

journey



2nd Avenue and 16th Street

St George's Episcopal Church is an imposing structure on New York City's 16th Street, tucked in an old neighborhood near the East River.



ON THE COVER:

Left to right: Karen Miller, Joyce Holland, and Jolene Mullins

journey

JUNE 2018

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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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Completed in 1856, this Romanesque Revival building, with tower clocks that once helped New Yorkers set their watches, is loaded with history. Today's congregation is a skeleton of the one that once filled the place, but its commitment to neighborhood investment remains.

I poked around some dark, musty spaces inside St. George's on a recent Saturday afternoon. Imagining the history that unfolded within its vast interior was a delightful way to spend a couple hours before my niece's wedding. I found the magi – Balthasar, Melchior, and Gaspar – squeezed between the radiator and a fire extinguisher in a corner of the robing room. There was a cobwebbed U.S. flag in the stairwell of one of the towers that I unfurled to count 48 stars. Oil paintings of past rectors filled one wood-paneled room. Decrepit electrical boxes that should have been replaced decades ago signaled serious deferred maintenance. The side balconies sagged from the weight of years.

Once the scene of New York's most fashionable weddings and funerals, St. George's was home to some of the city's most prominent citizens. Henry Bacon, designer of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., was a member who sculpted the church's most famous rector in life-size bronze. Margaret Sanger, the pioneer birth control advocate, was a member in the 1930s when the Federal Council of Churches gave "guarded approval" to birth control.

But far and away the most famous congregant of St. George's was the industrialist J.P. Morgan, who served as senior warden of the church from 1885 until 1913. For generations, the press routinely referred to the church as "Mr. Morgan's Church." There is even a bullet hole in the wainscoting of the west sanctuary wall from a crazed anarchist who, in 1920, tried to assassinate Morgan's son-in-law during worship. He missed the son-in-law but killed Morgan's physician who was occupying the same pew.

Through J.P. Morgan's encouragement, the congregation called Rev. William Rainsford in 1883 to be its new rector. Rainsford recognized that the neighborhood around St. George's was changing rapidly and he wanted the church to be engaged with the community. In the

1880s, German and Irish immigrants were moving out as Jewish and Italian immigrants were moving in. Rainsford believed that Protestant churches in large cities had become "repellent to the poor man." So, with the encouragement of the more conservative Morgan, Rainsford abolished the practice of pew rentals, downplayed doctrinal matters he considered to be dragging down the church, and created a series of social service programs. Within five years, St. George's was offering sewing classes, an industrial school, a soup kitchen, a girl's friendly library, a men's club gymnasium, a deaconesses' house, and more.

A May 1888 New York Times article reported that Rainsford was troubled that the poor "would be compelled during the summer months to live in unhealthy tenement houses, for which they would pay heavy rents ... [while the wealthiest parishioners] were already preparing to leave the city [for the summer] to enjoy fresh air, cooling breezes, and the various comforts and delights of the mountains, seashores, and lakes." With the cooperation of the church membership, the rector established a program allowing poor families to live in the mansions of the wealthy during their summer leave-taking. A committee of church women selected the neediest families and assumed responsibility for keeping the homes in good order.

The community involvement by generations of St. George's parishioners remains a lively witness for 21st century urban congregations. Our own St. Paul Lutheran, situated as we are in the central city, must keep growing our ties to the surrounding neighborhoods. One hundred years from now, when someone traipses through our building waiting for a wedding to begin, he or she may size up our legacy by the seriousness with which we engaged the hopes and needs of the world around us.



Peter W. Marty

PETER W. MARTY
senior pastor



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 a few times a year. The next opportunity is Saturday, June 30. Shoppers go to the grocery store and buy from a 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.

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

Habitat for Humanity build dates set for summer

Put on a tool belt and help build simple, decent houses through this ecumenical ministry. Each summer, St. Paul volunteers work alongside families who dream of owning a home – and do the work necessary to make that dream a reality.

The Quad-Cities Habitat chapter has built more than 100 homes, including those constructed with St. Paul funding and labor.

The house will be at 414 E. 6th St., Davenport. Several Saturday and Wednesday evening dates are available to work with fellow St. Paul people. They are:

► **Saturdays:** June 16, July 14, August 4. The morning shifts are 8 a.m.- 12 noon, the afternoon shifts from noon-4 p.m. Lunch is provided; help is needed to provide lunch as well.

