

journey



Physical faith

The actual flight time from Istanbul was 12 hours. But add in seat time of 40 minutes before take-off to learn about floatation devices, and another 35 minutes upon landing for the pilots to explore each O'Hare runway and surrounding side streets, and our bodies were finished.

Extracting oneself from a seat designed by someone who must have studied invertebrate anatomy can't be all that different from Lazarus trying to straighten up outside his grave. Lazarus had grass clods in his hair and a twig poking out of one ear; we only had swollen feet. But in both cases, uncurling the human body into a fully functioning organism took days.

One would think a massage therapist in the airport would be a welcome sight to any crumpled traveler. But I wanted home and a shower and my own pillow, not a face compression in the hole of a vinyl headrest. Besides, there's luggage to find, cold weather to adjust to, and a ride to hail – none of which are relaxing.

The elderly Turkish woman jammed into the window seat beside us had either an amazing bladder or a serious case of politeness. Only once in 13+ hours did she get up to use the lavatory. At one point in the middle of the flight, I peeked over when she stirred. Out came her prayer book and up went the window shade as she shifted her body to face what must have been her best guess for the direction of Mecca. Her religious discipline was impressive. Mine was not. I had no prayer book in my carry-on, no appointed time I set aside for prayer.

Beneath this woman's colorful shawl and headscarf was a body not all that different from my own. Both our hearts pump around 1,000 gallons of blood a day. Each of us has a pancreas that regulates sugar levels in the blood. The bones in her inner ear vibrated just like mine every time the flight attendant decided to use the PA system to wake us up and make sure our seatbelts were buckled. Our skin bore a different hue, but the wizening was similar. Silky smoothness is long in our past. Our body systems are wearing down as cell membranes leak and nerves unravel. We're terminal. But so was everybody else inside that tube of aluminum (or who happens to be reading this column). I still want to believe that every day we get to spend breathing and hoping remains a gift and opportunity.

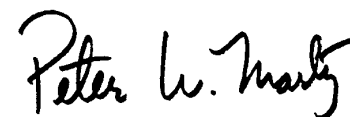
Jesus had a body too, which is well worth remembering. He was a mammal with feet and limbs and toenails that needed trimming. His limbs had to spend their own time in uncomfortable places. In his early years, his mother nursed him, burped him, and cleaned up his messes. He gave his disciples things to smell, touch, taste, and swallow. He frequently ma-

neuvered his body into positions of prayer for speaking with his heavenly Father.

Christianity is not a "spiritual" religion; it's an incarnational religion. Jesus was anything but vague, abstract, ethereal. He refused to be spiritualized. We can puzzle for the rest of time over why God would choose flesh and blood, as we in the church sometimes like to describe Jesus' birth. Why would God give up grandeur to become incarnate and vulnerable, someone people could get their hands on?

Well, as it turns out, if the best way to convey love is through relationship, and if the best relationships happen through embodied rather than the disembodied form (physical reality as opposed to virtual reality), then it makes sense that God would elect to get close to us through the body of Jesus.

Taking this truth to heart, I'm going to make the same effort I make every Christmas. I'm going to try and keep from intellectualizing the Christian faith. Jesus came into the world not to give us a set of doctrines or beliefs, but to show us how the human body is meant to eat, work, love, and pray. As it turns out, that same body also has to get in and out of some very tight spaces.



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:

Left to right: Barb Ellingsworth, Amy Bracken, Sara Siokos, Amy Philip, Kelly Dugan, Chelsea Robinson, Becky Vincent, Maggie Meloy

Advent luncheon to be held Dec. 14

Women of St. Paul are invited to gather for an Advent celebration on Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. An Advent devotional and the singing of Advent hymns in the Chapel will be followed by a salad luncheon. Bring a salad, quick bread, or dessert if you'd like.

All women are welcome; bring a friend! Childcare will be available. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups or the Info Center. Contacts: Carol Moeller, 563-391-3790 or Jan Melvin, 563-332-3665.



Light and Life devotions begin Dec. 1

This December, focus on the promise of God's love with St. Paul's annual tradition of daily Advent devotions.

