

Win and lose

There is more to March Madness than basketball.

It has been almost a month since the national championships for Division 1 men's and women's college basketball teams. This far removed from the "madness," only a handful of people are going to be able to recite facts from those games: who took the last shot, who committed a critical foul, who had the most steals. For most of the general public, the excitement comes and goes.

But there might be a larger group that remembers the words from University of Central Florida (UCF) head coach, Johnny Dawkins, after his team lost in the second round of the tournament. Exhausted and emotional, the team gathered in the locker room after missing two game-winning shots in the final seconds. Tears were flowing and heads were hanging as Dawkins stood in front of the young men to speak.

"It's going to always end one of two ways when we invest like we invested: celebrating or we're going to end in tears." His voice started to crack, "We end in tears. That's because we invested so much in each other and so much in what we were doing. I love you guys."

These are the perfect words for a basketball team devastated by defeat. Of course, their ultimate goal was to win a championship. And it hurts for that dream to end. But even in a losing effort, their season was not in vain. They learned to work together. They built relationships. When one teammate fell down, the others helped lift him back up. When they won and when they lost, they invested in one another. They loved each other. At the end of the day, those experiences are worth more than a trophy.

Dawkins' words are applicable outside of basketball, too - even outside of the sports world. They are the perfect words to carry with us in our everyday lives. A life of faith is a life that is invested. It's a life that is invested in one another; it's a life that is invested in the things we do to love. Faith urges us to realize that we are better off not when we're isolated, but when we're together. Life is fuller when we do not struggle on our own, when we receive the support of a community.

There is a short passage in the book of Hebrews where the author talks about faith in this way. He advises, "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers...Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."

When we let faith guide our lives, something hap-

pens. We reprioritize. We look past ourselves. We start to care about the needs of others as if they were our own. And it's not hypothetical. It's more than just picturing yourself in someone else's shoes. It leads to real action.

We sacrifice something that makes us comfortable (food, money, time, etc.) so



that others might feel some comfort in their lives. We advocate for policy changes in the world even if those changes don't have a direct effect on us or our families. Not only do we want the best for ourselves and those who are close to us, we want the best for everyone who has been intricately created by God.

Such a life can be filled to the brim with joy and peace and safety and meaning. We can receive just as much love as we put into the world. But as the team from UCF found out, a life like that often ends in tears. When the people we invest in suffer, we suffer. When the lives we try to preserve are lost, we feel lost.

In those moments, we pray that love is enough. Ups and downs, wins and losses, we are held up by each other. We lean into relationships. We rely on our faith. Thank goodness for a God who invests in us so that we can invest in one another.

JOSH KESTNER

Josh Kestne

pastor in residency



MAY 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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ON THE COVER: Barb Shinbori & John Greenlee

Sixth-graders and families invited to confirmation orientation

St. Paul's confirmation ministry is an experience that gets to the very heart of where middle-schoolers live. It's a spirit-enlivened venture into the life of faith.

Built solidly on relationships with God and others, confirmation relies on the care and attention of a caring Christian mentor for each of the dozen or so small groups of kids. For St. Paul youth in grades 7 and 8, confirmation meets on the first three Wednesdays of each month during the school year, 6:30-8 p.m.

All incoming 7th graders and their parents are invited to learn more about the confirmation ministry, and hear important details and upcoming dates. Childcare is provided for younger siblings. This one-session orientation will be held on Wednesday, May 29, 6:30 p.m., with acolyte training following, 7:15-7:45 p.m. Contact: Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org.

Baccalaureate breakfast on May 12

The baccalaureate breakfast is a milestone recognizing the lives of graduating high schoolers. Graduating seniors and their families gather for breakfast at 10:20 a.m., with intentional conversations, prayers, and blessings.

Families are welcome to attend either 9:00 or 11:15 a.m. worship service together. Graduating students will be recognized with a prayer and special blessing. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.



