

# journey

FALL GUIDE





# The Mona Lisa effect

No painting in the world is as popular as the Mona Lisa. This Leonardo da Vinci masterpiece is on the bucket list of millions of European travelers. It may also be the most parodied art work in the world, with dear Lisa appearing in everything from hair curlers to Yoda ears.

Her enigmatic expression adds to the mystery of her identity, still unresolved by art scholars even after 400 years. Is she really smiling or not? Where are her eyebrows and eyelashes? Why does she receive so many love letters, enough to warrant her having her own mailing address?

Far and away the most studied aspect of the painting is what's called the Mona Lisa effect. This is the name of the phenomenon by which a portrait appears to have the figure's eyes stare directly at observers regardless of where they're standing in the room. This perception that the steady gaze of a subject follows viewers around a room has never been studied quite as thoroughly as in the Mona Lisa.

Now, according to researchers at Bielefeld University in Germany, one painting that fails to validate this phenomenon is the Mona Lisa herself. In fact, by putting the Mona Lisa on a computer monitor, and using a folding ruler to track viewing distances between study participants and the screen, researchers have discovered that the Mona Lisa is not looking directly at observers. She is actually looking about 15 degrees to their right. So, if you were standing in the room at the Louvre Museum in Paris, the four walls of which the Mona Lisa has to herself, you would find that she appears to be looking at your right ear or over your right shoulder.

Although we feel an eerie sensation when we have the sense that something mounted on a wall is following us in a precise way with its eyes, whether it be a taxidermied elk's head above the fireplace or a rosy-cheeked Jesus mounted on a Sunday School classroom wall, we tend to appreciate eye contact. Direct visual contact between two human beings sends important social cues. It's one way we feel relevant, or at least momentarily the center of someone else's attention.

Sometimes our gaze can be off by 15 degrees and more. If you've ever video-conferenced with someone who's on a laptop computer, you may have noticed that their eyes aren't really looking at you. They're focused on the screen instead of the little built-in camera at the top of the screen. They're looking at you askew, as the Mona Lisa does. People affected by autism often find the act of making eye contact extremely stressful. (Important side note: Forcing that eye contact often proves a disservice to their needs.)

I've noticed in walking downtown Chicago streets every several weeks that I often avert my gaze, however slightly, when I pass by street people begging for a handout. It's not a good practice and it doesn't make me feel whole. So, I have to force myself to slow down, look such ones in the eye, and acknowledge them as if they were human. It's so much easier being the Mona Lisa to them, peering over their shoulder and avoiding the pupil of their eyes by 15 degrees.

When Jesus talks about final things in Matthew 25, and paints a picture of sheep and goats who are differently faithful, notice how he describes both those who put their lives to work for others and those who do not: "[Each] will answer the king saying, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry ... or thirsty? And when was it that we saw you a stranger ... or naked? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison?'" Who knows exactly what Jesus means with this sight detail in the parable. My own guess is that the righteous managed to look fellow humanity in the eye to the point of having their lives subconsciously merge; the accursed must have been off in their gaze by about 15 degrees. Indeed, the Mona Lisa effect goes way back in time, even 2,000 years.



*Peter W. Marty*

**PETER W. MARTY**  
senior pastor



#### ON THE COVER:

(left to right) Brynn Wright, Jaycee Kay Carpenter, Teddy Lassers, and Lucas White

## journey

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#### MISSION

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a faith community, shaped around five core values: radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith formation, adventurous mission and service, extravagant generosity.

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# Centered in **WORSHIP & MUSIC**

We ground our lives in the glories of worship.  
Together, we listen for God. We sing songs of praise.  
We discover hope. We give thanks. We welcome all.



## CHOIRS

Come and sing. Rehearsals begin Sept. 4.

