

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH November 2018

journey



A more profound alleluia

Cherub choir was the first choir I was ever a part of. It was so named because even if the notes coming out of our preschool mouths sounded more like shouting than singing, we still looked angelic as ever in our mini choir robes.

I learned then that music was going to be an important part of my life. I can't remember a time when I wasn't in a choir or a musical ensemble.

Even if you think you don't have a musical bone in your body – you can't carry a tune or never learned to play an instrument – I am still willing to bet that music has played a significant role in your life.

Music has the capacity to take us back to moments and places in our lives. You may not remember what you had for breakfast yesterday, but you might remember the song that played the first time you slow danced with someone in middle school (*Hero* by Enrique Iglesias) or the first time you kissed someone (*Hey There Delilah* by Plane White T's).

But the power of music goes well beyond its time-machine-like capabilities. In many of the world religions, music is lifted up as spiritual and sacred. Martin Luther thought so highly of music he once said, "...next to the Word of God, music deserves highest place." Luther understood the power of music to stir the soul, catch us off guard, and make us feel things we didn't know we could. All of this and more connect us to God and to one another in mysterious ways. Music, in its simplest and most complex forms, is holy prayer.

So if you had a bad day, and need to jam out to some of your favorite songs to release steam...that's prayer. If you find yourself tearing up in the middle of a hymn in worship...that's prayer. Music allows us to communicate with God in ways that sometimes we can't express in words.

Journalist and music critic George P. Upton once wrote, "Music was the first sound heard in the creation, when the morning stars sang together. It was the first sound heard at the birth of Christ, when the angels sang together above the plains of Bethlehem...[music] greets our entrance into this world, and solemnizes our departure. Its thrill pervades all nature — in the hum of the tiniest insect, in the top of the wind-smitten pines, in the solemn diapason of the ocean...music alone, of all things on earth, is known in heaven."

Music is not only a universal language, but I am convinced music is an eternal language that connects us to places and times beyond us. Music is like this holy sixth sense that we didn't even know we had; a sense that has the power to unite us with all of the created world.

With the howl of the wolf and the chirp of an insect we join our songs and sounds together in praise and prayer with all those on Earth and all those who praise God eternally in heaven.

When I was in Jacmel, Haiti, we gathered on Sunday morning with the children at Wings of Hope for a worship service. Most of the residents of Wings are non-verbal. But when they heard the drums drop a beat and the strum of the guitar, they raised their voices in sound and song to praise God. And it was beautiful.

My hope for all of us is that we can open ourselves to let music be a form of prayer, knowing that it is as ancient as the beginning of the world. To open ourselves up to praising God as openly and earnestly as we can, not worrying about how we sound, or comparing ourselves to others, but connecting to the Divine in a unique and personal way. When we find it in ourselves to let our guards down and release our inhibitions, we may eventually find a more profound alleluia.



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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KELSEY FITTING-SNYDER
pastor in residency



ON THE COVER:

Kathleen Sciacero with her daughters, Kaydence (right), and Kendall (left)

Grab a picker-upper and clean up the neighborhood

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.

This fall's clean-up is Saturday, Nov. 3, 10 a.m.-12 noon. Supplies and snacks are provided. No need to register, just come! Contact: Jules Irish, julesi@mchsi.com.

Are you a snowbird?

If you are heading south for an extended period of time this winter, our business office would like to know. A quick note or phone call to Carrie Bowman, business office assistant, will ensure that you receive important mail for your time away.

Connect with Carrie at carrie@stpaulqc.org or 563-326-3547, ext. 243.

St. Paul Endowment Fund invites grant applications

St. Paul's Endowment Committee for Mission Outreach is opening an opportunity for college students and young adults who embark on an overseas experience (or similar traveling adventure) that — importantly — has a social purpose or mission-minded component to it.

These mini-grants might range from \$500-\$1,000, depending on available funding. Proposals can be submitted to the Endowment Committee through the church office. Questions? See Pastor Peter Marty.

St. Paul to host screening of documentary on pregnancy loss and infertility

On Thursday, Nov. 8, 6 p.m. St. Paul will host a screening of *Don't Talk About The Baby*, a film that explores cultural stigmas surrounding pregnancy loss and infertility.