► **Wednesday evenings:** June 20 and July 25, 5-8 p.m., help is needed to provide dinner.

No previous building experience is necessary. To help, visit stpaulqc.org/signups.

St. Paul welcomes Carrie Bowman, business office assistant

St. Paul welcomed a new business office assistant in May.

Carrie Bowman's job involves mailings, membership database management, accounts payable, and other similar work. She and her husband, Jerry, live in Davenport and have two adult daughters. Madeline is a student at the University of Iowa, and Sarah is a student at Drake University.

Carrie brings a background of working in bank trust departments in the U.S. and Canada, as well as nonprofits in the Quad Cities. She enjoys playing tennis, reading, hiking, and traveling.



Help harvest the community garden

The community garden is growing, and help is needed to weed, water, and harvest vegetables. June thru October, the garden crew will be out in the sunshine, gathering fresh vegetables for the Madison Market and St. Paul friends. On June 11 and 25, 6-7 p.m. gather in the plots, which are on the west side of the alleyway adjacent to the south parking lot.

Watch for more dates later this summer on Saturdays to harvest produce for Café on Vine. Contact: Matt Schroeder, schroeder4rivermont@yahoo.com.



HELP MAKE HOMES WARMER, SAFER, DRIER, IN RURAL APPALACHIA

St. Paul volunteers regularly travel to rural central Appalachia to make homes safer, warmer, and drier for families who do not have many resources.

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. 13-20, led by Pastor Katy Warren.

The trip cost is \$325 with an initial non-refundable deposit of \$50. Spots are limited. To sign up, visit stpaulqc.org/signups.

Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org, 563-326-3547 ext. 232.

Early morning book group to explore Diana Butler Bass' new book, *Grateful*

St. Paul's early morning book group will meet 6:45-7:30 a.m., the first three Tuesdays in June: June 5, 12, and 19. The book will be *Grateful: The transformative power of giving thanks* by Diana Butler Bass.

Grateful explores why gratitude is missing as a modern spiritual practice, offers practical suggestions for reclaiming it, and illuminates how the shared practice of gratitude can lead to greater connection with God, our world, and our own souls.

No need to sign up. Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org, 563-326-3547 ext. 232.



SUMMER LUNCH SERIES

MiSFiTs

For five Tuesdays this summer, July 3-31, 12 noon in the Library Commons, St. Paul pastors and staff will lead a lunch-time series about misfits of the Bible and of today. They include people who were ostracized, made fun of, looked away from. They include a judge named Ehud, a woman who was an advocate, and people with disabilities.

Bartimeus, Moses, Jacob, & people living with disabilities

**July 3: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith and
Tammy Hermanson, pastoral residency
administrator**

Moses didn't let his stutter stop him from standing up to Pharaoh. Jacob was blessed with a limp. The healing of blind Bartimeus provoked an insightful conversation of faith, inclusion and disability. Today, leaders and activists living with disabilities can teach us what it means to live with courageous, compassionate, and embodied faith.

Ehud & Leonardo Da Vinci

**July 10: Pastor Katy Warren and Andy
Langdon, youth director**

Historically, left-handers have been thought of as a bit "different," as outcasts, or ones who sometimes go against the grain. But in the Old Testament story of a judge named Ehud, who happens to be left-handed, we discover that sometimes these perceived rebels can use this unique attribute to their advantage. In more recent days, the intriguing habits of artist Leonardo DaVinci, another left-hander, reminds us that all of us have particular attributes that can be used for the good of others.

Rahab & rescuers

**July 17: Pastor Josh Kestner and Ann
McGlynn, director of communications**

Rahab was a strong woman with a reputation of being a prostitute. She helped two Israelite spies escape Jericho, professed her faith in God, and is believed to possibly be an ancestor of Jesus. Today, women and men here and around the world empower and advocate for those who are victims of sex trafficking. They believe in the humanity and worth of those who are abused, sometimes risking their own lives in the pursuit of justice.

