

# journey



# Getting Hygge

At a friend's suggestion, I checked out a podcast hosted by Jolenta Greenberg and Kristen Meinzer called "By the Book." In each episode these two women deconstruct a self-help phenomenon after living it to the letter of the law for two weeks. Sometimes their spouses, who are reluctantly roped into the ordeal, chime in on the show, too.

That's how I learned about hygge, pronounced *huh-guh*, which belongs to the Danes but came to be one of America's words of the year in 2016. This Scandinavian concept means "quality of coziness and comfortable conviviality that engender a feeling of contentment and well-being." Hygge, which, by no accident sounds a lot like hug, represents comfort and way of life that could, supposedly, improve us all.

I got a kick out of the two hosts disagreeing about hygge. Is it life changing? Well, depends on who you ask. I mean, how do you feel about sweaters, wool socks, and all things cozy? Do you actually want to smile and be happy all the time?

January can be a good month to embrace hygge, if you're considering it. The cooler temps and distant sun encourage more cups of tea, book clubs, turtle-neck sweaters, and snuggling up with a good fleece blanket. These items create the very picture of winter comfort. But there's more to it than just hot tea and good reads. The cold weather might stir in us something else; something beyond our own solitude and coziness.

As I found myself thinking more and more about hygge, I imagined God's vision for comfort. I thought of the Old Testament book of Isaiah, likely written by an assortment of authors. They spend about half of the biblical tome condemning Israel to suffer for turning away from God. By chapter 40, the tune changes. "Comfort, comfort says the Lord your God," begins verse one. And while the prophet isn't calling for knitted sweaters and tea cozies, the image we see is one of mercy and forgiveness – the author calls for shalom on earth. And who doesn't need that kind of comfort?

"By the Book" is hosted by a comedian and a skeptic. Isaiah's oracles were likely written by a judging prophet, a soulful evangelist, and a spirited historian. Comfort, to be embraced beyond just consumerism, needs a variety of angles. Comfort in winter looks like the things we eat and the clothes we wear. They have a certain beauty to them. They are soothing images, but let's be honest: winter also reminds us of the harsh realities of poverty. And the truth is, traditional hygge concepts are not accessible to all.

It's not uncommon as Christians to want to live by the book. What might that look like in light of the prophet Isaiah's words? Could he be offering a sort of hygge for the soul? Because just as winter urges us to grab an extra layer or blanket, our faith lives encourage us to pursue another form of comfort, not unlike the prophetic command for justice and peacemaking; the kind that seeks to empower all God's children. This comfort is what being the church is all about, really. And we can live it out with our prayerful postures, in thoughtful conversations, and in the tangible ways we share this shalom with our neighbors who need us.



**KENDRA THOMPSON**  
*pastor of children & family life*



**ON THE COVER:**  
Sue Grove at Madison Elementary

## 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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## ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR FEB. 3

St. Paul's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 3, at 10:10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

This meeting includes items of important business such as approving the 2019 budget and review of 2018 financials and annual report. The congregation will consider two important matters at the annual meeting:

- The extension of a call to a new teaching pastor. This person would work with learning staff to guide adult learning initiatives, provide pastoral assistance, and share in the confirmation ministry. Watch the *Connections* flyer and website for more information ahead.
- A first of two votes required for ratification of several minor updates of bylaws. St. Paul has shifted from using a volunteer financial audit committee to a professional auditing firm that now provides external audit review. Also, an investment committee now exists to help guide a few longer-term investments. If approved at the annual meeting, this by-law vote would require a later ratification vote.

Pastor Peter Marty will also present a report. The church leadership candidates to be considered at the annual meeting are:

- **Church Council:** Collin Carney, Amy Thoreson, Cathy Anderson
- **Mission Board:** Lee Marbach, Karen Kline-Jerome, Pam Long
- **Endowment Committee:** Jason Hurd, Tina Stubbs
- **Memorial Gifts Committee:** Keith Kutzbach, Barbara Palm
- **Nominating Committee:** Jeff White, Kent Barnnds

## So All May Eat: Serve a meal at Zion Lutheran Church

On Wednesday, Jan. 30, help cook a meal and serve at Zion Lutheran Church at 8th and Marquette streets in Davenport.

