

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2019

# journey



# The naked truth

According to an ancient fable, Truth and Falsehood took a bath together one day.

## journey

MARCH 2019

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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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Falsehood stepped out of the water first and proceeded to dress in Truth's clothing. When Truth climbed out of the water, Falsehood offered its own garments in return, but Truth chose to remain unclothed over wearing the garments of Falsehood. Thus was born the expression: *The naked truth*. When we want to speak of unembellished facts that stand completely unadorned and unconcealed, we turn to this phrase.

Given an old fable about clothing, let's think about what we wear, specifically with respect to these weeks leading up to Easter. The 40 days of Lent haven't exactly been known for a dress code, though the unfriendly combo of sackcloth and ashes was evidently an ancient penitential norm. I don't spend any special energy deciding what I'm going to wear during Lent. And public nakedness for a Lenten discipline is not in the picture. But let's strip down our thinking, for a moment, to reveal some basic truths.

What if Lent were to have something to do with giving up some false view we have of ourselves? I think these reflective days might be the perfect opportunity to stop believing the lies that someone else has embedded in us, or the self-concocted lies that we have come to believe. All kinds of people choose to "strip" their lives of something during Lent. They "give up" certain things. But more often than not, these 40-day stripping sessions slide easily into serving one's own interests more keenly than God's. My favorite example of such self-interest is the kid who gave up homework for Lent, and his sister who gave up cleaning her room for equally virtuous reasons.

James Hillman, psychologist and author of more than 20 books, tells the sad story of a young man who went to a new psychotherapist one day. The young man wasn't new to therapy. He had been going to sessions for years. In fact, thanks to his regular regimen of therapy, he had come to believe that he was psychologically incurable. This diagnosis brought a certain degree of comfort to him. It gave the man a particular identity. The identity became his own self-understanding that wore well, at least in his eyes. He had something on which he could depend: He was, by his own estimation, incurable!

The new therapist annoyed the man when she said, "Well, for me, you are a new case, and I don't believe you are as sick as you believe you are. Let's begin today." This therapist refused to fall for the thick web of self-deception that the man had made for himself. She elected

to sever him from the lies that were propping up his life. But after the first session, the man never went back to the therapist again. He didn't want to believe any other version of his life than the one he had come to count on. Being incurable made perfect sense to him. He had trained everything about his life to fit this version of the truth.

I'm not a fan of putting words into the mouth of God. In fact, it irritates me when other people do. But if I were to write a really candid liturgy for Lenten worship someday, I might experiment with a dialogue between God and the worshiper. God's part would read: "I don't believe your version of yourself. I simply don't believe it. Even if it works for you, and fits you, and dressed in it you look smashing ... I can't buy it. The naked truth beats the clothes you're wearing. So, let's begin today with a new take on your life."

Arriving at the station where we can get off the train and face the naked truth about ourselves is not easy. Most of us want the train to roar right past that station. But if we're the least bit open to stripping back some of the false versions we have of ourselves, there are plenty of stops in Lent to get off the train. See you at that station called the church. We'll face the truth together.

*Peter W. Marty*

PETER W. MARTY  
senior pastor



ON THE COVER:  
Matt Spencer, building manager



## Mental Health First Aid course set for April 6

St. Paul Lutheran Church will host Mental Health First Aid training on Saturday, April 6, from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The class is free and open to the public. Signup is required, at [scottcountykids.org/training-registration](http://scottcountykids.org/training-registration).

Mental Health First Aid gives people the skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The evidence behind the program demonstrates that it builds mental health literacy, helping the public identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental illness.

Mental Health First Aiders learn a single five-step strategy that includes assessing risk, respectfully listening to and supporting the individual in crisis, and identifying appropriate professional help and other supports. Participants are also introduced to risk factors and warning signs for mental health or substance use problems, engage in experiential activities that build understanding of the impact of illness on individuals and families, and learn about evidence-supported treatment and self-help strategies.

The course will be taught by Dawn Knutson, family advocate/family systems coordinator at Scott County Kids. It is supported by the St. Paul Mental Health Awareness Team. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, 563-326-3547 or [sara@stpaulqc.org](mailto:sara@stpaulqc.org).



## Bless a bathroom: Lenten Sunday School gathering

The kids of St. Paul Sunday School will gather toiletries on two Lenten Sundays for the women and children living at St. Joseph the Worker House in Rock Island – a transitional housing program for homeless families.

