

ReStore journey



When it's beautiful outside

We're entering the season of gorgeous weather.

ourney



ON THE COVER:

Left to right: Manny Fritz, Belinda Holbrook, Bob Benson, Pat Grimm, Keith Clifford, Jim Keller

ourney

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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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Frigid winter temperatures that killed my burning bush shrub in the front yard are gone. So are most of the rain-soaked days of spring that decimated more than a few midwestern towns and farms. Bright and warm sunshine has arrived like a gift that wouldn't come soon enough. On those Sunday mornings when spectacular birdsong outside our sanctuary competes with congregational song inside, I wish we had a retractable roof. One like the Dallas Cowboys have in their Arlington, Texas stadium would be nice, though the necessary \$1.1 billion from offerings might be tough.

I think about connecting with outdoor splendor because I love nature and because I know plenty of other people do too. For some, it's everything. There are those who long ago traded in communal worship during nice weather months because the discipline of worship requires more conscious effort than mowing the lawn, hitting a golf ball, or sitting down with a friend in a coffee shop. More than a few people have given up on institutional religion altogether, preferring to avoid the inconvenience of liturgy, financial giving, cracked asphalt, weak coffee, and people with different perspectives hanging around each another. I get that disillusionment. It's actually a whole lot easier to be cynical about institutions, stand exempt from their demands, and opt for private spirituality that can put one in the company of like-minded people. There's attractiveness there, for sure.

But for those people who "love Jesus but can't deal with the church," here's an interesting truth: Jesus was popular with all sorts of non-churched crowds. Whenever he said, "Follow me," he typically led these same people right into the synagogue or the temple. And they followed him! That's right, they walked right into the sacred buildings of institutional religion that Jesus frequented himself. Both the local synagogue and the Jerusalem temple had loads of problems. Neither was without fault or failure. Religion then, as it is today, was a great cover for sin. If you haven't noticed, religion has never automatically transported people into lives of perfect goodness. Yet Jesus didn't boycott the synagogue. He didn't send people home on the Sabbath to play the equivalent of first century golf or watch the equivalent of first century "Meet the Press." He brought them right inside institutional religion, and steered them into houses of worship filled with sinners.

The reason I'd love a retractable roof on gorgeous Sundays is because it can be hard for me to part with the fresh air of a summer day. I still have to rev up my

personal horsepower on certain beautiful Sundays in order to make the commitment required of us all. We're asked to consider setting aside personal leisure time long enough to submit our lives to God and worship with all kinds of other people quite different from us.

As we grow our commitment to Sabbath worship (whether Saturday or Sunday), however, we find what communities of faith hold for our world by way of significance.

- U.S. churches and synagogues send four and a half times as much money overseas to people of need as the Gates Foundation does.
- Religious Americans adopt children at two and a half times the overall national rate.
- Most of the day-to-day help that resettles refugees is provided by local church congregations and their affiliated agencies.
- Faith-based organizations are the institutional muscle at the forefront of care for the homeless.
- Local congregations in America provide 130,000 alcohol-recovery programs and 120,000 programs assisting the unemployed.
- People connected with religious institutions give away several times as much every year as other Americans.

Institutional religion makes all kinds of contributions to the functioning of our nation. Taking even a fraction of this goodness to heart, we may understand why Jesus said to others, "Follow me," and why he then led them straight into the synagogue. Presumably this happened on even the most gorgeous of days.

PETER W. MARTY
senior pastor



St. Paul to worship at Free Indeed prison congregation

The Free Indeed congregation within the walls of the Anamosa State Penitentiary in Anamosa, Iowa, will welcome St. Paul people for worship on Saturday, July 6.

The new congregation of the ELCA, supported by St. Paul, invites inmates of the prison as well as people from the outside to worship together. Its pastor is Jerry Collell. Free Indeed is one of 31 prison congregations in 14 states connected with the Prison Congregations of America, representing nine denominations.

Space is limited. Transportation and lunch will be provided. The group will depart St. Paul at 7:45 a.m. and return at 3 p.m.