### **Alleluia Choir | Ages 4-K**

Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m., Room 206  
Director: Sara Harless

### **Jubilate Choir | Grades 1-3**

Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m., Room 203  
Director: Katie Casey

### **Cantate Choir | Grades 4-6**

Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m., Room 009  
Director: Margaret Thompson

### **Youth Choir | Grades 7-12**

Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m., Chapel  
Director: Dan Pepper

### **Chorale | College & Adults**

Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m., Room 011  
Director: Nathan Windt

### **Open Spirit contemporary ensemble**

Thursday rehearsals  
Director: Bill Campbell

## EVENTS

### **Fall Start-up Sunday**

*Sunday, Sept. 8*

Fall Start-up is when we return to the fullness of our Sunday-morning learning and worship life. Learning for all takes place from 10:20-11:05 a.m.

### **Healing Liturgy**

*Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, & Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m.*

On the first Saturday of the month, a healing liturgy is held after 5:30 p.m. worship. The gathering seeks God's goodness and care for those in need of physical, spiritual, or emotional healing.

### **Nova Singers Concerts**

*Sunday, Oct. 13, 4 p.m. & Friday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary*

Nova Singers is a 20-voice a cappella ensemble with a nationwide reputation for expressiveness, virtuosity, and innovative programming. The October concert is titled *The Spirit Sings*. The annual December concert is *A Nova Christmas*. Tickets available at the door, or online at [novasingers.com](http://novasingers.com).

## special dates

### **All Saints Weekend**

*Nov. 2 & 3, all services*  
Give thanks for the saints of God.

### **Joy Weekend**

*Nov. 9 & 10, all services*  
We lift up our ministries and pledge for 2020.

### **Thanksgiving Eve**

*Nov. 27, 7 p.m.*  
Come for worship steeped in gratitude.

### **Choral Advent**

*Dec. 8, 9 a.m.*  
All five choirs and the quartet come together.

### **Blue Christmas**

*Dec. 22, 6 p.m.*  
This quiet service offers hope and comfort.

### **Christmas Eve**

*Dec. 24, 1, 3, 5, 8, & 10 p.m.*  
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!





# A spirit of **MISSION** & **SERVICE**

At St. Paul we give away more than 21 percent of our annual budget to people in need. St. Paul people also find great joy in volunteering for the benefit of others. Take a look at some of the opportunities available this fall, and get involved.

## FOOD

### So All May Eat meal serving

*Wednesday, Oct. 30*

People cook at St. Paul and serve a meal at Zion Lutheran Church, Davenport. The initiative is called So All May Eat. Needed for the date above are shoppers, cooks, and servers. Providing a warm meal to those who are struggling is one way we show God's grace to others. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org).

### Thanksgiving food and care collection

*Thanksgiving Eve worship, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.*

Stock a paper bag with nonperishable food and personal care items and bring it to worship for those who are food insecure. The food gathered will be used to fill the shelves at the Friendly House Food Pantry. Feminine hygiene products, diapers, and wipes go to Madison Market.

What's needed? Soups, mac & cheese, canned meat (chicken & tuna), cereal, peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, bar soap, laundry soap, tampons, menstrual pads, baby wipes, diapers size 3-6. Help sort the donations on Sunday, Dec. 1, 12 noon. Contact: Ann McGlynn, [ann@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ann@stpaulqc.org).

## EARTH CARE

### Make It Yours Neighborhood Cleanup

*Saturday, Nov. 2, 10 a.m.-12 noon*

The St. Paul corner of the world is a beautiful place. A few times each year, St. Paul people gather to pick up trash and debris in the blocks surrounding the campus. It's called the *Make It Yours* Neighborhood Cleanup. Supplies and snacks are provided. Contact: Jules Irish, [julesi@mchsi.com](mailto:julesi@mchsi.com).

### Environmental Team

The Environmental Team is a band of earth-minded St. Paul folks. They round up dish scrubbers for church suppers. They pick up trash every week on the St. Paul campus and support recycling initiatives, too. Engage your own natural instincts. Think globally and act locally as a steward of this Earthly home. Contact: Duane Haas, [dlhaas@mchsi.com](mailto:dlhaas@mchsi.com).





