answer to every question sounds worse than trite. God didn’t send Jesus into the world to provide neat answers to humanity’s most frequently asked questions. God sent Jesus, as the Fourth Gospel so famously puts it, “so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” Or, as Jesus says of himself in John 10:10, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

But if we think carefully about how we would respond to the question, “What are you looking for?” I suspect the life Jesus came to offer is precisely the answer. I’m not just thinking of heaven here. I’m thinking of life lived in harmonious relationship with our Creator and the rest of creation – now and forever. I’m think-

ing of life where we allow ourselves to be so immersed in the self-giving love of God that we don’t think twice about offering ourselves in love to others.

I’m sorry to say it (in a way) but (in a way) Jesus is the answer to every question. Jesus is the answer to what we are looking for in life if we will respond to his invitation “come and see.” We should always ask questions, like so many characters in the Gospel of John. Like Nicodemus under the cover of darkness, the Samaritan woman under the blazing noonday sun, or Thomas during those disorienting days after Easter, we should never hesitate to let Jesus know that we’re having a hard time making sense of things. No one who’s ever met Jesus developed a rock-solid faith in a day. The questions and the encounter with Jesus must continue over a lifetime. Whatever it is we’re looking for, Jesus gives us answers and he gives us life as we go.



RYAN BAILEY
director of faith formation



ON THE COVER:
Kristin Burns

journey

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MISSION

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a faith community, shaped around five core values: radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith formation, adventurous mission and service, extravagant generosity.

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2017 Faith & Life series speaker: NPR reporter Tom Gjelten

Tom Gjelten, an NPR reporter who covers issues of religion, faith, and belief, is the 2017 St. Paul Faith & Life speaker. He will present at 10:45 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 12. The events are free and open to the public.



Tom's stories encompass areas such as the changing religious landscape in America, the formation of personal identity, the role of religion in politics, and social and cultural conflict arising from religious differences.

His reporting draws on many years covering national and international news from posts in Washington and around the world. In 1986, Gjelten became one of NPR's pioneer foreign correspondents, posted first in Latin America and then in Central Europe. In the years that followed, he covered the wars in Central America, social and political strife in South America, the first Gulf War, the wars in the former Yugoslavia, and the transitions to democracy in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

His new book, *A Nation of Nations: A Great American Immigration Story*, recounts the impact on America of the 1965 Immigration Act, which officially opened the country's doors to immigrants of color.

St. Paul Book Corner features new additions

The St. Paul Book Corner has new selections for adults and children. Every book is carefully selected by St. Paul pastors, staff, and avid St. Paul readers. The new selections can also be found in the St. Paul Library. Among many new selections include:

- *America's Original Sin: Racism, White Privilege, and the Bridge to a New America* by Jim Wallis
- *Hallelujah Anyway: Rediscovering Mercy* by Anne Lamott
- *Love Warrior: A Memoir* by Glennon Doyle Melton
- *The Life of Martin Luther: A Pop-Up Book* by Agostino Traini
- *Bluffing* by Dick Stahl

Help make homes warmer, safer, drier, in rural Appalachia

Each spring and fall, St. Paul volunteers travel to rural central Appalachia to make homes safer, warmer, and drier for low-income families.

Volunteers stay in centers of Appalachia Service Project, an organization that works throughout the region to build relationships and repair homes. This fall's trip will be Oct. 7-14 to Jonesville, Virginia, led by Pastor Katy Warren.

An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, July 23, 10:30 a.m. in the Church House Living Room.

The trip cost is \$325. Spots are limited. To sign up before or after the informational meeting, visit stpaulqc.org/signups.

Shop, cook, serve a meal at the Salvation Army

Six nights a week, people experiencing food insecurity gather at the Salvation Army at Sixth and Harrison streets in Davenport for an evening meal.

St. Paul people shop for, cook, and serve the meal several times a year. The next opportunity is Saturday, July 29. Shoppers go to the grocery store and buy from a pre-prepared list (reimbursement is available). Cooks gather at about 2 p.m. in the lower-level kitchen to make the meal. Servers arrive at St. Paul at 5 p.m. to load up the food and caravan down to the Salvation Army to serve it.

The August date is Wednesday, Aug. 30. In September, St. Paul crews will serve on Saturday, Sept. 30.