Featuring an array of St. Paul voices, these devotions will land in your email box and the St. Paul website, based on the theme of Light and Life. The final devotion will be posted on Christmas Day.

Sign up to receive the devotions by email at ow.ly/TGYC5, or read them on the website beginning Sunday, Dec. 1, at stpaulqc.org/blog. Note: If you have received the devotions in the past, you do not need to sign up again.

St. Paul looks forward to Christmas, New Year traditions

Two beloved St. Paul traditions are coming up in the next several weeks.

Christmas pageant: The annual Christmas pageant will be held on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Kids are rehearsing during Sunday school to prepare for the telling of the story of Christ's birth. All Sunday morning learning classes (for all ages) will be on break Dec. 22 and Dec. 29. Classes resume Jan. 5.

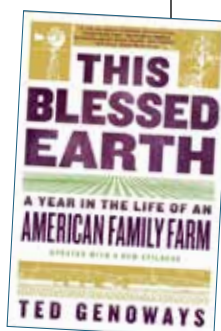
Youth choir: All former Youth Choir singers are invited to join the current Youth Choir for worship on Sunday, Jan. 5. Gather to rehearse a favorite anthem, Who Is the Lamb?, at 8:20 a.m. in the Chapel. The choir sings during the 9 a.m. service for this fun annual tradition. No need to sign up, just come! Questions? Dan Pepper, pepper@stpaulqc.org.

All St. Paul Reads: *This Blessed Earth*

This Blessed Earth: A Year in the Life of an American Family Farm is the 2020 All St. Paul Reads book.

All St. Paul Reads is encouragement for all to read and talk about a single book title in the same year. In 2020, this dinner and discussion event will take place on Thursday, February 13, 6-8 p.m.

This Blessed Earth is available for purchase for \$10 in the St. Paul Book Corner. To help plan for dinner, please RSVP at stpaulqc.org/signups.



And a little child will lead them: An Advent doodlebook

A children's Advent doodlebook, created by Lauren Brown, St. Paul's artistic director, and Kendra Thompson, pastor of children and family life, will be available for free, beginning Dec. 1 in the St. Paul Book Corner.

The book tells the story of Advent through colorful design and fun activities. Using scripture throughout, children will learn about the hope, peace, joy, and love of the season of waiting and the birth of Jesus. Contact: Kendra Thompson, kendra@stpaulqc.org.

Luther, Jews, and the Passion Play — a learning journey

In 2020, the little Bavarian Catholic village of Oberammergau will again present its Passion Play to a half-million visitors over five months, fulfilling a vow made in 1633 to tell the world the story of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection. The last 30 years have seen the play transformed from painfully anti-Jewish to a truly universal story. In a parallel vein, the anti-Jewish writings of Martin Luther have undergone re-examination, resulting in new and positive relationships between Lutherans and Jews.

Pastor Peter A. Pettit, teaching pastor, will lead a study trip that encompasses the key sites of the Lutheran Reformation (Worms, Wartburg, Erfurt, Wittenberg, and more) and culminates in the all-day experience of the 2020 Oberammergau Passion Play. Discussions with German Christian and Jewish leaders, as well as with the Oberammergau director, will highlight the trip, along with a special stop in Prague. Late July to early August will be the dates. Watch January's *Journey* and the St. Paul website for more details.

CREATION SHOUTS JOY



St. Paul people: Have you pledged?

2019 offerings

Our offerings are critically important for the financial health of our congregation. Every offering we make adds to the goodness of what we can accomplish. Thanks for making St. Paul a priority in your life.

Pledging for 2020

One of the expectations of St. Paul is that every member make a financial pledge commitment – a faith promise of what they believe they can give to support the ministry of the congregation. Please make every effort to turn in that blue pledge card and envelope for 2020. Extra cards are available at church. Or, save time by logging onto the St. Paul website and making your pledge electronically at www.stpaulqc.org/pledge. Online pledges are completely confidential.

Year-end giving

Towards the end of November, you should have received a statement of your giving through November 15. To be credited to 2019 giving statements, all offerings must be received in the church office by Tuesday, Dec. 31 at 12 noon, or postmarked by Dec. 31.