Cooks and servers are needed for this six-times-a-year effort. Cooks meet in the lower level kitchen at 2 p.m. for meal prep. Servers meet at church at 5 p.m. for food pickup, then caravan to Zion for serving. Shoppers also are needed to purchase a list of food before cooking day – reimbursement is provided.

Sign up to help at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org).

## Youth and adults heading to Chicago to serve, learn

This spring, St. Paul youth and adults are invited to take part in a four-day experience, March 10-13, in Chicago that will include volunteering, exploring, and discussing systemic issues at the root of poverty and injustice.

Led by Pastor Katy Warren and Andy Langdon, director of youth ministries, spend time working at soup kitchens, Head Start programs, and food pantries. Explore the city by eating at ethnic restaurants, and be part of meaningful conversations.

Cost is \$150, including meals, housing, and transportation. Spots are limited; open to anyone age 14 and older. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Questions? Contact Pastor Katy Warren, [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org).



## One-year-old, sixth-grade milestones set for January

Faith milestones are special markers along the growing-up journey. Two milestones will be held in January at St. Paul.

**One-year-olds:** Connect and share in the joy and exhaustion of life with a newborn. Learn what it means to form a child's faith. A gathering for parents of children born in 2018 will be held on Sunday, Jan. 27, 10:20-11:05 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Each child will receive a colorful story Bible and Pastor Sara Olson-Smith will lead a discussion. A photo of all of the babies and parents will be taken.

**Sixth-graders:** On Sunday, Jan. 6, 10:20 a.m., in Fellowship Hall, we will gather to talk about creating and maintaining an identity that reflects God in our daily and digital lives. We will explore together the responsibilities carried with each username and interaction. We will talk about practical tips for navigating decisions that accompany digital independence, and offer helpful suggestions to consider.

To sign up for either, visit [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Questions? Contact Andy Langdon at [andy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:andy@stpaulqc.org).

# 'They stuck up for one another'

*The Boys in the Bunkhouse* is the 2019 All St. Paul Reads selection

**F**or years, Dan Barry wrote a column called “This Land” for the *New York Times*. A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, he wandered around the country to tell stories. At some point about five years ago, he realized that he hadn’t been to Iowa in a couple of years. He thought it might be time for a visit.

To give him some ideas on where to go in Iowa, he went to the state’s newspaper websites. On one of those sites, Dan saw a wire service story that gave a brief synopsis of the culmination of a civil lawsuit regarding intellectually disabled men who had lived in Atalissa, Iowa.

Thirty-two men with intellectual disability. Living in a dilapidated school house. Working 35 years in a turkey processing plant. Making \$65-a-month salary that never changed. Exploited verbally and physically.

“Those phrases just grab you by the neck,” Dan said.

One day, Dan called the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission lawyer on the case. His name is Robert Canino. Dan asked if he could talk with the men. Robert said yes. Dan headed to Iowa, and started to spend time with them.

The more Dan got into the story, the more he realized it was much more complicated than a column for the *New York Times*. He did publish a 5,000-word story for the paper in March 2014. Then he took his remaining notes and started on a book.

*The Boys in the Bunkhouse: Servitude and Salvation in the Heartland*, is the 2019 All St. Paul Reads selection. Atalissa, Iowa, is just 40 miles west of Davenport.

Dan will never understand why criminal charges were never filed in the case. Officials indicated it was unclear whether the men could testify accurately if they had to take the stand – even though other criminal cases are prosecuted with witnesses who have intellectual disabilities. “It’s not insurmountable,” Dan said.

“They were living in this squalid building that was never meant for habitation,” Dan said. The ceiling leaked. Cockroaches skittered around. The men were not taken care of properly.