Help feed the hungry at Zion Lutheran meal site

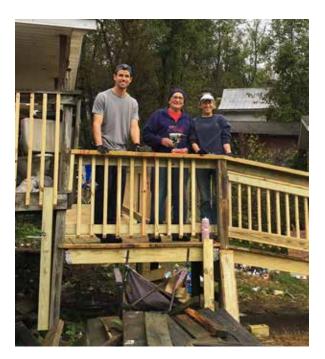
Five nights a week, 52 weeks a year, people gather at Zion Lutheran Church at 8th and Marquette streets in Davenport for a warm meal. Spaghetti and cheesy potatoes and chili and countless other dishes fill the stomachs and the souls of people experiencing hunger.

Several times a year, St. Paul people cook and serve these vital meals. One crew shops. One crew cooks in the St. Paul kitchen. One crew transports and serves the food. Needed are shoppers, cooks, and servers for Wednesdays, May 29 and July 31.

The site is one of three organized by Churches United. The others are at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church in East Moline and Hope United Church of Christ in Moline.

St. Paul is one of nearly 100 congregations and other groups that supply the free, hot, and nourishing meals to thousands of hungry people each year.

Sign up for the adventure of serving at **stpaulqc.org/signups**. Questions? Contact Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.



MAKE HOMES WARMER, SAFER, DRIER, IN RURAL **APPALACHIA**

St. Paul volunteers regularly travel to rural central Appalachia to make homes safer, warmer, and drier for families who do not have many resources.

Volunteers stay in centers of Appalachia Service Project, an organization that works throughout the region to build relationships and repair homes. This fall's trip will be Oct. 12-19, led by Pastor Katy Warren. An informational meeting will be held Sunday, June 9, 10:20 a.m., in Luther Loft.

The trip cost is \$325 with an initial non-refundable deposit of \$50. Spots are limited. To sign up, visit stpaulqc.org/signups.

Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org, 563-326-3547 ext. 232.

St. Paul garden gets growing

The beginning of spring means the beginning of planting in the St. Paul Community Garden.

Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m.-12 noon: Complete the planting of the St. Paul Community Garden. Help give root to tomatoes, peppers, and other warm-weather plants. The rain/cold date is Sunday, May 12.

The vegetables and herbs grown in the garden are donated to Café on Vine, the Madison Market, neighbors, and St. Paul people.

Contact: Matt Schroeder, schroeder4rivermont@ yahoo.com or 563-340-9980.

Mayfest

SUNDAY, MAY 19, 12-2 PM

Come on out to Mayfest at St. Paul for an afternoon of food, music, games, and congregational joy. Bring your lawn chair and sunscreen and celebrate a church rooted in the city, flourishing with life!

▶ FOOD

Get ready for the grandest potluck in town. The main dish will be provided. Bring something to share – desserts for last name A-D, side dish or salad for last name E-Z. A freewill donation of \$8 per person/\$25 per family is encouraged to help with food costs.

MUSiC

Minus Six will take the main stage with inspired original music, hits from the past and present, and contagious energy.

Fun

The church lawn will be full of fun and fellowship for all ages including games, face painting, dancing, and more. Stop by the photo booth and say cheese for a picture-perfect way to remember the day.

volunteer

Help is needed to lead kids' games, set up the chairs and tables, staff the food tent, and tear down for the day. Volunteering at Mayfest is a great way to make new friends. Sign up at **stpaulqc.org/signups**.

Please note: Starting on Mayfest day, May 19, learning for all takes a break over the summer, resuming Sept. 8, 10:20-11:05 a.m.







JOIN THE ADVENTURE! WES 2019

MONDAY, JUNE 17 - FRIDAY, JUNE 21

Vacation Bible School 2019 is an interactive Bible-based adventure in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's wilderness.

The week will include music, crafts, games, service, and Bible stories.

At every stop kids learn, grow — and have a great time!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Kids age four (by Sept. 15) through entering fifth-grade, experience the fun from 8:30-11:30 a.m. Registration is \$15 per child through Sunday, May 19. From May 20-June 2, cost is \$25 per child. Deadline is June 2. No late registrations or walk-ins will be accepted. Classes will be capped, so sign up early.