St. Joseph the Worker House is centered around basic needs, family, friendship, empowerment and hope. They offer housing for homeless women and children in a spacious caring home that is healthy, loving, and supportive; and collaborate with local services to assist families.

- **March 31:** Toilet paper and paper towels
- **April 7:** Soap and shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes, and other toiletries

Items can be placed on tables in the Education Wing. On Sunday, April 7, at the beginning of Sunday school, all kids will gather in the Lower Level to bless the items gathered. Questions: Pastor Kendra Thompson, [kendra@stpaulqc.org](mailto:kendra@stpaulqc.org).

## Walking the grief journey to begin March 17

This supportive and compassionate 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.

The first session will be Sunday, March 17, 10:20-11:05 a.m. in the Church House Living Room, continuing through Sunday, April 14.

Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Lynn Batcher Robinson, [ldbatcher@hotmail.com](mailto:ldbatcher@hotmail.com).



## AGING INNOVATIVELY TO OFFER GUIDANCE ON HEALTHY AGING

Aging Innovatively, a five-week course led by professionals from St. Ambrose University, will provide education and strategies for healthy aging; discuss home safety, supports, and assistive technology available; help individuals re-engage in meaningful life activities; and problem-solve to reduce or remove barriers.

The goals are to help people stay independent in their home and engaged in their community as long as possible, improve and maintain quality of life, and help continue taking part in meaningful life activities, said Anne Lansing, program coordinator.

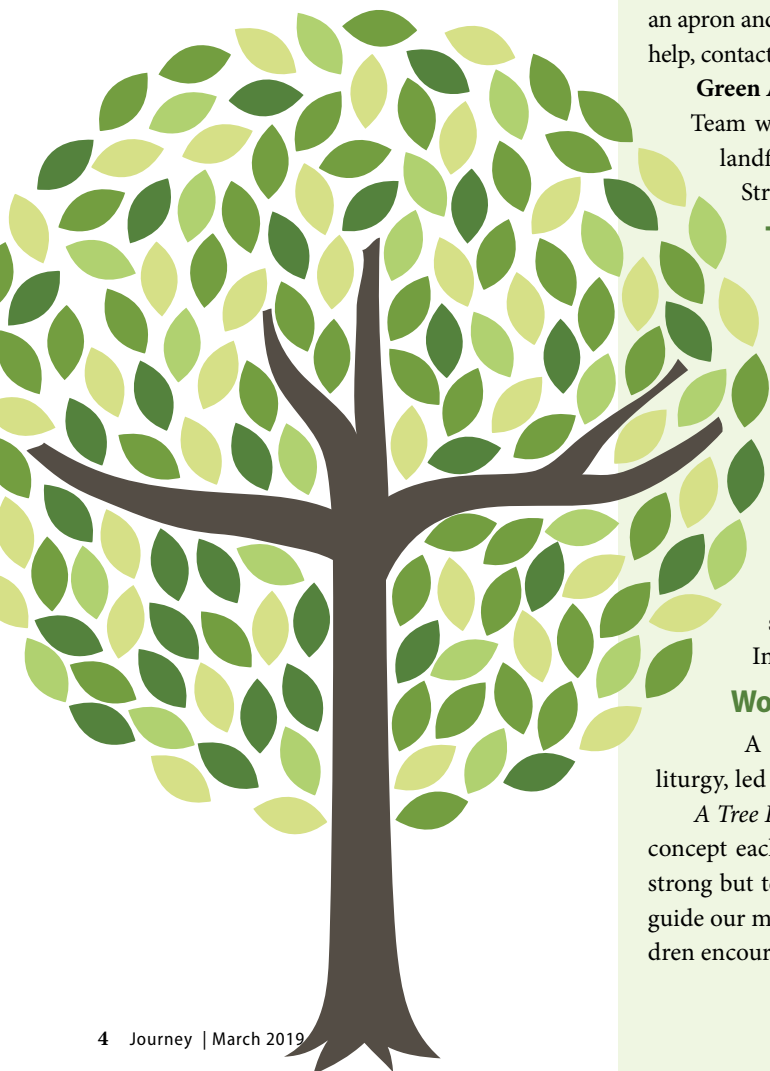
Participants will work with occupational health department faculty, staff, and students from St. Ambrose on assessment, establishing goals, and developing steps to achieve those goals.