Light refreshments will be provided. The 90-minute film will be shown in the Chapel. Afterwards, a brief prayer service will be held in the Memorial Garden for all of those who have suffered or are currently suffering through infertility, pregnancy loss, and/or infant loss. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Advent luncheon to be held Dec. 1

All women of St. Paul are invited to gather for an Advent celebration Saturday, Dec. 1. Social time begins at 10:30 a.m., followed by a salad luncheon in the Library Commons. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups or the Info Center, indicating if you can bring a salad, quick bread, or dessert.

Pastor Sara Olson-Smith will lead a Bible study. All women are welcome; bring a friend! Childcare will be available. Contact: Janice Melvin, 563-332-3665.

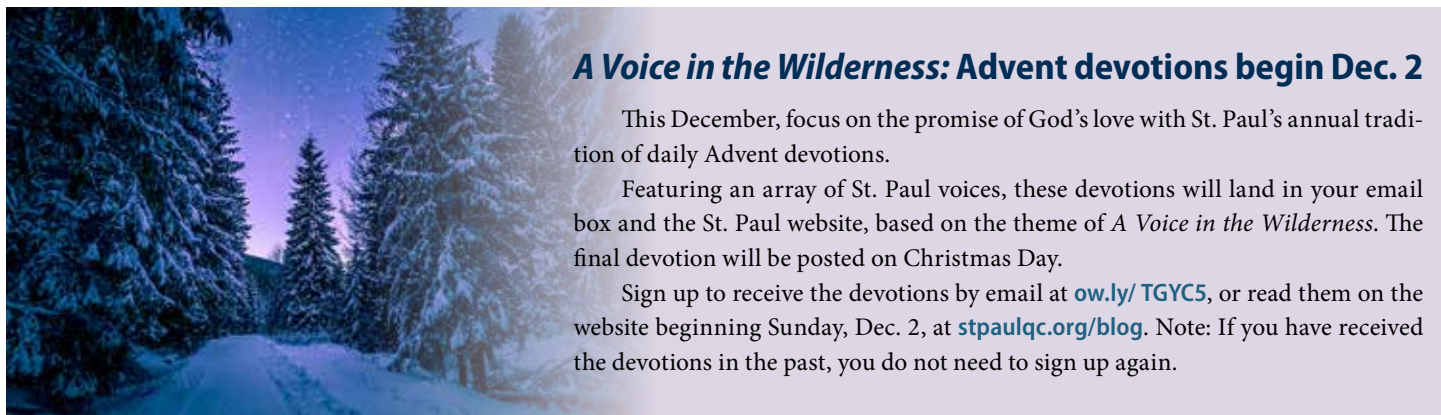


HELP FEED PEOPLE WHO ARE HUNGRY

Stock a paper bag with nonperishable food items and toiletries and bring it to worship on Thanksgiving Eve, Nov. 21, or the weekend after, Nov. 24-25. The food goes to the Friendly House Food Pantry in Davenport.

What's needed? Soups, mac & cheese, canned meat (chicken & tuna), cereal, peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, bar soap, laundry soap, and feminine hygiene products. Expired items are accepted.

To help sort the collection at noon on Sunday, Nov. 25, sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.



A Voice in the Wilderness: Advent devotions begin Dec. 2

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 *A Voice in the Wilderness*. 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. 2, at stpaulqc.org/blog. Note: If you have received the devotions in the past, you do not need to sign up again.

BUILDING IN Virginia

A crew of 20 St. Paul people committed to making homes warmer, safer, and drier traveled to Jonesville, Virginia, in October. Mission Appalachia is part of St. Paul's spirit of adventurous mission and service. Mission teams grow awareness of poverty, connect in friendship with local residents, and connect in community with one another.



St. Paul to welcome social worker/counselor to staff

Fulfilling a long-standing hope

Three years ago, an exciting idea emerged that St. Paul could better serve its people, the families of Madison Elementary, and the wider community with a social worker on staff.