678 SUMMER EXPERIENCE

Middle-schoolers, entering grades 6-8, will spend the morning (8:30-11:30 a.m.) having a blast and learning about God. Registration is \$15 per student through Sunday, May 19. From May 20-June 2, cost is \$25 per child. Deadline is June 2.

SUMMER STRETCH

High school students, entering grades 9-12, volunteer in the morning with VBS and 678, then spend the afternoon playing water games, making T-shirts, and studying the Bible, 12:00-3:30 p.m. Cost is \$30.

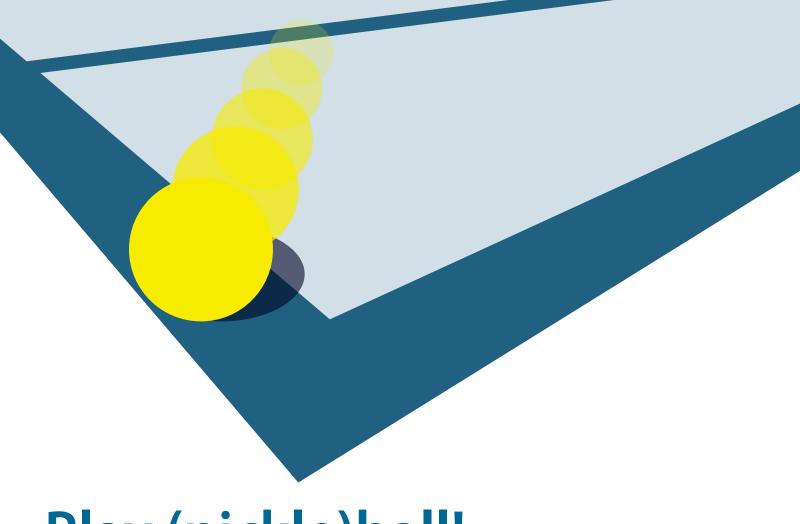
VOLUNTEER

A strong corps of service-minded and joy-filled adults make it all happen. Interested in helping? There's a job to fit your gifts.

Questions? Contact Kendra Thompson, kendra@stpaulqc.org, 563-326-3547 ext. 227.

Register by June 2. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Please note: No walk-ins or late registrations will be accepted.



Play (pickle)ball!

A mix of tennis, ping pong, and badminton, pickleball popularity rises in the Quad Cities

If you don't know they are there, you might not see them.

But once you know what a pickleball court looks like – well, they seem to be everywhere. Northwest Park in Davenport. Bettendorf Middle School. Rock Island Fitness and Activity Center. Quad City Tennis Club.

And the people who play – there are lots of those too. Pickleball – a mix of tennis, badminton, and pingpong – is about 50 years old, and the number of people playing is expanding rapidly.

"People our age, want something to keep active," said Barb Shinbori, an ambassador for the USA Pickleball Association and St. Paul member. "It's such a great way to do that – it's social and it gets you off the couch."

The rules for pickleball are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn. It can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players.

The sport is played both indoors and outdoors on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net. Each player needs a pickleball paddle, which is smaller than a tennis racquet but larger than a pingpong paddle. The ball is unique, with holes through it like a whiffle ball. Different ball models are intended for indoor and outdoor play. Balls come in several colors, including white, yellow and green, but must be a single color to meet International Federation of Pickleball specifications.

Pickleball can be played as doubles or singles.

The story of pickleball begins in 1965. Pickleball was invented on Bainbridge Island, a short ferry ride from Seattle, Washington. Three dads – Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum – whose kids were bored with their usual summertime activities, are credited for creating the game. One of their homes had an old badminton court so they looked for some badminton equipment and could not find a full set of rackets. They improvised and started playing with ping-pong paddles and a perforated plastic ball.

Why is it called pickleball? The story goes that one of the founders' dogs was named Pickles. "The



"I love being active. I still have that competitive edge."

— BARB SHINBORI

Pritchards had a dog named Pickles, and you're having fun at a party, right? So anyways, what the (heck), let's just call it pickleball," Barney once said.