Gratitude

Thank you for your gifts of gratitude for St. Paul now and throughout the year. The Christ-centered mission and ministries of St. Paul depend entirely on the giving and pledges of every single household.

Our pledged giving for 2020 will make possible St. Paul's expanding mission character, staffing, and ministry vision. Thank you for your generosity.

Have a question about pledging or stewardship? Contact Marcia Robertson, giving ministry coordinator, 563-326-3547 ext. 218, marcia@stpaulqc.org.

St. Paul believes in giving 20+ percent of our annual budget away. This double-tithe is no easy matter. It's the hallmark of a servant people who belong to a servant church. Generations have helped establish this priority, supported fully through the offerings of St. Paul people.

In 2019, St. Paul has given \$600,000 to organizations as close as a neighborhood school and as far away as Africa.

A garden, flourishing

For several summers I have tended the Madison School garden. The garden softens all that brick, concrete, and the asphalt play area and also serves as a welcome to kids who walk the sidewalk toward the building.

The garden is a metaphor for renewal and rebirth. The butterfly bush grows to five feet each summer and is cut back the next spring to grow again. I do some manipulation, limiting the aggressive milk weed plants to one area away from the walk way (the monarch butterflies have no trouble finding them) and encourage the cone flower seedlings to grow wherever they want because they are colorful, hardy, and drought-resistant (and a favorite of bees).

One perk as I work in the garden is interacting with Madison kids. They are sometimes curious about just what I'm doing there. One inquisitive third-grader asked, "How much you get paid for doin' this?" I tried to explain about volunteering, the feeling good about making the garden look better. Then she said, "How long you been doin' this?" I told her - several years. Exasperated, hand on her hip, she said, "You need to get a different job."

Other volunteers do heavy lifting for the garden. This fall, Dave and Jeannine Crockett planted 20 mums for some color after most of the other flowers were through blooming. Clayton Lloyd and others put down a thick layer of mulch in late summer. Steve Mielenhausen, school principal, did some watering during the dry months. Dana Welsler, St. Paul's neighborhood school coordinator, generously provides financial support from the church's Daily Ministry Budget for the garden's needs.

It takes a small village to keep the garden flourishing (plus some rain and sunshine at the right times).

— Rex Grove



Pastor Ron Huber bids St. Paul farewell

After 28 years of pastoral care in Iowa, Ron returns to beloved Minnesota

And to think — Ron Huber was not always going to be a pastor.

Losing his father at age 15, Ron felt a sense of responsibility to his family farm in rural Minnesota. After farming with his uncle for a few years, a local pastor who had become like a surrogate father, encouraged Ron to further his education. And so he did.

During his college years, he and a few other young men and women, called “under shepherds,” helped rebuild a struggling church. It was during this experience that he met Karen. The couple married 56 years ago, in August 1963.

After many college ventures including Lutheran Bible School, Westminster College, University of Minnesota, Augsburg, and some time in seminary, Ron was still undecided on his life path. So, he went into business with a friend, running a commercial cleaning company.

Yet, a return to seminary stayed on his mind. He returned to Luther Seminary in the summer of 1970, and was ordained in 1973. For the next 18 years, the name Pastor Ron became a part of congregations scattered throughout southern Minnesota.

During this time, he and Karen had two sons and adopted a daughter. Their children loved growing up in Minnesota, Ron said. Always a hard worker, Ron hand-dug the footings for their lake cabin. The Huber family loved spending summers at the family’s lake property, where swimming and fishing were on the list of things to do.

On an average night in August of 1991, Ron had an interesting phone conversation with St. Paul member Shirley Schafnit about a need for his talents in Davenport, Iowa. Following this phone conversation, Ron told Karen that the time may have come for a move.

They packed up and moved to Iowa. Ron has served St. Paul for 28 years. He will end his time with St. Paul this month.