The men were often punished for not working hard enough, Dan said. What did punishment include? On their way home in the afternoon, their van would stop at a con-

All St. Paul Reads will be held on Thursday, Feb. 28, 6-8 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be served, and will accompany discussion about Dan Barry’s book, *The Boys in the Bunkhouse: Servitude and Salvation in the Heartland*. Jeff Aschraft, president and CEO of Handicapped Development Center, will present.

Please RSVP outside the Book Corner or at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups).

nience store to get an end-of-day treat. If one of the men was perceived to have not worked as he should have, he was not allowed to go in.

“I remember being struck by that – how cruel that was,” Dan said. “We’re talking about adult men.”

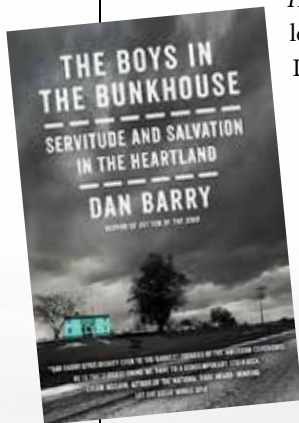
Another punishment was to go to the gym at the bunkhouse (a former school), put their hands on a pole, and not move for an hour. Once, a supervisor hit one of the men while he stood at the pole. A fellow bunkhouse resident came over and said, “Don’t you hit that guy. I’ll hit you. He’s my friend.”

“Think about these guys having nobody but themselves,” Dan said. “They stuck up for one another when they could.”

Dan asked to give credit to Clark Kauffman. Clark, formerly of the *Quad-City Times* and *Des Moines Register*, was the journalist whose reporting ultimately led to the men’s freedom. “He wouldn’t let go of it. He knew in his heart and soul this was wrong and someone had to be held accountable. He kept going. He’s a great journalist.”

Dan hopes that readers will be reminded that people with disabilities belong in our communities – really belong. Institutionalization was declared cruel many years ago. Yet, “the truth of the matter is that the segregation has continued,” he said. Regulations and practices are slowly changing.

“People like Gene Berg and the Penner brothers deserve to have choice in their lives, and they were denied it,” Dan said, noting that a second similar house in South Carolina was shut down as a result of his reporting. “The message is to remain ever vigilant for your brothers and sisters.”



# WINTER *at* ST. PAUL

This winter, settle in and be warmed by joyful gatherings. Here's a sampling of what St. Paul people can experience, with more information online at [stpaulqc.org](http://stpaulqc.org) and in the weekly *Connections* flyer.



## Kids & Families

### 678 NIGHT

Wednesdays, Jan. 30 & Feb. 27, 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. Contact: Andy Langdon, [andy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:andy@stpaulqc.org).

### FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, Feb. 17, 10:20-11:05 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Families with children of all ages are invited to a Bible study led by a St. Paul pastor. This family learning activity will take the place of regular Sunday school. Children grade 3 and younger should be accompanied by an adult. Contact: Kendra Thompson, [kendra@stpaulqc.org](mailto:kendra@stpaulqc.org).

## Music

### CONCERTS AT ST. PAUL

**Nova Singers:** On Sunday, Feb. 17, 4 p.m., the Nova Singers will perform "Music of the Deep North II" at St. Paul. Tickets available on the Nova Singers website or at the door.

**Augustana Choir Home Concert:** On Sunday, March 10, 3 p.m., the Augustana Choir will perform in the St. Paul Sanctuary. This highly selective mixed ensemble performs a variety of music in major concerts, special events, and on tour. Director is Jon Hurty, St. Paul member. Contact Chris Nelson, [chris@stpaulqc.org](mailto:chris@stpaulqc.org).

## Adults

### FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Sundays, Jan. 6-March 3, 10:20-11:05 a.m.,  
Church House Dining Room

Financial Peace University will be led this winter by St. Paul members Ron and Meg Knapper. In this series, the idea is to take "baby steps" toward better financial health. Sign up for the class and order materials at [www.fpu.com/1071814](http://www.fpu.com/1071814). Cost is \$109. Contact: Ron Knapper, [ron.meg.knapper@gmail.com](mailto:ron.meg.knapper@gmail.com).