The idea is now becoming an early reality, with the recruitment of Angie Vaaler as a part-time social worker/counselor. Licensed with the state of Iowa, she began her work in October. Funding for her position in a pilot capacity is covered by the Daily Ministry budget for the remainder of this calendar year. Growth in pledged giving will be essential to continuing the position in the new year.

Angie will meet on an appointment basis with individuals and families seeking help for emotional care, crises, trauma, transitions in life, and fundamental social skills. She will engage a multi-disciplinary approach for helping individuals improve the outcome of their lives. She also will collaborate with clients to establish therapeutic goals and formulate action plans. The congregation will cover the cost of Angie's client contact time in order to provide free service for all.

"The idea of having a social worker on a central city church staff is a beautiful dream we're on the cusp of realizing," said Pastor Peter Marty. "We obviously have to fund this position through generous 2019 pledge commitments. But provided that happens, the work that Angie is capable of doing is amazing. From community guests who regularly walk in off the street for help, to members of the church who need short-term counsel, to families at Madison school that have no way to access or afford professional services, there's no end to the benefit of having a licensed social worker available. I'm very excited by what this can mean for St. Paul's ministry."

Angie recently answered questions about her work in the past, and her hopes for the future.

How did you become a social worker?

I received a bachelor's degree from Luther College, with majors in psychology and Russian language & culture. Being interested in the mental health profession, I had explored the options of psychology, art therapy, and social work. After undergrad, I joined the Lutheran Volunteer Corps and spent a year working at the DC Rape Crisis Center. Being a part of an intentional community engaged in social justice and surrounded by

social workers with a passion for their work, and being eager to develop my knowledge and skill, shaped my decision to pursue a master's degree in social work.

What experiences have you had that have shaped you professionally?

I received my MSW from the University of Iowa with a family-centered concentration. Through internships and work experience, I've had exposure to inpatient, partial hospital, and outpatient settings, predominately in community mental health, in addition to work with refugees and survivors of sexual abuse. This has given me a strong foundation in the clinical side of social work.

While living with my family abroad, I volunteered in several capacities: interviewing refugees seeking resettlement, developing a repatriation program for victims of trafficking, sitting on the allocations committee for United Way Russia, and starting an exchange shop for used books and uniforms at my children's school. All of these experiences fostered organizational, leadership, needs-assessment, and social-entrepreneurial skills,

as well as an interest in addressing change at both the individual/interpersonal level and systemically.

In addition, I've had a number of faith-based experiences, from the Lutheran Volunteer Corps and coordinator of Parents of Young Children at our church in Raleigh, North Carolina, to more recent involvement in St. Paul's refugee ministry, Mission Board, and serving as facilitator for the Patterns pre-marriage classes.

What interested you in this position? What are you most excited about?

The ability to support St. Paul staff in meeting the needs of the congregation, to assist in carrying out St. Paul's vision to further invest in and connect with our neighboring community, and the opportunity for growth.



The idea of having a social worker on a central city church staff is a beautiful dream we're on the cusp of realizing.

PASTOR PETER MARTY

To connect with Angie, you can contact her by phone at: 563-326-3547 ext. 312

T gathered at the T TABLE T

God's table is expansive, with plenty of chairs to offer a welcome to all. At St. Paul, we work to build a similar Earthly table, one that is open to anyone, as we hope for a kinder, more generous, and just world. On Joy Weekend, Nov. 10-11, come and be wrapped with goodness and grace as we look forward to 2019.

A friendly, welcoming place

We have found St. Paul to be a friendly, welcoming place to worship from the very first day we attended. After that first service, more than five years ago, we sat in the gathering area enjoying a cup of coffee, while observing people greeting one another with laughter and animated conversation. Soon Pastor Marty approached, introduced himself, asked about us, and shared information about the church. We told him we were looking for a new church home. He hoped we would come back and make St. Paul that home. We never went anywhere else and joined St. Paul soon thereafter.

We appreciate the pastors' thought-provoking sermons and the music of the contemporary service. Our faith has grown deeper as we've enjoyed worshiping with people of all ages and experiences and becoming more involved. Every St. Paul pastor is welcoming and sincerely cares about each member of our large congregation. The whole St. Paul staff is always available to assist in any way.