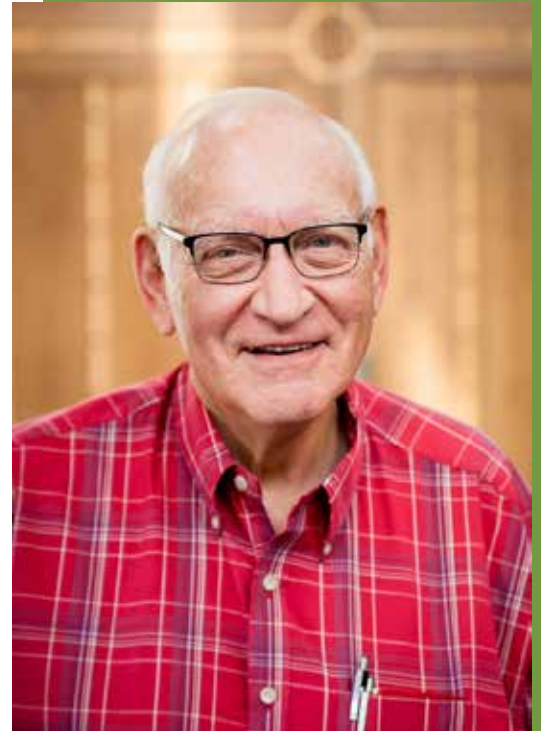
“I never thought I’d stay in one place so long, but the doors continued to open and I’ve never questioned it.”

Ron has played a number of pastoral roles at St. Paul. For the last 10 years he has been the visitation pastor. Days include six to 10 personal calls, visits to members in their homes, and leading worship at Ridgcrest Village and the Good Samaritan Society.

“I’ve been blessed more than I’ve been a blessing,” Ron said.

Ron also serves as pastor at Salem Lutheran Church in Andrew, Iowa, a position he’s held since 2009. Salem is a growing congregation in rural Jackson County. His last Sunday with them will be at the end of December.

Countless sermons, baptisms, funerals, hospital calls, and home visits allowed for Pastor Ron to touch an abundance of St. Paul lives — each one with the same care and love as the last. For that, St. Paul people say thank you — thank you for being a blessing to St. Paul. Godspeed.



Prior to their move to Minnesota, the congregation has the opportunity to express gratitude to Ron and Karen Huber at an open house reception on Sunday, Dec. 15, 3-5 p.m., at the church. Cards are welcome and may be dropped in a basket at the farewell celebration. To give towards a congregational purse for Pastor Ron, please make checks out to St. Paul with “farewell gift” in the memo line and place in a separate envelope directed to St. Paul.

The search for a visitation pastor, or non-ordained person with prior experience in visiting for ministry purposes, is now open at St. Paul. Following the retirement of Pastor Ron Huber at the end of 2019, this 20-hour-per-week appointment focuses on ministering to seniors in nursing home, care center, and hospital settings. Spread the word. Eligible candidates are invited to send a detailed letter of interest and resume to: visitationsearch@gmail.com. See a member of the pastoral team with any questions.

Editor’s note: Article written by Destiny Ellingsworth, communication intern. Pastor Ron baptized her in 1999.



LETTERS *from* MADISON

In the hallways and classrooms at Madison Elementary School, eight St. Paul members teach, lead, and offer therapy for the students. For some, this is their first year at the school. For others, they've been a part of the building for many years.

St. Paul and Madison partner together to help ensure kids and adults have what they need to learn well and thrive. At this holiday time, some of the eight staff members offered greetings, reflections, thanks, and insight into why they choose to work at Madison.



AMY BRACKEN, *fourth-grade teacher*

I feel very fortunate to work at Madison Elementary. We are a very close staff and collectively provide a safe place where kids feel appreciated and loved. Time and again, we are reminded that our relationships with kids is what they remember as they move on in life. They don't remember how we taught them to read or do math. They remember the feeling of belonging and care. I have learned over the years that when you educate a child, you have to take into account everything about that child. This is why we appreciate St. Paul more than you will ever know. You provide the necessities to so many of our kids who could not learn without having their basic needs met first.

