

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2018

journey



One life at a time

When Paul Sikorski became Davenport police chief in January 2016, he said to friends who congratulated him, "I'm here to serve. That's the long and short of it. I'm here to serve the community."



ON THE COVER:
Joel Moore

journey

APRIL 2018
Volume 6 | Issue 2

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

What Sikorski meant by serving was certainly something other than a bureaucrat strutting around police headquarters with a badge pinned to his shirt. To his way of thinking, serving the community is about dedicating oneself to meeting as many people as possible between sun-up and sun-down. It means going to bed and waking up with the well-being of every Davenport resident on one's mind.

I spoke with Sikorski after sitting near him in a meeting we attended. He told of a recent arrest that proved to be as much of an eye-opener for the chief as for the 15-year-old charged. Police caught the young man and two 13-year-old accomplices stealing a car, in what turned out to be more than an isolated incident. This trio had been responsible for a spate of car thefts that plagued the Quad Cities. Sikorski sat in the squad car talking with the kid for a long time.

"I'm not entirely sure what possessed me to talk with this kid," the chief said. "But I just had this hunch that he wasn't in the place he wanted to be in life and probably needed someone to talk to. So I listened and asked him questions as if I cared, because I did care."

The youth began to open up with the chief. They talked and talked. The 15-year-old looked Sikorski in the eye the whole time. He talked about his mother in jail, and no relationship with his father who spent time in a penitentiary. The life of this kid resembled a ball bouncing between different friends' homes. "Do you love your mother?" Sikorski asked him. He indicated yes, though he wasn't sure if she loved him. There was some sadness there. When the chief asked him why he was doing this car theft thing, the young man didn't really have an answer. He was searching for meaning in life and said so in his own way.

When Sikorski told him that he wanted to visit again sometime, the kid was skeptical. He rolled his eyes. "Actions always speak louder than words, don't they?" the boy muttered. A couple weeks later, Paul Sikorski tracked down this kid at the juvenile detention center where he was residing. The kid couldn't believe it. The chief spent a couple hours with him, more as a mentor and friend than as a police officer. Sikorski knows he doesn't have time to do this with every soul who commits a crime. But if one youth is saved from getting into deeper trouble, he figures it's worth it.

The police chief gave the young man an assignment for the next time they'd meet. It was as much for the sake of continuing the relationship as it was a probing of this kid's aspirations. "I want you to write down three things," said Sikorski. "First, I want you tell me what dreams you have for a job. What would you like to do for pay that you think you can do? Second, what do you hope for in your relationships. What do you want for your future? Marriage someday? A family? What would all that look like? And finally, does God have any place in your life? What do you think of God?"

That's a pretty heavy assignment to give a kid awaiting a sentence. But then, this 15-year-old was in more than a little disbelief that the chief of police would spend any time taking an interest in him. Paul Sikorski met with the young man another time. On this visit, they talked through all that the kid had written up on three sheets of notebook paper.

I don't know what you make of this behavior by a chief of police. But his commitment to one thief's life is profound. Colleagues of Sikorski describe his integrity as exemplary. He has an engaging and winsome character. And his idea of serving has ... well ... a noticeably biblical ring to it. It makes me wonder: What young person trying to find his or her way in the world will I next decide is worth my time and love? Or, will you next decide is worth yours?



PETER W. MARTY
senior pastor



First-grade & ninth-grade milestone

At St. Paul, faith milestones are special markers along the growing-up journey. Each milestone is grounded in the Bible and nurtures faith in everyday life. Signup at stpaulqc.org/signups.

First grade | Lord's Prayer: Children and parents learn together about the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray, April 22, 10:45-11:30 a.m., in Fellowship Hall.

Ninth Grade | Blessing of the Keys: Parents and students come together for conversation about new responsibilities in life, including the ability to drive, April 29, 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall. A blessing is said over car keys.

CHICAGO, TANZANIA, PRISON MINISTRY TRIPS SET FOR APRIL

St. Paul people are preparing for three learning experiences this month — to Chicago, Tanzania, and the Iowa state penitentiary in Anamosa.

The Free Indeed congregation inside the Iowa men's penitentiary at Anamosa, Iowa, will welcome a group of St. Paul people for worship on April 7. The new congregation invites inmates of the prison as well as people from the outside to worship together. St. Paul's Mission Board recently supported this start-up ministry with a \$2,000 donation. Interested in learning more about future worshiping opportunities? Contact: Ann McGlynn, ann@stpaulqc.org.