We are pleased St. Paul wisely uses member contributions to maintain such a beautiful church home and for local and global mission support, educational options like Sunday morning learning, the annual Faith and Life Series, All St. Paul Reads, and more. There are so many opportunities to volunteer. We've enjoyed getting involved with the semi-annual blood drives, neighborhood trash cleanups, and the environmental Green Team. We love it here!

— Sandy and Al Hutson



Two ways to pledge:



PLEDGE IN PRINT

In early November, watch for a letter from Pastor Marty. The envelope will include your red pledge card for Daily Ministry 2019. Take some time to consider and grow your pledge. Return your cards on Joy Weekend, Nov. 10 & 11.



PLEDGE ONLINE

Visit stpaulqc.org/pledge-2019 to complete your pledge online. On Joy Weekend, Nov. 10 & 11, you can check "I already pledged/will pledge online for 2019" on your card and return it if you'd like.



A place where the gospel is taught and lived

Carol was confirmed at St. Paul (many years ago), but we joined St. Paul as a couple after moving to Eldridge from Moline. We were looking for a church that offered the traditional Lutheran liturgy, varied opportunities for worship and service, an active children's ministry, community outreach, and a friendly and welcoming staff and congregation. These were all part of the decision to make St. Paul our church home.

Music as a part of worship is very important to both of us. We love singing the traditional hymns or contemporary worship songs, the opportunity to sing in choir, and the beautiful organ, piano, ensemble, and soloists that enhance and enrich our worship service each week.

Even though St. Paul is a very large congregation, we have made many good friends by taking advantage of the different areas of service that St. Paul offers. We both work full-time, so we don't have as much volunteer time as some others do, but between the two of us we have been able to participate in several areas. This is a great way to get to know other members of the congregation, as well as offer what we can as members of the church.

Now that we have been members of St. Paul for a few years, we have also been able to get to know the pastors as friends as well as our "pastors." Most importantly, St. Paul is a place where the gospel of Jesus Christ is taught and lived – by the staff and the people who belong. — *Ken & Carol Kerker*

Worth every mile

One might say that our family's commitment to faith isn't restricted by distance. We have a 65-mile drive to worship and confirmation classes when we travel to St. Paul from Sterling, Illinois. The ministry offered here alone is worth every mile traveled.

I can still remember the first time we visited. We were in awe the moment we entered. We were welcomed by so many smiles...they were everywhere! It's that very warmth, welcoming and inviting atmosphere by not only the pastoral staff but the congregation that had us keep coming back.

Not only is the worship service exceptional, the youth ministry that St. Paul has to offer is incredible and by far one of the best my family has had the opportunity to be a part of. From the faith milestones in a child's life to the confirmation ministry, St. Paul strengthens the faith journey for our children. It's been rewarding watching my daughter grow in faith because of this ministry.

I don't think my or my daughter's faith would be as strong as it is today, if we hadn't found St. Paul. It's the worship and ministry that have helped provide my family a connection and continued growth of faith for God's love. — *Kathleen Sciacero*



IT'S A PROMISE

A financial pledge to your congregation is a financial promise. It's your best indication of what you would like to give during the coming year. It's possible that one could give whenever one feels like it, absent of a pledge. But that does little to help the church plan its ministries and mission, locally, and globally. It also turns giving into an ad-hoc exercise instead of a long-range spiritual practice that reflects and keeps your life priorities. So pledge, please!

IT'S A BUILDING BLOCK

Every St. Paul member is asked to complete a pledge commitment. It's one of the expectations of belonging to a congregation that is moving in the same direction. Our Daily Ministry Budget is built entirely by the upfront generosity of member pledges. Without them, we have no operating budget.