To help, visit stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org, 563-326-3547 ext. 232.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD CONTINUES

This summer, St. Paul people will help build a Habitat home with Ciza Meckson and Furaha Veronique and their children, Othniel and Mwamini, at 901 Farnam Street, Davenport.

St. Paul volunteers will swing hammers, create new friendships, and serve in various ways. Anyone 16 years of age or older is invited to be part of the work crew. No construction experience is necessary. To sign up, visit stpaulqc.org/signups.

Available shifts:

- **Wednesday, July 19, 5-8 p.m., work crew and supper crew**
- **Saturday, July 22, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., morning & afternoon crew, lunch crew**
- **Saturday, August 12, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., morning & afternoon crew**

Why does St. Paul support the efforts of Habitat for Humanity? Habitat for Humanity knows that safe, decent, and affordable shelter plays an absolutely critical role in helping families to create a new cycle outside of poverty, one filled with possibilities and progress.

MENTAL HEALTH MOVIE SERIES

beginning July 5

FOR FOUR WEEKS beginning Wednesday, July 5, St. Paul Lutheran Church's Mental Health Awareness Team will host a midsummer mental health movie series. Come and watch a movie and join in discussion afterwards. Movies begin at 6:30 p.m., popcorn included.

The series is free and open to the public.

The Mental Health Awareness Team are people who work to expand awareness, banish stigmas, love others, share stories, and discover support. This movie series is one of their many efforts throughout the year.



JULY 5, INFINITELY POLAR BEAR

Cameron Stuart lives with his wife Maggie and their daughters Amelia and Faith in an isolated house in the countryside. When Cam is fired from his job, he experiences severe mental distress. Maggie is forced to seek in-patient care for him. When he is released, he moves to a small apartment while Maggie works to support the children. She decides to apply to an MBA program to improve her income and she is accepted by

Columbia University in New York. She asks Cameron to take care of the girls for 18 months and he agrees despite his fears.



JULY 12, AS GOOD AS IT GETS

Melvin Udall, a cranky, bigoted, obsessive-compulsive writer, finds his life turned upside down when neighboring gay artist Simon is hospitalized and his dog is entrusted to Melvin. In addition, Carol, the only waitress at a local cafe who will tolerate him, must leave work to care for her sick son, making it impossible for Melvin to eat breakfast.

JULY 19, LIFE, ANIMATED

From Academy Award-winning director Roger Ross Williams, *Life, Animated* is the inspirational story of Owen Suskind, a young man who was unable to speak as a child until he and his family discovered a unique way to communicate by immersing themselves in the world of classic Disney animated films.



JULY 26, TOUCHED WITH FIRE

Touched with Fire stars Katie Holmes and Luke Kirby as two poets with bipolar disorder whose art is fueled by their emotional extremes. When they meet in a treatment facility, their chemistry is instant and intense, driving each other's mania to new heights. They pursue their passion which breaks outside the bounds of sanity, swinging them from fantastical highs to tormented lows until they ultimately must choose between sanity and love. Inspired by the film maker's own struggles overcoming bipolar disorder, Paul Dalio wrote, directed, edited and scored his feature film debut.





ST. PAUL HERO CENTRAL

It was a super good time at St. Paul Hero Central!

More than 400 heroes teamed up in June to learn that God's heroes have heart, courage, wisdom, hope, and power.

With games, snacks, crafts, music, and visits from Captain Shield, Flame, and Super Sara each day, it was an incredible week to Do good! Seek peace and go after it! (Psalm 34:14b)



Yum!

Kristin Burns' job is to make sure a Quad City icon is delicious

Sometimes, it's an ice cream kind of day by 9 a.m.

St. Paul member Kristin Burns is the quality control manager for Whitey's Ice Cream, the iconic Quad Cities sweet treat company. And yes, that means taste testing at all times of the day.

She spends her work hours in the company's manufacturing facility, where every single tub of ice cream, topping, baked good, and filling is made for the company known for its red and white stores.

She is surrounded by stainless steel equipment that churns, bakes, and packages. She walks among stacks of product in a freezer that is kept at 20-below-zero degrees year-round.

"I love hearing people's stories," Kristin said. "Ice cream is such an emotional food – people celebrate with it, or have some when things aren't going so well. The stories give us a chance to step into their lives a little bit."

But beyond the emotion, there's a lot of science, food safety, and thought that goes into making ice cream, she said.