Sessions will be held on Tuesday afternoons, April 2-30, 3-5 p.m. All sessions except April 9 will be held at St. Paul. The April 9 session will be held at Jim's Place near the St. Ambrose campus. Spots are limited. To learn more and sign up, please contact Anne Lansing at 563-333-6128 or [lansingannem@sau.edu](mailto:lansingannem@sau.edu). The program is free.

# a tree planted

Lent is a journey —  
a path for people  
from all walks of life  
to the joy of Easter.

There are many ways  
to explore the words  
of God to prepare  
your soul for the  
resurrection of Christ.



## Wednesday nourishment in Lent

The St. Paul community of faith gathers for worship services and meal fellowship on five Lenten Wednesdays, **March 13 — April 10.**

### Worship | 12 noon-12:30 p.m.

Chapel gatherings will include music, silence, a pastoral reflection, and Holy Communion. These more contemplative services will center on the same themes as Wednesday evenings.

### Suppers | 5:30-6:55 p.m.

Enjoy a meal in community. Catered by HyVee, there will be a different menu each week to feed stomachs and a sense of togetherness. A freewill donation of \$8/person or \$25/family is welcome to cover the cost. Volunteers bring cookies to share.

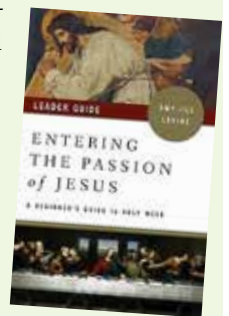
**Red Apron Crew:** This crew offers the warmth of hospitality and service. Put on an apron and help fill drinks, clear tables, and offer conversation to those who come. To help, contact Ann McGlynn at [ann@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ann@stpaulqc.org) or 563-326-3547, ext. 239.

**Green Apron Crew:** Scrape some plates, make some friends. The Environmental Team will scrape and wash dishes to reduce the amount of waste going to the landfill. Scraps will be composted, too. To help, contact Steve and Jane Strittmater at [jjazz20@mchsi.com](mailto:jjazz20@mchsi.com), 563-370-7166.

### The Final Week of Jesus' Life | 5:30 – 6:15 p.m.

Enjoy a five-week conversation with Pastor Peter Marty around key events that shaped Jesus' final week, viewed through the eyes of a brilliant Jewish professor of New Testament. Participants will discuss different risks Jesus assumed as he got closer to death.

Advance reading assignments are 20 or less pages/week (easy reading). The resource, *Entering the Passion*, by Amy-Jill Levine, may be purchased in the Book Corner for \$12. Reading assignments will be posted on the online calendar and in *Connections*. In Luther Loft. No need to sign up, just come.



### Worship | 7-7:35 p.m.

A service in the Sanctuary features the beautiful *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy, led by the Youth Choir.

*A Tree Planted* is the unifying theme. The message will be centered on a different concept each week: forests stick together, budding generosity, the witness of rings, strong but tender, and growing pains. Using the rooted nature of trees, pastors will guide our minds and hearts to think about deeper meaning this Lenten season. Children encouraged to worship; childcare also available.



## ASH WEDNESDAY

March 6, 12 noon & 7 p.m., Sanctuary

Christians gather on Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of the Lenten journey to Easter. Pastor Peter Marty preaches for these services of Holy Communion.

On this solemn day you'll receive, if you'd like, an ashen cross on the forehead reminding us of our frailty and sin. It's an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness.

**12 noon:** This 45-minute service is a meditative respite in the work day.

**7 p.m.:** The evening service includes music by the Chorale, along with a message for children.

## CHOIR REHEARSALS

All choirs will rehearse during Lent.

- **Children's choirs:** 6-6:45 p.m., March 20-April 17
- **Youth Choir:** 6-6:45 p.m., March 13-April 17
- **Chorale:** 6-6:55 p.m., March 13-April 10, and 6-7:30 p.m., April 17.

## CONFIRMATION

Wednesdays, March 13-April 10, 6:30-7 p.m.

Seventh-graders will participate in a mentoring relationship with a member of the congregation. This will consist of 30 minutes of conversation about life and faith. Eighth-graders will engage in a large group experience centered around a single topic each week. Confirmation will not meet on Ash Wednesday, March 6.



