

journey



How you doin'?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life? That's Mary Oliver's oft-quoted question from one of her poems. I wanted to open the New Year with a question, and this one happened to pop into my mind here at the keyboard.



ON THE COVER:
Gary & Patty Maiden,
Mike & Emily Reinholdt

journey

JANUARY 2018
Volume 5 | Issue 11

EDITOR Ann McGlynn

DESIGNER Lauren Brown

ADDRESS

St. Paul Lutheran Church
2136 Brady Street,
Davenport, Iowa 52803

CONTACT

Email journey@stpaulqc.org
Phone 563.326.3547

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.

Journey (USPS 8314) is published monthly by St. Paul Lutheran Church ELCA, 2136 Brady St., Davenport, IA, 52803. Periodicals Postage Paid at Davenport, IA.

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to
Journey, 2136 Brady Street,
Davenport, Iowa 52803

In reading this opening question you could be saying to yourself, "Peter is assuming I have a lot of talent, passion, or time on my hands." Or, you might be thinking, "Peter must expect me to get this New Year started with some kind of adventure." Both of those responses to the question I pose essentially turn my query into a statement. It's like a parent asking a child when she comes home from school, "Are you going to do your homework?" which the child translates as, "You need to do your homework now before you get involved with all kinds of other things."

The idea of asking a lot of honest questions in life is on the decline. I don't have the statistics in front of me, but we can all imagine an earlier time when a strictly oral culture relied on conversation that would necessarily have hinged on a lot of questions. As handwriting and print emerged, a lot of those questions received intelligent and durable answers. Scrolls, letters, books, newspapers, and other printed material made answers readily available. Today, having moved from a print to a hyper-digital culture, we text and tweet. Short clips of sentences, bullet points, and emoji mark much of our communication. We haven't entirely quit on questions; the most frequent cellphone text being, "Where are you?" But that text is really shorthand for saying, "I'm looking for you and I need you now."

In the first real conversation recorded in the Bible, God asks Adam and Eve that same question we love to text: "Where are you?" Since we assume God knows everything, we usually hear that question rhetorically, as if God were making a statement rather than eliciting information. By this way of thinking, God knows exactly where the couple is hiding and the question is merely posed to point out how personally lost they are.

But what if God asks questions not to make statements, offer instruction, give commands, or merely tell us things we need to know? What if God is actually interested in conversation? If you ask me a question that isn't rhetorical, or even fire off one that is, maybe it's because you care about me – how I think and feel. Maybe you're asking questions of me because you're curious. Relationships, after all, are built on curiosity. Their vitality depends on the wonder and exploration sewn into curiosity.

This whole matter of questions is worth thinking about, in part because we assume that the many questions Jesus posed – more than 300 in total – were all rhetorical. "Should you give someone a stone when she asks for bread?" "What does it profit a person to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?" It's more than likely, however, that Jesus asks a lot of questions for the same reason we do: a desire for relationship.

Children ask a lot of questions, not simply because they're short on information or ignorant of the surrounding world; they also ask questions for the sake of bonding with other kids and adults. It's relationship that's at stake.

Our appreciation of the Bible could grow significantly were we to stop hearing every question of God as divine instruction or command. Imagine how altered our spiritual lives would be if we saw those questions as God's persistent invitation to a deep relationship – one steeped in curiosity.

I can't help but wonder what Washington, D.C., would be like these seasons if our elected officials would quit making so many statements and avoiding so many questions. When one's singular goal is to get a point across, it doesn't really matter what the other person has to say. Or, at least one doesn't care. Questions naturally disappear from the conversation. Relationship ends.

So, what *are* you going to do in 2018 with that life of yours that is both wild and precious? I'm curious. Really curious!

PETER W. MARTY
senior pastor



Annual meeting set for Feb. 4

St. Paul's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 4, at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

This meeting includes items of important business: approving the 2018 budget, the review of 2017 financials and annual report, and a vote on the slate of candidates for congregational council, mission board, as well as the endowment, memorial, and nominating committees.