A little bit of history

Whitey's Ice Cream was established in 1933 in Moline by Chester "Whitey" Lindgren, who received his nickname due to his white-blond hair. In 1935, Whitey hired Bob Tunberg at the age of 15. Over the years Whitey and Bob became close friends. Bob and his wife, Norma, purchased Whitey's Ice Cream in 1953.

During the day, Bob and Norma made the ice cream. At night, they worked in the store, on 16th Street in Moline. Their sons, Jeff and Jon, joined the business when they were old enough and started picking up trash in the parking lot before they went to school each





"Ice cream is such an emotional food – people celebrate with it, or have some when things aren't going so well. The stories give us a chance to step into their lives a little bit."

— KRISTIN BURNS

morning. Today, Jeff and Jon serve as co-owners. The title of president remains vacant to honor their father, who died in 1991.

Whitey's Ice Cream remained a one-store business until 1977, when a second store and larger manufacturing facility opened on 41st Street in Moline. Stores opened in East Moline and Rock Island in 1982. Whitey's opened its first Iowa store in Bettendorf in 1984. The company now has 10 stores and is available in grocery stores across the Midwest.

Love and ice cream

Not only is Whitey's Kristin's workplace, it also happens to be where she met her husband, John, while on internship during college – a Whitey's romance, she said. Kristin studied food science and chemistry in college, and went to work for another ice cream icon – Blue Bunny in LeMars, Iowa, right out of school.

Then, an opportunity came to return to the Quad Cities and work at Whitey's. She's been there about six years. Her husband also works in the food industry – with a Coca-Cola distributor.

She thinks about the appearance, flavor, and texture of the ice cream – the foundation is the ratio of milk, cream, sugar, and air (Whitey's has very little air). She also is involved in developing new flavors and new products, and manages the company's bakery.

So what's her favorite kind of ice cream? Chocolate peanut butter revel. Which flavor could she leave behind? Black walnut. Does she ever get tired of ice cream? Not really.

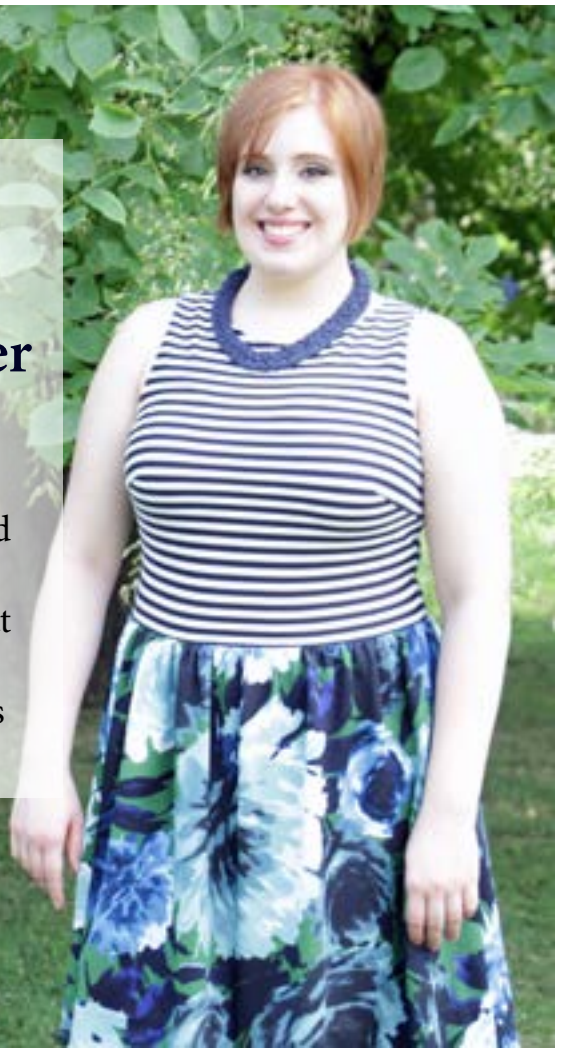
"I've always liked ice cream," she said with a smile.



Godspeed

to Pastor Amy Diller

Amy Diller came two years ago as part of the pastoral residency program. She offered us her care, sense of humor, and insightful perspectives on faith. After farewell weekend on July 15-16, she will remain in the Quad Cities to be pastor at Together in Christ Parish, the newly combined parishes of St. James and All Saints churches. Her significant other lives here, too.