## HOUSING

### Habitat for Humanity

*Wednesdays, Sept. 25 and Oct. 23, 5-8 p.m.*

St. Paul people are building a home, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity in the Quad Cities. Swing a hammer, raise a wall, run a table saw. No prior construction experience needed. To sign up for a shift, visit [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org).

## MENTAL HEALTH

### NAMI Walk

*Saturday, Sept. 21, 9:30 a.m., Veterans Memorial Park, Bettendorf*

Lace up your sneakers and join the St. Paul crew who walk each year to encourage understanding, reduce stigma, and support programs for people affected by mental illness. Registration is free; everyone gets a T-shirt. Sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Deb and Joe James, [joedeb1984@gmail.com](mailto:joedeb1984@gmail.com).

### Mental Health Awareness Team

*Third Thursday of the month, 6 p.m.,  
Library Conference Room*

The St. Paul Mental Health Awareness Team, through educational offerings and events, strives to increase understanding of mental health issues. Help us continue to create a supportive, caring, compassionate community for people affected by mental illness and those who care about them. Interested in being a part? Contact: Beth Laureijs, [beth@stpaulqc.org](mailto:beth@stpaulqc.org).

### Friends & Family

*Second Monday of the month, 6 p.m.,  
Church House Living Room*

A drop-in group for people whose loved ones are impacted by mental illness, Friends & Family is for anyone looking for mutual support by sharing with and listening to others. Led by mental health professionals and Pastor Sara Olson-Smith. No need to sign up, just come. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, [sara@stpaulqc.org](mailto:sara@stpaulqc.org).

### Survivors of Suicide Loss

*First Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m.,  
Library Conference Room*

Offering support for those who have lost a friend or family member to suicide at any time. This monthly gathering is for care, compassion, and encouragement. No need to sign up, just come. Contact: Deb and Joe James, [joedeb1984@gmail.com](mailto:joedeb1984@gmail.com).



By volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, I've experienced the camaraderie between the volunteers and the partner families; all of us working toward a common goal – building a warm, safe home. I've appreciated getting to know the families and learning their stories. It's truly amazing (and fun) to help build homes and change lives."



*Pam Crowe*

## NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

Play a game, read together, plant a garden, paint a mural, offer hospitality. At Madison Elementary, being together is what it is all about. Students and staff delight in the relationships built with St. Paul people. Make a difference in the lives of kids, some of whom face tough challenges. Contact: Dana Welser, [dana@stpaulqc.org](mailto:dana@stpaulqc.org).

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2019-20 INCLUDE:

**Grounds care:** A diminishing school budget means little landscaping for the school. Madison needs volunteers to prune, weed, and pick up litter. Everyone walking onto this campus needs to know that they will be cared for, just as the school grounds are.

**Mentors:** Meet with a child to read, share lunch, play games, listen, build relationships.

**Classroom and school support:** Help a teacher, work in a classroom, wash children's clothing, pop popcorn, work school events, go on a field trip. Many working families are unable to volunteer during the school day. St. Paul members are the perfect volunteers to help lift up students and staff.

**Madison Market:** On the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, a food pantry comes alive at the J.B. Young Opportunity Center. Help with food delivery, sorting or shelving, or offer hospitality to the guests. Hours are in the morning or afternoon.



# The joy of COMMUNITY

Togetherness is one of the deep joys of a life of faith. St. Paul people gather in groups, large and small, to share in each other's lives. Below is a sampling of groups who welcome all with open arms.

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## MEN

### Second Saturday Men

*Second Saturdays of the month, 8 a.m.*

Men of St. Paul gather for service, fellowship, and discussion. First gathering of the year will be on Saturday, Sept. 14, 8 a.m., Fellowship Hall. The idea is to strengthen guys in their faith. Contact: Todd Byerly, [todd@stpaulqc.org](mailto:todd@stpaulqc.org).

### Men's Bible study

*First and third Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m.*

Gather together for a time of fellowship, study, and light supper. Meet in the 129 House on the St. Paul campus, corner of Lombard and Main Streets. Contact: Jeff Keller, [jeff.keller1964@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.keller1964@gmail.com).

