

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH September 2018

journey

FALL GUIDE



A chip in hand

On any given weekend, I can look out at numbers of people in church who are carrying a chip. Not on their shoulder. Not in the form of sweetened chocolate. Not implanted beneath their skin to tell blood sugar level. I'm speaking of a small aluminum medallion in their pocket engraved with the anniversary date of their last alcoholic drink.

My friend John, who just received his 40-year chip, fingers it in the bottom of his pocket every time he comes forward for communion. He never fails. To him, this sobriety coin is not a talisman bearing magic or good luck. It's a tangible reminder of self-resolve and really hard work.

One never conquers an addiction. It's more a life-long wrestling match – a daily battle waged against the forces of temptation. You won't hear John speaking of himself as a recovered alcoholic. He's rather in *recovery* – 40 years and running now. The distinction is important. It's language that honors the spirit of the old African proverb: "He who conceals his disease cannot be cured."

Many of us keep this lifelong wrestling match in mind every time we receive Holy Communion. Even if not up against a specific addiction, we're well aware of our larger fight with sin. A small bread wafer, roughly the size of an anodized aluminum sobriety chip, gets placed in our hands. Words of promise are spoken. What happens in this brief transaction is that God pledges not to quit on us. It's divine affirmation of how hard the struggle to live faithfully can be.

If you've ever been to an Alcoholics Anonymous chip ceremony, you've heard what's commonly spoken when the chip is given out. "This chip represents AA's commitment to you; not your commitment to us." That's the 12-step way of saying that one needs the inspiration of surrounding community as much as one needs personal resolve. It's public affirmation of how hard the struggle to be addiction-free can be.

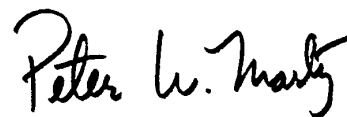
There's no evidence that the apostle Paul carried a chip around in his pocket. But he did carry a "thorn in his flesh," which approximates a chip in a certain way. Whatever this irritating thorn was – everything from hemorrhoids to mental insecurity has been proposed – Paul had to learn to live with it. It dogged his every step. It shaped his every day. When he prayed multiple times for God to free him from this affliction, the Lord responded, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." That's all Paul needed to realize that weakness and hardship (and that chip of a thorn he carried around with him), were not embarrassments. They're boast-worthy strengths if they allow

Christ some access to one's inner being. Before long, Paul grew fond of saying, "when I am weak, then I am strong."

I've noticed that the least successful conquerors of addictive behavior are those who refuse to embrace their weakness.

Eager to retain some image of a polished reputation, they shove their problem under the table. For the sake of appearing strong, they work overtime to hide their flaws. No coin really matters to them except that which has purchasing power for the addiction. "I just have a few beers after work each day. It's really not a problem." Unable to grasp Paul's idea of weakness equaling strength, they see being an alcoholic and being a good person as mutually exclusive realities.

It's odd – isn't it? – that our world can be so full of people eager to appear strong, so as not to be mistaken for weak. And yet, we follow a gospel that tells us we're strong only when we're weak, and vulnerable enough to acknowledge that weakness. One of these two approaches to life brings healing. True healing. Guess which one.



PETER W. MARTY
senior pastor



journey

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MISSION

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

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ON THE COVER:
Brother and sister,
Alex & Abby McLeland

WORSHIP

We ground our lives in the glories of worship.
Together, we listen for God. We sing songs of praise.
We discover hope. We give thanks. We welcome all.
Contact: Chris Nelson, chris@stpaulqc.org.



EVENTS

Fall Start-up Sunday

Sunday, Sept. 9

Fall Start-up Sunday is when we return to the fullness of our Sunday-morning learning and worship life.

- ▶ Learning classes begin for all ages, 10:20-11:05 a.m.
- ▶ Sunday worship at 7:45, 9, & 11:15 a.m.

Healing Liturgy

Sept. 1, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, & Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m.

On the first Saturday of the month, a healing liturgy is held after 5:30 p.m. worship. The gathering seeks God's goodness and care for those in need of physical, spiritual, or emotional healing.

Nova Singers Concerts

Sunday, Oct. 14, 4 p.m. & Friday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Nova Singers is a 20-voice a cappella ensemble with a nationwide reputation for expressiveness, virtuosity, and innovative programming. The October concert is titled *Out of Darkness, Into Light*. The annual December concert is *A Nova Christmas*. Tickets available at the door, or online at novasingers.com.

CHOIRS

Come and sing. Rehearsals begin Sept. 5.

Alleluia Choir | Ages 4-K

Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m., Room 206
Director: Sara Harless

Jubilate Choir | Grades 1-3

Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m., Room 201
Director: Katie Casey

Cantate Choir | Grades 4-6

Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m., Room 009
Director: Margaret Thompson

Youth Choir | Grades 7-12

Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m., Chapel
Director: Dan Pepper

Chorale | College & Adults

Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m., Room 011
Director: Nathan Windt

Open Spirit contemporary ensemble

Thursday rehearsals
Director: Bill Campbell

SPECIAL DATES

All Saints Weekend

Nov. 3 & 4, all services

Joy Weekend

Nov. 10 & 11, all services

Thanksgiving Eve

Nov. 21, 7 p.m.