A four-day trip to Chicago in mid-April will include volunteering, exploring the city, and discussing systemic issues at the root of poverty and injustice. On Sunday morning, the group will worship at Lawndale Community Christian Church, a 40-year-old congregation that includes a health center, legal center, and community development center as part of its ministry.

In partnership with Empower Tanzania, a 12-day immersion trip to the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania will include visits to a water project, a gender-based violence initiative, a village health clinic, and a club for the area's most vulnerable children and families. The guiding principles of this time away will be to be with the people of the area, learn about their lives, and be inspired by their work.

Women's Retreat 2018: Fill Our Cups

Gather with other St. Paul women at Camp Shalom, Maquoketa, Iowa. Reflect on what it means to be created by God as a vessel for both giving and receiving. Be filled through conversations and connecting with others.

We'll eat good food, have space for rest, and enjoy time outside, all while we pray and learn together. Dates are Friday, April 13, 6 p.m. to Saturday, April 14, 3 p.m. Cost is \$60 to cover lodging, food, and supplies. Space is limited. Questions? Contact Tammy Hermanson, tammy@stpaulqc.org. Signup online at stpaulqc.org/signups.

WELCA to hold spring gathering

The Women of the ELCA will hold their annual spring gathering on Thursday, April 19, 6:30 p.m.–9 p.m. in the Chapel. The evening will begin with a thankoffering service led by Pastor Sara Olson-Smith. Ben Cleaveland, who works with homeless initiatives at Bethany for Children & Families, will present. Pam Crowe will sing, with Fonda Corson as accompanist. Spring desserts will follow the program, with the spring general meeting.

Sign up at the Info Center. Contact: Judy Skogman, 563-940-4111, or Jan Lloyd, cmljml@q.com.



Luther, Augsburg, Augustana choirs to sing at St. Paul

Three college choirs will fill the Sanctuary with song over the next several weeks. The three concerts are all no charge, with a freewill offering accepted.

The Luther College Collegiate Chorale, composed of select junior and senior singers, will perform on Thursday, April 12, 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

The choir features 100 mixed voices performing sacred choral works of a variety of periods and styles. The Collegiate Chorale also sings at daily Chapel and Sunday worship services on campus, takes part in the college's annual Christmas at Luther celebration, and tours annually. Collegiate Chorale is conducted by Dr. Jennaya Robison.

The Augsburg Choir will bring its long tradition of excellence in choral music to St. Paul on Tuesday evening, May 1, at 7 p.m.

Praised for its high level of musicianship, the ensemble performs a diverse repertoire including compositions by well-known Scandinavian and American composers.

The Augustana Choir will wrap up its tour with a home concert at St. Paul on Friday, May 11, 7 p.m. This highly selective mixed ensemble performs a variety of music in major concerts, special events, and on tour. The choir has released a number of recordings, and performed on radio and network television.

Questions? Contact Chris Nelson, chris@stpaulqc.org.



CELEBRATING

THE EARTH

St. Paul welcomes Earth month with a speaker, a cleanup, and the spring beginning for the community garden

Paddle to the Amazon: Sunday morning learning, April 22

Dana Starkell of Bettendorf will present during Sunday morning learning on April 22, 10:45-11:30 a.m. in the Chapel.

Dana grew up in Winnipeg, Canada, a city known for warm summers and long bitterly cold winters. From the time Dana was a young boy, his life was filled with adventure. Dana's father Don had an extensive background in canoe racing and made plans to involve his two sons in some form of a memorable event each year. Summer holidays included canoe trips, hiking, sand-dune treks, rock climbing, and lake swimming. Learning how to overcome challenges through personal experience is one aspect that has shaped Dana's sense of what is possible.



Dana Starkell

At age 11, Dana climbed to the top of

Mount Rundle with his dad and younger brother Jeff. At 9,672 feet, Mount Rundle is the highest mountain in the resort town of Banff, Alberta. During their descent along a narrow ridge, Dana lost his footing in the shale and began to catapult head over heels. Fortunately, Dana's dad had foreseen this risk. Only moments earlier, Don had advised Dana to extend his arms and legs in the event he lost balance and started rolling down the mountain side. The advice worked and likely saved Dana's life. Dana slid to a stop less than ten feet from the ledge of a ravine that dropped a few thousand feet to the rocks below.