## Special offerings: World Hunger

By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) World Hunger organization meets basic needs and recognizes the universal human right to food. But ending hunger is about more than food. By connecting people with education, health care, and sources of income, long-term, sustainable change can be accomplished.

The ELCA is active in 60 countries through World Hunger.

All midweek Lenten offerings at St. Paul (in envelopes or cash) will be given to fight hunger. St. Paul aims again to exceed \$20,000. If you would like to make an additional Lenten offering towards this cause, please earmark your check memo line with "World Hunger."

## Devotional book: *Lasting Hope*

*Lasting Hope: Devotions for Lent 2019* explores the Psalms texts for this year's lectionary. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, quote, reflection, and a prayer. The book of Psalms gives us a realistic look at the journey of faith for individuals and a community. From crying for help to singing songs of praise and thanksgiving, the psalms show faith with all its ups and downs, twists and turns. More importantly, the book of Psalms points us to God. The book is available for \$3 in the Book Corner.



## Holy Week and Easter

### PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

April 14 | 7:45, 9, & 11:15 a.m.

Saturday worship at 5:30 p.m.

With festive palm branches waving, the mood turns somber as we realize that Jesus goes on to die.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 18 | 12 noon & 7 p.m.

In scripture, liturgy, and song, we mark Jesus' last meal with his disciples. Our fourth-graders culminate a period of preparation with their First Communion at the evening service.

### GOOD FRIDAY

April 19 | 12 noon, 4:30, & 8 p.m.

The church gathers to remember the suffering and death of Jesus. **Good Friday pretzels:** Beginning at 3:30 p.m., children are invited to Fellowship Hall for a family-friendly event.

### EASTER SUNDAY

April 21 | 6, 8, 9:45, & 11:45 a.m.

No Saturday worship

With shouts of alleluia, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.

# Matt's garage

By day, Matt Spencer is St. Paul's building manager. On nights and weekends, he builds and refurbishes three-wheelers.

**W**alk in the door of Matt's garage, and the unmistakable and comforting aroma of a motor shop fills the air. Tools and parts, bumper stickers and ball caps, books and manuals fill the space. A Husky named Keisha welcomes visitors.

In the center are three-wheelers that Matt and his brother-in-law, Derek, have fixed up over the years. The orange one is named Ugly, and does really great wheelies. There's the Good and the Bad, too.

"We buy them cheap and we fix them up," he said. Sometimes they keep them. Sometimes they sell them. Sometimes they give them away.

His passion for three-wheelers started when Derek required his very first three-wheeler from a buddy's barn some 20 years ago.

"Our hands have probably touched 50 or 60 three-wheelers, mini bikes, dirt bikes, and other motorized toys over the course of those years. We now build high performance three-wheelers for ourselves

for no other reason than we can. We still do some flips for resale from time to time.

"For us it's about being together and spending quality time with each other. When we first started and our families were young, it was about giving the kids something fun to do. As we always said, they would break them and we would fix them."

The first three-wheeler was produced in 1970. It was called the US90. The last year of production for the three-wheeler was 1987. Matt's favorite brand is Honda.

Matt is part of a community of three-wheeler enthusiasts from throughout the country. They share expertise, swap parts, and talk about how to refurbish machines that are all now officially antiques.

"I can pick up the phone right now and call someone on the West Coast and buy a rare aftermarket part, or call the East Coast and talk to a guy about some performance issues we may be having," Matt said. "To be part of a group of folks that have this same passion is great."

One of Matt's favorite stories is from when a member at St. Paul, Leonard Hamann, told him that he had an old three-wheeler sitting in the corner of his barn. It had been there for at least 25 years. "Anytime anyone says three-wheeler, we go," Matt said.

The machine had three flat tires. It was not in good shape. Leonard called it "pretty ugly." Matt's response? "Not to us, Leonard, not to us."

Leonard insisted that they take it. It's now Matt's personal machine. He calls it Rocket.

Matt's kids grew up riding three-wheelers around their place, and now his grandkids ride too – Matt calls it outdoorsy, good clean fun. He and Derek ride, too, but "we're 55 years old. For us to ride, 30 minutes is plenty."







“

For us it's about being together and spending quality time with each other. When we first started and our families were young, it was about giving the kids something fun to do.