Today, thousands of courts can be found in the U.S. Courts are located in community centers, parks, YMCA facilities, and retirement communities. Kids and teens are learning the sport in physical education classes. According to the Sports & Fitness Industry Association, more than 2.5 million people play pickleball in the United States.

On a sunny but chilly morning, the parking lot at

ST. PAUL PICKLEBALL PARTY!

Come for an afternoon of fun and pickleball. St. Paul people and friends are invited to Northwest Park, 3400 N. Division St., Davenport, 2-4 p.m. Saturday, June 1. Some paddles and balls will be available for use, or bring your own. The afternoon is free, but please sign up at **stpaulqc.org/signups**.

Beyond the Baseline in Davenport indicated something going on inside. The center, part of the old Marycrest College, is a field house of sorts. People gather most every morning during colder weather to play pickleball.

There are treats and coffee, special events for holidays, and two sets of competitors – ones who come more for the fun, and ones who come for a bit more competition. They play for a few hours, coming and going as they need to. Occasionally, you might see a St. Paul staff member or two there on a Friday morning.

John Greenlee is one of the regulars at Beyond the Baseline. He calls it "recess for seniors." Pickleball, he noted, is particularly good for people with bad knees, bad ankles, bad shoulders.

"It's great community, great camaraderie," said John, who is a retired teacher and coach. "We're not out here trying to win any Olympic gold medals."

In the coming months, the Quad Cities will host a nationally sanctioned pickle-ball tournament – a first for the community, Barb said. The VIM Today QC Pickleball Classic will be held at the Quad Cities Tennis Club in Moline, August 14-17. Competitors from across the country are already signed up, including teams with names like the Parkside Picklers and Team Gamma.

The groupings show the most common ages of pickleballers, with a big year gap between the first two groups -19+, 50+, 60+, 65+, 70+, 75+, and 80+.

If you run into Barb out and about, it's likely she will be wearing something that has a pickleball logo on it. "I change for church sometimes," she said. Speaking of church, Barb usually attends the 5:30 p.m. Saturday worship so that she can play pickleball on Sunday mornings.

"I love being active," she said. "I still have that competitive edge."

Where else can we play pickleball?

The Quad Cities is home to approximately three dozen pickleball courts – indoor and outdoor. To find a place to play locally with others, visit:

- qcpickleball.wordpress.com/places-to-play
- meetup.com/Quad-Cities-Pickleball-Club

To find a location anywhere nationwide, visit places2play.org.

How can we learn more about pickleball?

- On Facebook: facebook.com/QCPickleball
- On the web: gcpickleball.wordpress.com
- On YouTube: youtube.com/user/usapickleball2



tending the





Kreiters care for our environment on 250-acre tree farm

Down a long country lane, and then around a bend, emerges an old stone house and a bright red barn.

The homestead, believed to be built around 1844, has a storied history. It was the 101st stagecoach stop out of Chicago. The house was built from limestone quarried on the property, and it was once called Lost Valley Farm.

Today, it's called the Kreiter Tree Farm, part of 250 acres of privately owned forest in western Scott County. Dick and Judy Kreiter have owned the land since 1989.

"The ground out here is alive," said Judy, while taking a break from working.

The outdoors has always been an important part of Dick and Judy's lives. Judy is known for her affection for camps, including Camp Shalom, and Dick grew up at Pine Hill Cemetery, where his family served as caretakers.

As a child, Dick Kreiter was friends with Margaret Lindsay, the daughter of the previous owners. He fondly remembers coming to the property to roam around. The two kept in touch over the years. When Margaret's parents died, he accepted the opportunity to buy the land.

"We've been working on it ever since," Dick said. "It keeps us out of trouble."

Dick spends three-four days a week at the farm, Judy some significant time too, clearing and pruning and planting. They work hard at keeping ahead of invasive species and encourage individuals and organizations to come out and learn or just experience the farm.

Iowa State once ran a series of learning sessions on pond maintenance, how to prune trees, and on walnut trees. The Blackhawk Hiking Club has held hikes at the property. Friends come out to bird watch.