A background check is required, with full name, social security number, and date of birth. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups by no later than Sunday, June 23. A St. Paul staff member will be in touch to collect your information for the background check. Contact: Barb Brunkan, bartbrunkan@gmail.com.

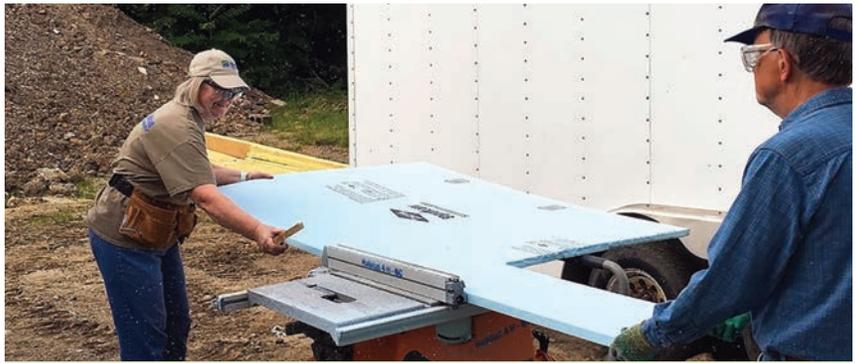
Get outside: Walk, play pickleball, visit a tree farm

St. Paul people have the opportunity to get outside with others this month – taking walks at Vander Veer Park, playing pickleball, and visiting a tree farm.

Walks at Vander Veer: Take a walk around or through Vander Veer Park on Friday mornings this summer, 10-11 a.m., starting June 7. Meet in the Library Commons. After walking, gather for refreshments and conversation. No need to sign up, just come! Contact: Beth Laureijs, beth@stpaulqc.org.

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. Contact: Josh Kestner, josh@stpaulqc.org.

A Day at the Kreiter Tree Farm: 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. 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. Address is 12010 70th Ave., Blue Grass. Rain date is June 15. Any postponement will be communicated on the St. Paul website and social media. Contact: Ann McGlynn, ann@stpaulqc.org.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BUILD DATES SET FOR SUMMER

Put on a tool belt and help build simple, decent houses through this ecumenical ministry. Each summer, St. Paul volunteers work alongside families who dream of owning a home – and do the work necessary to make that dream a reality.

The Quad-Cities Habitat chapter has built more than 100 homes, including those constructed with St. Paul funding and labor. Several Saturday and Wednesday evening dates are available to work with fellow St. Paul people:

- ▶ **Saturdays:** June 29, July 13, August 17. The morning shifts are 8 a.m.- 12 noon, the afternoon shifts from noon-4 p.m. Lunch is provided; help is needed to provide lunch as well.
- ▶ **Wednesday evenings:** July 24 and August 7, 5-8 p.m., help is needed to provide dinner.

No previous building experience is necessary. To help, visit stpaulqc.org/signups.

Welcome, Peter Pettit!

Peter Pettit, St. Paul's new teaching pastor, will begin his work the weekend of June 1-2. He will be present at all services to greet St. Paul people.

As teaching pastor, Peter Pettit will oversee learning at St. Paul, including preschool, children, youth, and adult learning. He also will teach and be available to preach.

Peter served as associate professor of religion studies at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania. He also has led the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding. He holds a Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University.



The community garden needs you

The community garden is growing, and help is needed to weed, water, and harvest. June thru October, the garden crew will be out in the sunshine, gathering fresh vegetables and other goodies for the Madison Market and St. Paul friends. Dates for June are June 10 and 24, 6-7 p.m. Gather in the plots, which are on the west side of the alleyway adjacent to the south parking lot.

To help water and weed, contact Matt Schroeder, schroeder4rivermont@yahoo.com.



GODSPAN

AN INTERFAITH JOURNEY

Muslims. Hindus. Buddhists. Jews. We know them as adherents of four of the world's "great religions." Who are they as our neighbors?

This summer, take an interfaith journey within the Quad Cities. Teaching Pastor Peter Pettit will lead study on Mondays, 12 noon-1 p.m. July 8-29, in the Library Commons, looking at the sources and traditions of each community. Bring your lunch and your curiosity.