Pastor Peter Marty will present a report, and a year-in-review slideshow will be shown. The church leadership candidates to be considered at the annual meeting are:

- **Church Council:** Glen Hummel, Annie Stern, Dave Tews
- **Mission Board:** Colleen Czupka, Lee Marbach, Angie Vaaler
- **Endowment Committee:** Tina Harper, Will Sybesma
- **Memorial Gifts Committee:** Jean McGee, June Weiss
- **Nominating Committee:** Rachel Evans, Duane Haas

One-year-old milestone on Jan. 28

Connect and share in the joy and exhaustion of life with a newborn. Learn what it means to form a child's faith.

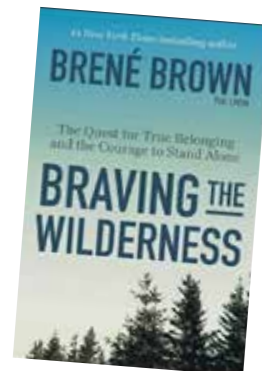
A gathering for parents of children born in 2017 will be held on Sunday, Jan. 28, 10:45-11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Each child will receive a colorful story Bible and Pastor Sara Olson-Smith will lead a discussion. A photo of all of the babies and parents will be taken.

To sign up, visit stpaulqc.org/signups.

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:

- *Malala's Magic Pencil* by Malala Yousafzai
- *Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone* by Brené Brown
- *A Bigger Table* by John Pavlovitz
- *Bread and Wine: A Love Letter to Life Around the Table with Recipes* by Shauna Niequist
- *Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver* by Mary Oliver
- *We Rise: The Earth Guardians Guide to Building a Movement That Restores the Planet* by Xiuhtezcatl Martinez
- *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home* by Traci Smith



So All May Eat: Serve a meal at Salvation Army

On Wednesday, Jan. 31, help cook a meal and serve at the Salvation Army shelter at 6th and Harrison Streets in Davenport.

Cooks and servers are needed for this six-time-a-year effort. Cooks meet in the lower level kitchen at 2 p.m. for meal prep. Servers meet at church at 5 p.m. for food pickup, then caravan to the Salvation Army for serving. Shoppers also are needed to purchase a list of food before cooking day – reimbursement is provided.

Sign up to help at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.



SIXTH-GRADE MILESTONE: DIGITAL IDENTITY

Sixth grade is a time of great transition for all kids – new schools, new friends, changing bodies, and increasing independence. Some students are beginning to explore digital media, such as texting, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, and online gaming.

St. Paul will host a faith milestone for parents and sixth-graders. On Sunday, Jan. 7, 10:30 a.m., in Fellowship Hall, we will gather to talk about creating and maintaining an identity that reflects God in our daily and digital lives. We will explore together the responsibilities carried with each username and interaction. We will talk about practical tips for navigating decisions that accompany digital independence, and offer helpful suggestions to consider.

Each student will receive a gift that will help them remember the trust parents have in their decisions. A special blessing will be offered during the 11:45 a.m. worship service.

Signup online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Questions? Contact Andy Langdon at andy@stpaulqc.org.

ALL ST. PAUL READS:

Evicted

Without a home, everything else falls apart

All St. Paul Reads will be Thursday, Feb. 8, 6-8 p.m. at St. Paul. The book for 2018 is *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. It is the winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for general nonfiction.

Dinner is provided, as a thank you from the St. Paul Book Corner.

All St. Paul Reads culminates each year with a presentation and question-and-answer time. This year, St. Paul member Ben Cleaveland, director of community services at Bethany for Children & Families, and Rick Schlommer, retiring director of the Quad City Housing Cluster, will speak.

The mission of Bethany for Children & Families is to keep children safe, to strengthen families, and to build healthy communities. Agency services include programs to help families and teens overcome homelessness, independent living support for children aging out of the foster care system, and services for children who are at-risk or are victims of abuse or neglect.