Legion & the mind of mental illness

**July 24: Pastor Peter W. Marty and
Todd Byerly, operations director**

Legion is the name of the man who lived with demons on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Ostracized and dangerous, he lived naked in a cemetery. The power of his story and life experience prompts us to take a look at the unpredictable workings of a mentally troubled mind. In small groups, explore the tragedy and triumph that often accompany a life where mental illness is present. A peek at a life story from our day will accent the conversation.

Bring a sack lunch and come to the Library Commons, 12 noon-1 p.m., for a discussion about Biblical and modern-day misfits.

The Syrophenician Woman & Emma Gonzalez and David Hogg

**July 31: Pastor Kelsey Fitting-Snyder
and Karen Holden, book corner
manager**

The Syrophenician woman refused to back down, even to Jesus. She had a need and a concern and she used her voice to fight for her daughter. Her actions caused Jesus to rethink his own action. Taking inspiration from the many movements around us, such as March for our Lives, how can we hear the cries of those around us and make changes in our own behavior?

MAYFEST *Tailgate*

Food. Music. Gaga Pit. Face painting. Dancing. Mayfest was all sorts of fun, with smiles and togetherness on a beautiful day in May.



walking in faith

ALONGSIDE OTHERS

Funeral lunch volunteers provide a steady presence

In a carefully kept black notebook, the details of many years of St. Paul funeral lunches are detailed by hand. By year and name, notes about the meal served and the number of people who attended offer a physical reminder of a faith tradition that spans centuries, religions, and crosses borders.



"It's a good way to let people know we care about them."

— KAREN MILLER

the end of the funeral. Sometimes, they have a moment to look at the photos and mementos on display and if they didn't know the person, learn a little bit about them. As family and friends filter into the Library Commons, the crew begins pouring coffee and water, helping with plates, and offering kind words and sympathies.

At the end, the crew cleans up and boxes up the leftovers, which then go with the family or to a domestic violence shelter.

The people in that book are the saints of this place – young and old, rich and poor, people who always sat in the same place each Sunday and people who came a few times a year.

In the end, their family and friends gather here for a visitation, a funeral, and then a luncheon.

The menus vary, and the caterers do too, but the hope is the same: a time to tell a few stories, share a few more laughs and tears, and just simply be together.

"The purpose is gathering," said Joyce Holland, who along with Jolene Mullins, leads the luncheon crews, with the help of people like Karen Miller. "It's a good way to connect."

In 2017, St. Paul hosted 17 funeral lunches.

Jolene likens the funeral crew – which does include men – to the church basement ladies of her childhood. "My father was a funeral director, and my mom was the energizer church woman. If I have my dad's gentleness and my mom's enthusiasm, that's what I want to put into this service."

"It's a good way to let people know we care about them," Karen said.

Early in the morning on the day of a luncheon, St. Paul staff member Matt Spencer sets up round tables in the Library Commons.

A crew of volunteers comes a bit later on, placing tablecloths, centerpieces, and prayer cards on each table. As food arrives, they get it in place, then await

The volunteers come from all walks of life. Many are retired and have free time during the day.

Jan Bush began serving at luncheons once she retired from teaching. "I talked with Joyce Holland, and went on the list - that's as simple as it was."

"It's a nice way to comfort people," Jan said. "You're a quiet presence on a tough day."