Choral Advent

Dec. 9, 9 a.m.

Blue Christmas

Dec. 21, 6 p.m.

Christmas Eve

Dec. 24, 1, 3, 5, 8, & 10 p.m.



MISSION & SERVICE

At St. Paul we give away more than 20 percent of our annual budget to people in need, and our mission board keeps the congregation focused on the needs of our neighborhood and world. St. Paul people also find great joy in volunteering for the benefit of others. Take a look at some of the opportunities available this fall, and get involved.

Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

FOOD

So All May Eat meal serving

Saturday, Sept. 29, Wednesday, Oct. 31, & Saturday, Dec. 29

People cook at St. Paul and serve meals at an area meal site. The initiative is called So All May Eat. Needed for the dates above are shoppers, cooks, and servers. Providing a warm meal to those who are struggling is one way we show God's grace to others. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

Thanksgiving food collection

Thanksgiving Eve worship, Nov. 21, 7 p.m.

Stock a paper bag with nonperishable food items and bring it to worship for those who are food insecure. The food gathered will be used to fill the shelves at the Friendly House Food Pantry.

What's needed? Among other items: soups, mac & cheese, canned meat (chicken & tuna), cereal, peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, bar soap, laundry soap, and feminine hygiene products. Help sort the food on Sunday, Nov. 25, 12 noon. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

EARTH CARE

Make It Yours Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m.-12 noon

The St. Paul corner of the world is a beautiful place. A few times each year, St. Paul people 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, julesi@mchsi.com.

Environmental Team

The Environmental Team is a band of earth-minded St. Paul folks. They round up dish scrubbers for church suppers. They pick up trash every week on the St. Paul campus and support recycling initiatives, too. Engage your own natural instincts. Think globally and act locally as a steward of this Earthly home. Contact: Duane Haas, dlhaas@mchsi.com.



HOUSING

Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, Sept. 8, 8 a.m.- 4 p.m., Wednesdays, Sept. 26 and Oct. 24, 5-8 p.m.

St. Paul people are building a home, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity in the Quad Cities. Swing a hammer, raise a wall, run a table saw. No prior construction experience needed. To sign up for a shift, visit stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

MENTAL HEALTH

NAMI Walk

Saturday, Sept. 22, 9:30 a.m., Modern Woodmen Park

Lace up your sneakers and join the St. Paul crew who walk each year to support programs and research for people who struggle with mental illness. Registration is free; everyone gets a T-shirt. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Deb and Joe James, joedeb1984@gmail.com.

Mental Health Awareness Team

Third Thursday of the month, 6 p.m.,
Church House Dining Room

Expand awareness. Banish stigmas. Love others. Share stories and support. Local experts and everyday people team up to provide education and events at St. Paul. Interested in being a part? Contact: Marla Brundies, mbrundies@hotmail.com.

Friends & Family

Fourth Monday of the month, 6 p.m.,
Church House Living Room

A drop-in group for people whose loved ones are impacted by mental illness, Friends & Family is for anyone looking for mutual support by sharing with and listening to others. Led by mental health professionals and Pastor Sara Olson-Smith. No need to sign up, just come. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Survivors of Suicide Loss

First Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m.,
Library Conference Room

Offering support for those who have lost a friend or family member to suicide at any time, this monthly gathering is for care, compassion, and encouragement. No need to sign up, just come. Contact: Deb and Joe James, joedeb1984@gmail.com.

“As a homeowner, I know the feeling of security and comfort that comes from having a place to call your own. I started helping with Habitat in the hope that more families might share this quiet, everyday kind of joy. I had no idea that the work would be so rewarding or that the people working next to me would be so amazingly kind.”
doug reiling

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Play a game, read together, plant a garden, paint a mural, clean up after an event, offer hospitality. At Madison Elementary, being together is what it is all about. Students and staff delight in the relationships built with St. Paul people. Make a difference in the lives of kids, some of whom face tough challenges. Contact: Dana Welser, dana@stpaulqc.org.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2018-19 INCLUDE:

Grounds care: A diminishing school budget means little landscaping for the school. Madison needs volunteers to prune, weed, pick up litter. Everyone walking onto this campus needs to know that they will be cared for, just as the school grounds are.

Mentors: Meet with a child to read, share lunch, play games, listen, build relationships.

Classroom and school support: Help a teacher, work in a classroom, wash children's clothing, pop popcorn, work school events, go on a field trip. Many working families are unable to volunteer during the school day. St. Paul members are the perfect volunteers to help lift up students and staff.

Madison Market: On the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, a food pantry comes alive at the J.B. Young Opportunity Center. Help with food delivery, sorting or shelving, or offer hospitality to the guests. Hours are in the morning or afternoon.

COMMUNITY

Togetherness is one of the deep joys of a life of faith. St. Paul people gather in groups, large and small, to share in each other's lives. Below is a sampling of groups who welcome all with open arms. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

WOMEN

Women of the ELCA

This is a community of women of all ages who gather for friendship and support, Bible study, and service. Monthly gatherings are held at church and in members' homes, as well as special events throughout the year. Contact: Jan Lloyd, cmljml@q.com or Judy Skogman, 563-332-7547.