## WOMEN

### Women of the ELCA

This is a community of women of all ages who gather for friendship and support, Bible study, and service. Monthly gatherings are held at church and in members' homes, as well as special events throughout the year. Contact: Janice Melvin, 563-332-3665.

- **New this fall – Online Circle:** This monthly gathering will be held in two places — a physical location and through a video link for those who can't attend in person. Anyone who has a computer, phone, or tablet can join the video conference from the location of their choice. Like the other WELCA circles, each month we explore the Bible study from the *Gather Magazine*. To express interest, contact Martha Wells, [marthawells99@gmail.com](mailto:marthawells99@gmail.com).
- **Advent Celebration:** On Saturday, Dec. 14, join other St. Paul women for social time, starting at 10:30 a.m., followed by a program and salad luncheon. Sign up coming soon. Childcare will be available upon request.

## YOUNG ADULTS

### 2136

*Twice monthly*

2136 is a ministry for adults in their 20s and 30s to be social, to study, and to serve. Its name comes from both the general age of those involved and the street address of St. Paul. To stay up-to-date on 2136 happenings, check out the 2136 Facebook page at [facebook.com/groups/stpaul2136](https://facebook.com/groups/stpaul2136). Contact: Pastor Hayden Kvamme, [hayden@stpaulqc.org](mailto:hayden@stpaulqc.org).

- **Tailgating kick-off:** On Thursday, Sept. 19, 6:30 p.m., wear your team colors, and bring a dish and a chair to gather around a fire to celebrate friends and fall. Meet in the west parking lot.

### College students

Whether you are going to school, working, or piecing a whole lot of things together, Pastor Sara would love to connect with you! Email or find her when you're here for worship to arrange a time for coffee or ice cream. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, [sara@stpaulqc.org](mailto:sara@stpaulqc.org).

- **Fall Kick-off Party:** On Sunday, Sept. 8, 12-2 p.m., mingle with other college students for a pizza and wiffle ball party. Meet in the Library Commons.



## TOGETHERNESS

### Golden Agers luncheon

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 10:30 a.m., Chapel & Fellowship Hall

St. Paul senior adults, 75 years and older, come together each October for the Golden Agers worship and luncheon. RSVP by calling Jennifer Garvey at 563-326-3547. Contact: Pastor Ron Huber, [ron@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ron@stpaulqc.org).

### KnitWits

Third Thursday of the month, 5 p.m.

Church House Living Room

Knitters and crocheters are invited to share time over yarn as we work on service and individual projects. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We'll be glad to teach you. Contact: Belinda Holbrook, [belinda@holbrook.fm](mailto:belinda@holbrook.fm).

### Primetime 50+

Monthly gatherings

Primetime 50+ brings together folks age 50 and older. Monthly gatherings at a variety of Quad City area spots are a time of fun and great community. Sign up at the Info Center for:

- **Breakfast in the Park:** On Saturday, Sept. 21, 8:30 a.m., wake up with breakfast at Breezy Point Shelter at West Lake Park. Bring a dish to share. Contact: Paul and Joan Marietta, 563-349-1973.
- **Lavender Crest Winery,** on Saturday, Oct. 19, 11a.m., wine tasting and lunch. Contact: Tom and Joan Lahl, 563-320-8760.

### Quilters

Sept. 23, Oct. 22, Nov. 11, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Fellowship Hall

This devoted group of caring quilters, beginners and experts alike, gather monthly to sew, tie, cut, and piece together beautiful works of art that are donated to those in need. Contact: Cathy Hagglund, [crh4quilts@msn.com](mailto:crh4quilts@msn.com) or Karin Hanson, 563-528-2064.



## SUPPORT & CARE

### Adult Children of Alcoholics

Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m., Upper Level Education Wing

This is a group for people who grew up in dysfunctional homes of any type (mental illness, alcoholic, verbally abusive, etc.). We learn together and support each other, using a spiritual approach. Contact: Dick Jensen, [rrjensen65@gmail.com](mailto:rrjensen65@gmail.com).