The next summer, Dana's father used the lure of milkshakes from the Mount Rushmore concession stand to help Dana overcome his newly acquired fear of climbing. While his father waited at the top of a small mountain that faced the monument, Dana made three round-trips for chocolate shakes and by the end of the day, his self-confidence and enthusiasm for climbing were restored.

Each summer the Starkells took canoe trips on the remote lakes of Northern Manitoba and Southern Ontario. As practice for their voyage to South America, they completed a summer holiday trip that lasted a month and covered 1,000 miles of rivers and

lakes. This trip also helped confirm the food carrying capacity of their canoe, their physical endurance, and self-sufficiency for 30-plus days.

A year after completing high school, Dana undertook the two-year canoe trip his father had been planning since Dana was 9 years old. Altogether, they paddled through 13 countries from Winnipeg to Belem, Brazil, and were awarded the Guinness Book of World Record's award for the longest canoe trip in history. The story about their adventure became a book, *Paddle to the Amazon*.

Spring cleaning in the St. Paul neighborhood

The St. Paul corner of the world is a beautiful place. On Saturday, April 21, 10 a.m.-12 noon, gather to pick up trash and debris in the blocks surrounding the campus. It's called the *Make It Yours Neighborhood Cleanup*. Supplies and snacks are provided. Contact: Jules Irish, jules@mchsi.com.

Growing love in the St. Paul community garden

The beginning of spring means the planting in the St. Paul community garden. Get your hands into the earth twice over the coming weeks. Children are welcome.

- ▶ **Saturday, April 28, 10 a.m.-12 noon:** Clean the garden beds and plant cold-tolerant plants. Bring garden tools and seeds if you'd like. The rain/cold date is Saturday, May 5.
- ▶ **Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m.-12 noon:** Complete the planting of the garden. Help give root to tomatoes, peppers, and other warm-weather plants. The rain/cold date is Sunday, May 13.

The vegetables and herbs grown in the garden are donated to Café on Vine, the Madison Marketplace, neighbors, and St. Paul people. Contact: Matt Schroeder, schroeder4rivermont@yahoo.com or 563-340-9980.

A warm welcome

St. Paul ushers greet, support worship with steadfast and grace-filled presence

With a warm smile and bulletins in hand, Sam Dickman greets visitors as they walk into the Sanctuary for worship.

A bit later in worship, he makes his way down the middle aisle with seven fellow ushers. They are given baskets for offering, then make their way through worshippers gathering the gifts of the day.

He is one of approximately 100 people, adults and kids, who are a part of the usher team at St. Paul.

Ushers are an important part of the spirit of hospitality at worship, said Tom Eriksen, usher coordinator.

“Hospitality is the relationship between a guest and a host. Ushers are at the forefront of this. Ushers greet all people with warmth and kindness. We offer assistance to all members and guests with any questions or concerns or needs they may have. There's a great amount of helpfulness and compassion shared by our ushers. All of this is hospitality.”

What do ushers do?

Greet: Welcoming people with good words is one of their most important jobs.

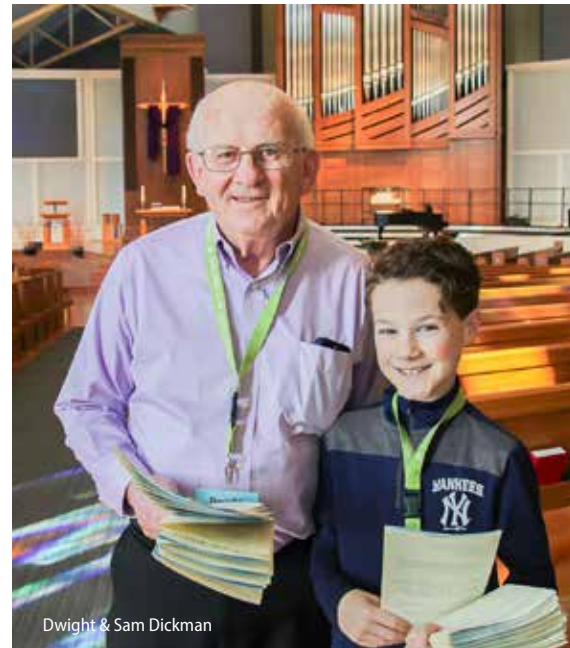
Seat: Finding a seat can sometimes be a challenge on full weekend services. The ushers help ensure everyone has a place to settle in. Occasionally, that means assisting with setting up extra chairs.