BARBARA ELLINGSWORTH, *kindergarten teacher*

I have been a St Paul member all my life, so I was excited to learn about the connection that St. Paul had with Madison when I first transferred to Madison seven years ago. The role of staff and volunteers from St. Paul has grown and changed over the years, but both play an important part in the lives of Madison students. When the students see all of us working so hard to help them or just talk with them, they get the feeling that everyone at Madison and in the community cares for them. Knowing someone cares can make a big difference for a kiddo. Working with students at a school like Madison can be challenging, but it also has a lot of rewards — not only academically but socially as well. These students are the future and it is important to do the best we can to help them learn and grow.



MAGGIE MELOY, *school-based therapist*

Being a school therapist at Madison allows me to provide a safe, nonjudgmental space for students undergoing social, emotional, and behavioral concerns. Students are invited to come as they are with the baggage and hurt they are carrying and are free to be themselves and share their thoughts and feelings. In my role, I try to meet the kids where they are at by being present and intentional, and providing a listening, empathetic ear. Many of the students I work with have built up walls and don't know how to express their genuine thoughts due to the pain they have experienced. I have the cool opportunity of being able to break down some of those walls and see what is truly behind each student. As God sees each of us for who we are, I see each student as a whole person, and the inherent dignity and worth they possess.



AMY PHILIP, *third-grade teacher*

In my first three months with this district, I've learned that the students who attend Davenport schools, and Madison especially, have many labels: under-privileged, food-insecure, poverty-stricken, and low-performing, just to name a few. None of those labels stop me from loving my wonderful third-graders each and every day. Without them knowing it, they have breathed new life into me. I feel like a woman with a real purpose in life. Yes, I'll admit that these first three months have been difficult. I am giving 100 percent of myself to this profession. I can't help myself! I want everything to be perfect for them at school, because I know that Madison is a safe place for them. It's a place where they can expect to see my smile, receive my love, and know that I'll be there in good times and bad. That's what I signed up for. Oh, one more thing: I want to send a big HELLO to all my St. Paul friends who run the Madison Market food pantry. I miss you!

CHELSEA ROBINSON, *English as a Second Language teacher*

Madison is such a special place. The students and staff members are like family. I taught fourth grade for five years and now I have the luxury of working with students at all grade levels. I enjoy collaborating with classroom teachers to ensure our English Learners are progressing in each language domain: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. More importantly, my sole purpose is to connect with their hearts and minds. Building relationships and watching students make growth academically and emotionally is extremely rewarding. We are beyond grateful to St. Paul for your support and kindness throughout the years. I am proud to be a member of such a selfless congregation.



CHRISTMAS *at* MADISON

During December, St. Paul's Neighborhood School Partnership will offer Christmas gifts for approximately 50 children. Madison Market, the St. Paul food pantry that serves Madison families, will also give each pantry family a book from the Book Corner, *Parker Looks Up: An Extraordinary Moment*, a delightful and meaningful book selected by Kit Whan, who is part of the leadership team for the pantry.

In addition to the twice-monthly Madison Market, where families can come and be fed with food, household and clothing items, additional St. Paul teams work year round to help with:

- diapers (Sara Harless and Jenn Peitscher);
- feminine care products (Bruce and Susan Simmons);
- garden veggies grown on St. Paul grounds;

- filling Madison's food hubs, where hungry kids can get a snack (Kit Whan, Karen Kline-Jerome, Susan Marty, Dana Welser);
- garden and grounds maintenance (headed by Rex Grove with a fierce team behind him);
- lunch buddies, reading buddies, classroom helpers, all organized by Vanessa Stone, Madison's family involvement liaison;
- coats, pants, shoes, anything and everything needed (Sue Grove works with Lynn Smith, school nurse);
- hats and scarves knitted by faithful St. Paul members.

Interested in being a part? Connect with Dana Welser, neighborhood schools partnership coordinator, dana@stpaulqc.org.

Advent

STARTING DECEMBER 1



Advent is a joyous season — a time of hope amid crisis, light in deep darkness, a sense of expectation, a growing trust in the promises of God. Our Advent journey begins the weekend of Nov. 30 & Dec. 1. Week by week, we'll prepare our hearts for Christ's birth with melodies that crescendo in hopeful expectancy, and with candles that pierce the darkness.