- ▶ **Advent Celebration:** On Saturday, Dec. 1, join other St. Paul women for social time, starting at 10:30 a.m., followed by a program and salad luncheon. Sign up coming soon. Child-care will be available upon request.

Church Women United of the Quad Cities Fall Brunch

Friday, Sept. 28, 8:30 a.m., Library Commons

Come together with other QCA women for a morning of fellowship. Pastor Rich Hendricks from the Metropolitan Community Church and One Human Family will present on "Combating Hate." Brunch will be served. Cost is \$7. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Karen Miller, grammy630@msn.com.

Voices of the Village

Saturday, Oct. 27, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Library Commons

Enjoy speakers and food while gathering with women of the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA to learn about cultures throughout the world. Cost, including lunch, is \$12. Register online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Karen Miller, grammy630@msn.com.

MEN

Second Saturdays

Second Saturday mornings of the month

Men of St. Paul gather for service, fellowship, and discussion. The idea is to strengthen guys in their faith. Contact: Todd Byerly, todd@stpaulqc.org.

- ▶ First meeting of the fall will be on Saturday, Sept. 8, 8:30 a.m., at the Kreiter farm, 12010 70th Ave., Blue Grass. Speaker will be Don Doucette, chancellor, Eastern Iowa Community College District.

Men's Bible study

First and third Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m.

Gather together for a time of fellowship, study, and light supper. Meet in the 129 House on the St. Paul campus, corner of Lombard and Main Streets. Contact: Jeff Keller, jeff.keller1964@gmail.com.

Men's Retreat

Friday, Oct. 26 - Saturday, Oct. 27

Get away for the night at Camp Shalom to meet some friendly faces, share in meaningful discussions about life and faith, and enjoy a walk in the woods. Come when you can from early evening Friday to midday Saturday. Meals will be provided. Cost is \$50. More details to come. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Pastor Josh Kestner, joshua@stpaulqc.org.



YOUNG ADULTS

2136

Twice monthly

2136 is a ministry for adults in their 20s and 30s to be social, to study, and to serve. Its name comes from both the general age of those involved and the street address of St. Paul. To stay up-to-date on 2136 happenings, check out the 2136 Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/stpaul2136. Contact: Pastor Kelsey Fitting-Snyder, kelsey@stpaulqc.org.

- ▶ **Tailgating kick-off:** On Thursday, Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m., wear your team colors, and bring a dish and a chair to gather around a fire to celebrate friends and fall. Meet in the west parking lot.

TOGETHERNESS

Golden Agers luncheon

Wednesday, Oct. 10, 10:30 a.m., Chapel & Fellowship Hall

St. Paul senior adults, 75 years and older, come together each October for the Golden Agers worship and luncheon. RSVP by calling Jennifer Garvey at 563-326-3547. Contact: Pastor Ron Huber, ron@stpaulqc.org.

KnitWits

Third Thursday of the month, 5 p.m.

Church House Living Room

Knitters and crocheters are invited to share time over yarn as we work on service and individual projects. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We'll be glad to teach you. Contact: Belinda Holbrook, bholbrook@mchsi.com.

Primetime 50+

Monthly gatherings

Primetime 50+ brings together folks age 50 and older. Monthly gatherings at a variety of Quad City area spots are a time of fun and great community. Sign up at the Info Center for:

- ▶ **Breakfast in the Park:** On Saturday, Sept. 29, 8:30 a.m., wake up with breakfast at Breezy Point Shelter at West Lake Park. Bring a dish to share. Contact: Paul and Joan Marietta, 563-349-1973.
- ▶ **Tycoga Winery,** on Sunday, Oct. 21, 4 p.m., wine tasting and pizza. Contact: Tom and Joan Lahl, 563-320-8760.

Quilters

Sept. 10, Oct. 23, Nov. 5, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fellowship Hall

This devoted group of caring quilters, beginners and experts alike, gather monthly to sew, tie, cut, and piece together beautiful works of art that are donated to those in need. Contact: Cathy Hagglund, crh4quilts@msn.com or Karin Hanson, 563-528-2064.

Theology Pub

Second Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.,

Lower level of Front Street Brewery, Davenport

Theology Pub offers an opportunity to gather around conversation, food, and drinks. Anyone is welcome! Come when you can, and bring a friend. During the fall months we'll take a look at Luther's Small Catechism. What are the Lord's Prayer, the Apostle's Creed, Ten Commandments, and Holy Sacraments all about? No homework or materials are required. Interested or have questions? Contact: Pastor Josh Kestner at joshua@stpaulqc.org.

SUPPORT & CARE

Adult Children of Alcoholics

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., Upper Level Education Wing

This is a group for people who grew up in dysfunctional homes of any type (mental illness, alcoholic, verbally abusive, etc.). We learn together and support each other, using a spiritual approach. Contact: Dick Jensen, rrjensen65@gmail.com.

Blood Donor Day

Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2-6 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Give the gift of life. Blood donation is a simple process that takes about 45 minutes to one hour. Enjoy conversation and refreshments afterwards. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Free Indeed prison ministry

Saturday, Oct. 6, 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Free Indeed congregation, within the walls of the Anamosa State Penitentiary in Anamosa, Iowa, will welcome St. Paul people for worship. Transportation and lunch will be provided. Visitors must submit paperwork for a background check by Sept. 21. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Questions? Barb Brunkan, barbbrulkan@gmail.com.