### CC CONVERSATIONS

First Thursday of the month, 6-7:15 p.m.,  
Luther Loft

CC Conversations is an opportunity to discuss faith, politics, and culture, based on articles and news from *The Christian Century* magazine. Think critically and faithfully about a whole host of contemporary issues. Pastor Peter Marty will facilitate discussion. Contact: Pastor Peter Marty, [peter@stpaulqc.org](mailto:peter@stpaulqc.org).

### GOING DEEPER

Mondays, Feb. 18-March 4, 1:30-2:30 p.m.,  
Church House Living Room

Longing for deeper conversation about matters of faith? This three-week study will consider *On the Brink of Everything* by Parker Palmer. Reflecting on his own aging process, Palmer shares wisdom applicable to all phases of the faith-filled life. Contact: Lynn Batchner Robinson, [ldbatcher@hotmail.com](mailto:ldbatcher@hotmail.com).

### HEART. SOUL. MIND.

Thursdays, starting Jan. 10, 9:30-10:30 a.m.,  
Fellowship Hall

**The book of Exodus** not only tells the story of the freeing of a people, but demonstrates God's continued faithfulness. Come and explore what this book has to offer our lives of faith today. Contact: Pastor Kelsey Fitting-Snyder, [kelsey@stpaulqc.org](mailto:kelsey@stpaulqc.org).

### THEOLOGY PUB

Second Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.,  
Front Street Brewery

Grab some food and a beverage and settle in for an evening of faith-filled discussion at Theology Pub. Anyone is welcome! Contact: Pastor Josh Kestner, [joshua@stpaulqc.org](mailto:joshua@stpaulqc.org).

### FAITHFUL READERS

Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m., Church House  
Living Room

Listen to the whisper of God's voice in the pages of good books. The March selection is *The Ninth Hour* by Alice McDermott. Contact: Katie Hanson, [katiehanson@augustana.edu](mailto:katiehanson@augustana.edu).

### WALKING THE GRIEF JOURNEY

Five Sundays, March 17-April 14, 10:20-11:05 a.m.,  
Church House Living Room

This supportive series is for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Explore anger, depression, fears, acceptance, and new strength for a hopeful future. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Lynn Batchner Robinson, [ldbatcher@hotmail.com](mailto:ldbatcher@hotmail.com).





# Warm and dry

Coats, pants, socks, and underwear kept in stock at Madison Elementary

Her favorite places to shop are the Salvation Army thrift store on Brady Street in Davenport, and Goodwill in Bettendorf.

Sue Grove is masterful at finding a good deal, especially on coats for the kids at Madison Elementary School. “We find great coats from names like Lands’ End and Gymboree,” Sue said. “I check the zippers, the underarms, take them home and wash them.”

Sue has taken on the role of leading a team of ten people who search thrift stores on both sides of the river for coats and other clothing items. They help wash and mend the coats that need it. The St. Paul Neighborhood School Partnership budget and individual generosity support the effort.

Sue sorts and stores the items. Then she waits for a call or email from Lynn Smith.

Lynn is the nurse at Madison Elementary, the school St. Paul partners with. The school is at Locust and Brady, teaching kids who come from families who don’t have a lot of resources. She’s been at the school for six or seven years, she said. In addition to caring for kids coming in for their medication and kids who are sick, she also sees kids when they have bathroom accidents, don’t have proper clothing to wear, or come to school without a coat.

Lynn gives out socks, pants, underwear, gloves, hats, and shoes. She’s given out dozens of coats this year, including to families who also needed coats for younger or older siblings of their students at Madison.

Donations come from a variety of organizations individuals, but Sue is a constant presence. And, if Sue finds something she knows will be needed at some point, but not right now, she stores the items until Lynn, who has limited storage at school, needs them.

Boys, size 6/7 coat. Girls, size 10 coat. Unisex stretch pants, size large. Package of socks. Boys underwear, size medium. Gloves.

“  
Washing and  
folding these coats  
is a sort of prayer  
for me.

SUE GROVE

”



“You wouldn’t believe how many socks we give out. We had a rush last week of kindergartners without any socks! That’s where my thrifty Sue comes in,” Lynn said. “When I ask, she gives.”