The Kreiters built the two-acre pond in 1993 – 38 acres of ground drain into it. It is a pretty good fish habitat, home to bass, blue gills, catfish, and frogs. They built a covered porch area onto the house, made with beams crafted from trees on the property. They sided the barn with

help from Amish craftsmen. They keep a history book of the farm. And, they cleared 6-7 miles of trails.

"It's a great place to hike," Judy said.

A forest management plan offers a guide to the work they do.

They love to talk about the place, and Dick dreams of it becoming an educational center one day. There is one question, however, they can't answer precisely.

How many trees live here?

"Oh goodness, hundreds," Dick



A day at the Kreiter Tree Farm

When: St. Paul people and friends are invited to spend time wandering the Kreiter Tree Farm, on Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

What: Walk the trails, sit by the fire pit, visit the limestone house, go fishing in the pond (bring your own pole and bait!), or watch and listen for the wildlife that live there

How to get there: The farm is south of Blue Grass. Address is 12010 70th Ave., Blue Grass. It's on the west side of 70th Avenue. The mailbox will be marked with a sign. Follow the long lane back to the house/barn area.

Rain date: Rain date will be Saturday, June 15. Any postponement will be communicated on the St. Paul website and social media.



STATE FORESTS IN IOWA

Loess Hills State Forest is 10,600 acres, located in Monona and Harrison Counties in west central Iowa. It is the newest state forest; the first land was acquired in 1986. Acquisition plans for the forest include 20,000 acres. This state forest offers a unique mixture of forests, savannas, and prairies on the steep and fragile Loess soils above the Missouri River.

Shimek State Forest is 9,148 acres, located in Lee and Van Buren Counties in Southeast Iowa. Shimek State Forest is one of the largest remaining single pieces of contiguous forest in Iowa. Its large unbroken tracts of oak-hickory forest mixed with nearly 1,000 acres of planted pine stands make Shimek a truly unique natural resource.

Stephens State Forest is 15,554 acres and covers the largest geographical area of any state forest. The forest is spread out between five counties: Lucas, Clarke, Monroe, Appanoose, and Davis. Stephens State Forest offers a diversity of habitats and recreational opportunities.

Yellow River State Forest is 8,503 acres and located in Allamakee County in northeast Iowa. Each year, 150,000 board feet of lumber from the forest is processed through the Iowa Department of Natural Resource's sawmill for use by DNR and other state agencies.

There are six smaller state forests ranging in size from 34 to 314 acres. These are Backbone State Forest in Delaware County; White Pine Hollow State Forest in Dubuque County; Holst, Barkely, and Pilot Mound State Forests all in Boone County; and Gifford State Forest in Pottawattamie County.

According to the USDA, forest land in Iowa exceeded 7 million acres during the mid-1800s, declined between the 1950s and 1970s, rebounded during the 1990s, and is now showing a slightly declining trend.

The oak-hickory forest type occupies the largest proportion of timberland in Iowa, at 1.9 million acres, the USDA reports. The next most common forest types are elm-ash-cottonwood at 658,000 acres, maple-birch at 75,000 acres and oak-pine at 72,000 acres.

lowa forest facts

- Covered 2.9 million acres in 2014, down 3.2 percent from 2009
- In 1852, lowa had 6.7 million acres of forest
- Number of live trees in forests: 1.1 billion, decrease of 8.8 percent since 2009
- 92 percent of lowa's forests are owned by 55,000 private land owners
- The lowa wood products industry has more than 22,000 workers

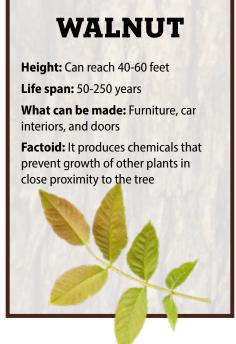
What are forests good for?