The Quad City Housing Cluster is a consortium of nonprofit and for-profit housing leaders. Cluster members work collaboratively to address the overall housing needs and opportunities of the Quad-Cities communities.

Soup, salads, and dessert for this year's All St. Paul Reads will be catered by the students in the Davenport schools' ProStart program.

ProStart is an educational experience for any student who is a junior or senior in high school who wishes to be introduced to and explore the fast growing industry of culinary and hospitality careers. The ProStart curriculum is developed by the National Restaurant Association. It is a combination of classroom instruction, as well as paid work experience. ProStart is a joint effort between Davenport Community Schools and Scott Community College, as well as several business partners in the community.

THE BOOK

In *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*, Matthew Desmond takes us into the poorest neighborhoods of Milwaukee to tell the story of eight families on the edge. Arleen is a single mother trying to raise her two sons on the \$20

a month she has left after paying for their rundown apartment. Scott is a gentle nurse consumed by a heroin addiction. Lamar, a man with no legs and a neighborhood full of boys to look after, tries to work his way out of debt. Vanetta participates in a botched stickup after her hours are cut. All are spending almost everything they have on rent, and all have fallen behind.

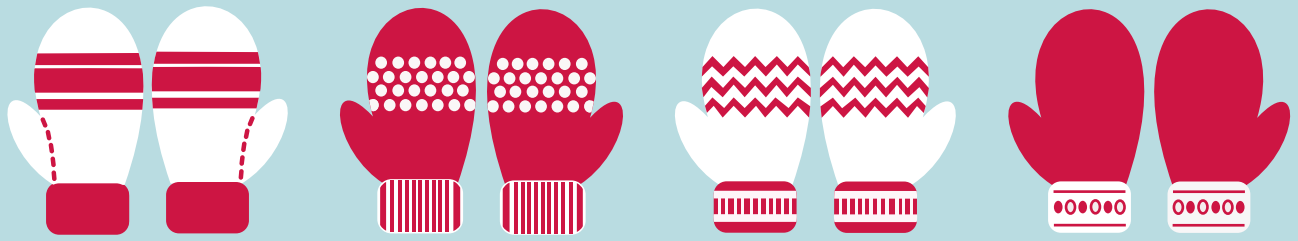
Even in the most desolate areas of American cities, evictions used to be rare. But today, most poor renting families are spending more than half of their income on housing, and eviction has become ordinary, especially for single mothers. As we see families forced into shelters, squalid apartments, or more dangerous neighborhoods, we bear witness to the human cost of America's vast inequality—and to people's determination and intelligence in the face of hardship.

Based on years of fieldwork and gathered data, this book transforms our understanding of extreme poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving a devastating, uniquely American problem. Its unforgettable scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.



Please RSVP outside the Book Corner or at stpaulqc.org/signups.





Winter at St. Paul

In January and February, settle in and be warmed by joyful gatherings. Here's a sampling of what St. Paul people can experience this winter, with more information online at stpaulqc.org and in the weekly Connections flyer.

Kids & Families Adults

678 NIGHT

Wednesday, Jan. 31, 6:30-8 p.m.

High-energy games + fun + togetherness + great Bible studies + campfire-style worship = 678. This group for those in grades 6, 7, and 8 meets periodically throughout the year. Contact: Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org.

FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, Feb. 18, 10:45-11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Families with children of all ages are invited to a Bible study led by a St. Paul pastor. This family learning activity will take the place of regular Sunday school. Children grade 3 and younger should be accompanied by an adult. Contact: Michelle Juehring, michelle@stpaulqc.org.

Music

CONCERTS AT ST. PAUL

Gustavus Adolphus College Choir: On Friday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m., this Midwest concert tour will feature an eclectic mix of music. Interested in helping with an evening meal or homestays for the performers? Contact Chris Nelson, chris@stpaulqc.org.

