

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2019

journey



Always with Jesus

With this year's Vacation Bible School at St. Paul, I was reminded how much children can teach us about faith and life.

When children sing the fun VBS songs, it is done so enthusiastically at the top of their lungs. After watching Bible stories come to life, they can't wait to share what they heard with others. When they make something in craft time that will be given away, they put extra care and thought into it. Faith is fun.

Children approach a life of faith with a sense of joy, wonder, and honesty. Perhaps this is why Jesus uses children as an example of faith. They exemplify a conviction that sometimes we lose as we age.

I am also reminded time and time again that kids absorb and pay attention to more than we give them credit for. They become little theologians themselves. Here is a conversation between an ELCA pastor and her 7-year-old daughter...

P: It's probably going to be dad picking you up today so look for him. I have a funeral, and I am not sure I'll be finished in time.

PK: Oh, right, for the guy who was murdered?

P: Yeah, for him. There will be lots of sad people there. I have important promises to share - that they are never alone, God is always with them. And God was always with their friend who died. And that when we die, we begin life everlasting.

PK: Yeah, heaven is kind of like we live with Jesus instead of Jesus living with us.

I have been asked multiple times what I think is going to happen after we die. It's as if, through ordination and the laying on of hands, I was given the answer to a secret. I believe that when people ask, they are looking for an assurance I'm not able to provide. I never know quite what to say. I try to be as honest as I can without thwarting expectations. But thanks to the faith of this 7-year-old girl, I found a simple yet profound answer, "Heaven is kind of like we live with Jesus instead of Jesus living with us."

She gets it. Why don't we?

We let ourselves worry and ponder over questions that we can't possibly know the answer for, and yet kids somehow seem better at dealing with uncertainty.

We don't know what heaven will be like, and we don't know what happens after we die. What we do know is that whether we live or die, we are with Jesus. The girl gets it. As the book of Romans reminds us, "Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus."

What would our lives look like if we simply trusted that we were always with Jesus and nothing could change that? Would we sing a little louder? Would we get easily excited about things? Would we stop worrying about things beyond our control? Would we be more committed to serving others first and then ourselves?

The beautiful thing about childlike faith is that it is not childish at all. It's not selfish, immature, or misbehaving. Childlike faith is filled with trust, joy, wonder, and forgiveness. A childlike faith asks questions that seek the truth - not undermine, embarrass, or confront. Childlike faith likes to learn and keep learning, always wanting to know more. A childlike faith fully trusts and hopes, understanding that not all things can be answered. A childlike faith lives in the present, convinced that God will continue to walk beside us in the future.



KELSEY FITTING-SNYDER
pastor in residency



ON THE COVER:
Jen Vanaria

journey

JULY 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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Summer music: Come and play

Summer music during the 9 a.m. worship is one of St. Paul's most wonderful traditions. During the summer months, when Chorale takes a break, people of all ages and abilities are invited to come and sing or play an instrument. To sign up, visit stpaulqc.org/signups.

August 4: Woodwind ensemble - Flutes, clarinets, oboes, saxophones, and other woodwinds can be a part of music at worship this day.

August 11: String ensemble - All who play a string instrument, gather together to create harmonious melodies.

August 25: I'm with the band - Play any instrument? Be a part of the band during worship on this day. It's fun!

Habitat for Humanity build continues

St. Paul volunteers will swing hammers, create new friendships, and serve in various ways as they help build a Habitat for Humanity home this summer. Anyone 16 years of age or older is invited to be part of the work crew. No construction experience is necessary. To sign up, visit stpaulqc.org/signups.

Available shifts:

- Saturdays, July 13 & Aug. 17, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., morning & afternoon crews, lunch crew
- Wednesdays, July 24 & Aug. 7, 5-8 p.m., work crew or supper crew

Why does St. Paul support the efforts of Habitat for Humanity? Habitat for Humanity knows that safe, decent, and affordable shelter plays an absolutely critical role in helping families to create a new cycle outside of poverty, one filled with possibilities and progress.



Youth head to Milwaukee to serve

One hundred twenty St. Paul youth and adult leaders will travel to Milwaukee later this month to learn and serve.