Then, take the interfaith journey on the road as we visit the worship and learning sites and speak with members of each of these communities. Monday study is not required to join the visits, though we hope it will help. Watch St. Paul communications (*Journey, Connections, enews, social media*) for a detailed schedule.

- ▶ **WHAT:** An interfaith exploration
- ▶ **WHEN:** Mondays, July 8-29, 12 p.m.
- ▶ **WHERE:** Library Commons

No need to sign up — Bring a sack lunch and come!

Religion by the Numbers: An entry point for understanding

JUDAISM

1: "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One." The great confessional text of Devarim 6:4 rings at the center of Jewish worship, life, and death. Devotion to the active calling to honor and proclaim the oneness of God gives powerful shape to any Jewish life.



BUDDHISM

8: The eight-fold path charts the Buddhist's journey from the suffering of life to a blissful serenity. Disciplines of meditation, integrating mind, spirit, and body, equip one to relinquish the narrowness of personal desires and gain the peace of the universe.



HINDUISM

108: In whole and in its parts, 108 symbolizes for Hindus the completeness and integration of the world. Whether numbering all the great yogis, gurus, and saints of Hinduism, constituting the beads in an ideal prayer japamala, or embracing creation, fulfillment, and eternity, it envelops Hindu life in its mysteries.



ISLAM

5: Five pillars of belief and practice sustain the Muslim life and community, shaping everything from the rhythm of the day to the aspirations of a lifetime. Humble submission to the will and care of God is the model for every Muslim's journey in life.





Mayfest

Food. Music. Face painting. Dancing. Community. Mayfest was all sorts of fun, with smiles and togetherness on a beautiful day in May.



A CARING LIFE

Kathy Ague has spent much of her life caring for others – her family, her friends, her residents at Friendship Manor, where she worked for 39 years



Kathy Ague

Lots of people have lots of really wonderful words to say about Kathy Ague. We'll get to those in a bit.

But one of the best, most joyful, happiest sets of words goes a little something like this:

She loved to sing and dance through the halls, or pretty much anywhere else she could, at Friendship Manor, a nonprofit continuing care retirement community in Rock Island.

"That's what she did, sing and dance down the halls," said Diane Bajc, director of nursing at the Rock Island care facility. "Our residents absolutely loved it."

Kathy recently retired after nearly four decades as a nursing assistant at Friendship Manor. They held a big party for the occasion, with cake and punch and lots of stories.

Four decades is a long time of serving others. But what you will hear when others talk about Kathy, is that she's built a lifetime of caring for and about others.

"Kathy is one of those people, no matter what you asked her to do, she did it. She never complained. She is full of life. The residents really related to her."

Kathy became a nursing assistant after her aunt and mom encouraged her. "Kathy, you are really super good with people," they said. She worked at two other nursing homes early in her career before going to work at Friendship Manor. She took a class at Black Hawk College to become certified.

What did her work entail? Helping residents with going to appointments, dressing, bathing, and eating.

"I like helping other people," she said. As for the dancing and singing? "I liked to keep them happy."

That is indeed true. Her niece, Sarah Stevens, will attest to that.

"One of my fondest memories of Kathy is from my childhood. She used to take care of my grandma who suffered some paralysis as a result of polio. Gram spent her days looking out her front door, waiting for Kathy to get home from work so the two could go for a drive. So, after having worked a full day taking care of residents at Friendship Manor, Kathy would come home, change clothes and wheel gram to the car. They would drive all over the Quad Cities, run to the mall, the grocery store, and maybe the occasional (frequent) trip to Whitey's for me and my brothers.

“I am CERTAIN Kathy would have rather been relaxing at home after a long day, but in those days, Kathy's life was a life of service to my grandma. And to her niece and nephews. And to the residents who loved the way she would dance and make them laugh. And to a God she has always followed with sincere devotion. She is today - and has always been - the most tender, kind, bright light of a human being and the world is better because she's a part of it.”

Kathy worked the day shift at Friendship Manor, starting at either 6 or 7 a.m., depending on which area she was working in. She cherishes the people she met there – the 105-year-old resident who tried to teach her Spanish and loved green chili peppers, the woman she affectionately called Mama Mary, who always had a basket of candy in her room.