— MATT SPENCER

”

## The weekly quack

In the spring, Matt writes fictional and light-hearted stories about the ducks that make a home on the St. Paul campus. Here is an excerpt:

*It was a Tuesday morning, 6:30 a.m. or so as I recall, and I was making my way through the common area of the church. In the faint distance I thought I heard the song "TNT" by AC/DC. I thought to myself that the neighbors were up pretty early or that maybe a car had pulled over on Main Street. Either way it was an odd time of the morning for such a good old classic rock and roll song.*

*The sun was just starting to rise as I passed by the gathering area's west doors. As I glanced out the door I could just barely make out a silhouette of something moving up and down the west walkway. I neared the door and peered out, my face planted firmly against the glass, my hand shielding my eyes so I could see.*

*What I saw were duck friends Tom and Jake.*

*They were marching up and down the sidewalk, side by side and waddle for waddle. Between them were Jake's earbuds, Jake with one in one ear and Tom with one in the other. Playing through those earbuds was AC/DC.*



## Fun Facts about Matt

- ▶ **No condiments allowed:** Matt does not like any kind of condiment. Ketchup, mayonnaise, mustard, salad dressing? No way. Not ever. Not even a little bit.
- ▶ **The two B's:** Boxing and bull riding are his favorite sports.
- ▶ **First car:** 1965 Oldsmobile Cutlass.
- ▶ **Footwear:** All boots (with the exception of one pair of tennis shoes).
- ▶ **Always rooting for the underdog:** Matt likes to cheer on those who have a difficult time. In that spirit, Britney Spears is his favorite underdog.
- ▶ **What would Matt really love to be:** A children's book author.
- ▶ **Longest employee:** Matt has worked at St. Paul longer than anyone else on staff – for 28 years.

# SIBLINGS-AT-LAW

Becky Sharpe and Paul Aitken are following their father's footsteps in the legal profession

When Becky (Aitken) Sharpe was in fourth grade, she wrote a letter about how she wanted to be like her dad when she grew up.

Her dad, John Aitken, helped people adopt babies and worked hard to help kids whose parents were mean to them, she wrote. She talked about how much she loved having newborn babies in their house after they were born, and how she couldn't wait to do the same thing.

"I loved that my dad helped people and got to be a 'good lawyer' and not a mean one," Becky recalls of her fourth-grade insights. "My dad always told me that helping people was more important than making a lot of money. People respected my dad and I hoped people would respect me the way they respected him."

Thirty years later, Becky is carrying on the work of her father. She and her brother, Paul Aitken, share a practice together. The name of the firm gives a nod to their dad's legacy – it's called Aitken, Aitken, & Sharpe, P.C.

"My dad was a genuinely good person," Becky said. "He worked hard for people without taking advantage of them."

Paul agreed. "He was an honest man. He respected others."



Becky and Paul with their dad, John Aitken, who died in 2013.



Paul Aitken

John Aitken originally wanted to be a doctor, his kids said. But with college studies in history and political science, he went to the University of Iowa College of Law. He and his wife, Mary, settled into life in the Quad Cities, where John practiced law.

Becky came along, and she really can't remember a time when she didn't want to be a lawyer. Then came Paul, who decided on the profession once he finished his undergraduate degree. Both graduated from the Cooley Law School at Western Michigan University.

The majority of Paul's work is in family law, such as divorce, child custody, child support, and estates.

Becky's work is focused mostly adoption, guardianships, and child welfare.

Sometimes people at the Scott County Courthouse mistakenly refer to Paul as John, he said. And sometimes they

encounter people whose lives were touched by their dad.

Recently, for example, Becky was appointed to represent a little girl in a case with the Iowa Department of Human Services. She went to the home of the aunt who was caring for the child after she had been removed from her parents' care.

"I gave her my business card at the beginning of the meeting and after looking at my card, the aunt started crying," Becky said. "I was a little worried by her reaction and I asked if she was OK. She then asked if I was related to a John Aitken. To be honest, I was a little worried to say yes - what if she hated him? I told her he was my dad but that he had passed away a few years ago. Once she stopped crying, she told me the story about becoming a mom at 17 years old."

A few years after her daughter was born, she met her husband, Becky said. They went to several attorneys who told her that a step-parent adoption was not possible. Finally, someone recommended she go to see John Aitken.