Choral Advent Worship | Sunday, Dec. 8

Let the glories of song, and an impressive intergenerational gathering of St. Paul choirs at the 9 a.m. worship service, carry you into the beauty of the Advent season. From preschool choristers to adults, Choral Advent Sunday is a joyful tradition for preparing the way for Jesus' birth.

A Nova Christmas | Friday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.

The Nova Singers' Christmas concert is an annual tradition at St. Paul. Nova Singers is a 20-voice ensemble with a nationwide reputation for expressiveness, virtuosity, and innovative programming. The group has performed across the country and produced six professional recordings. Tickets available at novasingers.com and at the door.

Blue Christmas Worship | Sunday, Dec. 22, 6 p.m.

This quiet service of longing and hope is designed for anyone who doesn't feel like celebrating. During the holidays, grief, illness, depression, and loneliness can be magnified. The Blue Christmas service acknowledges pain and longing, while offering hope and comfort for the broken-hearted. In the darkness of December, anticipate Jesus, the light of the world.

KIDS & YOUTH

Christmas Pageant | Sunday, Dec. 22, 10:15 a.m.

Dozens of St. Paul stars, shepherds, and sheep will sing and tell the story of Jesus' birth at the 2019 Christmas pageant, held in the Sanctuary.

Children and youth Advent gathering: Socks

Each year, St. Paul children and youth gather items for people who are having a difficult time. This year, the gathering will be for socks, both adult and child sizes, to be distributed to shelters around the Quad Cities. Items will be collected in the Education Wing on Sundays, Dec. 1, 8, and 15.

On Dec. 15, wear silly socks to church in the spirit of thanksgiving and generosity for this opportunity to give. We'll bless the collected socks as we prepare to send them out into the community. Contact: Kendra Thompson, kendra@stpaulqc.org.

Youth Advent Events | Dec. 1, 8, & 15

Gingerbread House Building: High school youth will gather on Sunday, Dec. 1, 6:30 p.m. at church to create Bible-story themed gingerbread houses. Students should each bring a bag of candy to contribute.

Shopping for Handicapped Development Center: On Sunday, Dec. 8, high school small groups will gather at Target in Davenport at 6:30 p.m. to shop for Christmas gifts for residents at the Handicapped Development Center. Bring \$5-\$10 to share.

Christmas Caroling: Students in grades 6-12 will gather at church for pizza followed by an evening of Christmas caroling around the community on Sunday, Dec. 15, 5:30-8 p.m.

Christmas Eve

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

1 p.m. | Holy Communion & Carols

All the glory of Christmas Eve in an early-afternoon option. Scripture and hymns tell the story of this holy night. *Pastor Sara Olson-Smith preaching.*

3 p.m. | A Family Christmas Service

A service for all ages, but focused toward children, with traditional carols and a lively children's message. Children and youth choirs sing.

5 p.m. | Holy Communion with Open Spirit

The Open Spirit ensemble leads Christmas singing with a contemporary flair. *Pastor Peter Marty preaching.*

8 p.m. | A Service of Lessons & Carols

Music by the Chorale with candlelight. *Pastor Peter Marty preaching.*

10 p.m. | Candlelight Holy Communion

The evening concludes with *Silent Night* with special instrumentation, in a darkened Sanctuary lit with candles. *Pastor Peter Marty preaching.*

Childcare: During all services, the childcare room will be open for parents to use as needed. Childcare staff have the day off. Children are always welcome in worship.

Christmas Eve parking: In addition to St. Paul parking lots & side streets, Madison School lots across Brady Street are available. Observe extra care when crossing Brady Street.

Open to being a Christmas greeter? Welcome people into the warmth of St. Paul on Christmas Eve. As people flow into church, a handshake, a smile, and a cheerful greeting mean so much.

Would you be willing to spread some Christmas joy for about 30 to 45 minutes of your time before a particular worship service? Please contact Jennifer Garvey, 563-326-3547, jennifer@stpaulqc.org.