Home Communion

Sunday, Nov. 4, volunteers are needed

Illness or age sideline many of our members from worship. Home Communion wraps them warmly into congregational life. Equipped with special communion kits, volunteers visit our homebound members in care facilities and private homes four times a year. Contact: Pastor Ron Huber, ron@stpaulqc.org.

Motherless Daughters

Second Saturday of the month, 9 a.m., Church House Living Room

Open for any woman who has experienced mother-loss at any time and needs a safe place for support. Gather to celebrate our mothers, deepen relationships, and develop a network for continuous healing. Contact: Nicole Rathje, rathjefamily@gmail.com.

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain works quietly and steadily behind the scenes. Prayers rise for a problem or illness, or in praise or thanksgiving. No request is too small. Requests are worded for confidentiality. For a prayer request or to volunteer as one who prays, contact Karin Hanson, 563-528-2064, tkmax2502@gmail.com.

Walking the Grief Journey

Sundays, Oct. 21-Nov. 18, 10:20-11:05 a.m., Church House Living Room

A supportive, compassion-filled series for those who have experienced the recent loss of a loved one. Explore anger, depression, fears, acceptance, and new strength for a hopeful future. Led by Pastor Sara Olson-Smith and Joel Moore, deacon and registered nurse, sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

ADULTS

As Lutheran Christians, we consider our lives to be unfinished products. That's why we're constantly seeking ways to grow in faith and deepen the meaning of our days. At St. Paul, we cultivate a community of lifelong learning. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

FAITH EXPLORATION

Centering Prayer

Thursdays, 6 p.m., Upper Level Education Wing

Practice an ancient prayer form in which you will experience God's presence within. Centering prayer does not replace other kinds of prayer, but is a discipline that allows a person to move beyond conversation to resting in God and communion with Christ. Contact: Dick Jensen, rrjensen65@gmail.com.

Heart. Soul. Mind.

Thursdays, beginning Sept. 6, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall

Cross Examinations: "At the beginning of Christianity there are two crosses: One is a real cross, the other a symbol" – Jurgen Moltmann. The central symbol of the Christian experience, the cross, evokes not only a range of emotions, but also a range of interpretations. Explore how the cross has shaped the lives of people in different contexts, and how it continues to shape us today. Contact: Pastor Kelsey Fitting-Snyder, kelsey@stpaulqc.org.

BOOK LOVERS

Early Morning Book Group

Tuesdays, Sept. 18-Oct. 2, 6:45-7:30 a.m., Library Commons

If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, then what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is inspired? When Rachel Held Evans found herself asking these questions, she began a quest to better understand what the Bible is and how it is meant to be read. *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans is available in the Book Corner. Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

Faithful Readers

Thursdays, Sept. 13, 6:30 p.m., and Oct. 11, 7 p.m., Church House Living Room

The first fall meeting of this literature discussion group, Sept. 13, will be a potluck (bring anything except dessert). Conversation will focus on *Death on Lindisfarne* by Faye Sampson. The October meeting will be on "The Diver" and "The Ring" in *Babette's Feast and Other Stories* by Isak Dinesen (Kindle title: *Anecdotes of Destiny and Ehrengard*). Contact: Katie Hanson, katiehanson@augustana.edu or Dave Crowe, davidcrowe@augustana.edu.

Going Deeper

Mondays, Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 8, & 15, 5-6 p.m., Church House Living Room

Longing for deeper conversation about matters of faith? This four-week study will consider *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. Using various genres, the author explores with knowledge, imagination and wit what the Bible is and how it is read. Please read the first 60 pages before the first meeting. Contact: Lynn Batcher, lbatcher@hotmail.com.

“ I love the fact that we are encouraged to question and learn at St. Paul. Our opportunities to learn are so diverse and the teachers are phenomenal! ”

donna naae



UPCOMING EVENTS

CC Conversations

First Thursday of the month, starting Sept. 6, 6-7:15 p.m.

CC Conversations is a monthly opportunity for St. Paul people to discuss faith, politics, and culture, using articles and news from *The Christian Century* magazine as a springboard for conversation. Think critically, faithfully, and in non-partisan fashion about a whole host of contemporary issues. Pastor Peter Marty facilitates discussion. Participants will want to have read the Aug. 15 and 29 issues in advance, either by stopping at the church to read one of the copies secured in the library or through a subscription (special St. Paul rate cards are available at the Info Center). Contact: Pastor Peter Marty, peter@stpaulqc.org.

French Moderns: Monet to Matisse, 1850-1950

Thursday, Oct. 25, 6:30 p.m.

The Figge Art Museum will present this exhibition from the world-renowned collection of the Brooklyn Museum in New York. It brings together 60 paintings and sculptures by some of the world's most treasured artists including Monet, Cézanne, Renoir, Matisse, Degas, Rodin and many more. Museum docents who are members of St. Paul will offer a guided tour. Event is free, but please sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.