Assist: St. Paul offers a listening system for people who have hearing difficulties. Ushers help connect folks with the sets. They are there when a medical problem emerges.

Count: Ever wonder how St. Paul can gauge about how many people are in worship? The ushers quietly count during communion, which helps with worship planning.

Tidy up: After each worship, ushers pick up bulletins and other items left behind in the Sanctuary. They also adjust hymnals and Bibles, and collect the sheets from the blue Welcome to St. Paul books.

An usher has an open and happy spirit, Tom said. “The openness allows people to come to an usher with many types of questions. It also helps ushers to approach others and offer them help. The happiness extends to everyone coming through St. Paul. Sometimes we just need a smile or a friendly ‘Hello!’”



Dwight & Sam Dickman

Be a part of the usher team

Ushering is a way to share your joy with others. The usher team is full of people who love to help others. It's also a good way to meet others. Are you interested in learning more about being an usher at St. Paul? To indicate interest, visit stpaulqc.org/signups. Or, connect with Tom Eriksen, usher coordinator, at teriksenuc@gmail.com.

New coordinator carries on tradition of service; long-time coordinator steps back

Jack Kindschuh spent 17 years coordinating the ushers at St. Paul, for the three Sunday services each week, as well as holidays, too. From a team of 100, approximately 22 people are present each week to ensure worship runs smoothly. He won people over with his encouragement to be the best they could be.

Alas, retirement and the golf course called. Jack stepped back earlier this year to enjoy some well-deserved time in the sun.

Meanwhile, with an easy-to-get-to-know personality and dedication to service in the church, Tom Eriksen is St. Paul's new usher coordinator.

Tom is a long-time usher, and member of the

Chorale, too. He is husband to Corrina and dad to Rachel. He works at Jerry & Sparky's Cycling and Fitness in Davenport and lives in Eldridge. Tom is excited and honored to take on this leadership role, and is looking forward to working with, and growing the ranks of, the crew that welcomes and cares for people who come to worship.

“This is a small way for me to give back to a church and community that has given me and my family so much,” Tom said. “Jack Kindschuh has been a great usher mentor to me, and I just hope to carry on the kindness, compassion, and devotion that he has helped to instill in the ushers.”



Tom Eriksen

COWS & dinosaurs, dogs & frogs

Jill Esbaum writes children's books with humor and heart



Jill Esbaum online:
Follow Jill Esbaum on Twitter
@JEsbaum or on her blog,
picturebookbuilders.com

On a sheet of lined notebook paper, a girl named Jill put her pencil to work. She was 7 years old at the time, and she decided to write about the wind and an owl.

Even at that young, young age, her words were lyrical, full of wisdom and whimsy.

On a computer, Jill Esbaum put her fingers to work on a keyboard. She was 39 years old at the time, and she decided to write stories for children.

Even with the full support of her family, the camaraderie of a writing group, and a pile of writing books checked out from the library, it was difficult to get back into the swing of putting words onto paper.

Her mom found 7-year-old Jill's story about the wind and the owl and shared it with her. "I remembered who I'd been," Jill said, "a child who loved creating stories, also a motor mouth." A book of original hymns written by her paternal grandmother also showed Jill that writing is likely nestled somewhere in her genes.

"I believe we're born to do certain things," she said. "And I'm forever grateful to have rediscovered my love for writing...better late than never, right?"

First yeses

At first, her writing met with rejection. Letters with a message of "no thank you" landed in her mailbox. The silence of no response at all was hard to take, too. But then! One of Jill's pieces was accepted by *Country Woman* magazine. She started collecting credits in children's magazines like *Cricket*, *Highlights for Children*, and *Teen*.

Her first book yes came four and a half years after she began. *Stink Soup* is the story of a skunk, a visit to grandma's farm and canning tomatoes. The story uses a little bit of reality (yes, a skunk really did get into a friend's basement) meshed with some stories from a farm (yes, she really did throw tomatoes into a fence as a child).