IT'S FIRST FRUITS

The Bible calls this kind of considerate giving *first fruits* giving. As an ancient farmer would have pulled the best vegetables and fruits to make an offering to God, we aim not to give what's left over from our living. As unselfishly as possible, we pledge to God ahead of other financial responsibilities. Challenge your giving to grow each year. That's how our church grows its impact. Remember, it's all a faith-based estimate of your personal desire and potential.

nourishing community

Take a moment and think of a favorite dish from holiday dinners of the past. What did it taste like? What was it served in? Who made it? Who was gathered around the table? Often times, food serves as the foundation of the most important memories of our lives. In honor of Thanksgiving, St. Paul people shared their favorite recipes — and the stories behind them.

Apple dried cranberry pie

Submitted by Cecil Duffy

Ingredients:

- 3 ¼ pounds Granny Smith apples (about 8 medium), peeled, cored, cut into ½-inch-thick slices
- ½ cup dried cranberries
- ¼ cup all purpose flour
- ¼ cup dark brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp fresh lemon juice
- ¼ tsp ground nutmeg
- Pinch of ground cloves
- 3 Tbsp unsalted butter, cut into ½-inch pieces, room temperature
- Crust: Use your favorite recipe or purchase one

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375°F. Combine apples, dried cranberries, flour, brown sugar, lemon juice, nutmeg, and cloves in large bowl.

Roll out pie crust and transfer to 9-inch pie dish. Spoon filling into crust and dot with butter. Roll out second dough disk and drape over filling. Trim dough overhang to ½ inch. Press top crust and bottom crust together at edge to seal. Cut four 2-inch-long slits in top crust.

Bake for 45 minutes. Cover crust edges with foil to prevent overbrowning. Continue to bake until crust is golden, apples are tender, and juices bubble thickly through slits, about 55 minutes longer. Cool pie on rack.



Creamy grape salad

Submitted by Ann Quist

Ingredients:

- 4 cups EACH seedless green and red grapes, halved
- 2 cups fresh pineapple chunks
- ½ cup slivered almonds, toasted
- 4 oz. cream cheese
- ½ cup sour cream
- ¼ cup brown sugar

Directions:

Combine fruit in a large bowl. Microwave cream cheese on high 20-30 seconds or until softened; whisk until creamy. Add sour cream and sugar; mix well. Add cream cheese mixture to fruit and mix lightly. Chill fruit mixture and add nuts just before serving.

Mary and I used to live in an old house that had a huge dining room. Back then, both of our children lived close so we tried to have Sunday dinner every week. The children soon had other things in their lives, and those Sunday dinners ended because of different commitments. Recently, I decided that we would try to do family dinners again on Wednesdays. Mary sometimes is working, so I cook and try to clean up as best I can. Some can make it and some can not. We have varying numbers in attendance but we always try to have it. So if you ever want to join us, just call before Tuesday so I can plan for you. — Cecil Duffy



Thanksgiving is a time when our family usually gets together and we count our blessings. We realize how much we have to be thankful for. It's a happy relaxing time. — Ann Quist



Egg sausage casserole

Submitted by Sara Harless

Ingredients:

- 6 Hawaiian rolls, cubed
- 1 pound ground breakfast sausage
- 1 ½ cups milk
- 8 oz. grated cheddar cheese
- 6 eggs
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Brown sausage and drain fat. Mix all ingredients together well in large bowl. Place in a greased 13x9 glass baking dish and refrigerate several hours. Bake at 350°F about an hour until the center is firm.

If you have had a baby at St. Paul in recent years and accepted the Moms' Morning offer of a meal train, then you have probably had this casserole! My kids often ask, "Who are we taking it to?" when they smell it. I take great joy in bringing a good, filling meal to a new mama. When I had my youngest child, I was diagnosed with post-partum depression. The moms' group I was part of in Indiana brought me at least 20 meals on many days when simply keeping the kids dressed and alive was all I felt like I could do. I well remember the difficulty of those days, but I was never alone. Those meals were a reminder of how many women loved me and how God used them to care for my family. I am happy to have found the same kind of women who carry each other's burdens here at St. Paul. — Sara Harless

Roasted Brussels sprouts, cinnamon sweet potatoes, pecans & cranberries

Submitted by Amy Sivertsen



Ingredients:

Brussels sprouts (*combine following*)

- 3 cups brussels sprouts sliced in half
- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- ¼ tsp salt

Sweet potatoes (*combine following*)

- 1 ½ pounds sweet potatoes, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 3 Tbsp maple syrup
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon

Other ingredients

- 2 cups pecan halves
- 1 cup dried cranberries
- 2-4 Tbsp maple syrup (optional)

Directions:

Roast Brussels sprouts combination on baking sheet at 400°F, 20-25 minutes. Roast sweet potatoes combination on baking sheet at 400°F for 20-25 minutes (turn halfway). In a large bowl toss roasted sprouts, sweet potato, and other ingredients (slowly add maple syrup).