She got attached to the people she cared for. She estimates she met and spent time with hundreds (likely thousands) of residents. “When they passed away, I cried just like they were one of my family members,” Kathy said.

Kathy never imagined she would spend 39 years at Friendship Manor. Someone once told her, “you're like one of the bricks in the building.” That comparison is not far from the truth – Friendship Manor opened in 1979.

She does appreciate the opportunity to sleep in a bit now. She visits Friendship Manor every once in a while. She likes to visit her former colleagues and residents.

Her former supervisor, Diane, hinted that it might be nice if Kathy came back to volunteer.

“She is a very kind soul, a very humble person.”

“
That's what
she did, sing
and dance
down the halls.
Our residents
absolutely
loved it.
”



Friends gathered at Kathy's retirement party at Friendship Manor.



Making new again

Habitat ReStore saves unwanted building products, appliances, furniture – while supporting the work of Habitat for Humanity

Keith Clifford roamed the aisles at Habitat ReStore in the Quad Cities. He'd come in with gloves on to look for lumber or an item to bring back to life. He's retired, and his interest in restoration had soared.

Keith stopped in regularly to the Davenport store, which gathers donations of building materials, furniture, and appliances and sells them. An interesting thing started to happen: customers asked him for help. They thought he worked there.

The thing is, he was around the place enough that he could usually direct people to find what they needed.

Meanwhile, his wife, Kathy, was a bit worried about whether her dear retired husband was getting enough social interaction. He invited her to come to ReStore with him one time. She witnessed the "I thought you worked here" phenomenon.

One suggestion later ("Hey Keith! You should volunteer at ReStore!"), and the rest is history.

Keith is now one of several St. Paul people who volunteer at ReStore.

It all started with a trip to Guatemala.

Cindy Kuhn traveled there several years ago with others from her congregation, First Presbyterian in Davenport. After she returned, the wheels started turning in her mind. She wanted to do something meaningful.

She had heard of ReStore, second-hand shops that not only keep things out of the landfill but also support the work of Habitat for Humanity. She visited a few, then went with a friend before the board of Habitat to ask: Can we start one of those here?

The board said yes. ReStore Quad Cities opened in 2002. Today, it is a 27,000-square-



Left to right: Manny Fritz, Belinda Holbrook, Bob Benson, Pat Grimm, Keith Clifford, and Jim Keller

foot adventure in lots of good things, one of 900 nationwide. An expansion into medical home health equipment boosted its footprint in 2012.

Cindy's pastor at the time told her that mission starts when a person arrives back home.

"I think he meant that you begin helping others understand what you saw and have experienced... and it might affect the way you think of others in the world," she said. "He didn't necessarily mean you need to go out

and start a ReStore...but you never know what people might do."

Jim Keller's been around since the beginning. His job is in the recycling area. One recent day, he was excited about a huge light fixture that came in. It wasn't safe to sell as a fixture, but the amount of yellow brass Jim took out of it? About 20 pounds worth – or about \$40, money that goes to ReStore. He's at ReStore two or three mornings a week.

The types of people who shop here are new homeowners, landlords, creative people, handy-man-types, woodworkers, owners of old houses, and parents of kids going to college, Jim said.

One of the greatest joys for volunteers is matching something very specific to an excited new owner.

Let Belinda Holbrook tell you about the blind hem stitching machine that came in. “Who’s going to buy that?” she wondered. Well – a costume designer for Circa 21 came in, and it was love at first sight. “This is just perfect,” the designer said.

Belinda, who loves all things Habitat, teaches popular faux stained glass classes at ReStore. She’s been on the board and supports families who qualify for Habitat houses. The families, who must put in sweat equity hours, can come work at ReStore to fulfill some of those hours.

Putting people to work where their skills match a ReStore need is vital to the success of the operation, Cindy said.

That’s true, Manny Fritz confirmed.

“I’m not a very handy guy at all,” he said. “But cash register? I can do that.”

The people who come through the line like to talk about what they’re doing with what they buy. Sometimes, they will return with pictures of how the items are transformed.