"They met with him and he told them that he could absolutely help them with the adoption," Becky said. "She said



“My dad always told me that helping people was more important than making a lot of money. People respected my dad and I hoped people would respect me in the way they respected him.” — BECKY SHARPE



my dad made them feel so comfortable with the process, and not just because he said they had a case, but because of his demeanor and the way he treated them. He made them feel like family as opposed to a client. She never forgot what he did for her and her daughter.”

It's one of countless stories Becky and Paul have heard about their dad.

“Since becoming an attorney, I hear even more stories about how kind, genuine and trustworthy my dad was,” Becky said. “I hear ‘he was such a great guy’ all the time. Nothing makes me prouder than hearing those words because they could not be more true. He truly loved helping others and he was remembered for that generosity and kindness.

“Being John Aitken's son and daughter is a lot to live up to, but there is nothing else I would rather be measured against both as an attorney and a parent,” Becky said.

## IOWA FOSTER CARE SYSTEM

**EVERY 40 MINUTES** a child is abused or neglected in Iowa, which often leads to the child entering Iowa's growing foster care system.

**IOWA IS 6TH IN THE U.S.** for the percentage of kids in foster care. As of 2017, Iowa had nearly 14,000 children in its foster care system, and 36% of those children require mental health medication.

**8.2 OF EVERY 1,000 CHILDREN** in Iowa are in foster care, higher than the national rate of 5.5 per 1,000, according to the Child Welfare Policy and Practice Group.

**50% RETURN HOME** and are reunited with their parents and families. However, the other half are not.

Learn more at: [familieshelpingfamiliesofiowa.org](http://familieshelpingfamiliesofiowa.org)

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

The number of children in foster care in Iowa and Illinois is staggering. In Scott County alone, more than 400 kids were in foster care at the end of 2017. In Rock Island County at the end of January 2019, 157 kids were in foster care.

### Foster care

Foster care is a temporary home for a child with a caring family. The goal is to safely reunite these children with their birth families. However, in some situations, the courts decide reunification with the birth family will not be possible. A judge can then decide through a series of court hearings to terminate the parents' legal rights to their child. If both parents have rights terminated, then the child is legally available for adoption, and his or her DHS caseworker may look for an adoptive home.

Children in foster care come from all backgrounds. They range in age from birth to age 18. Many have siblings in foster care with them. Most have experienced abuse or neglect.

- ▶ To learn more in Iowa, visit [iowafosterand-adoption.org](http://iowafosterand-adoption.org)
- ▶ To learn more in Illinois, visit [www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/lovinghomes](http://www2.illinois.gov/dcfs/lovinghomes)

### Court-appointed special advocate

CASA volunteers are individuals who commit to making a difference for children who might otherwise slip through the cracks in an overburdened foster care system.

They are appointed by judges to guide one child or one set of siblings through the system to safe, permanent homes as quickly as possible. CASA volunteers research case records and speak to each person involved in a child's life, including family members, teachers, doctors, lawyers, and social workers. They monitor the progress of the child and family throughout the case and advocate for the child's current and future needs in court, in school, and in agency meetings. Their independent evaluations allow the court to make better informed decisions.

CASA volunteers average approximately 10-15 hours per month visiting their assigned child, reading case documents, contacting other case parties and preparing a monthly update. CASA volunteers also complete an additional 12 hours of in-service training each year.

- ▶ To learn more in Iowa: [childadvocacy.iowa.gov/casa-advocate](http://childadvocacy.iowa.gov/casa-advocate)
- ▶ To learn more in Illinois: [www.illinoiscasa.org](http://www.illinoiscasa.org)

# Spring concerts at St. Paul

*God's love is the song that connects our lives. Music-lovers from all over the Quad-Cities region find a spiritual home at St. Paul. The excellent acoustical quality and beauty of our Sanctuary make St. Paul a favorite venue for visiting choirs and other ensembles. Come enjoy three concerts performing at St. Paul in March and April.*

## AUGUSTANA HOME CONCERT

*Sunday, March 10, 3 p.m.*

The Augustana Choir will conclude its 2019 Midwest tour with a home concert at St. Paul. Established in 1931, the Augustana Choir has been conducted by Jon Hurty since 1996. A highly selective mixed ensemble that performs in major concerts, special events, and on tour, the Augustana Choir is internationally celebrated for vocal virtuosity, tonal mastery, discipline, unity, keen intonation, and joy in performance.



## NOVA SINGERS CONCERT

*Sunday, April 7, 4 p.m.*

The Nova Singers will perform *Home* on Sunday, April 7 at St. Paul. Tickets will be available at the door or online at [novasingers.com](http://novasingers.com).