CHRISTMAS LOVE *from the* ST. PAUL STAFF

Pictured: (left to right) Lauren Brown, Jennifer Garvey, Carrie Bowman, Ann McGlynn, Marcia Robertson, Destiny Ellingsworth, Todd Byerly, Kendra Thompson, Sara Olson-Smith, Sara Harless, Angie Vaaler, Beth Laureijs, Peter Marty, Karen Holden, Hayden Kvamme, Paula Durham, Chris Nelson, Dana Welsler, Katy Warren, Karen

Strusz, Andy Langdon, Haley Rhoads, Matt Spencer, Peter Pettit. **Not Pictured:** Ron Huber, Becky Harper, Erika Lindebraekke, Jim Akright, Bill Campbell, Nathan Windt, Dan Pepper, Katie Casey, Margaret Thompson, Linda Allebach, Teresa Whitbeck, Terry Ousley, Paul Caldwell, Harris Schneckloth, Terry Haru, Dana Taylor, Ron Mullen.

new members / OCTOBER 2019



Gary & Connie Benning



Racquel Frese, McKenna



Kathryn & Hayden Kvamme, Maggie, Owen



Katie Sass & Jared Masterson



Kevin & Kristie Snodgrass, Hadley



Amanda & Seth Weis, Zachary, Melissa, Lillian



Shad & Megan Young, Zach, Logan, Kohry, Jordan

GARY & CONNIE BENNING come to St. Paul through the recommendation of friends. Gary is swine account manager with Devenish Nutrition and Connie works as regional marketing director with RSM US. This couple likes to fly, read, fly fish, and spend time with their two black labs.

RACQUEL FRESE is director of acute care at Trinity. She is mom to teenagers Lucas and McKenna, and Zachary who is a young adult. She takes an interest in golf, boating, and anything outdoors. The welcoming atmosphere of St. Paul is what attracted her to become a member.

KATHRYN & HAYDEN KVAMME have two young children, Maggie and Owen. Hayden is a pastor in residency at St. Paul. Kathryn is at home with the kids and about to enter nursing school. They enjoy reading, crosswords, quilting, and baseball. What brought them to St. Paul? "The liveliness and joy of the people and place."

KATIE SASS & JARED MASTERSON were drawn to St. Paul by the welcoming community. Jared works as a supervisor with Waste Commission of Scott County. Katie is employed as a teacher in the Davenport School District. This engaged couple takes an interest in sports, traveling, and being outdoors.

KEVIN SNODGRASS & KRISTIE MARSHALL-SNODGRASS are parents to one-year-old Hadley. Kevin is the director of operations at the TaxSlayer Center. Kristie is a branch operations manager with Vision Point Advisory Group. They like to boat, garden, golf, and spend time with family and friends. They come to St. Paul through friends.

AMANDA & SETH WEIS have three children, Zachary, Melissa, and Lillian. Seth is employed as a regional business manager with Enterprise Holdings. Amanda works in the St. Paul preschool. They enjoy spending time with friends and family and coaching their kids' sports. The welcoming environment is what attracted them to St. Paul.

SHAD & MEGAN YOUNG are both students – Shad at Scott Community College and Megan at the University of Iowa. They are the parents of Zach, Jordan, Kohry, and Logan. They like to spend their free time playing games and being outdoors. The youth programs are 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 Thursday, December 12, 6:30-9 p.m. or Saturday, January 25, 9-11:30 a.m.

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

Council Notes

The St. Paul Congregational Council approved the hiring of a new outdoor host, acknowledged funding for the weekly radio broadcast, and heard updates on the business office systems transition, visioning committee, and affordable housing initiative.

Dana Taylor is a familiar face around St. Paul. He has stepped into the role of outdoor host on Sunday, picking up folks in the parking lot with a golf cart. He previously served as a volunteer sound board tech during the 11:15 a.m. worship.

The council acknowledged the Memorial Gifts Committee's approval of funding for the weekly broadcast of the previous week's worship on WOC1420. This long-standing broadcast serves St.

Paul people who are not able to attend church, as well as the broader community.

Council members were given directions on accessing their own online profile through the new business office systems. This online access will be rolled out to all membership in the coming months.

The visioning committee met for the first time in November, charged with creating a strategic vision for St. Paul for the next several years.