FAITH & LIFE SERIES

Austin Channing Brown

Sunday, Oct. 7, 10:20 a.m. and 4 p.m., Sanctuary

The 2018 Faith & Life Series speaker is Austin Channing Brown. She will present on Sunday, Oct. 7, at 10:20 a.m. and 4 p.m. Both are free and open to the public. She is the author of the acclaimed *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*. The book is available in the St. Paul Book Corner.

Austin attended North Park University where she earned a degree in business management. She also has a master's degree in social justice from Marygrove College in Detroit. Austin has worked in a variety of contexts for the advancement of racial justice and reconciliation.

Fall Theological Conference

September 23-25, 2018

St. Paul will host the 2018 Fall Theological Conference, a time of conversation, learning, and fellowship for pastors and other rostered leaders in the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Be Our Guest

Friday, Nov. 9

Enjoy dinner and lively conversation at St. Paul homes throughout the area. Each guest will be asked to bring a dish to share. Hosts will be in contact with location and dish details in the days before the meal. The guest list will be a surprise until you arrive. Sign up to be a guest or host at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Ann McGlynn, ann@stpaulqc.org.

Financial Peace University Reunion

Saturday, Oct. 20, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon, Luther Loft

This one-time, morning class is an opportunity for those who have taken FPU before. Participants will revisit and review their journey with the baby steps towards better financial health. We will use the materials you had in your previous class. Sign-up by Oct. 15 at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Martha Wells, marthawells99@gmail.com.



Each fall, St. Paul hosts the community-wide Faith & Life Series. The church brings persons of national stature to the Quad Cities — sparking new ideas about what it means to live faithfully. This event reflects St. Paul's mission to serve as a learning center for our people and the entire region.

Lunch Book Conversation: *I'm Still Here*

Thursdays, Sept. 13-Oct. 4, 12-1 p.m.

Gather with others to discuss this fall's Faith & Life Speaker Austin Channing Brown's book. Bring a bag lunch and an openness to talk and listen about racism, privilege, and how we might commit to building racial justice in our church and world. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.



SUNDAY MORNING LEARNING

On Sunday mornings, you'll find a variety of presenters and topics for adult classes, **10:20-11:05 a.m.** Meet up with God's word, riveting ideas, and interesting people. No need to register in advance. Grab your cup of coffee and settle in. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

SEPTEMBER

September 9

Unearned privilege as cheap grace (1 of 2):

There are many people today wanting to unmask and dismantle unearned privilege such as white privilege, male privilege, and economic privilege. But rarely is privilege *theologically* understood. In this two-part series, Jason Mahn tries to theologically grapple with his own privilege, inviting and enabling participants to join him. Jason Mahn, associate professor of religion and director of the Presidential Center for Faith and Learning at Augustana College. In the Chapel.

Meet the Street Team: Since 2009, The Center provides a place where Hilltop neighbors put aside their concerns of poverty and enjoy the company around them. Homeless outreach is one of three areas of focus for the center, seeking to alleviate the pain of oppressed and marginalized peoples. Pennie Kellenberger, director, The Center. In Luther Loft.

Bible Study – With the eyes of a child: Get ready to study the Bible with renewed curiosity and playfulness. Each week begins with reading a story from a children's Bible before digging more deeply into the scripture itself. Conversations about what was included or left out, or the insights from word choices, images and more will expand our understanding as we enter the Bible with the eyes of child. Led by St. Paul pastors and members. In Room 208.

September 16

Unearned privilege as cheap grace (2 of 2):

There are many people today wanting to unmask and dismantle unearned privilege such as white privilege, male privilege, and economic privilege. But rarely is privilege *theologically* understood. Jason Mahn, associate professor of religion and director of the Presidential Center for Faith and Learning at Augustana College. In the Chapel.

We are the church together: The ELCA is committed to celebrating cultural diversity, but it is also the whitest Christian denomination in America. So, what kind of work is the ELCA doing to be an advocate for all of God's children in this world? Come explore our denomination's social statement, *Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture*. Josh Kestner, pastor in residency. In Luther Loft.

With the eyes of a child: In Room 208.

September 23

Campus ministry is for everyone: Campus ministry is crucial in the faith formation of many young adults. Leaders and students from University of Iowa and UNI share stories and lead conversations about how to connect with campus ministry in Iowa and around the country. Sarah Goettsch, campus pastor, University of Iowa; Jon Fry, campus minister, University of Northern Iowa; and students. In the Chapel.

Scott County Kids: Learn about Scott County Kids and its mission to provide effective programming deterring children and youth ages 6-18 from entering the juvenile justice and the child welfare system. The organization also supports programs ensuring safe exit for children already in these systems. Dawn Knutson, family system coordinator, Scott County Kids. In Luther Loft.

With the eyes of a child: In Room 208.

September 30

Finding your prophetic voice (1 of 2): God calls us to use the prophetic voices with which we are created. Yet most Christians have few chances to recognize or hone their own prophetic voice. This first of two sessions explores the question "What is prophetic speech?" by looking at the biblical witness and theologians' perspectives on the prophetic. Jan Schnell Rippentrop, pastor, JustChurch in Iowa City, professor of homiletics at Association of Chicago Theological Schools. In the Chapel.