“She just appears with these bags full of goodness. The coats she brings in are top-quality, cute, and fashionable. What I need, she finds. And she does it with a happy heart, too.”

Families, Lynn said, must often make some hard choices about how to spend money. And, with families who move often, sometimes things get left behind. Or, if a family is forced to flee because of violence, they can’t take everything with them.

Dana Welser, the St. Paul staff member who leads the St. Paul Neighborhood School Partnership, said efforts like this help kids know that school is a place that is safe and will take care of their needs. “This is about dignity,” Dana said.

Dana shared something Sue once told her: “Washing and folding these coats is a sort of prayer for me.”

Sue and her husband, Rex, are constants at Madison. Rex tends to the garden and landscaping areas there.

Why does Sue do this? “Because I can,” she said. “It’s a need I see.”

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## Connecting With Families

Prayer, time, energy, and love for kids and their families fuse into friendship for this ministry. The Neighborhood School Partnership connects St. Paul with a school across the street from the church campus. Whether once a week or once-in-a-while, volunteers are the extra hands and hearts for children and staff at Madison Elementary School.

Learn more about the Neighborhood School Partnership at [www.stpaulqc.org/neighborhood-school](http://www.stpaulqc.org/neighborhood-school).



## Women supported, period

One day, Susan Simmons heard a story about how women affected by a recent hurricane did not have access to feminine hygiene products.

She researched a bit, and learned that natural disasters are not the only cause for tampons, pads, and the like to be inaccessible. Women and girls who live in poverty also struggle to afford items which are expensive, but necessary.

“If someone is homeless or poor, the life cycle of a woman does not stop,” she said. “I knew if it was an issue elsewhere, there’s got to be an issue here. I talked with my husband (Bruce), and it resonated with both of us.”

So they got to work.

Susan researched the issue, and found U.S.-based organizations like The Homeless Period Project that collect and give away menstrual products and work to change the stigma surrounding periods.

Internationally, organizations like Days for Girls are creating and distributing reusable cloth menstrual pads in places like Tanzania, India, and Brazil, so that girls will no longer have to skip school because they do not have the supplies necessary to manage their periods.

The Simmonses put together 16 packages of feminine hygiene products – each packet includes pads, tampons, panty liners, and flushable wipes – in a gallon-sized Ziploc bag. Then, they brought the packets to the Madison Market food pantry (led by St. Paul people) on Dec. 11.

The pantry is held two times a month, the second and fourth Tuesdays, at the J.B. Young Opportunity Center. The first Tuesday is also when the diaper ministry, led by Amy Philip and Sara Harless and stocked by their family and friends, distributes free diapers and wipes to families with young children.

Every single period packet Susan and Bruce brought went out the door that day.

“Women who live in poverty are struggling enough,” Susan said. “If they know that this one thing can be taken care of, it can give them some dignity.”



# an affordable HOME

St. Paul & One Eighty partner to help bridge the housing gap in Davenport.



The house on Charlotte Street in Davenport was in bad shape. The bank had taken it back from a previous owner. It needed pretty much everything – plumbing, electrical, HVAC, a roof, and all sorts of drywall, painting, flooring, and appliances.

Along came One Eighty – an organization that knows a few things about rehabbing buildings and lives. Their dream? To renovate, each year, a handful of the dozens and dozens of abandoned and neglected houses in Davenport, and then give families with low income the opportunity to own a home.

The bank gave One Eighty the house for free. One Eighty's work crews – the organization runs businesses to assist its program participants in returning to productive lives – worked on the house. One Eighty invested about \$35,000 on materials and professionals to make the transformation complete.

“We want to take every abandoned house we can get our hands on and renovate them,” said Rusty Boruff, One Eighty's leader. “Don't believe people when they tell you it can't be done. This is the new way to fight poverty, homelessness, and our affordable housing crisis. This house will be used to bless a family going through a difficult time. It's a pretty simple concept.”

The house on Charlotte Street was the first One Eighty completed. A family of three, a couple and their son, recently moved in.