Also, the council received an update on renovations of the abandoned home that is hoped to be the first of a partnership with the organization One Eighty to build homeownership in Madison Elementary School neighborhood.

Mission Board Notes

The St. Paul Mission Board is wrapping up its year by designating donations to a variety of organizations and initiatives.

- \$1,500 earmarked for water projects will go to Head Foundation, Inc., an organization working to restore the Bahamas after a devastating hurricane earlier this year.
- \$1,200 will go to the Madison Market diaper ministry, which provides diapers and wipes to families who participate in the market.

- \$3,000 to the Scott County Housing Council for winter emergency shelter support.
- \$2,000 of new/redeveloping congregation funds to First on Fullerton, an ELCA congregation in Chicago which welcomes several worshippers who are homeless.
- \$2,000 of new/redeveloping congregation funds to Peace Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Sunday morning learning

December 1

- ▶ Chapel: Advent and the prophet Isaiah, Peter A. Pettit, teaching pastor.
- ▶ Fellowship Hall: Advent family learning, Kendra Thompson, pastor of children and family life.
- ▶ Room 208: Ephesians 3:16, Sara Olson-Smith.

December 8

- ▶ Chapel: Matthew and prophecy, Peter A. Pettit, teaching pastor.
- ▶ Luther Loft: Introduction to "Portrait Maquoketa and The Storytelling Tree." Visit to Figge Museum set for Thursday evening, Dec. 12.
- ▶ Room 208: Proverbs 3:16, Sara Olson-Smith.

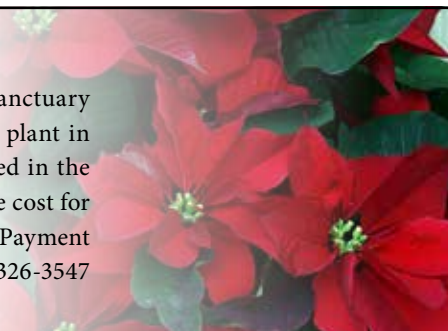
December 15

- ▶ Chapel: "Portrait of Maquoketa and The Storytelling Tree," Rose Frantzen, artist.
- ▶ Luther Loft: Advent and Christmas through Luther's eyes, Peter A. Pettit, teaching pastor.
- ▶ Room 208: Bible study, Peter W. Marty.

Sunday-morning learning classes for all ages are on break Dec. 22 & Dec. 29.

Christmas Poinsettias

Christmas poinsettias will decorate the front of the Sanctuary as Christmas approaches. If you would like to donate a plant in memory or in honor of a loved one, orders may be placed in the church office or by mail no later than Friday, Dec. 13. The cost for each plant is \$8. Forms are available at the Info Center. Payment is due at the time of order. Contact: Paula Durham, 563-326-3547 ext. 226, paula@stpaulqc.org.



UPCOMING worship

NOV. 30 & DEC. 1

First Sunday of Advent

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

DECEMBER 7 & 8

*Second Sunday of Advent
Choral Advent, 9:00 a.m.*

PREACHING

- 5:30** Peter W. Marty
- 7:45** Katy Warren
- 9:00** Peter W. Marty
- 11:15** Katy Warren

MUSIC

- 7:45** Quartet
- 9:00** All choirs

DECEMBER 14 & 15

*Third Sunday of Advent
New Member Sunday, 9:00 a.m.*

PREACHING

- 5:30** Sara Olson-Smith
- 7:45** Peter A. Pettit
- 9:00** Sara Olson-Smith
- 11:15** Peter A. Pettit

MUSIC

- 9:00** Chorale

DECEMBER 21 & 22

Fourth Sunday of Advent

PREACHING

- 5:30** Katy Warren
- 7:45** Katy Warren
- 9:00** Peter W. Marty
- 11:15** Peter W. Marty

MUSIC

- 9:00** Chorale

DECEMBER 28 & 29

First Sunday of Christmas

PREACHING

- 5:30** Hayden Kvamme
- 7:45** Hayden Kvamme
- 9:00** Hayden Kvamme
- 11:15** Hayden Kvamme



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803



Christmas Eve

COME & WORSHIP

1~3~5~8~10 P.M.