### Blood Donor Day

Wednesday, Oct. 30, 1:30-6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Give the gift of life. Blood donation is a simple process that takes about 45 minutes to one hour. Enjoy conversation and refreshments afterwards. Sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, [sara@stpaulqc.org](mailto:sara@stpaulqc.org).

### Stroke Support Group

Third Wednesday of the month, 2-3 p.m., Luther Loft

The group brings together stroke survivors and their families in an atmosphere of caring and sharing to assist recovery. Education about life after a stroke, including helpful hints and coping skills, is included. Contact: Karen Caldwell, [kcl254@aol.com](mailto:kcl254@aol.com).

### Home Communion

Saturday, Nov. 2, volunteers are needed

Illness or age sideline many of our members from worship. Home Communion wraps them warmly into congregational life. Equipped with special communion kits, volunteers visit our homebound members in care facilities and private homes four times a year. Contact: Pastor Ron Huber, [ron@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ron@stpaulqc.org).

### Motherless Daughters

Second Saturday of the month, 9 a.m., Church House Living Room

Open for any woman who has experienced mother-loss at any time and needs a safe place for support. Gather to celebrate our mothers, deepen relationships, and develop a network for continuous healing. Contact: Nicole Rathje, [rathjefamily@gmail.com](mailto:rathjefamily@gmail.com).

### Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain works quietly and steadily behind the scenes. Prayers rise for a problem or illness, or in praise or thanksgiving. No request is too small. Requests are worded for confidentiality. For a prayer request or to volunteer as one who prays, contact Karin Hanson, 563-528-2064, [tkmax2502@gmail.com](mailto:tkmax2502@gmail.com).

### Walking the Grief Journey

Sundays, Oct. 6-Nov. 3, 10:20-11:05 a.m., Church House Living Room

A supportive, compassion-filled series for those who have experienced the recent loss of a loved one. Explore anger, depression, fears, acceptance, and new strength for a hopeful future. Led by Pastor Sara Olson-Smith and Joel Moore, deacon and registered nurse, sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, [sara@stpaulqc.org](mailto:sara@stpaulqc.org).



# ADULTS

## Live the questions

As Lutheran Christians, we consider our lives to be unfinished products. That's why we're constantly seeking ways to grow in faith and deepen the meaning of our days. At St. Paul, we cultivate a community of lifelong learning.

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## FAITH EXPLORATION

### Centering Prayer

*Thursdays, 6 p.m., Upper Level Education Wing*

Practice an ancient prayer form in which you will experience God's presence within. Centering prayer does not replace other kinds of prayer, but is a discipline that allows a person to move beyond conversation to resting in God and communion with Christ. Contact: Dick Jensen, [rrjensen65@gmail.com](mailto:rrjensen65@gmail.com).

### Heart. Soul. Mind.

*Thursdays, beginning Sept. 12, 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall*

Israel's prophets came in many varieties and are remembered for diverse blessings that they brought to the community. The books in which they appear — and that carry some of their names as titles — have become part of the Jewish and Christian Bibles. Thus "the prophets" become a rich resource for Christians in facing the challenges of life as the people of God. In our life together as the church, in our witness to God in the public square, in our personal morality and our collective action, prophets and their messages offer us guidance, challenge, hope, and inspiration. Contact: Pastor Peter Pettit, [ppettit@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ppettit@stpaulqc.org).

### CC Conversations

*First Thursday of the month, starting Sept. 5, 6-7:15 p.m.*

CC Conversations is a monthly opportunity for St. Paul people to discuss faith, politics, and culture, using articles and news from *The Christian Century* magazine as a springboard for conversation. Think critically, faithfully, and in non-partisan fashion about a whole host of contemporary issues. Pastor Peter Marty facilitates discussion. Contact: Pastor Peter Marty, [peter@stpaulqc.org](mailto:peter@stpaulqc.org).