Soon, in partnership with St. Paul, One Eighty will find another house to do the same. Who will live there? A family whose children attend Madison Elementary School, which St. Paul also partners with, will be chosen to start on the path to homeownership.



**ST. PAUL'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING MINISTRY** is just getting started. If you're interested in learning more, connect with Pastor Katy Warren, [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org) or 563-326-3547, ext. 232.

## An incredible need

Last year, the All St. Paul Reads selection was *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond. It prompted a discussion: What can St. Paul do to eliminate the housing barriers people in poverty face, while also stabilizing neighborhoods through homeownership?

Over the past several months, the St. Paul Mission Board engaged in detailed conversations regarding local options for affordable housing. They brainstormed and investi-

gated a number of ways St. Paul might make a meaningful and substantial impact for some low income individuals in search of stable housing.

“We recognize there is an incredible need for local, stable, and safe housing, particularly in the neighborhood that serves as the residential base for Madison Elementary School, our partner school,” the Mission Board said in its report to the Congregational Council. “We believe there is substantial merit in identifying and assisting working families who



have so much in place to succeed in life, but who cannot land or afford safe and dependable housing. We've wondered together how we might help foster safe and affordable housing that would, in turn, allow other basic necessities for human flourishing to fall into place for at least a few families."

As part of this agreement, St. Paul will make an upfront monetary gift of \$43,000 to One Eighty for the express purpose of One Eighty acquiring and rehabilitating a home in need of repairs in the Madison Elementary School boundary.

One Eighty will own the home. The family selected for the program will make a reasonable payment each month to One Eighty, based on their income. In this rent-to-own model, One Eighty will eventually turn over ownership of the home once program expectations are met.

All the while, a team of people from St. Paul will help refurbish the home, and then support the family as they move from instability to stability. The hope is that this pilot project is the beginning of an extended partnership.

### Choosing the family

Christina Taylor, who is Madison Elementary's social worker, will guide the process of selecting a family. She also was involved in the selection of the family now calling Charlotte Street home.

Oftentimes, even with working two or more jobs, it is hard for families to afford a home.

"It was one of the most fulfilling projects I've been involved with," she said. "The family was so deserving. They work so hard. It felt so, so good. The key thing is finding the right family."

The pride of ownership, and accountability for what happens in their neighborhood, is an important part of the initiative, Christina said.

"It offers stability for children — moving from house to house and school to school isn't good for them academically," she said. "And it builds strong relationships."

The family selected for Charlotte Street lived in a run-down studio apartment, the mom said. She grew up in Davenport, and never imagined she could own a home here. When she walked through the door of her new home a month ago, the people of One Eighty had fully furnished it — including a Christmas tree.

"I'm so very blessed," she said.

On that day, staff from Madison Elementary School came to celebrate. Rusty noticed when one of the teachers, as she was leaving, said to the family's child: "I'll see you tomorrow, buddy."

"This is 100 percent built on relationships," Rusty said. "The only way this concept works is when families are surrounded by people who care about them."



**"This is the new way to fight poverty, homelessness, and our affordable housing crisis. This house will be used to bless a family going through a difficult time. It's a pretty simple concept."**

— Rusty Boruff, One Eighty

Page 8: A before and after of the house exterior on Charlotte Street. Above: Some before and after photos of the remodeling inside.

# new members / DECEMBER 2018



Bonnie Amacher



Mary Brownson



Russ & Laura Eberlin, Ryan, Seth, Maren



Becky Griesbach



Ryan & Katie Meyer, Gus, Jake, Addison



Katie Moeller, Braylin, Addison



Justin Munns



Joanna Wachal, Bodhi

**BONNIE AMACHER** works in human resources at the Rock Island Arsenal. She takes an interest in reading, exercise, and visiting her children and grandchildren. She's passionate about animals and healthy living.

**MARY BROWNSON** is a home care companion and nanny. She enjoys music, time with friends, gardening, and practicing Reiki. She was attracted to St. Paul by the people, music, and community involvement.