Then came *Steamboat A'Comin*, *Estelle Takes a Bath*, *To the Big Top*, and *Stanza*.

Stanza is a dog. He bullies everybody. He eats chicken pot pie. And . . . he writes poetry. On the sly. At night. Because he's extremely afraid his bully brothers will find out. But Stanza doesn't let that stop him from entering one of his poems into a jingle contest. Does he win? Well, what if he did . . . not?

It's a page in *Stanza* that best describes Jill as an author, she said.

He scribbled and scrawled.

Reconsidered.

Erased.

He wadded up papers.

He pondered.

He paced.

He scoured his thesaurus.

He struggled for rhymes.

He started from scratch at least eighty-two times.

A distinctive voice

Today, Jill writes fiction and nonfiction from her sunny office on her family's farm in northern Scott County. She travels, mostly in the Midwest, to speak and teach about writing. She enjoys visiting schools — "I go on school visits whenever they ask me." Because of the flexibility in her schedule, she is able to spend time with her family, including her grandchildren.

Readers will notice Jill's work is centered on animals — both real and imagined. Her book publishers include Harcourt, Holt, Sterling, Dial, and National Geographic. She connected with a National Geographic editor who came to a writers' conference in the Quad Cities.

Jill recently sold three picture books.

Where'd My Joe Go? is the story of a dog lost from his truck-driving owner, Joe. *Frog Boots* is the story of a boy and his favorite new rainboots — and what happens when kids make fun of them.

Her advice for hopeful children's book writers?

Good writing has a distinctive voice and sticks to the relevant details. A story must have humor and heart, and the shorter, the better. Jill's fiction books, for example, are as few as 200 words, no more than 800.

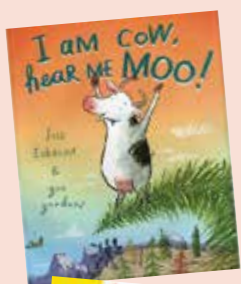
But most importantly, she said:

"Whatever your goal, enjoy the process. And never give up. As it turns out, Mom was right. Practice really does make perfect."



Books by Jill Esbaum

Jill has more than 30 books published. Here is a sampling. Some of her books are available in the St. Paul Book Corner.



I Am Cow, Hear Me Moo: Nadine can talk a blue streak, and one day she tells a real whopper: she isn't afraid of anything — no siree! Then her friends call her bluff, and Nadine must enter... The Deep. Dark. Woods. What is this boastful bovine to do? Run around in blind terror? Plummet off a cliff? Check, check, and check. But is all lost? Doubtful. After all, she is cow, hear her MOOOOOOOOO!



If a T. Rex Crashes Your Birthday Party: You never know what will happen when a T. Rex crashes your birthday party. Sure, you'll be super excited when he turns up at your door. But then he'll stomp. He'll ROAR. He'll look at you as if he's wondering how you taste with a little mustard. In the end, though, you just may find yourself asking him to come back next year!

National Geographic Little Kids First Bit Book of Who: Introduce young readers to some of the world's most interesting and important people in this bold and lively first biography book. This book inspires kids about a world of possibilities and taps into their natural curiosity about fascinating role models from education advocate Malala Yousafzai to astronaut Neil Armstrong.



Everything Spring: We think of spring and we feel warmer, we smell the freshness of nature's flowers blooming again, and we picture little chicks and furry bunnies. These adorable baby animals are fun to look at and they represent the spirit of renewal and life that is spring. Spring is about enjoying all that our wonderful planet has to offer—it's about living life to the fullest.



Word & Service

St. Paul counts five deacons among its active membership.
Deacons serve in congregations and other ministries of the ELCA.



DEEP GLADNESS

I'm an accidental deacon. Frederick Buechner famously wrote, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's hunger meet." So, in 1985 when my children were in school and I was ready to return to some kind of employment, I knew my "deep gladness" was found in volunteering at church. I didn't feel a call to be a pastor but heard there was a certification process for "lay professional," a forerunner to the office of deacon. My first appointment was parish educator at St. Paul. Later I served as a congregational care associate at Zion, Davenport, before finding my vocational home as a hospital chaplain.