Nova Singers: On Sunday, Feb. 18, 4 p.m., the Nova Singers will perform "Music of the Deep North II" at St. Paul. Tickets available on the Nova Singers website or at the door.

EARLY MORNING BOOK GROUP

Tuesdays, Jan. 23-Feb. 6, 6:45-7:30 a.m., Library Commons

Wake up with coffee and togetherness over a good book. This session's book will be *Searching for Happiness* by Martin Thielen. The book highlights different spiritual practices that help lead to contentment and joy beyond whatever our life circumstances may be. The book is available in the St. Paul Book Corner. Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

HEART. SOUL. MIND.

Thursdays, starting Jan. 11, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Gospel of Life: "So that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." That's why the Gospel of John was written. Explore its rich symbols, textured characters, and profound insight. Contact: Ryan Bailey, ryan@stpaulqc.org.

CC CONVERSATIONS

First Thursday of the month, 6-7:15 p.m., Luther Loft

CC Conversations is an opportunity to discuss faith, politics, and culture, based on articles and news from *The Christian Century* magazine. Think critically and faithfully about a whole host of contemporary issues. Pastor Peter Marty will facilitate discussion. Contact: Pastor Peter Marty, peter@stpaulqc.org.

FAITHFUL READERS

Thursday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m., Church House Living Room

Listen to the whisper of God's voice in the pages of good books. January's selection is *Babette's Feast and Other Stories* by Isak Dinesen. For the January meeting, read "The Immortal Story." Contact: Katie Hanson, katiehanson@augustana.edu.

WALKING THE GRIEF JOURNEY

Five Sundays, Feb. 25-March 25, 10:45-11:30 a.m., Church House Living Room

This supportive and compassionate series is for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Explore anger, depression, fears, acceptance, and new strength for a hopeful future. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Lynn Batcher, lbatcher@hotmail.com.

FIGHTING DEFORESTATION AND EXPLOITATION IN GUATEMALA

Monday, Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m., Library Commons

Pastor Jose Pilar Alvarez Cabrera is pastor of Iglesia Luterana Guatemalteca. For many years, he and his church have stood with the Zacapa and Chiquimula communities, who live around the Granadillas Mountain. They are fighting against deforestation and exploitation of the area, which is the main source of water, food, and livelihood for some 300,000 people. Dinner will be provided, so please RSVP by Sunday, Jan. 14, at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Ryan Bailey, ryan@stpaulqc.org.

People, purses, paper

Ali Maiden loved purses, \$20 bills, and mail trucks. She also loved people – and gave gifts of healing to many after her death.

“Having Ali as a sister exposed me to people and experiences that I never would have had.”

The first hunches came from her mom. Patty Maiden felt like her pregnancy with Alison was different than her first daughter, Emily.

When Ali was born, she aspirated and the doctors whisked her away. They noticed some things that were out of the ordinary. And then Ali got really sick. Tests determined Ali had a very rare chromosomal abnormality. Some thought Ali wouldn't live for very long at all.

Thankfully, oh so thankfully, that baby survived. And thrived. And loved. And was loved.

Ali Maiden did die young – at just 24 years old – but the life she lived?

A gift.

Purses, \$20 bills, and mail trucks

You would be hard-pressed to find Ali Maiden without a purse. She had lots and lots of purses, and almost always had one hanging from her arm. A photo from her first day of kindergarten shows her with a purse and money in hand.

Her favorite purses seemed to be the least-expensive and most interesting – a \$1.38 purse from Goodwill comes to mind.

Her favorite money – \$20 bills. And if a \$20 bill had a 9 in the serial number? Celebration.

Ali went into meeting someone new with the assumption that they would like her. Ali communicated with her own version of sign language. She also had an electronic communication device. With the combination of the two, she'd always have questions to ask new people she encountered.

Big burly guys waiting in line at Gordmans? Questions. Sweating it out at the Y? Questions. Sitting at a restaurant? Questions.

“If only the whole world thought that way,” Patty said of her daughter.