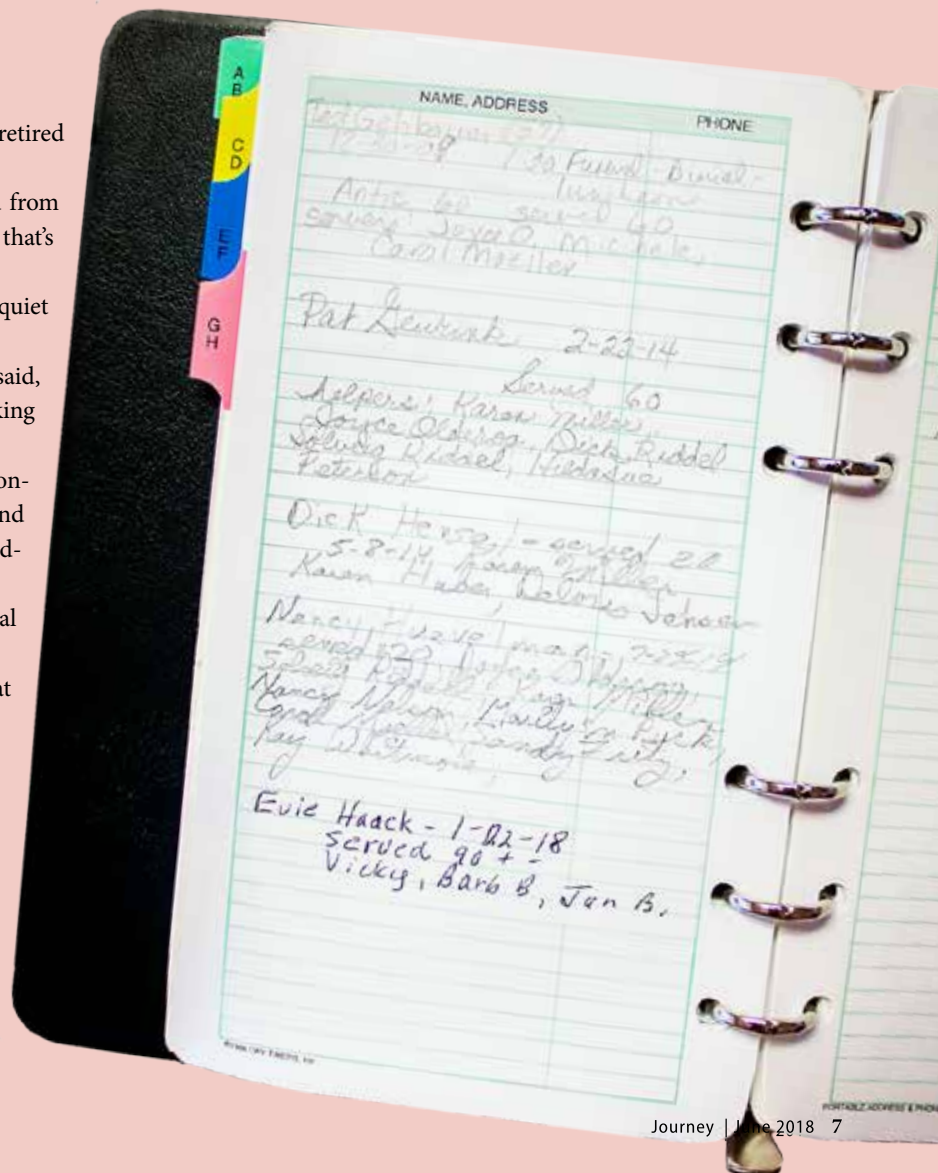
The Library Commons is a warm, inviting space, Jan said, for what often becomes a generational time of sharing, of taking photographs, of reminiscing.

Sometimes, items served at the luncheons offer a personal touch, crew members said, such as popcorn, cookies, and chicken nuggets. Menus are most commonly things like sandwiches, or fried chicken.

Dick Riddell, a member of the crew, likened funeral lunches to family or high school reunions.

"You hear a lot of good stories," he said. "It's not work at all. People appreciate it so much."

Interested in becoming a St. Paul funeral lunch volunteer? Contact Joyce Holland at hollandrj@mchsi.com, 563-359-0450, or Jolene Mullins at jjmull@mchsi.com, 563-359-9306.



EMPOWERING WOMEN

Eleven women from the U.S., including seven from St. Paul, traveled together to East Africa, particularly the area of Same, Tanzania, in April and May. In partnership with the organization Empower Tanzania, they listened, learned, celebrated, worshiped, shared meals, and discovered the work that is happening with clean water, health, education, and peace. Photos by Jennie Peakin Photography.



Women from St. Paul and Empower Tanzania gather with the women of Nadaruru near the site of the community's one water well, broken since 2009. Girls walk for miles each day seeking water. In partnership with the village's leaders, Empower Tanzania is preparing to fix the well and build distribution sites close to where residents live.

Survivors of gender-based violence are now entrepreneurs who are making reusable menstrual pads and batik fabric. This two-year initiative first offered therapy, then business skills, to 100 women.



Song and dance greeted visitors in the village of Njiro, where a water distribution project is nearly complete. The project was funded by the 2017 Water Party in Davenport.



Kids in Msindo take part in a kids club at the Lutheran church. The kids eat a nutritionally dense breakfast and lunch, as many come from families who do not have much money for food.