The crew departs on Sunday, July 14, and will check in to a Marquette University dorm. They will be grouped into teams and assigned a variety of projects, working with people experiencing homelessness, hunger, and other significant challenges. In the evening, they will explore the city, including the beach and a baseball game.

Youth will also take part in training about racism, through the ELCA. They will return home on Friday, July 19. The trip will be led by St. Paul pastors and Andy Langdon, director of youth ministries.



GODSPAN AN INTERFAITH JOURNEY

Study: Mondays, July 8-29, 12-1 p.m., Library Commons, bring a sack lunch and study with Peter Pettit, teaching pastor, about different faith traditions. No need to sign up. **Visit:** Visit the tradition the following weekend (transportation on your own). RSVP for the visits at stpaulqc.org/signups.



July 8: Study Buddhism - In which red symbolizes passion transformed into discriminating wisdom, and the blood of life. **July 14: Visit** Lamrim Buddhist Center, 301 E. Second St., Davenport, Sunday, July 14, 12:15 p.m., meet with Joe Gauthier, teacher.



July 15: Study Hinduism, in which saffron stands for self-denial and quest for life and salvation. **July 20: Visit** the Hindu Temple of the Quad Cities, 9801 14th Street W., Rock Island, Saturday, July 20, 10 a.m., meet with Rohit Kunte, leader.



July 22: Study Islam, whose prophet, Mohammed, favored the green of nature and of paradise. **July 27: Visit** the Islamic Center of the Quad Cities, 6005 34th Ave., Moline, Saturday, July 27, 6:30 p.m., teaching by Imam Bachir Djehiche and potluck with community.



July 29: Study Judaism, with blue in its prayer shawls and surrounding the biblical land in sea, sky, and river. **August 2: Visit** Temple Emanuel (Reform Jewish), 1115 Mississippi Ave., Davenport, Friday, August 2, 6 p.m., service with Rabbi Linda Bertenthal and potluck with community.

WILDWOOD FOREST VBS 2019





Godspeed

to pastors Josh Kestner
and Kelsey Fitting-Snyder

Pastors Josh Kestner and Kelsey Fitting-Snyder are saying farewell as their two-year time at St. Paul comes to a close. Their work has touched many in their time here.

Josh and his wife KD will be moving to South Carolina, where Josh will be campus pastor at University Lutheran Church in Clemson, and KD will be a nurse at a hospital. Kelsey and her husband, Jon, will move to Waco, Texas, where Kelsey hopes to find a pastoral position and Jon will begin work on his doctoral studies in church music.

"Josh has shown great love for my family. He and his wife, KD, have joined us for dinners and Thanksgiving, and they have been great guests and lifesavers at parties. He has shown incredible patience with our 5-year-old autistic son, Leo. Josh didn't push, and allowed Leo to get comfortable with him at his own pace. Now, Josh is essentially a Santa Claus to Leo.

"While Josh prefers fist bumps to hugs, he's got one of the biggest hearts I know. He also has one of the most distinctive wardrobes. I'm blessed to have gotten to know Josh, and it's an honor to call him and his incredible wife, KD, friends."

— Kris Voyna



"I have to say that Kelsey has been quite the influence in our lives. From the moment we met in our less-than-ideal or comfortable situation, she has been completely down to earth and kind to us. We clicked with her instantly. It probably helps that I feel she and I have similar personalities. There have been some firsts for us as well as Kelsey in our journey of friendship and faith, including our child's memorial service followed by the baptisms of myself and our son. God gave us her friendship in a time we needed it. Apart from these major events in our lives, she has such a heart-warming smile to see every time we come to church. We wish her success, happiness, and love in her next adventures."

— Elizabeth Koranda

"How does one explain Josh Kestner to someone who has never met him? Friendly, yes. Funny, mostly. A bit unorthodox, for sure. He is also passionate about helping others, unapologetically honest and one of the best friends I've ever had. He cares more deeply about the world around him than anyone I know. He also believes in the goodness of people to make our world a better place. These qualities of his have made me a better person, one I could not have been without him. I never would have believed that someone who would be around so briefly could be so impactful on me. I can't wait to see what Josh's next chapter holds, but I know that he will make a profound impact on many more people, just as he did with me."