Becoming a sanctuary congregation: After a year of study, the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Quad Cities decided to declare itself a Sanctuary Host Congregation in alliance with the Iowa Sanctuary Movement. Learn how they came to the decision and what it means. John Dunsheath, UUCQC. In Luther Loft.

With the eyes of a child: In Room 208.

OCTOBER

October 7

Faith & Life speaker: Austin Channing Brown is a leading new voice on racial justice, and author of *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*. Austin is committed to exploring the intersections of racial justice, faith, and black womanhood. Her workshops are infused with justice, pop culture, humor, and truth-telling. Whether she is being interviewed, lecturing, or leading a workshop, Austin elicits a full range of emotions as she invites people to celebrate blackness with her.

October 14

Loving kindness (1 of 2): What does God require of you? Do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God? – Micah 6:8. Jesus revealed this kind of compassion for the sake of the world. Based on the book *Boundless Compassion* by Joyce Rupp, learn about embodying a compassionate presence for the sake of the suffering in the world. Elaine Olson, pastor and certified spiritual director. In the Chapel.

We've come a long way. We've got a ways to go: Learn about the Handicapped Development Center through the story of someone who has been involved in services from the beginning. Pick up some tips on how to communicate with people with disabilities. Carol Foster, vice president, Handicapped Development Center. In Luther Loft.

With the eyes of a child: In Room 208.

October 21

Loving kindness (2 of 2): "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" and, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Affirm the importance and process of living with compassion for oneself to build the bridge of being a compassionate presence for others and find joy. Elaine Olson, pastor and certified spiritual director. In the Chapel.

Creating hope: Hope at the BRICK House shares its inner-city ministry located in the Hilltop area of Davenport. This faith-based ministry gives hope to children and families. Joyce Klopp, director. In the Luther Loft.

With the eyes of a child: In Room 208.

October 28

Finding your prophetic voice (2 of 2): God calls us to use the prophetic voices with which we are created. Explore identifying and claiming our own prophetic voices, which embody our prophetic calling in daily life. Jan Schnell Rippentrop, pastor, JustChurch in Iowa City, professor of homiletics at Association of Chicago Theological Schools. In the Chapel.

Family Bible Study: In place of regular learning, families will strengthen their intentional conversations by digging into the Bible and learning about their faith. Bring your Bibles! In Fellowship Hall.

With the eyes of a child: In Room 208.



NOVEMBER

November 4

Politics of Christianity: Since political opinions often run as strong in people as their faith commitments run deep, what is the proper relationship between politics and faith? How should Christians think in a fresh and helpful way about the role of their faith convictions in a politically charged world? Peter W. Marty, senior pastor. In the Chapel.

Paying bond: The Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project raises money to pay bail for detained immigrants. The vision is to challenge a system that results in poorer outcomes for individuals based solely on one's economic status. Nicole Novak, Eastern Iowa Community Bond Project. In Luther Loft.

With the eyes of a child: In Room 208.

November 11

Men who would become gods - Luther and ancient Arian heresy: Contrast Arianism (4th century heresy which denied the divinity of Christ) with Lutheran theology. Arianism highlights the importance of directionality in theology, grace, condescension, atonement, and faith. Lutheran theology has psychosocial import as it offers a corrective to our contemporary culture of perfectionism, stress, and do-it-all-ism. John Thompson, assistant professor of social work, St. Ambrose University. In the Chapel.

The church and criminal justice - Hearing the cries: Recognizing many people working in the criminal justice system serve their professional vocations with competent and humane performance, the church also recognizes that current approaches, such as the emphasis

on mass incarceration, impose significant costs on all involved in the system and on society as a whole. Kelsey Fitting-Snyder, pastor in residency. In Luther Loft.

With the eyes of a child: In Room 208.

November 18

The rest is silence - voices of moral injury (1 of 2): Hidden injuries occur from exercising moral agency in combat. Moral injuries are not the same as post-traumatic stress disorder. The session will introduce a two-mirror model to examine narratives from WWI veterans. Jeff Zust, First Army Chaplain. In the Chapel.

Braking Traffik: Human trafficking happens in our community. Hear about how Family Resources' program, Braking Traffik, is here to help. Kelly Saul, Family Resources. In Luther Loft.

With the eyes of a child: In Room 208.

November 25

Movement to minimize stress, grief, or trauma (1 of 2): Former professional dancer, theater director, and trauma movement specialist teaches simple self-care exercises for finding calm in the midst of life's tumultuous journeys. Participants may choose to get down on the floor, or sit in a chair. Wear soft, loose-fitting clothes for easy movement. Meg Eginton, registered somatic movement educator. In the Lower Commons.

Family Advent Learning: During the learning hour, people of all ages are invited to Fellowship Hall to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord. Kick off the Advent season with songs, a Bible story, and family craft. In Fellowship Hall.

With the eyes of a child: In Room 208.

KIDS & FAMILIES

Kids and families can find a wonderful second home at St. Paul. Staff and volunteers bring hearts for sharing faith, and the congregation seeks to be a loving sign of God's grace for families.

Contact: Kendra Thompson, kendra@stpaulqc.org.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Learning for kids

Sunday mornings, 10:20-11:05 a.m. starting Sept. 9

On Sept. 9, Sunday morning learning begins for the school year. Look for friendly St. Paul faces on that day to guide you.