Chief Isaya, who leads the Maasai people in Nadaruru, works with Empower Tanzania to train women to be health educators.



This farmer in Hedaru is a leader in the integrated farming program of Empower Tanzania. She raises goats and chickens, and has a garden to grow produce for her family.



Walking, riding bikes, motorcycles, and buses are the most common forms of transportation in this area of Tanzania.



This boy lives in the village of Njiro, which has a new water distribution system. The new distribution system means that women and children will no longer have to find and carry water from a distance.



Women and girls carry water for miles, often with babies on their backs or hips. Sometimes, they use cloth to cushion their heads and help balance the buckets. Other items carried include wood for fire and food.



This mom of Maasai Chief Isaya, holds her cell phone. Land lines are not accessible to people of the remote areas of Tanzania, but cell phones are. They have become a vital tool for communication, and are boosting health, education, and economic development initiatives. Cell phones - as well as the iPads used by Empower Tanzania's community health workers - are often charged using small solar panels.



The most vulnerable children of the area play, learn, and eat three times a week at the Same Learning Center.



The people of Njiro gathered outside of the Catholic church's social hall to celebrate the completion of the village's water project. The woman on the right sat and watched as her friends and family danced to mark the occasion.



Soccer ball!!!!!! Kids walking home from school spotted a soccer ball in the back of one of the Range Rovers that visitors from the U.S. arrived in.



Four girls, Muslims and Christians, walk home after primary school in the village of Njiro, carrying jugs for water.

new members / APRIL 2018



Alyssa & Zach Asmussen, Henry, Ethan



John & Bridget Cullett



Julie & Greg Duhacek, Kylie



Lynne Groskurth



Morgan Gale & Jimmy Hallene



Deb & Jack Jecklin



Debbie & Dave Jessen



Joe & Beth Koranda, Declan



Mark Levien



Pamela Long



Marta & Rolla Lucas



David & Paula McPherson



Kara Meyer & Nick Schrader



Derek & Erin Miller, Natalie, Katherine



Lisa Powell & John Arnold, Walden, Marigold



Joellen & Mark Sperfslage



Nina Struss, Caden



Austin Taylor



Pat Taylor

ALYSSA & ZACH ASMUSSEN have two boys, Henry and Ethan. Zach is a welder with John Deere and Alyssa works as a stylist, barista, and substitute teacher at the St. Paul preschool. They enjoy doing activities as a family, and were attracted to St. Paul by the preschool and fellowship opportunities.

JOHN & BRIDGET CULLETT spend their free time visiting family and walking their dog. John is employed as a driver for American Finishing Resources. Bridget is a service representative for Modern Woodmen.

JULIE & GREG DUHACHEK have a daughter, Kylie, and a son in college, Travis. Greg is president of Ag-Works Software and Julie is a reading aide in the North Scott School District. This family is passionate about Nebraska football, and were drawn to St. Paul because it's "shockingly inclusive."

NEW MEMBERS CONTINUED



Pamela Vasquez



Chris Vidmar



Becky White



Val & Kathryn Zelinko

LYNNE GROSKURTH is a retired finance manager with Arconic. She takes an interest in biking, gardening, reading, and music. She cares a lot about serving others.

MORGAN GALE & JIMMY HALLENE are engaged to be married. Jimmy works as director of sales at Trekker Logistics. Morgan is a financial analyst with HNI Corp. They spend their free time biking and being with friends and family.

DEB & JACK JECKLIN were attracted to St. Paul by the hospitality, music, and learning opportunities. Jack is employed as a manager at QC Dental Lab and Deb is a merchandising trainer for Von Maur.

DEBBIE & DAVE JESSEN like to work out, watch movies, and spend time with grandkids. Dave works as a truck driver for Dedicated Transport System and Debbie is retired.

JOE & BETH KORANDA are parents to 3-year-old Declan. Joe is a driver for Coca-Cola and enjoys reading comic books. Beth is a nurse at UnityPoint and likes to crochet and read. Their positive experiences as guests is what attracted them to St. Paul.

MARK LEVIEN is employed as a janitor at the Putnam Museum. He takes an interest in hiking, running, and reading. The mental health and Mission Appalachia ministries are what he appreciates about St. Paul.

PAMELA LONG is an assistant professor at St. Ambrose University in the Master of Social Work program. The hospitality, liturgy, and outreach is what brought her to St. Paul.