### Women's Bible study:

#### Put your own oxygen on first

*First Tuesdays of the month, 6:30 p.m., starting Sept. 3*

No two women are the same and our to-do lists are vastly different. But not many of us put ourselves on that list. Let's change that! Scripture will serve as a taking off place as we discuss how to make space in our lives for rest, prayer, play, and more. Take a deep breath, enjoy the company of other women, and be filled with the joy that comes from connection. Childcare will be available. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, [sara@stpaulqc.org](mailto:sara@stpaulqc.org).

### Theology Pub

*Second Thursday of the month, 6 p.m., Location to be announced*

Word has it that some of the best theology has been fashioned over tables loaded with good food, strong drink, and even stronger friendships. Some of the best friendships have come out of good food, strong drink, and even stronger theology. Take your pick! Theology Pub offers a rich mix of people, pints, and perspective, as we explore informally the many ways in which our faith intersects with our lives and the world. Current events will shape the topics month by month, as pastors offer reflections and we all dive into the conversation. Plan to eat or just plan to feast on the fellowship. Contact: Pastor Peter Pettit at [ppettit@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ppettit@stpaulqc.org).

## GUEST SPEAKER SERIES

### Shon Hopwood

*Sunday, Nov. 10, 10:20 a.m. and 4 p.m., Sanctuary*

The 2019 Faith & Life Series speaker is Shon Hopwood. He will present on Sunday, Nov. 10, at 10:20 a.m. and 4 p.m. Both are free and open to the public.

- **10:20 a.m. learning:** *Why we need grace in the criminal justice system*
- **4 p.m. community lecture:** *Criminal justice reform in an age of political unrest*

Shon Hopwood was sentenced to 10 years in the federal prison after committing five armed bank robberies as a young adult. While in prison, he taught himself criminal law and began to help fellow inmates. Two of his petitions were selected to be heard by the Supreme Court. Shon's legal work was the start of a new life.

After his release in 2009, Shon earned his bachelor's degree, then was accepted to the University of Washington School of Law. He served as a law clerk for Judge Janice Rogers Brown of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He's now an associate professor of law at Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C. In addition to teaching, he works on policy change in hopes of shorter prison sentences, more vocational training, more drug treatment, and mental health care.

His book, *Law Man: A Memoir of a Jailhouse Lawyer* is available in the St. Paul Book Corner. Published in 2017, the cost is \$15.



Each fall, St. Paul hosts the community-wide guest speaker series. The church brings persons of national stature to the Quad Cities — sparking new ideas about what it means to live faithfully. This event reflects St. Paul's mission to serve as a learning center for our people and the entire region.

## BOOK LOVERS

### Early Morning Book Group

*Tuesdays, Sept. 17-Oct. 1, 6:45-7:30 a.m., Library Commons*

In *Holy Envy*, Barbara Brown Taylor recounts her discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world's religions to undergraduates in rural Georgia, revealing how God delights in confounding our expectations. The book is available in the Book Corner. Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org).

### Faithful Readers

*Thursdays, Sept. 12, 6:30 p.m., and Oct. 10, 7 p.m., Church House Living Room*

The first fall meeting of this literature discussion group, Sept. 12, will be a potluck (bring anything except dessert). Conversation will focus on *The Painted Veil* by W. Somerset Maugham. The October meeting will be on *My Antonia* by Willa Cather. Contact: Katie Hanson, [katie-hanson@augustana.edu](mailto:katie-hanson@augustana.edu) or Dave Crowe, [davidcrowe@augustana.edu](mailto:davidcrowe@augustana.edu).

### Going Deeper

*Mondays, Oct. 7-21, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Church House Living Room*

In *Holy Envy*, Barbara Brown Taylor recounts her discoveries of finding the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world's religions to undergraduates in rural Georgia, revealing how God delights in confounding our expectations. The book is available in the Book Corner. Contact: Lynn Batcher Robinson, [ldbatcher@hotmail.com](mailto:ldbatcher@hotmail.com).

“We don't just learn about topics – great as they are. We also learn to engage with a diversity of opinions and to value the sharing of ideas.”