— Mike Reinholdt

"What makes Kelsey special is her ability to take her knowledge and share it with others in a way that is exciting and fun, even if you are totally ignorant on the subject. It was so true when it came to studying the book of Exodus in Heart. Soul. Mind. Being of the senior generation, most of the stories were familiar. I discovered a whole new perspective and meaning from them. Placing the stories historically, relating them to the New Testament, and tying them to modern practices made them not only interesting, but important in a more lively way. It has been fun to watch Kelsey grow since coming to St. Paul, and in her turn, she has helped me do the same."

— Jeanne Withycombe

Residents' farewell gift

If you'd like to donate to a gift for Josh and Kelsey, please write a check to St. Paul clearly marked for "Residents' Gift." The amount collected will be equally shared between the two. You're also invited to send individual cards or notes to the church, or drop a written expression in the basket on the farewell weekend, July 20 and 21.

Most valuable lesson learned at St. Paul

JK: Hospitality. I've never been in a church community that was so good at hospitality. Whether it's your first time walking through the doors or you've been a member for 30 years, there is a sense of belonging. You matter here. Before anything happens at St. Paul, someone is asking the question, "Are we leaving anybody out? How can we make this more accessible and comfortable for everyone?" Ministry is about relationships. And relationships can only thrive in a place where people feel safe, heard, cared for, and empowered. A church should be a place that offers those things.

KFS: I grew up admiring great pastors, and I know some awesome ones now. I thought in order to be good I needed to be like them. But what I learned over these last two years is that in order to be good I just need to be myself. One of the most valuable things I learned was to trust myself, and let that shape my ministry with people. Also, it is no longer OK to double space after a period in a sentence.

Favorite QCA place (besides St. Paul of course)

JK: I wish my answer was somewhere in nature. I love to be outside but...I also love to eat. KD and I wanted to try as many local restaurants as we could, but we kept ending up at Lemon Grass Cafe in Moline. There are so many things on the menu, and they're all delicious! We've had some wonderful dinners there together and with friends.

KFS: For trivia, Me & Billy; for running, Duck Creek Parkway; for hanging with friends, Armored Gardens; for coffee, Aroma.

Favorite food at a St. Paul event

JK: The side and dessert tables at Mayfest

KFS: St. Paul punch

NEW RESIDENT ARRIVES IN AUGUST

With unanimous affirmation, the congregation of St. Paul voted in April to call Hayden Kvamme to serve as pastor in our congregation through the Pastoral Residency Program, starting in August.

Hayden will be ordained on Friday, July 26, at 5:30 p.m., at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Dubuque.

Installation for Hayden and Peter Pettit, St. Paul's new teaching pastor, will be on Saturday, Sept. 21, at the 5:30 p.m. worship. Paul Ostrem, assistant to the bishop for the Southeastern Iowa Synod of the ELCA, will be present.



caring for animals

(AND THEIR PEOPLE)

The paths to their professions are different, but veterinarians at St. Paul all adore the pets and humans they care for

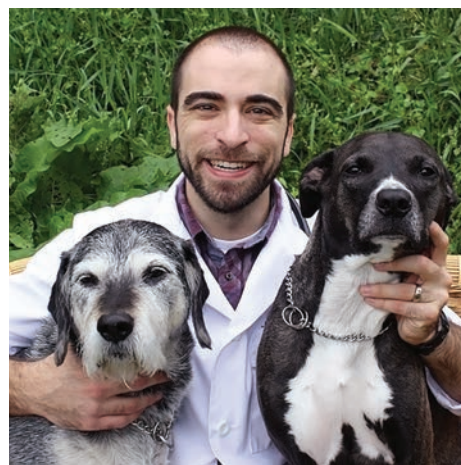
Jake Taylor

Kimberly Crest Veterinary Hospital

I always loved animals, and particularly dogs, when I was a child. As I entered high school and college, science classes became more interesting. I knew I at least wanted to go into the medical field, but halfway through college, I knew I wanted to be a veterinarian.