MARTA LUCAS considers St. Paul to be a loving and caring place. In her retirement, Marta enjoys volunteering for organizations like NAMI and the Special Olympics.

ROLLA LUCAS works at a recycling center and is the son of Marta, listed above. He is a Special Olympian, involved with Global Messenger Ministries, and cares about family and community.

DAVID & PAULA MCPHERSON David works as vice president of sales at Office Solutions and likes to read, golf, and grow flowers. Paula is a retired special education teacher and spends her free time doing crafts and volunteering.

KARA MEYER & NICK SCHRADER are engaged and both employed at John Deere – Nick in operations, and Kara in logistics. They take an interest in the Iowa State Cyclones, spending time outdoors, and their pets.

DEREK & ERIN MILLER have two girls, Natalie and Katherine. Derek is a manager at John Deere and Erin is a style consultant and substitute teacher. This family enjoys playing games, reading, traveling, and dancing.

KRIS POST (*not pictured*) works in marketing at University of Iowa Healthcare. She spends her free time with family, biking, sewing, and crafting. She is married to St. Paul member, Steve Post, and together, they have four young adult children.

LISA POWELL & JOHN ARNOLD have two kids, Marigold and Walden. Lisa is a professor of theology at St. Ambrose University. John works as a science teacher at Davenport West High School. This family enjoys being outside, exercising, and gardening.

JOELLEN & MARK SPERFSLAGE like to spend time with friends and family and take drives with their Corvette club. Mark works at Modern Woodmen Bank and Joellen is an account manager for Aptean.

NINA STRUSS is employed as a registered dietitian at Hy-Vee in Milan. She spends her free time chasing after her 8-month-old son Caden, doing yoga, cooking, and traveling.

AUSTIN TAYLOR has two girls, Averie and Bailey (*not pictured*). Austin works as an operations manager at Modern Woodmen Bank. He enjoys mountain biking, hiking, and classic cars.

PAT TAYLOR is retired from the Department of Human Services. She likes to spend time with her grandchildren, garden, and read. Austin Taylor, listed above, is her son.

PAMELA VASQUEZ is a family service worker for Rock Island/Milan preschool programs. She enjoys traveling and music, and was drawn to St. Paul by the people.

CHRIS VIDMAR is an RN-quality specialist with UnityPoint. She likes to spend time outdoors, traveling, and being with family.

BECKY WHITE has two young boys, Matthew and Lucas (*not pictured*). Becky is a preschool teacher here at St. Paul. She takes an interest in photography and running.

VAL & KATHRYN ZELINKO come to St. Paul through their daughter, Suzie Lewis, who is a member. Val is retired and substitute teaches in Eldridge and DeWitt. Kathryn is also retired and enjoys spending time with their grandkids.

UPCOMING worship

JUNE 2 & 3

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

5:30 Josh Kestner

7:45 Katy Warren

9:00 Josh Kestner

11:15 Katy Warren

JUNE 9 & 10

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

5:30 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

7:45 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

9:00 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

11:15 Katy Warren

JUNE 16 & 17

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

5:30 Sara Olson-Smith

7:45 Peter W. Marty

9:00 Peter W. Marty

11:15 Sara Olson-Smith

JUNE 23 & 24

Season after Pentecost

New Member Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

PREACHING

5:30 Peter W. Marty

7:45 Katy Warren

9:00 Katy Warren

11:15 Peter W. Marty

JUNE 30 & JULY 1

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

5:30 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

7:45 Sara Olson-Smith

9:00 Sara Olson-Smith

11:15 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

Membership Inquiry Class:

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 Saturday, June 16, 9-11:30 a.m. Sign up at the Info Center or online at stpaulqc.org/signups.



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803

Pool Party

St. Paul will host a swimming party at the Annie Wittenmyer Aquatic Center, 2828 Eastern Ave., Davenport on Saturday, June 16, 6-8 p.m. The event is free, but please sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Annie Wittenmyer has a variety of fun features. There is a pool with a zero-depth entry and water sprays. There's also a kiddie slide, two larger slides, diving board and sand area. It has also plenty of room for lounging, with a concession area, large shelter, and seating. Contact: Michelle Juehring, michelle@stpaulqc.org.