The classroom journey begins at age 3. The *Spark* curriculum from Augsburg Fortress guides the adventure. Parents are asked to remain in the building each Sunday during learning. You'll find your child's classroom in the education wing:

- ▶ Main Level: Age 3-PreK
- ▶ Upper Level: K-Grade 2
- ▶ Lower Level: Grades 3-5

Special Sundays | 10:20-11:05 a.m.

- ▶ **Family Bible study:** In place of regular learning on Sunday, Oct. 28, families will strengthen their intentional conversations by digging into the Bible. Meet in Fellowship Hall. Bring your Bibles!
- ▶ **Family Advent learning activity:** On Sunday, Nov. 25, we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord. Meet in Fellowship Hall for an Advent lesson, Christmas carols, and family craft, in place of regular learning.

Childcare

Staffed childcare is available, all Sunday morning. It's for families with infants and young children through preschool age. Children are always welcome in worship. But, there are times when your child needs a break, and you'd like some focused time to soak up a class or sermon. Parents may move easily between a pew and the childcare room as needed. Silent pagers are available.

Nursing Moms' Room

A room for nursing moms, located next to the elevator area near the central staircase, is available too. Find rocking chairs, a changing table, supplies, and a video feed from the Sanctuary during worship.

FAITH MILESTONES

Milestones are foundational faith moments that shape our spiritual lives. Families gather for these celebrations; they mark moments in the rhythm of the congregation. Milestone events are planned for different ages throughout the year. Fall milestones include:

Third Grade

Sunday, Oct. 21, 10:20-11:05 a.m.

Students and their parents learn together about God's written word. Each child will receive their own Bible and a blessing from the congregation at 9 a.m. worship. Signup at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Kendra Thompson, kendra@stpaulqc.org.



PRESCHOOL

St. Paul Preschool is a loving community for children, age two through pre-kindergarten. The church's classrooms fill with light and life on Monday through Friday mornings, 8:45-11:45 a.m., September through May.

With a highly educated staff leading the way, this little village for preschoolers is solidly constructed in Christ's love. Some 100 children find a home in classrooms:

- ▶ Two-year-olds (two- and three-day programs)
- ▶ Three-year-olds (two- and three-day programs)
- ▶ Pre-K (four-day program)

Contact: Karen Strusz, karenstrusz@stpaulqc.org.

PARENTING

Moms' Morning

Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m., starting Sept. 13, Church House Living Room

Friendships form when mothers of young children get together. Moms' Morning is an every-Thursday-morning gathering (*note new day*) that celebrates parenthood with laughter, prayer, and mutual support. A Bible study is held once a month, along with service projects and learning. Childcare is provided. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

St. Paul Parenting Fellowship

St. Paul Parenting Fellowship is a community of families from all walks of life. The mission is to share in the joys and trials of parenting, give to others in the spirit of Christ, and grow in efforts to raise kids in a life of faith. Gatherings feature friendship, support, and learning.

- ▶ **Trunk or Treat:** Sunday, Oct. 21, 5-7 p.m. It's the annual orange-and-black frivolity at St. Paul for the whole family. Gather for a simple meal, a short worship service, treating, and a parking lot dance party! Costumes are encouraged.
- ▶ **Parents' Game Night:** Friday, Sept. 21, 5:30-8 p.m. Come for dinner and get ready to laugh out loud with other parents. After a delicious meal and witty conversation, we'll break out the games where fun will be had by all. Childcare provided. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Sean Harless, sharless57@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, Dec. 9, 4 p.m.

Calling all stars, angels, shepherds, and sheep! Children will delight in sharing the story of Jesus' birth through the singing of traditional Christmas carols and speaking parts. Everyone receives a costume to wear. Selections for speaking parts and rehearsals will begin in October. Watch the church calendar for specifics.



“We get to hang out with a great group of people.”

alex mcleland



“Sometimes it's easy to get away from God, but here we can connect and worship together.”

abby mcleland

Brother and sister, Alex and Abby are involved in Sunday Night Live, ushering, youth choir, and summer trips.

YOUTH

This is the place for off-the-charts fun, faith, and friendship. But it's so much more. Every encounter is aimed at powerfully nurturing and strengthening the faith of young people and their families. Contact: Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org.

GRADES 6 - 8

Sunday mornings

Sundays, 10:20-11:05 a.m., Youth Room

Sunday gatherings are offered each week for students in grades 6-8. Most seventh- and eighth-graders also serve as acolytes during worship, or sing in the Youth Choir.

678 Night

Wednesdays, Sept. 26 & Oct. 24, 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.

Confirmation

First three Wednesdays of the month, beginning Sept. 5, 6:30-8 p.m.

For youth in grades 7 and 8, St. Paul's confirmation ministry is a creative, Spirit-enlivened experience, built on relationships with God and others.

The fall confirmation retreat for seventh-graders will be Sept. 14-15 at Camp Shalom, and for eighth-graders in the Quad Cities on Nov. 2-3.