It made for some interesting encounters, Emily said of her sister.

Emily eventually became a caretaker for Ali, through the agency Ali received services from.

They visited all sorts of people and places together. Paul at the Bettendorf library saved up \$20 bills for Ali to look



through to find 9s in the serial numbers. The staff at Gordmans saved up paper because they knew Ali loved to come in and sort through it all. Ali loved going to the YMCA, but she also loved trying as hard as possible to get out of walking her laps around the track – strongly indicating she needed a drink of water or a bathroom break.

She did not like being outside. She liked food because it gave her something to put ketchup on.

“Having Ali as a sister exposed me to people and experiences that I never would have had. I never felt cheated at all,” Emily said. Anyone who was Emily's friend became Ali's friend, including Emily's now-husband Mike Reinholdt.

Ali's caddy

As Ali neared high school graduation, the Maidens prepared for her moving into her own place. “Patty was ready, and Ali was ready, before dad was ready,” dad Gary said. Ali moved into an apartment in DeWitt, Iowa, with a roommate.

On Sundays, Gary picked her up for church, lunch, and a drive to check out some of Ali's favorite things – mail trucks at the post office and determining whether there were any tennis balls left behind at the courts at Bettendorf Middle School. Every fourth Sunday, Ali and her dad ushered at St. Paul.

“I served as Ali's caddy,” Gary said.

The Maidens say life was not always easy with Ali. For

example, she could not independently dress, bathe, use the restroom, or other similar tasks. Someone always needed to be with her. When times were particularly hard, the Maidens focused on separating Ali's disability from Ali the person.

"We were fortunate, during Ali's life was the golden age of services," Gary said, noting the recent shift in Iowa of the care of people with disabilities. "Services are going away, and it's just wrong."

In the months leading up to her death, Ali had a hard time fending off sickness. On a Sunday morning in January 2015, she ushered at church. By that following Thursday, she was gone.

"It was the worst night of my life," Patty said.

On the family's Sundays together, the docket included a trip to Hy-Vee. Ali stopped by the Starbucks inside the store to trade out \$20 bills with 9s in the serial number, picked out the same greeting card to purchase, along with two packages of paper plates, and two Kit Kats.

Her dad would then mail the greeting card to Ali, with a bit of money inside.

He still has the last greeting card she bought. Some of her purses still hang on the back of a chair in their home. Her Coin-U-Lator (a game with money) remains in a drawer in an upstairs bathroom.

"She had a ton of personality," Patty said. "We just really miss her."

Ali's gift

When Ali died at Genesis Medical Center – DeWitt in February 2015, her family chose to give the gift of healing to several people around the country. From that gift:

- Sixty-four grafts of bone and connective tissue were completed, in California, Colorado, Illinois, and Missouri. The ages of the people helped range from an 11-year-old girl to an 80-year-old woman.
- Three grafts of skin were completed, in Georgia and Michigan, including for a 20-year-old man and a 73-year-old man.

"Alison's donation has enhanced the lives of those who received her gift," wrote Julie Farren, donor family care specialist with the Iowa Donor Network. The letter arrived in February, two years after Ali's death. It took some time for the Maidens to open it and read it. "It is our hope that each recipient will experience freedom from pain, greater mobility, and the opportunity to live a more active life."

Twosday, featuring Ali and Emily

In a series of Facebook posts on Tuesdays that Gary Maiden calls Twosdays (for his two daughters), he remembers favorite moments and photos of life with Ali and Emily.



A shot of the two cool sisters, Alison and Emily, on the weekend of Em's graduation from Wartburg College.



Our girls' birthdays have always been big deals, so big that they were dubbed Emipalooza and Alipalooza.

Alison finally leaves the NICU and gets about six feet out the door before Emily is all over her. We go home and Em wants to hold Ali NOW! (Note that Patty still wears her coat and scarf.) Twenty-three days is a long while to have a new sister but mostly just to look at through glass. They made up for lost time!