God has blessed Pastor Amy with a multitude of gifts, including but not limited to, self-confidence, intelligence, kindness, creativity, a keen sense of humor, and an openness of heart. I have spiritually grown as a result of her sermons. I have benefited from her kindness and pastoral care. Although I am sad to see Amy leave, I am elated for the many people she will serve throughout her ministry.

PAM BULAT

I suspect that you have learned much while here but conversely we have learned much from you in how we view and practice our faith. Your forum on sermons was not only enlightening but provided insight into how a good sermon relates to the gospel as well as how it applies to our daily lives. In addition, your Sunday morning adult Bible studies have provided more insight into biblical history and how conditions /circumstances at the time apply equally today.

JAMES WEISS

I recently received a beautiful unexpected pastoral care call from Amy. I had just returned home after being hospitalized for a successful but complex cardiac procedure. Her cheerful voice, her prayers for us, and her perfectly timed “follow up” really impacted us.

CRAIG HELLYER

NEW RESIDENTS ARRIVE IN MID-AUGUST

With unanimous affirmation, the congregation of St. Paul voted in April to call Kelsey Fitting-Snyder and Joshua Kestner to serve as pastors in our congregation through the Pastoral Residency Program, starting in mid-August.

St. Paul's Pastoral Residency Program is a two-year program for gifted new pastors. It's designed to sharpen vocational identity and shape wise pastoral practices and habits in the context of a healthy congregation and supportive multi-staff setting. St. Paul is privileged to be the only ELCA congregation to host a residency program for first-call pastors.

If you'd like to donate to a gift for Amy, please write a check to St. Paul clearly marked for “Resident Gift.” You're also invited to send individual cards or notes to the church, or drop a written expression in the basket on farewell weekend, July 15-16.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW:

The pastors who served in the St. Paul residency program during the past 11 years are now leading throughout the country. They recently gave an update for the Lilly Endowment, which helps support the initiative. Here are snapshots of their current ministries from each.



Pastor Lorin Darst (2006-2008)

Macksburg Lutheran Church | Canby, OR

Recently, the congregation supported my travel to North Dakota to stand in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, alongside over 400 other clergy and faith leaders. It was a

powerful time of learning and growing for me, and we have had engaging discussions since I returned.



Pastor Heather (Spears) Geest (2008-2010)

Faith Lutheran Church | Eldridge, IA

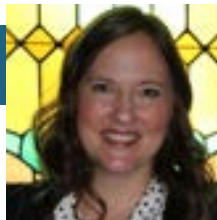
Relationships are at the heart of my ministry. My greatest joy comes from spending time with people. The areas where I operate out of my greatest gifts are pastoral care, Christian

education, and funeral ministry. I love to connect with people over their stories, visiting with them in their homes or the hospital, or after church.

Pastor Elizabeth Hiller (2006-2008)

Dilworth Lutheran Church | Dilworth, MN

The hallmark of our congregation is home-based ministries. For milestones like first communion or confirmation, every youth attends with a trusted adult. We use this intense mentorship model for learning and service. Kids and adults learn together and we are a stronger church for it.



Pastor Katy Warren (2011-2013)

St. Paul Lutheran Church | Davenport, IA

I know my best work is done when I can empower others to take on new roles or experiences. Sometimes, it would be much easier to accomplish a task by myself. But, the best ministry is done, in my opinion, when others are encouraged to take risks, try new things, create connections, and meet new people.



Pastor Lowell Michelson (2006-2008)

Lord of Life Lutheran Church | West Chester, OH

Hospitality has always been important in my life and ministry, but was accelerated to a new level under the tutelage of the people of St. Paul. Now I am being shaped by the warmth

and generosity of several cultures in this growing international crossroads of universities and other global organizations.



Pastor Dan Kuckuck (2011-2013)

St. Stephen Lutheran Church | Urbandale, IA

This is going to sound funny: my best ministry practice is not doing ministry. I've been tempted to always be thinking about the never-ending to-do list. Whenever I get pulled into doing

that, the best thing for me to do is "something else." I run. I cook. I spend time with others. All these things strengthen my ministry.



Pastor Ann Rosendale (2008-2010)

Augustana University | Sioux Falls, SD

We often speak about campus ministry at Augustana as a "laboratory" for student participation and leadership. Every worship service engages new people. Ordained ministers share the pulpit with students, faculty, and staff. Living out the Christian value at Augustana is the work of the whole community.



