



LIGHT FOR THE DARKNESS

When the sun is shining in December, we feel great, even if the temperature is brisk. When the sun fails to shine, we don't feel so hot. Life seems dull. The days appear colorless. It doesn't help that December days get shorter, and many of us wake up in the dark, or that kids have to walk to school in the dark.

All of this only makes us appreciate light all the more. Right? The significance of light is simply awesome. Where would we be without light?

Two small candles in front of the pulpit have no candlepower to help you read your bulletin. But they can light up your life. That's the truth. Christians profess that without a light external to the bulb of their own wits and the wattage of their own ingenuity, they are people most to be pitied. So enjoy the spiritual blessing of Christ's Advent light assisting you with navigating the dark places of your soul.

today at st. paul

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; Youth Choir; Chorale
 9:20 am Alleluia, Jubilate, Cantate, & Youth choirs; Chorale
 Communion served at 5:30 pm & 11:45 am
 Readings: Isaiah 40: 1-11; 2 Peter 3: 8-15a; Mark 1: 1-8

next weekend

December 16 & 17 - Advent 3

Preaching:
 5:30/8:00 Katy Warren
 9:20/ 11:45 Peter W. Marty
 Worship notes:
 9:20 am Chorale
 Communion served at all services
 Readings: Isaiah 61: 1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24; John 1: 6-8, 19-28

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 Dec. 7)

- Carolyn Dannatt
- *Cecil Duffy
- Lavina Glotfelty
- Dolores Jensen
- *Jack Smit

With sympathy:

- Dar Darnell, niece Jerilyn Nelson
- Gretchen Johnston, daughter
- Suzie Windler
- Drew Kolb, father Dean Kolb
- Pat Koranda, granddaughter Everly Koranda
- Allen & Lynnette Olson, his sister
- Gina Jesse
- Jordan & Eric Drane, her aunt Gina Jesse

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*

ST. PAUL connections



Singing, acting, treats, and joy are part of what it means to be young at St. Paul at Christmas time. Experience some of the upcoming events for children and youth (but adults are invited, too).

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

Kids are invited to bring shampoo/conditioner and toothbrushes/toothpaste for families at Family Resources. On Dec. 10, bring shampoo/conditioner. On Dec. 17, bring toothbrushes/toothpaste. Collection tables will be in the Education Wing.

Kindergarten Christmas program | Sunday, Dec. 17, 10:45 a.m., Chapel

With creative costumes and specially chosen characters, the kindergarten Sunday school students will put on a Christmas play, an annual tradition at St. Paul, in the Chapel.

Youth Christmas caroling | Sunday, Dec. 17, 5:30 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.

Preschool Cookies & Carols | Tuesday, Dec. 19, 10:45 a.m.

Sing songs, have a delicious treat, and experience the joy of preschoolers at Christmas time. This fun morning is a perfect way to get into the Christmas spirit.

A SIMPLE CHRISTMAS
 Today, Sunday, Dec. 10, 4 p.m., Sanctuary

The angels, stars, and shepherds are all getting ready for the 2017 St. Paul Christmas pageant! Come and see the Christmas story, told through the eyes of children.

ST. PAUL
 LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
 Davenport, IA 52803
 563.326.3547
www.stpaulqc.org

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)

- ▶ *Christmas at the Movies*: Movies are not mere diversions, but expressions of our deepest human longings. Find the spiritual themes in your favorite Christmas movies, and learn to pray with your popcorn. Ryan Bailey, director of faith formation. In the Chapel.
- ▶ *The Songs of Luke (2 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. Romans with Pastor Josh Kestner. In Room 208.

ADULTS

NEXT SUNDAY

- ▶ *The Songs of Luke (3 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. Revelation with Pastor Kelsey Fitting-Snyder. 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 **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.

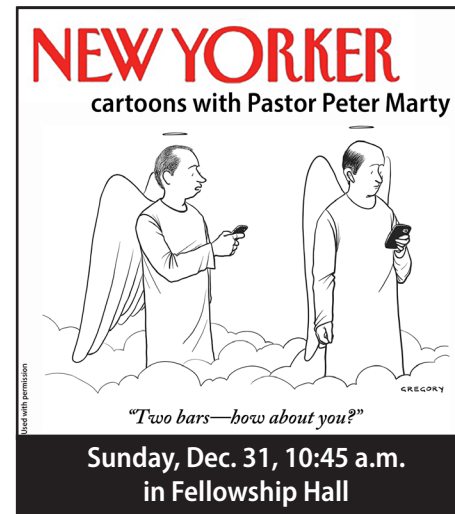
DISCOVER & CONNECT

THEOLOGY PUB: Join a lively group of individuals on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m. at Front Street Brewery in downtown Davenport, for discussion and a beverage. Theology Pub is a time for folks to get together, have something to drink and/or eat, and have great conversation about matters of faith. Brett Hagen, hagenman@gmail.com

KNIT WITS: Thursday, Dec. 21, 5 p.m. in the Church House Living Room. Knitters and crocheters are invited to share time over yarn as we work on service and individual projects. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We'll be glad to teach you. Belinda Holbrook, bholbrook@mchsi.com

2136 CHRISTMAS CAROLING: Thursday, Dec. 21, 6:30 - 8 p.m. at Ridgecrest, Davenport. 2136 is a ministry for adults in their 20s and 30s to be social, to study, and to serve. Its name comes from both the general age of those involved and the street address of St. Paul. To stay up-to-date on 2136 happenings, check out the 2136 Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/stpaul2136. Rachel Evans, mightyrachel@gmail.com

SERVING IN THE CITY: This spring, take part in a service trip in the heart of Chicago, April 11-15. Volunteer in soup kitchens, local schools, and homeless shelters. Spend evenings exploring the city, eating at local ethnic restaurants and engaging in conversations concerning poverty & justice issues. Cost is \$150, which includes all meals, lodging, and transportation. Sign up online or contact Pastor Katy, katy@stpaulqc.org.



OF SPECIAL NOTE

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 willing-

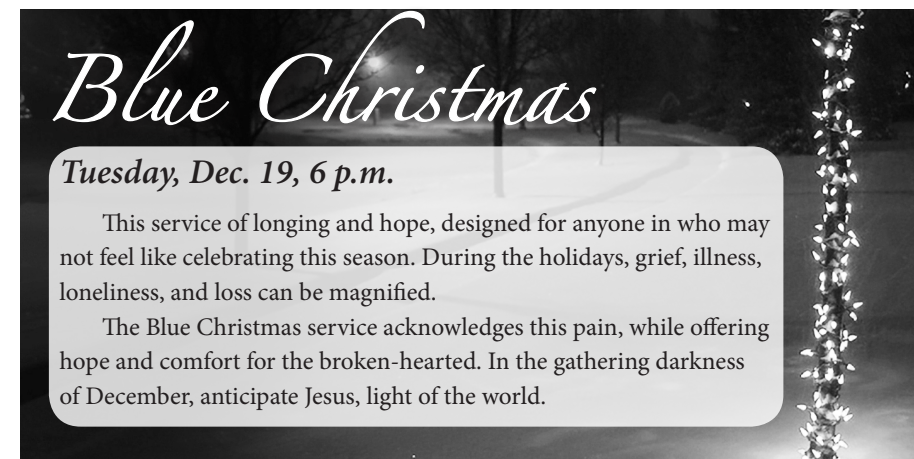
ness to commit one weekday and two hours on most Sundays for work with children's ministries. Send letter of interest and resume to: SPLCchildrensministries@gmail.com. Applications and interviews will be reviewed as they arrive.



SEASON OF ADVENT

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.

LAST CALL FOR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS, which 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.