For Pat Grimm, putting her talents to use means a couple of things. But most notably, Pat sews sports-themed and patterned bags that fit over walkers for the medical equipment side of the operation. They are really popular.

“This is the friendliest place to volunteer,” she said. “I just enjoy coming here.”

Bob Benson also volunteers on the medical equipment side of ReStore. He and Manny are similar – the building products side is not in his skill set. But for a retired doctor, the medical side is perfect.

“I just love the mission,” he said. “It’s almost like an ortho floor, with walkers and wheelchairs.”

People often come in searching for items that insurance won’t pay for, he noted. Sometimes, he runs into former patients. Every customer who walks in the door has a story. “The people here are great.”

Cindy, the founder, notes that ReStore is a place where everyone is pulling in the same direction. The people who come through the doors, to volunteer and to shop, come from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Habitat ReStore will never have pick up stations, she said. “We want people to come in and find treasures.”

“It’s been a really fantastic journey,” Cindy said. Ninety percent of ReStore income goes to Habitat Quad Cities. The remaining 10 percent goes to international projects – such as work in Guatemala. “I get goosebumps every single time I think about that.”



Cindy Kuhn and Belinda Holbrook



14.5 million pounds
of usable merchandise
diverted from landfills
since opening



Top 3 sales categories:

1. Home medical
2. Furniture
3. Cabinets/Countertops



Over 116,000 pounds
of scrap metal recycled



\$2.5 million
Support for Habitat for
Humanity since opening
(90% stays in the QC)



Top 3 categories

- Diverted from area landfills:
1. Cabinets/Countertops
 2. Block/Brick
 3. Miscellaneous

new members / APRIL 2019



Quinn & Paul Leathers, Hollis



Teresa Marxen



Emile Niyonkuru & Aline Niyokwizera, Briton, Mareille, Belize



Anne Page, Alex, Amelia



Beth Repp, Rachel



Pete & Merriam Rink



Lindsay & Joe Stellinga, Ruby, Natalie, Gavin



Trisha Tank

BOYD CONKLIN (*not pictured*) is a U.S. vet, retired from work at John Deere, the Arsenal, and Titan Wheel. A native of Nebraska, and one who has traveled extensively, he now lives at Senior Star.

QUINN & PAUL LEATHERS are parents to one-year-old Hollis. They're both local teachers and take an interest in spending time outside, travel, hockey, and being with family. Quinn is the daughter of Birgit Maas, and sister of Britta Adams and Brooke Barnes, all St. Paul members.

TERESA MARXEN works as a chiropractic assistant at Crow Valley Chiropractic. She spends her free time birdwatching, biking, golfing, fishing, and doing yoga. What brought her to St. Paul? The friendly people and her friend, Phyllis Hofer.

EMILE NIYONKURU & ALINE NIYOKWIZERA, have three children, Belize, Mareille, and Briton. Emile is employed at Tyson and Aline works at St. Paul the Apostle School. They also are students at Scott Community College. Their first language is Swahili. To welcome them, we say "Jambo!"

ANNE PAGE has two children, Amelia and Alex. She is a music teacher with the Davenport School District. She enjoys performing on stage and teaching dance. The youth ministries and music programs are what drew her to St. Paul. Anne is the sister of Lindsay Stellinga (pictured on this page, too).

BETH REPP is mom to two-year-old Rachel. She works as an ophthalmologist at Eye Surgeons Associates. She has a passion for equality and justice issues as well as health and wellness. Her parents, Keith and Dixie Kutzbach, are members.

PETE & MERRIAM RINK enjoy traveling, boating, reading, and spending time with their three adult children. Pete is a physician at ORA and Merriam works as a financial advisor with Peters & Marcek FA. The friendly atmosphere of St. Paul is among the reasons they found their way here.

LINDSAY & JOE STELLINGA have three children, Natalie, Ruby, and Gavin. Joe works as a project manager with the mechanical/industrial engineering company E91, and Lindsay, who cares a lot about the arts, is an elementary music teacher with Davenport schools. The number of young families in the congregation is what attracted them to St. Paul.