Pastor Amanda Weinkauff (2013-2015)

Trinity Lutheran Church | Owatonna, MN

My current call is at a church that has a large staff, and many enthusiastic volunteers. There is a lot of humor, respect, and trust in the workplace. We are a good team, and we share a vision for our ministry. I feel like I am where I am supposed to be, and I give a lot of credit to the residency program.



Pastor Matthew Pook (2008-2010)

St. John's Lutheran Church | Evansville, WI

My years at St. Paul are close to my heart, and the patterns I learned with you all impact my ministry constantly. I still keep the practice of visiting people in their homes and workplac-

es. Knowing names, learning stories, and caring about people are the heartbeat of my call.



Pastor Chad McKenna (2013-2015)

St. Mark Lutheran Church | Rockford, IL

One of the great insights I had during my time at St. Paul was that I work best on a team. There are so many people who are invested in this place, and it is a joy to work with our

church leadership. I am grateful to have a friend in my senior pastor, Mark Hagen, who may have more trust in me than I have in myself.

To Italy and Austria

Bill Campbell and Nathan Windt work together at St. Paul and St. Ambrose University. They recently teamed up to revive a vocal tour for St. Ambrose students.

Voices, blending well

The idea for this wonderful trip came about because I composed five new pieces of music based on hymns of Ambrose of Milan, and we had a goal of touring a music group. Ambrose wrote chant-like hymns in the 4th century, and I used five of these as the basis for performance pieces that the Chamber Singers learned over three years. I wanted them sung in Milan, bringing the music Ambrose composed back to his city.

On tour, the students sang beautifully and with a sense of purpose. They made every phrase count, and brought meaning and joy out of the music. They sang during two masses and three concerts. The audiences were so appreciative and really seemed to love the American Spirituals they sang. While all their events were excellent, personally I thought their concert in Venice was the best. All the voices blended well as an ensemble, and the soloists sang with heart.

We also had a lot of fun. The food, architecture, sight-seeing tours, and espresso! Wow! The students were amazing, and the trip went without any issues. We got to explore cities and places we'd heard about, and I think we all want to go back soon.

- Bill Campbell, professor of music and department chair at St. Ambrose; contemporary music coordinator at St. Paul

Three-year musical journey

When I came to St. Ambrose in 2014, one of our goals was to have the vocal ensembles touring again. Having toured internationally as a collegiate singer and conductor, I knew firsthand how life-changing the experience could be. We chose Italy primarily because of the institutional connections to St. Ambrose of Milan, and Austria for its rich musical history.

The students sang selections ranging from Renaissance-era polyphony to contemporary African-American spirituals. They had a number of unique musical opportunities, including performing hymns of Ambrose in his hometown of Milan, in new choral settings by Bill, as well as music of Mozart in his beloved city of Vienna. The most gratifying experience of the tour was to see how music could captivate both the students and the audiences, a continuing testament to the power of music and how it transcends cultural boundaries, and speaks to our shared human experience. Each concert had its own unique moment, but our final concert, in Vienna at the Peterskirche, was the musical highlight for me and many of the students, because it served as a beautiful end of a three-year musical journey.

- Nathan Windt, assistant professor and director of choral activities at St. Ambrose; chorale director at St. Paul



Council Notes

Preschool director Joanna Roland visited the council during its June meeting to give an inspiring update of the preschool, which she calls a "joyful village."

Enrollment stands at 105 children, with 12 part-time staff members - 10 classroom teachers, a music/resource teacher, and assistant director. Several staff members have degrees in elementary or early childhood education. All have the required training and professional development.

"We are able to have this caliber of staff thanks to the generosity of the greater St. Paul community. Because we are a ministry of the church we are gifted the space, janitorial staff, and church staff support for

budget, mailings, and printing. The endowment committee also provides us with a scholarship fund for families who need financial assistance," she said.

A board of St. Paul staff, parents, and church members oversees the preschool's operation. A parent committee guides special events.

Joanna, who has led the preschool through steady growth for 18 years, recently announced her retirement for the end of 2017. The council offered words of deep gratitude for her loving and steadfast direction.

"It is a joy and privilege to work side by side with so many gifted colleagues. It has truly blessed my life and made me a better person," she said.