Up until my third year of veterinary school, I thought I would be a mixed animal practitioner. I decided to do an internship in small animal medicine and surgery in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It was the best decision I made in my career. One of the best parts of my job is that I never know what I am going to be doing that day. I could do an upper endoscopy, see a new puppy, and remove a foreign body from a dog all within a few hours.

Pets play a very important role in our lives. They help us through some very hard times and bring joy to our daily lives. My favorite part of my job is helping not just the pet but the owners and families. Even when a euthanasia is involved, I am at least ending suffering for that animal and helping that family through a rough time. There are not many careers that have as many ups and downs as being a veterinarian, but overall it is a very gratifying career.



Jennifer Vanaria

QC Pet Care

My journey into veterinary medicine was not a standard one. I was not the precocious 9-year-old checking the household pets each day with a toy doctor's kit. My parents rarely went to the vet, and when they did, we didn't go with them. I did, however, have an early love of both science and animals. My hero was David Livingstone, a missionary and physician. While most kids rented Disney movies, I rented National Geographic specials on wildlife.

It wasn't until years later, in high school, that I discovered I could combine my two passions into a career.

The discovery of a show about emergency vets became the discovery of a world I had never experienced and quickly grew to love. Here I could be of service to the creatures I loved in a way that was both exciting and fulfilling. It felt like home. Working with people and their beloved pets is at times joyful and other times painful, but I love being a part of that journey. Whether it's coaching a new puppy owner, doing surgery, or helping someone with an aging cat's illness, I am happy to be able to help so many.

Animals bring a special joy to those who love them. They love without recourse. They forgive without apology. There is much we can learn from these gifts from God, and I wish to help preserve that bond.



Scott Bernick

Animal Family Veterinary Care Center

I envisioned being a veterinarian at an early age, probably around third grade. Growing up on a dairy farm in Walcott, I witnessed the meaning of the human-animal bond. We provided the needs of cattle every day through feeding, cleaning, and caring for them. They would provide for us through the milk they produced. I went on to graduate from Iowa State University Veterinary School in 1994.

When we moved back to the Quad Cities in 2002, I joined a classmate at a small animal veterinary clinic in Davenport, Animal Family Veterinary Care Center. It was here that I developed an appreciation for the human-animal bond experienced through companion animals. Clients often say their pet's unconditional love is what brings them the most joy in having a pet. I can't imagine another profession where a complete stranger is quick to share their personal stories and pictures as when they realize you are a veterinarian.

I've heard it said in human medicine that almost 80 percent of the diagnosis comes from the patient's history. That is tough when your patients can't talk. However, the biggest challenge as a veterinarian can be communication with the pet owner. Having difficult discussions like end-of-life decisions makes it important to choose the right words to help people navigate through stressful times.

As pet ownership continues to grow, so will the need for veterinarians. It is a wonderful profession to be in for those who love pets and their people.



"Working with people and their beloved pets is at times joyful and other times painful, but I love being a part of that journey." — JENNIFER VANARIA



Julie Hahn Medina

Compassionate Care Veterinary Clinic

Growing up I did not know exactly what I wanted to be. I knew I loved science, but the only side of veterinary medicine that I knew was my father's career as a large animal veterinarian. His hours were long, the conditions were rough, and it took a toll on him physically. It wasn't until I was an undergraduate at Iowa State that I started realizing I wanted to become a veterinarian and focus on small animals.

I remember the title of my veterinary school application essay, and it still applies to my passion for my career today: The Human-Animal Bond. It is powerful and one of the favorite areas of my profession. It is a mutually amazing relationship, and I get to work with this bond every day.

As veterinarians, we not only get to work with animals, we also work with people. This is a crucial part of the field that aspiring veterinarians need to realize. You have to love animals, but you also have to be able to work with people. Communication, compassion, and patience are all needed when working with both my patients and my clients. I also own my own clinic, so another area that I love about my profession is running a business, managing my staff, and knowing I am my own boss.

The best advice my parents gave to me was telling me to choose a career that was rewarding. It may be stressful, emotional, and challenging, but at the end of the day, it is extremely rewarding.