- Soil erosion control
- Outdoor recreation
- Wood products
- Energy conservation
- Wildlife habitat
- Tourism
- Water quality

KREITER TREES

The Kreiter Tree Farm is home to a variety of trees. Some of the most prevalent species include:







May 11 & 12

Sharing with neighbors



Friendly House needs

- Soups
- Mac & cheese
- Canned meat (chicken & tuna)
- Cereal
- Peanut butter & jelly
- Canned fruits & vegetables
- Toilet paper
- Bar & laundry soap

Madison Market needs

- Diapers (sizes 3, 4, 5)
- Baby wipes
- Tampons (regular & super)
- Pads (regular & super)
- Flushable wipes
- One-gallon Ziploc bags

Number, breadth of St. Paul ingatherings to increase in 2019

St. Paul people will have the opportunity to support two food pantries on the weekend of May 11 & 12 with donations of nonperishable food, toiletries, diapers & wipes, and feminine hygiene products.

The effort is an expansion of St. Paul's annual ingatherings – increasing the number from two to three, as well as the items gathered. The St. Paul congregational council approved the effort earlier this year.

First, a little bit of history.

For many years, the people of St. Paul, twice a year, have gathered food and toiletries for the Friendly House Food Pantry. The collections in August and November fill the shelves of the pantry, which serves the people in west central Davenport.

But it became clear that a gap existed – that between November and the following August, there was an opportunity for a third gathering.

Meanwhile, a handful of St. Paul people started ministries of their own. Two women, Amy Philip and Sara Harless, gather diapers and wipes to give to the families served at the Madison Market. A husband and wife team, Bruce and Susan Simmons, gathered feminine hygiene products for women at the Madison Market.

Going into the summer months can be a more difficult time for families – kids home from school means an increased need for food and other supplies. Additionally, benefits available to families with low incomes do not pay for items such as toiletries, diapers, wipes, or feminine hygiene products.

And now, the specifics. What can St. Paul people do?

On the weekend of May 11-12, bring your choice of items listed to the left. Brown paper grocery bags will be handed out at worship the weekend before as a reminder.

To make a monetary donation, indicate "food pantry" on the check memo line or envelope.

Not able to be here that weekend? Special shelves, built just for this purpose, are located in the coat area near the central staircase and moms' nursing room. Drop off items any time in the specially marked shelves, and St. Paul staff will make sure they arrive safely in the hands of those who need it.

Questions? Contact Ann McGlynn, ann@stpaulqc.org.

► About Friendly House Food Pantry

Friendly House offers programs for preschool-aged children through senior citizens who face challenges associated with lack of income. The Friendly House food pantry is open to Davenport residents living west of Harrison Street, south of Kimberly Road to 8th Street and east of Division Street. It is open Monday through Friday 11 a.m. –1 p.m.

► About Madison Market

Madison Market is a River Bend Foodbank school pantry located in the J.B. Young Opportunity Center in Davenport, serving Madison Elementary school children and their families. Led and staffed by an enthusiastic and loving crew of St. Paul people, this partnership serves hundreds of people each month. It is one part of St. Paul's partnership with the people of Madison.



Jesus' last supper. His death on the cross. And on Easter morning, his resurrection. St. Paul people gathered together to mark these most beautiful events of deep love...and joy. Holy Week at St. Paul -He is Risen. He is Risen, indeed!

















UPCOMING worship

MAY 4 & 5

Third Sunday of Easter

PREACHING

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

MUSIC

7:45 Quartet 9:00 Chorale

MAY 11 & 12

Fourth Sunday of Easter Mother's Day, Baccalaureate

PREACHING

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

MUSIC

7:45 Ouartet

9:00 Alleluia, Jubilate, Cantate, and Youth choirs

MAY 18 & 19

Fifth Sunday of Easter Mayfest Sunday

PREACHING

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

MUSIC

9:00 Chorale

MAY 25 & 26

Sixth Sunday of Easter Memorial Day weekend

PREACHING

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

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



2136 Brady Street Davenport, IA 52803

Sive the gift of life. Twice a year, St. Paul people roll up their sleeves and help others through blood donation. Time slots

are available from 1:30-6:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

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