Sivertsen Directions:

Combine everything all at once and cook over open fire for 45 minutes.

Andrew's brother isn't able to come home much for the holidays, so we headed down to the Florida Gulf Coast to have Thanksgiving on the beach. We had just committed to a vegan lifestyle, and faced two challenges: traditional turkey dinner was out, and we didn't have an oven. Our cookware was a never-used, pre-seasoned, cast-iron dutch oven, heated in a sand pit and a fire over logs. While waiting for the food to cook, we chased the waves, made sand castles, and caught up. Aside from the dish almost completely charred, and the thin layer of sand on our food, we couldn't ask for a better meal. We laughed and ate with a view of the sunset, and topped the night off with the non-traditional Thanksgiving dessert: S'mores (with vegan chocolate, of course!). — Amy Sivertsen



TRUNK OR TREAT

Pizza and singing. Worship and dancing. Treating and laughing. Trunk or Treat is a big night of fun at St. Paul, with something for everyone.



Council Notes

An updated church management system for St. Paul's business operations was approved by the congregational council at its October meeting.

St. Paul has utilized Shelby Systems for its membership database and financial records for the last two decades. The current server-based Shelby system will no longer be supported beginning March 2020. This prompted the need for St. Paul to analyze its business and communications systems.

A committee of two council members — Samantha Schulze and Jeannine Crockett — and four staff members — Paula Durham, Carrie Bowman, Todd Byerly, and Ann McGlynn — formed in March to consider the best way forward for St. Paul systems. The question asked: What does St. Paul need? The answer: Financials, payroll, membership, contributions, photo directory — all in one secure solution.

The team explored three different companies,

eventually determining Shelby System's online services to be the best choice. The transition will begin in April 2019, with completion anticipated later in the summer. Although monthly budget expenses necessarily increase for data storage now moved to remote servers (a.k.a the "cloud"), retaining tech support for our current method of data storage was not an option.

The council moved to update the congregation's constitution and bylaws, mostly due to a few committee changes that have emerged since the last update six years ago. A very brief congregational meeting is now set for Sunday, Jan. 27, 10:10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. A quorum will be needed to vote on the proposed changes. Watch for more information in the coming months.

The council also approved the appointment of Adam Kunkel to the Investment Committee. In other news, the replacement of the 1952 pillars on the north side of the church was just completed.

GOLDEN AGERS WORSHIP & LUNCHEON: Joyful worship, a meal together, a guitar performance, and lots of smiles. Golden Agers is a day when St. Paul celebrates those age 75 and older.



UPCOMING worship

NOVEMBER 3 & 4

All Saints Weekend

PREACHING

5:30 Peter W. Marty

7:45 Josh Kestner

9:00 Peter W. Marty

11:15 Josh Kestner

MUSIC

9:00 Chorale, Cantate choir

NOVEMBER 10 & 11

Joy Weekend

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, Jubilate choir

NOVEMBER 17 & 18

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

5:30 Sara Olson-Smith

7:45 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

9:00 Sara Olson-Smith

11:15 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

MUSIC

7:45 Quartet

9:00 Chorale, Alleluia & Youth choirs

NOVEMBER 24 & 25

Reign of Christ Weekend

PREACHING

5:30 Katy Warren

7:45 Josh Kestner

9:00 Josh Kestner

11:15 Katy Warren

MUSIC

9:00 Chorale

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



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
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Gratitude. Groceries. Reunion.

THANKSGIVING EVE
worship

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 7 p.m.

Peter W. Marty preaching, music by the Chorale