It was established previously that Alison was not fond of grass. She cared even less for sand, so this shot of her in the turtle sandbox is quite rare. She only looks mildly miffed. We commemorate this moment during the Christmas season with the turtle sandbox ornament.



A church, in prison

Within the walls of the Anamosa State Penitentiary, Free Indeed is a community of faith

At the piano, an inmate leads the music. Men's voices fill the air with familiar tunes. Let there be peace on Earth, they sing. How great Thou art.

Fellow inmates take their turn at the lectern, reading the texts for the day's worship. One man manages the projector with the words to the songs and prayers, and another helps at communion with tiny cups of grape juice.

"This is the blood of Christ, shed for you."

Welcome to Free Indeed, a Lutheran congregation that meets for worship every weekend at the Anamosa State Penitentiary. Jerry Collell is their pastor. It's a new congregation, started this summer. About 20 or so men gather each week. As time goes on, the hope is that worshippers from the outside will come and worship too.

The men sit on wooden church pews in the brightly lit and spacious chapel. They confess their sins. They hear a message. They shake hands. They kneel in prayer.

The reminders that this is a prison fade into the background – the bars on the windows, the corrections officer who periodically walks through the chapel, the plain blues of

the inmates' clothing, the identification cards clipped to everyone's shirts to designate staff, visitor, and inmate.

"Even here, the good news is very present," Jerry says during his message one Sunday morning in December. He's been a pastor for three decades, with substantial time spent in prison ministry. "God comes to us in the hardest of times."

The Free Indeed worship is one of 18 held each week at the penitentiary, said Anne Williams, the prison chaplain. To be an officially recognized religious group at Anamosa, five inmates must step forward and fill out paperwork. Once recognized, the group may hold worship, are allowed specific faith-related items in their cells, and can hold up to two feasts a year. Most inmates are allowed to attend worship once a week; some in more restrictive environments can attend once a month. At the same time as Free Indeed gathers, Buddhists, Jehovah's Witnesses, and a Reformed Protestant group meet in adjoining spaces. The prison is home to many other religious groups, including Muslims, Wiccans,

ST. PAUL SUPPORTS FREE INDEED

Free Indeed is a new congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. St. Paul's mission board voted in 2017 to provide the congregation with \$2,000 from the daily ministry benevolence fund.

Catholics, Seventh-Day Adventists, Hebrew-Israelites, Messianics, and Luciferians.

Other special services are held, too. The women's choir from an AME church in Waterloo came to sing on the Saturday before Christmas. Memorial services are held for prisoners who die. For those whose ashes are not claimed, the administrative staff of the prison holds a small service at the prison's cemetery, Warden William Sperfslage said.

Worshipping communities within prison are one way that the prison can fulfill its hope of inmates never returning to prison again, the warden said. Not only do they help support the inmates while they are serving their sentences, inmates who come out of prison with education and job skills, and connected

with family, friends, or support networks like churches, generally do much better on the outside.

“My goal is that we have no repeat customers, to help these guys succeed,” the warden said. “No more victims. That’s the ideal.”

Free Indeed follows the model of the Prison Congregations of America. It is one of four such congregations in Iowa’s prisons. The concept is based on the idea that the inmates are active members of the worshipping community. They are guided by a pastor from the outside, like Jerry, who is trained by and accountable to a sponsoring denomination, like the ELCA. An inside council and an outside council (former St. Paul pastoral resident Dan Kuckuck is a member of the outside council) lead. The community is supported financially by churches on the outside.

“Jesus invited all people back into family, back into community,” Pastor Jerry said of the foundation of Free Indeed.

The beige-painted entrance gate closed behind two Free Indeed worshippers from the outside last month. A second gate opened to let them inside the penitentiary. A climb up a large staircase took them to the chapel/auditorium/library area.

After one of the many daily inmate counts, radios crackled alive with chatter and men start filtering in for worship. Some sat quietly and off to the side. Others greeted each other with smiles and hellos. They opened with confession, then the singing began.