TRISHA TANK works in production at the Von Maur E-commerce facility. She enjoys walking and socializing with neighbors. What drew her to St. Paul? "The beauty and peacefulness."



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, June 15, 9-11:30 a.m. or Monday, July 22, 6:30-9 p.m. Sign up at the Info Center or online at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Council Notes

The Congregational Council met later than usual in April, due to Holy Week, and on their usual third Thursday of the month in May.

In April, they learned of on-going study on curbing the potential for unwanted water in the Lower Level during extreme rains of 2+ inches in an hour. They also approved plans for a preschool renovation that will provide new safety and hospitality features in the Education Wing. The work will be completed over the summer months.

A new youth ministries intern will begin work in August. Haley Rhoads, originally from Dubuque, is a student at St. Ambrose University. She has experience as a ministry coordinator and camp counselor at Mountain T.O.P. in Tennessee. At St. Ambrose, she serves as a peer assistant and admissions ambassador.

The council also heard a report from the Endowment Committee, which approved two requests in May. The first is for \$3,000 to support the seminary

studies of Christine Vincent, a St. Paul member and former youth ministries intern. She will begin her studies at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, South Carolina, this fall. The second request was from Destiny Ellingsworth, St. Paul member and communication intern, for \$1,000 to help cover costs for a school-related nonprofit internship in Ecuador. Destiny is a student at Western Illinois University.

The council approved the monthly financial reports, which included happy news of generous giving to ELCA World Hunger during the Lenten season. St. Paul people gave just over \$23,000 to help combat hunger worldwide. Thank you all!

An update on the transition of St. Paul's business systems database indicated that the conversion is on track, with final project completion anticipated for mid-summer. Watch for more information later this year on members' secure access to giving and an on-line directory.

CONFIRMING FAITH: St. Paul's confirmation ministry is a creative, spirit-enlivened venture into a life of faith. Eighth-graders recently completed two years of Wednesday-evening sessions. They will share their faith stories on Sunday mornings this fall. Confirmands include:

Miley Ashby
Gavin Barber
Paige Barber
Adrianna Blackwell
Keaton Braack
Curtis Canterbury
Max Doran
Ariana Ellingsworth
Garrett Ellsworth
Jacob Ellsworth
Lauren Golinghorst

Rylon Hall
Alec Harris
Charlie Hepner
Greta Herbst
Mason Herrington
Quentin Hurley
Abigail Janke
Sam Johnson
Shelby Juehring
Alaina Lake
Henry Leslie

Mason Lovig
Katie Mahl
Drew McIntyre-Hill
Ethan McIntyre-Hill
Leah Mendelin
Avery Menke
Chandler Moore
Alayna Mull
Clayton Nesbitt
Cora O'Neill
Ayva Parker

Lexi Pelzer
Jennifer Perry
Alexandria Petersen
Emma Ruth
Klara Skogman
Ethan Smith
Harrison Stephens
Ellen Tews
Natalee Wagner
Kaydence Weeks
Izzy Wollett



UPCOMING worship

JUNE 1 & 2

Ascension

PREACHING

5:30 Katy Warren

7:45 Josh Kestner

9:00 Katy Warren

11:15 Josh Kestner

JUNE 8 & 9

Day of Pentecost

PREACHING

5:30 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

7:45 Sara Olson-Smith

9:00 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

11:15 Sara Olson-Smith

JUNE 15 & 16

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

5:30 Katy Warren

7:45 Peter W. Marty

9:00 Peter W. Marty

11:15 Katy Warren

JUNE 22 & 23

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

5:30 Josh Kestner

7:45 Josh Kestner

9:00 Peter W. Marty

11:15 Peter W. Marty

JUNE 29 & 30

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

5:30 Peter W. Marty

7:45 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

9:00 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

11:15 Peter W. Marty

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



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803

AN ALL ST. PAUL

POOL

PARTY!

St. Paul will host a swimming party at the Annie Wittenmyer Aquatic Center, 2828 Eastern Ave., Davenport on Saturday, June 22, 6-8 p.m. The event is free, but please sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.