Ponder the deep, emotional significance of *Home* with guest violinist Mariela Shaker. Also, this concert will be the premiere of a commissioned piece by composer Carol Barnett, set to the words of area children.



## HANDEL ORATORIO SOCIETY CONCERT

*Sunday, April 14, 3 p.m.*

The musicians of the Handel Oratorio Society include Quad-Cities community members, Augustana students, the Augustana Choir, the Augustana Symphony Orchestra and invited soloists.

Formed in 1880 by Augustana theology professor Olof Olsson, the ensemble is celebrated for exploring the riches of choral-orchestral literature. It is conducted by Jon Hurty.

They will perform *Jesu, meine Fruede* by Bach and *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré.





## Council Notes

Three new members of the congregational council attended their first meeting in February, where officers were chosen for 2019.

Dave Tews will serve as council president, Tom Buhr as vice president, Jeannine Crockett as treasurer, and Samantha Schulze as secretary. The council also selected two new members for the personnel committee, Shannon Prantner and Kevin Mowbray. Deanna Hessling will serve as the chairperson for that committee.

The council received a report from Carpentier, Mitchell, Goddard & Company, LLC, on the agreed-upon procedures engagement on the financial records and reporting systems of St. Paul. No material deficiencies were noted from the audit steps performed, and efforts are already underway to work to implement some procedural recommendations made.



Terry Ousley

A new evening/weekend host has started work. Terry Ousley joins Paul Caldwell, Terry Haru, Ron Mullen, and Nick Peterson as staff presence for evening and weekend worship and events. Terry, a retired MidAmerican Energy customer service leader who recently joined St. Paul, is a delight to get to know. The congregation is encouraged to say hello and welcome him warmly.



Left to right: Tom Buhr, Collin Carney, Amy Thoreson, Samantha Schulze, Jeannine Crockett, Cathy Anderson, Glen Hummel, Dave Tews, Annie Stern (not pictured)

The council called for a brief congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, April 7, 10:10 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The meeting will include an update on the pastoral residency program, a vote to ratify the updated constitution, and the calling of a teaching pastor. Watch for a pastoral letter in the first weeks of March.

In May, the congregation will hold an ingathering for food for the Friendly House food pantry, as well as diapers/wipes and feminine hygiene products for families who shop at Madison Market. Approved by the council, it will be held on the weekend of May 11-12, an addition to similar ingatherings held in August and November.

Parents of children born in 2018 gathered at St. Paul to connect and share in the joy (and sleeplessness!) of life with a newborn. These are some of the 29 babies born in 2018. Families learned what it means to form a child's faith and received a colorful story Bible as a gift from St. Paul.



## UPCOMING worship

### MARCH 2 & 3

*Transfiguration of our Lord*

#### PREACHING

**5:30** Josh Kestner

**7:45** Josh Kestner

**9:00** Sara Olson-Smith

**11:15** Sara Olson-Smith

#### MUSIC

**9:00** Chorale, Alleluia choir

### MARCH 9 & 10

*First Sunday in Lent*

*Daylight Savings Time begins*

#### PREACHING

**5:30** Peter W. Marty

**7:45** Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

**9:00** Peter W. Marty

**11:15** Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

#### MUSIC

**7:45** Quartet

### MARCH 16 & 17

*Second Sunday in Lent*

#### PREACHING

**5:30** Katy Warren

**7:45** Peter W. Marty

**9:00** Katy Warren

**11:15** Peter W. Marty

#### MUSIC

**7:45** Quartet

**9:00** Chorale

### MARCH 23 & 24

*Third Sunday in Lent*

#### PREACHING

**5:30** Sara Olson-Smith

**7:45** Sara Olson-Smith

**9:00** Josh Kestner

**11:15** Josh Kestner

#### MUSIC

**7:45** Quartet

**9:00** Chorale, Jubilate choir

### MARCH 30 & 31

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

#### PREACHING

**5:30** Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

**7:45** Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

**9:00** Peter W. Marty

**11:15** Peter W. Marty

#### MUSIC

**7:45** Quartet

**9:00** Chorale, Cantate choir





ST. PAUL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA 52803

# Ash

## WEDNESDAY

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**MARCH 6**  
**WORSHIP AT 12 & 7 P.M.**