The message was about comforting good news.

As the men listen, a mural by artist Ernest Garthwaite, painted in the 1960s, hangs on a nearby wall. At first glance, it appears to be Jesus hanging on the cross. But it’s not. It’s the thief who died beside Jesus, looking up to Jesus, who is not visible in the painting.

“This is not the end, it is the beginning,” Pastor Jerry said. “In the wilderness of the (prison) yard, you may think this is time wasted. It is time to be one with God. It is time to not just be penitent, but to be set free. God is present with us. God loves us.”



St. Paul people to Anamosa

Interested in worshipping with Free Indeed at the Anamosa State Penitentiary? Plans are in the works for a visit sometime in the first part of 2018. Volunteers must pass a background check and be willing to follow prison security measures, such as no cell phones. To express interest, connect with Ann McGlynn, ann@stpaulqc.org or 563-326-3547.

"Even here, the good news is very present. God comes to us in the hardest of times."

ABOUT THE PRISON: Anamosa State Penitentiary is a maximum/medium security facility, and houses approximately 900-950 inmates, according to the prison’s 2016 annual report. More than 300 people work at the prison, which is in Jones County, about an hour and a half from the Quad Cities.

The average age of inmates is 39, with an average education of just less than a high school diploma. The average length of sentence is 29 years, with 218 serving life sentences and 656 convicted of violent crimes.

Through a contract with Kirkwood Community College, inmates can take courses in adult literacy, high school equivalency, or college credit. They can work in a variety of jobs through Iowa Prison Industries, and take part in apprenticeships through a program recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor.

new members / DECEMBER 2017



Phil Blankenfeld



Casey & Brooke Breuer, Cahl



Amy & Brian Deines, Rose, Kaleb, Jakob



Derek Dlouhy



Kelly & Nathan Good, Adelia, Connor



Chris Jackson



Connie King



Keith & Dixie Kutzbach



Andrew & Amy McCarville, Aaron, Haley



Lisa Meloy, Laura

PHIL BLANKENFELD works as a compliance officer with Royal Neighbors of America. He is passionate about helping with meals for the homeless and building homes through Habitat for Humanity. He is engaged to Sue Wallace, a St. Paul member.

CASEY & BROOKE BREUER like to spend their free time outside and caring for their new baby boy Cahl. Casey is a rodeo athlete with the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. Brooke is a student at Palmer College.

AMY & BRIAN DEINES have three children, Kaleb, Rose, and Jakob. Brian is employed as a business development manager at Dynamic Tube and likes coaching, reading, running, and creating art. Amy is a dance teacher at Above the Barre and enjoys dance, music, and fashion. The community spirit and people are what attracted them to St. Paul.

DEREK DLOUHY joins his wife, Kara, and their daughter, Amelia, in membership at St. Paul. Derek is the owner of Classical Graphics, a design and screen printing business. He spends his free time with family and friends, watching and playing sports, and working around his home.

KELLY & NATHAN GOOD have two children, Connor and Adelia. Nathan works at John Deere as a re-marketing specialist and takes an interest in sports. Kelly is a pharmacist at Sam's Club and enjoys gardening and crafting. The kids' programs and friends are what brought them to St. Paul.

CHRIS JACKSON is a retired attorney with the City of Davenport. He likes music, traveling, and running. What drew him to St. Paul? The beautiful location and many friendly people.

CONNIE KING is employed at Bettendorf High School as an English teacher. She loves to garden, read, and ride her bike. St. Paul's core value of radical hospitality is one of the reasons she joins.

WALTER AND HELEN KORSRUD (*not pictured*) are recent transplants to the area from Bloomington, Minnesota, where Walter retired from working as a guidance counselor. They are the parents of St. Paul member Sandra (and Louis) Behensky.

KEITH & DIXIE KUTZBACH enjoy spending time with family and watching sports. Keith retired as a district sales manager for Wyffels at the end of the year. Dixie is a retired bank teller. The mission focus is one of the things that drew them to St. Paul.