Faith Stories

Sundays, Sept. 16-Oct. 14, 10:20-11:05 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Faith stories are the culmination of confirmation at St. Paul. This fall, for five Sundays during the learning hour, ninth-graders will share three-minute presentations describing how they have experienced the presence and work of God in their lives. Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

678 lock-in

Friday, Oct. 12, 5:30 p.m.-Saturday, Oct. 13, 8:30 a.m., Lutheran Student Center, University of Northern Iowa

Just for students in 6, 7, and 8. We will gather together at church, then head to Cedar Falls for an overnight experience at the UNI Lutheran Student Center. Activities will include climbing wall, ping pong, volleyball, swimming, meeting and worshipping with other middle school students from Iowa. Cost is \$40 per person, due by Sept. 23. Signup at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Bailey Carroll, baileyan166@gmail.com.

HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday mornings

Sundays, 10:20-11:05 a.m.

Sunday gatherings are offered each week for students in grades 9-12 in Room 005. High school youth also volunteer to teach Sunday morning learning for younger children, assist with worship, usher, work in the nursery, or sing in the Youth Choir.

Sunday Night Live (SNL)

Sundays, 7:15-8:30 p.m., starting Sept. 9, Youth Room

Grab a booth or a spot on "the carpet monster" for Sunday Night Live (SNL). SNL is a strong framework for high school youth, a fun place to get recharged before school on Monday morning. Live, grow, and serve. Jump into super-sized life experiences. SNL has something for everyone. Small groups meet beforehand, on- and off-site.

- ▶ **Small group kick-off potluck:** On Sept. 9, 6:30 p.m., come before SNL and plug in with a small group for the year. Meet the leaders, share a meal, play some games. Bring a drink/side dish to share.
- ▶ **Midweek Recharge:** Wednesdays, starting Sept. 5, 6:45-8 p.m., this small group is designed for students who do not attend Sunday evenings. In Room 208.
- ▶ **2019 summer trips info meeting:** Sunday, Nov. 4, 6:45-7:15 p.m., Library Commons. During the November potluck, trip dates, costs, and details will be announced.



ST. PAUL WELCOMES TWO NEW INTERNS



DESTINY ELLINGSWORTH, *communication intern*, is a junior at Western Illinois University and attends her classes at the Quad Cities campus. She majors in marketing and plans to obtain her master's of business administration. She is a member of the Public Relations Network of the Quad Cities and enjoys attending their meetings and workshops. As a lifelong member of St. Paul, Destiny is ecstatic to be more involved with the church and help showcase all of the wonderful things taking place.

Destiny's family includes her mother, Marcia, and sibling, Perry. She was born and raised in Davenport and loves being a part of the Quad Cities community.



CHRISTINE VINCENT, *youth ministries intern*, is a senior at Augustana College, majoring in religion and political science. She recently returned from her second summer at Sky Ranch, a Lutheran camp in Colorado. She served as a counselor there, facilitating team building activities and Bible studies, and leading day hikes, high ropes course activities, and white water rafting. She's also worked in the child care rooms and helped lead the 2016 youth mission trip at St. Paul. She also has experience as an intern with campus ministries at Augustana.

Christine enjoys being a part of her sorority, Phi Rho. She also participates on the Augustana Alumni Board and Student Government Association. Her parents and siblings live in Bettendorf.

Council Notes

The 66-year-old pillars that face Vander Veer Botanical Center on the original 1952 Sanctuary will be replaced, after the Congregational Council approved the project at its August meeting.

The work will include:

- Removal of four existing wooden columns.
- Installation and painting of four fiberglass columns.
- Paint the underside of the porch and the white wood trim around front doors.
- Wire brush clean and paint railings.

The project will be paid for out of the Building Improvement Fund. The hope is that it will be completed before winter, with Merv Iossi and Sons as contractor.

The council also acknowledged the Memorial Gifts Committee's approval of a new cabinet for storage of music folders for members of the Chorale. The cabinet will allow all members of Chorale to have easy access to their music each week.



UPCOMING *worship*

SEPTEMBER 1 & 2

*Season after Pentecost
Labor Day weekend*

PREACHING

5:30 Sara Olson-Smith
7:45 Sara Olson-Smith
9:00 Sara Olson-Smith
11:15 Sara Olson-Smith

SEPTEMBER 8 & 9

*Season after Pentecost
Fall Start-up Sunday*

PREACHING

5:30 Peter W. Marty
7:45 Peter W. Marty
9:00 Peter W. Marty
11:15 Peter W. Marty

MUSIC

9:00 Chorale

SEPTEMBER 15 & 16

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

5:30 Josh Kestner
7:45 Josh Kestner
9:00 Peter W. Marty
11:15 Peter W. Marty

MUSIC

9:00 Chorale

SEPTEMBER 22 & 23

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

5:30 Katy Warren
7:45 Josh Kestner
9:00 Katy Warren
11:15 Josh Kestner

MUSIC

9:00 Youth choir

SEPTEMBER 29 & 30

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

5:30 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder
7:45 Peter W. Marty
9:00 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder
11:15 Peter W. Marty

MUSIC

9:00 Chorale



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803

START-UP SUNDAY

SUNDAYS STARTING SEPT. 9:

Worship: 7:45, 9, & 11:15 a.m.

Learning for all: 10:20-11:05 a.m.