As a chaplain, I was privileged to participate in bringing God's comfort and gracious presence into the lives of struggling people from diverse backgrounds. Through the wider church, I was required to reflect on my call, receive seminary level training, and be held accountable to the standards and wisdom of the Lutheran Christian tradition. Being a deacon gave me the flexibility to serve in a variety of settings. Having an examined, informed identity as a Christian leader gave me the theological underpinning and support to serve faithfully over the years. I am deeply grateful to God, many mentors, and the church for the opportunity to have been a deacon, accidentally or not. — *Lynn Batcher*

THE LARGER CHURCH

In the early 1980s, I accepted an invitation to take the position of youth education director at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moline. What I wasn't anticipating was how much I would love it.

This unexpected awareness began to inform my work, along with the realization that I had a passion and a knack for it. Because of my relationship with the synod, I was aware of the work of the "larger" church and its importance in extending the Gospel message to the whole world. This broader ministry, in all its expressions and involving thousands locally and globally, captured my attention and my heart — the beginning of a sense of call. I wanted to be connected with this work and its people. So I entered a preparation process that culminated in a formal call from the congregation I was serving.

We fill specific roles for specific areas of ministry alongside ordained pastors and most importantly, the people who make up the congregations. It's this powerful relationship with the community of God's people that has welcomed and supported me over the years.

While I am now retired, my "Letter of Call" hangs prominently in our study at home. It symbolizes the continuity of connection with the communion of saints, no matter my title or whereabouts. This relationship is living and active. It has spirited my work and my life all along. — *Nancy Ingelson*





WALKING ALONGSIDE TEENAGERS

Fifteen years ago, as I entered the candidacy process for the ELCA, I didn't really know what I was doing. I knew that my college days were coming to an end and the life that I had picked out for myself, including a professional career working in state parks, was wrong. There was a conflict between what I thought I wanted and what God wanted for me, made more obvious every passing moment on my internships.

The interviews, reflection time, and affirmation from my support system helped me realize what it meant to be called into a vocation that serves God with my work life. My initial hesitancy was grounded in my perceptions about church work and what it meant to be a pastor. As I worked through the candidacy process it became clearer to me that I wasn't meant to be a traditional pastor. Instead, my life experience, passion, and education had cultivated a deep affection and appreciation for young people.

Walking alongside teenagers means providing steady comfort and words of encouragement and hope while they deal with the crises of identity formation. I think the mess of hormones, anxiety, decisions, and drama is a perfect place for God to show up. As a minister to them, I want to fill their lives with positive adult relationships and remind them of God's holy words during their struggle.

— *Andy Langdon*

PART OF MY IDENTITY

In my tiny bedroom on Cypress Drive in Bettendorf, I used to practice being a teacher. Each weekend I would line up my stuffed animals and teach them a variety of topics. My vocational journey has never intersected with being the classroom teacher that was the dream of my childhood. Instead it has aligned with my calling as a deacon.

As a deacon, I'm called to serve the church through living the example of the Lord and caring for the needs of my neighbors. Being a deacon is part of my identity.

As a sophomore at Clarke College, I went on my first mission trip. In a rented van packed with 12 inquisitive college youth and one nun, we headed into the hills of Harlan County, Kentucky. We spent hours washing coal dust from tin-covered houses, polishing church pews and pulling out trash from the creek that lined the highway. The Catholic nun on that trip, Sister Kathy, guided me into my calling because of my desire to serve the poor and love of the liturgy.

Today, as a deacon and registered nurse, I serve my community as a nurse leader at Genesis. Through this role, I get to provide leadership and spiritual steadiness to a community of health care providers who are daily meeting the complex needs of our community.

— *Joel Moore*

DIACONIA MEANS SERVICE

I have always felt that I had a calling even when I couldn't put words to it. Nor could I even guess as to what that calling was. Early on, my niece kept telling me I should be a deaconess even before she became one. I didn't really know what a deaconess was. After ending two different careers, doing much praying, and a lot of talking to pastors, I decided to apply.

While doing my studies at Wartburg Seminary, I discovered two main areas that really filled my heart with joy: facilitating adults in Bible studies and listening and sharing with those who struggled with faith issues and unworthiness. Having struggled mightily with worries like those and discovering God's deep love and mercy for me, I could readily understand their fear and pain.

Being a deacon connects to the Greek word *diaconia*, which means *service*. Being able to serve others helps us both. Others seem to derive benefits for themselves and as I use my spiritual gifts, I receive joy and completeness from the time I spend with them. I believe faith grows that way with each other.