ANDREW & AMY MCCARVILLE, have two kids, Aaron and Haley. They both work at John Deere – Andrew in information technology and Amy as an accountant and financial analyst. They like playing with their children, camping, biking, movies, and reading. The positive experiences and children's programs are what brought them to St. Paul.



Amanda Stradt, Jackson, Alyssa

MARILYN PETERSEN (*not pictured*) moved into Ridgcrest Village from Beardstown, Illinois. Despite being unable to get to St. Paul for worship, she has connected to St. Paul through her neighbors, our visitation Pastor Ron Huber, a Care Companion, and other areas of outreach.

LISA MELOY has a teenage daughter, Laura. Lisa is a registered nurse with HomeHealth. She spends her free time with family, volunteering, gardening, and sewing. Her children attended the preschool and Camp Shalom when they were young – the positive experience is what brought her back to St. Paul.

AMANDA STRADT is pictured with her husband, Jason, and two children, Jackson and Alyssa. Amanda is employed as a case manager with Milestones Area Agency on Aging and enjoys camping and attending her kids' activities. The wonderful youth programs are what attracted her to St. Paul.

Council Notes

At its final meeting of 2017, the Congregational Council considered several items of business. Council member Jeannine Crockett hosted dinner in her home.

The council offered its support for the Memorial Gifts Committee approval of funding for St. Paul's radio ministry. This decades-long initiative allows for weekly worship to play on WOC1420, and worldwide on the iHeartMedia app, every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. People who cannot be at church because of health, travel, or life circumstance, can hear the words and songs of worship.

The council also approved the hiring of Eyreka

Barnes as the part-time children's ministries assistant. She will assist Michelle Juehring, director, two days a week, including Sunday mornings. St. Paul also recently welcomed a new evening and weekend host, Terry Haru.

A used church van will be purchased in 2018 to replace the smaller of St. Paul's two vans, a 2000 model that has transported people to destinations near and far.

The treasurer spoke optimistically of the church finishing 2017 in a strong position. Appreciation for members' pledge commitments was shared.

A SIMPLE CHRISTMAS

Dozens of St. Paul stars, shepherds, sheep, and St. Nicholas made the trip to Bethlehem to sing and tell the story of Jesus' birth.



UPCOMING *worship*

JANUARY 6 & 7

Baptism of our Lord

PREACHING

- 5:30** Josh Kestner
- 8:00** Josh Kestner
- 9:20** Peter W. Marty
- 11:45** Peter W. Marty

MUSIC

- 9:20** Youth Choir & Alumni

JANUARY 13 & 14

Second Sunday after Epiphany

PREACHING

- 5:30** Peter W. Marty
- 8:00** Peter W. Marty
- 9:20** Peter W. Marty
- 11:45** Katy Warren

MUSIC

- 8:00** Quartet
- 9:20** Chorale

JANUARY 20 & 21

Third Sunday after Epiphany

PREACHING

- 5:30** Sara Olson-Smith
- 8:00** Josh Kestner
- 9:20** Sara Olson-Smith
- 11:45** Josh Kestner

MUSIC

- 8:00** Quartet
- 9:20** Chorale

JANUARY 27 & 28

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

PREACHING

- 5:30** Kelsey Fitting-Snyder
- 8:00** Kelsey Fitting-Snyder
- 9:20** Katy Warren
- 11:45** Katy Warren

MUSIC

- 8:00** Quartet
- 9:20** Chorale, Cantate Choir

For more details on the weekly worship schedule at St. Paul, go to stpaulqc.org/worship



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803



Roller Skating Party

Sunday, Jan. 14, 1-4 p.m., Eldridge Skatepark

Lace up your skates! The annual skating party is a rolling good time. Anyone is welcome. Cost is free. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Contact: Michelle Juehring, michelle@stpaulqc.org, 563-326-3547 ext. 227.