MENTAL HEALTH

MOVIE NIGHTS

FOR FOUR WEEKS beginning Wednesday, July 10, St. Paul Lutheran Church's Mental Health Awareness Team will host a midsummer mental health movie series. Come and watch a movie and join in discussion afterwards. Movies begin at 6:30 p.m., popcorn included. The series is free and open to the public. The Mental Health Awareness Team works to expand awareness, banish stigmas, love others, share stories, and discover support. This movie series is one of their many efforts throughout the year.



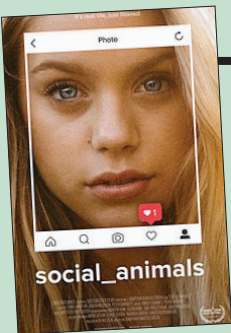
JULY 10: RAIN MAN

Rain Man is a 1988 American comedy-drama directed by Barry Levinson and written by Barry Morrow and Ronald Bass. It tells the story of an abrasive, selfish young wheeler-dealer Charlie Babbitt. He discovers that his estranged father has died and bequeathed all of his multimillion-dollar estate to his other son, Raymond (Dustin Hoffman), an autistic savant, of whose existence Charlie was unaware. Charlie is left with only his father's car and collection of rose bushes.



JULY 17: CHARLIE BARTLETT

The son of a depressed but doting mother and a father who is serving time for tax evasion, teenager Charlie Bartlett enrolls in a school run by embittered alcoholic Principal Nathan Gardner. Unable to fit in with most of his fellow students, Charlie is diagnosed with ADHD. He forms an alliance with a school bully and offers him half the proceeds from the sale of prescription drugs Charlie obtains by feigning physical and emotional symptoms with different psychiatrists.



JULY 24: SOCIAL ANIMALS

A daredevil photographer, an aspiring swimsuit model, and a Midwest girl next door are all looking for the same things from their Instagram account – a little love, acceptance and, of course, fame. And they'll do just about anything to get it. With an observational eye, Social Animals peeks into the digital and real worlds of today's image-focused teenager, where followers, likes and comments mark success and self worth.



JULY 31: HERE ONE DAY

When filmmaker Kathy Leichter moved back into her childhood home after her mother's suicide, she discovered a hidden box of audiotapes. Sixteen years passed before she had the courage to delve into this trove, unearthing details that her mother had recorded about every aspect of her life. This is an emotionally candid film about a woman coping with mental illness, her relationships with her family, and the ripple effects of her suicide on those she loved.

Note: Kathy Leichter will Skype in for a Q & A session with the audience after the film.

Summer in the St. Paul Community Garden

The St. Paul garden is growing! With two rounds of lettuce, kale, and radishes harvested for Madison Market, it's fulfilling its purpose already of feeding St. Paul neighbors. The July harvest/work days are Monday, July 8 and 22, 6-8 p.m. Come and bring your gardening gloves. No gardening experience necessary - the garden regulars love to teach tricks of the trade. Who knew that baby powder can keep critters away?



UPCOMING *worship*

JULY 6 & 7

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

5:30 Katy Warren

7:45 Katy Warren

9:00 Katy Warren

11:15 Katy Warren

JULY 13 & 14

Season after Pentecost

PREACHING

5:30 Peter W. Marty

7:45 Peter W. Marty

9:00 Peter W. Marty

11:15 Peter W. Marty

JULY 20 & 21

Season after Pentecost

Pastors Kelsey and Josh farewell

PREACHING

5:30 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder/Josh Kestner

7:45 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder/Josh Kestner

9:00 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder/Josh Kestner

11:15 Kelsey Fitting-Snyder/Josh Kestner

JULY 27 & 28

Season after Pentecost

Jazz Sunday, 9 and 11:15 a.m.

PREACHING

5:30 Sara Olson-Smith

7:45 Sara Olson-Smith

9:00 Peter W. Marty

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

**JULY JAZZ IS FOOD
FOR THE SOUL ON
BIX WEEKEND!**



A joyful tradition, mark your calendar for worship centered in the uniquely moving Chicago Jazz Mass. The place rocks with jubilation.