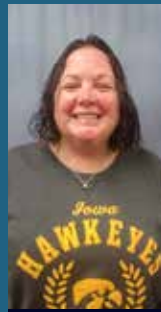
God has led me on this journey and given me wonderful people to help me — Lynn Batcher was my spiritual guide while in training. I am deeply thankful and want to share God's love with others.

— *Judy Schroeder*

new members / FEBRUARY 2018



Richard Dollins, Peyton, Caitlyn



Tiffany Geisler



Jen & Matt Holmer, Elliott



Diane Mangan



Wendy, Abby, & Samuel Stolley, Bonnie Swanson



Alex & Erin Stuedemann, Sophia, Kaeva



Diane & Howard Swayne



Renee & Bob Wade

RICHARD DOLLINS has two daughters, Peyton and Caitlyn. Richard works at John Deere and stays busy with five-year-old twin girls. He likes to spend his free time outdoors and enjoys cooking.

TIFFANY GEISLER is a lifelong QCA resident who, by day, is a cosmetologist with Hair by Stewarts and, by night, a server at Jersey Grille. Family and faith mean a lot to her. Sometimes accompanied by her little nephew Kayden, Tiffany also joins her mother (Debbie Geisler) at St. Paul.

JEN & MATT HOLMER are parents to one-year-old Elliott. Matt is an attorney at Brooks Law Firm and Jen works as an auditor at E2Open. They like spending time with friends and family and traveling to Lake of the Ozarks. They're passionate about veterans' affairs and serving through Big Brothers Big Sisters. Jen's parents are St. Paul members Collin and Karen Carney.

DIANE MANGAN works for Molyneux Inc. as a commercial claims advocate. She enjoys reading, exercising, and spending time with her grandchildren. She's drawn to St. Paul by the hospitality and passion for serving.

ABBY STOLLEY has a little boy named Samuel. Abby is employed as a customer service representative at Copart. She takes an interest in reading, hiking, fishing, and spending time at her cabin. She finds St. Paul to be friendly, welcoming, and comfortable. She is pictured with her mom and grandmother.

WENDY & MATTHEW STOLLEY are the parents of Abby Stolley, listed above. Wendy is a teacher in Durant and Matthew (*not pictured*) works as a maintenance planner at Arconic. They enjoy reading, gardening, and the outdoors. The friendly people and opportunities to get involved is what attracted them to St. Paul.

ALEX & ERIN STUEDEMANN have two daughters, Sophia and Kaeva. Alex works as a golf course superintendent at TPC Deere Run and Erin is employed as a foreign language teacher at Moline High School. They like spending time outdoors, DIY projects, fitness, and giving back. What drew them to St. Paul? The welcoming and dynamic community.

BONNIE SWANSON is retired from ORA as administrative director. She enjoys reading, working in her yard, and walking. The friendly members and Bible studies are what brought her to St. Paul.

DIANE & HOWARD SWAYNE take an interest in family activities, reading, spending time with grandchildren, and traveling. Howard is retired from John Deere and is currently an adjunct educator at St. Ambrose University. Diane is a retired elementary school teacher. The ministries and possibilities to grow their faith are what attracted them to St. Paul.

RENEE & BOB WADE have two adult children and take an interest in watching sports and movies. Bob is a receptionist at the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency and Renee is employed as a registered nurse at UnityPoint. The church's ministry is what drew them to St. Paul.



Membership Inquiry Classes:

Learn more about the faith expressions that ground us, the mission commitments that inspire us, and the program life that can grow your faith. Come to an upcoming class on Monday, April 16, 6:30-9 p.m., or Tuesday, May 15, 6:30-9 p.m.

Sign up at the Info Center or online at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Council Notes

St. Paul's Congregational Council considered several important items of business at its March meeting.

In a robust discussion, Council members discussed a proposed change to the Sunday morning worship and learning schedule. Although a schedule change has been talked about for years, the council took steps to seriously consider a new schedule format that would remain the same throughout the calendar year. Special consideration was given to individuals and families who are increasingly looking for ways to have church fit alongside many other Sunday activities. An extra council meeting on the Sunday schedule topic was slated for the following week.

Complete information coming soon.