MADISON ELEMENTARY CELEBRATES GRADUATION

Their futures are bright. Fifth-grade students from Madison Elementary, with their family and friends, celebrated their successes and looked forward to the next step in their education. Their graduation was held at St. Paul, which is part of life at Madison through its Neighborhood School Partnership.



UPCOMING worship

JULY 1 & 2

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

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

JULY 8 & 9

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

- 5:30 Peter W. Marty
- 8:00 Peter W. Marty
- 9:20 Peter W. Marty
- 11:00 Peter W. Marty

JULY 15 & 16

Season after Pentecost

Pastor Amy farewell

PREACHING

- 5:30 Amy Diller
- 8:00 Amy Diller
- 9:20 Amy Diller
- 11:00 Amy Diller

JULY 22 & 23

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

- 5:30 Ryan Bailey
- 8:00 Ryan Bailey
- 9:20 Ryan Bailey
- 11:00 Katy Warren

JULY 29 & 30

Season after Pentecost

Jazz worship at 9:20 & 11 a.m.

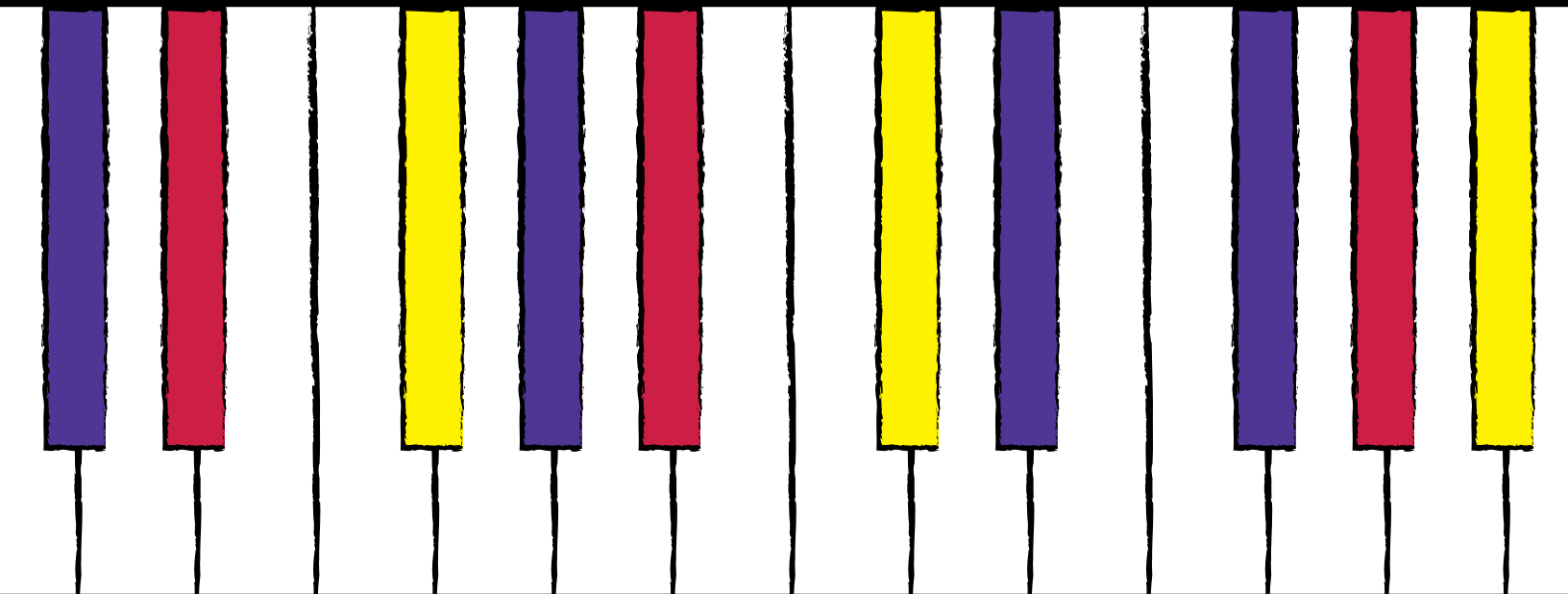
PREACHING

- 5:30 Sara Olson-Smith
- 8:00 Sara Olson-Smith
- 9:20 Peter W. Marty
- 11:00 Peter W. Marty



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803



St. Paul Lutheran Church

JAZZ SUNDAY WORSHIP

JULY 30, 9:20 & 11 A.M.