**RUSS & LAURA EBERLIN** have three children, Seth, Ryan, and Maren. Russ and Laura are both employed at John Deere – Russ as an environmental manager and Laura with the citizenship project. This family stays busy with the kids' sports and activities. The youth offerings are what drew them to St. Paul.

**BECKY GRIESBACH** works as a pharmacist at Trinity Medical Center. She loves historical fiction, raises Monarch butterflies, and enjoys traveling. The overall mission and community attracted her to St. Paul.

**RYAN & KATIE MEYER** are the parents of Addison, Gus, and Jake. Ryan is a grocer at Hy-Vee. Katie works as a teacher in the Davenport School District. This family likes to go bowling, camping, and swimming. The youth programs are what attracted them to St. Paul.

**KATIE MOELLER** has three children, Addison, Braylin, and Caden (*not pictured*). Katie is employed as a strategic project manager with UnityPoint Health Trinity. She spends her free time parenting, reading, decorating, and shopping. She is the daughter of St. Paul member, Tom Ketelsen.

**JUSTIN MUNNS** works as a physician with ORA Orthopedics. He enjoys running, playing sports, and traveling. What brought him to St. Paul? "The community and warmth."

**JOANNA WACHAL** is mom to Nora (*not pictured*) and Bodhi. Joanna works as a teacher with Bettendorf Community Schools. She likes to spend time outside and with family. She is the sister of Katie Meyer (*above*).

## 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 Saturday, January 26, 9-11:30 a.m., or Tuesday, February 19, 6:30-9 p.m.

Sign up at the Info Center or online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups).





## Council Notes

The Congregational Council wrapped up 2018 with a dinner meeting at the home of council member Jeannine Crockett.

The council offered its support for the Endowment Committee's grant of \$5,000 to support the St. Paul Preschool scholarship activities. This grant is an important part of ensuring that the preschool remains accessible to families with fewer resources.

Council members approved three items to be considered by the congregation at the annual meeting: a call for a teaching pastor; the slate of candidates for council, mission board, and the endow-

ment, memorial gifts, and nominating committees; and changes to the church's by-laws. See page 3 for more information about the annual meeting.

An update was given on the budget process for 2019. With strong financial pledge commitments to date, the council heard hopes of growing various church initiatives for the new year, including funding for St. Paul's part-time social worker. The treasurer spoke optimistically of the church finishing 2018 in a strong position. Appreciation for members' pledge commitments was shared.

## ST. PAUL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Dozens of St. Paul stars, shepherds, and sheep made the trip to Bethlehem to sing and tell the story of Jesus' birth.



## UPCOMING worship

### JANUARY 5 & 6

*First Sunday after Epiphany*

#### PREACHING

**5:30** Sara Olson-Smith

**7:45** Katy Warren

**9:00** Katy Warren

**11:15** Sara Olson-Smith

#### MUSIC

**9:00** Youth Choir & Alumni

### JANUARY 12 & 13

*Baptism of our Lord*

#### 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

### JANUARY 19 & 20

*Second Sunday after Epiphany*

#### PREACHING

**5:30** Josh Kestner

**7:45** Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

**9:00** Josh Kestner

**11:15** Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

#### MUSIC

**7:45** Quartet

**9:00** Chorale, Cantate choir

### JANUARY 26 & 27

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*

#### PREACHING

**5:30** Peter W. Marty

**7:45** Katy Warren

**9:00** Katy Warren

**11:15** Peter W. Marty

#### MUSIC

**7:45** Quartet

**9:00** Chorale

For more details on the weekly worship schedule at St. Paul, go to [stpaulqc.org/worship](http://stpaulqc.org/worship)



ST. PAUL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA 52803

# ROLLER SKATING PARTY

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*Sunday, Jan. 20, 1-4 p.m., Eldridge Skatepark*

Lace up your skates! The annual skating party is a rolling good time. Anyone is welcome. Cost is free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups).

Contact: Kendra Thompson, [kendra@stpaulqc.org](mailto:kendra@stpaulqc.org),  
563-326-3547 ext. 227.