The Church House Living Room, which provides an intimate meeting space for a variety of groups at St. Paul, will have new couches, a side table, and arm chairs in the coming months. The council ratified the Memorial Gifts committee's decision to fund the project.

A new minivan will be purchased to replace the 19-year-old smaller church van. The slightly used 2017 Chrysler Pacifica seats eight passengers. Similar to our 15-passenger van purchased five years ago, a no-interest, five-year loan from the Greatest Needs Bequest fund to the Daily Ministry Fund will cover the cost.

STAFF TRANSITIONS: **Departure**

Business office assistant Tessa Hahn recently announced her departure from St. Paul. She will be moving with her family to Savannah, Georgia, later this month. She's been the business office assistant for 5 years.

Tessa focuses on membership and visitor records, bulk mailings, accounting assistance, and secretarial support. With a background in accounting, Tessa loves the detail work of helping make an office function smoothly.

Tessa and her husband Erik are the parents of Elsie and Audie. Erik's work with Arconic is what is taking them to Georgia.



STAFF TRANSITIONS: **Employment**

Teaching Pastor

St. Paul Lutheran Church has opened a national search for a new pastoral position – Teaching Pastor. This ordained individual will serve as the primary teacher for adults, plan and implement an array of learning opportunities, and provide general pastoral ministry as part of the pastoral team. He or she may come from the Lutheran tradition or one of the mainline denominations in partnership with the ELCA (Presbyterian Church USA, The Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, etc.)

The personnel committee welcomes the networking interests and passions of all St. Paul people as they play a role in assisting with the process of identifying potential candidates. The congregation will be working with local synodical leaders to process this call for a teaching pastor.

The opportunity to work on a dynamic multi-staff team is ideal for that pastor who gets excited about making a difference in the faith lives of other people. Candidates should possess natural leadership skills, strong biblical and theological background, a spirit of curiosity, enthusiasm for nurturing faith in others, excellent verbal and written communication skills, and broad capacities for working personally and effectively with groups. Innovative planning and an obvious passion for the mission of the congregation are imperative. A deep personal faith is essential. Teaching or instructional experience expected.

To read the job description, visit stpaulqc.org/employment. Inquiries or confidential letters of interest may be sent to the search committee: SPLCteachingpastorsearch@gmail.com.

Business Office Assistant

As of press time, St. Paul Lutheran Church seeks a business office assistant to join the church's staff team. This individual will have primary responsibility for maintaining membership database records, processing accounts payable, and managing bulk mail labels and reports. Data entry is basic to the position. Some background in bookkeeping expected. This is an opportunity to work with a range of volunteers. Proficiency in Microsoft Excel and Word is expected.

To read the job description, visit stpaulqc.org/employment. Applications will be reviewed as they arrive. Interviews will take place promptly. Employment would begin immediately. Send letter of interest, resume, and a list of three references to: SPLCbusinessofficeassistant@gmail.com.

UPCOMING *worship*

APRIL 7 & 8

Second Sunday of Easter

PREACHING

5:30 Katy Warren

8:00 Ryan Bailey

9:20 Ryan Bailey

11:45 Katy Warren

MUSIC

9:20 Hallelujah Chorus

APRIL 14 & 15

Third Sunday of Easter

PREACHING

5:30 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

8:00 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

9:20 Peter W. Marty

11:45 Peter W. Marty

MUSIC

9:20 Chorale, Alleluia choir

APRIL 21 & 22

Fourth Sunday of Easter

New Member Sunday, 9:20 a.m.

PREACHING

5:30 Sara Olson-Smith

8:00 Peter W. Marty

9:20 Peter W. Marty

11:45 Sara Olson-Smith

MUSIC

9:20 Chorale, Jubilate choir

APRIL 28 & 29

Fifth Sunday of Easter

PREACHING

5:30 Katy Warren

8:00 Josh Kestner

9:20 Katy Warren

11:45 Josh Kestner

MUSIC

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



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Age 4-Fifth grade, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon



678 EXPERIENCE

Grade 6-8, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon



SUMMER STRETCH

Grades 9-12, 12 noon-3 p.m.



VOLUNTEER

There's a job to fit your gifts, 8 a.m.-12 noon

Register by May 28. Sign up online at
stpaulqc.org/signups.

Please note: No walk-ins or late registrations will be accepted.