*Peter Paisley*  
Sunday Adult Learning Team



# Sunday morning LEARNING

On Sunday mornings, you'll find a variety of presenters and topics for adult classes, 10:20-11:05 a.m. Meet up with God's word, riveting ideas, and interesting people. No need to register in advance. Grab your cup of coffee and settle in. Contact: Pastor Peter A. Pettit, [ppettit@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ppettit@stpaulqc.org).

Growing in faith happens in many ways all through the life of the congregation. Singing, service, chat, baking, prayer, visiting, reading, worship, and more – so many things contribute to our growth in faith. Sunday adult learning brings new horizons into focus in many ways, as well.

Christian life functions in a half-dozen contexts, each of which offers its own horizons to explore.

- The context of the Bible gives us a shared language and story of our identity as people of faith.
- The context of the Church is the Christian community in which our faith is at home.
- The Community context frames our calling as servants and witnesses of God's word for the world.
- Relationships form the context in which faith is embodied, as our human connections mirror and instruct us about our relationship with God – our faith.
- Each individual is an integrated Self, the called and gifted child of God who lives, body, mind, and spirit, in the faith relationship.
- The context of Theology draws on modes of Christian expression, often in the Lutheran key, to understand faith.

Each of these offers exciting possibilities for learning. As each one grows and shifts in its character and in our understanding, and as we move through the journey of life, the horizons change and we find new vistas and windows and filters through which we engage them. Adult learning at St. Paul aims to provide avenues toward each of these horizons over time.



For some time, the learning community has known of “multiple intelligences,” originally sketched as seven by Howard Gardner and later expanded to nine by him and others. Not all are conducive to the setting of Sunday adult learning, but the program aims to meet adults in these various dimensions of learning, using more than the linguistic, interpersonal, and existential perspectives to open learning to the widest possible range of interested people. Adult learning is for those whose learning style is:

- Linguistic, or word smart
- Logical-mathematical, or number/reasoning smart
- Spatial, or picture smart
- Bodily-kinesthetic, or body smart
- Musical, or music smart
- Interpersonal, or people smart
- Intrapersonal, or self smart
- Naturalist, or nature smart
- Existential, or deep questions smart.

With three venues each Sunday – the Chapel, Luther Loft, and the Sunday Bible class in Room 208 – and a range of contexts and dimensions to explore, Adult Learning at St. Paul strives to open up paths for faith growth for every individual person in the community. Come explore the horizons!

– Pastor Peter A. Pettit, teaching pastor

## Learn more:

Watch for the learning schedule and descriptions in the weekly *Connections* flyer and enews, as well as *Journey* magazine and online at [stpaulqc.org](http://stpaulqc.org).

## CHAPEL

On the north side of St. Paul on the main level, the Chapel hosts a learning session most Sundays throughout the program year, September-May. There, we discover faith within the church community. In the company of others, we ask honest questions, share communal wisdom, and grow in new friendships. Sunday morning learning sessions help equip us to live more like Christ.

You're invited to grow in faith and community – whoever you are, wherever you are on the journey. Pack up your questions and come. Taste and see the goodness of God.

Coming up in the chapel, meet St. Paul's newest resident pastor, Hayden Kvamme. Consider the invisible class and the housing crisis – an issue that affects thousands of people in the Quad Cities. Ponder truth in a pluralistic culture, including contemporary challenges to truth, truth as confession, and speaking truth with grace. Think about Advent from a variety of perspectives, including conversations about music, Isaiah, Matthew, and Luther.



## LUTHER LOFT

We get to strengthen our relationship with God over the entire course of our lives. Becoming more Christ-like never grows old. Faith forms as children sing "Jesus loves me," as youth stretch through creative programs, and as adults test out new ideas.

The Luther Loft is on the second floor of the Education Wing. Take the central staircase up and make two right turns to be a part of the learning in this sunny and inviting space. Interestingly, the Luther Loft was once the second floor of the carriage house that was here when St. Paul purchased the original house (now church staff offices) in the middle of last century.

Coming up in the Luther Loft, connect with upcoming Figge Art Museum exhibits before a planned field trip, learn more about relating well with people living on the Autism spectrum, dig deeper into insights from the St. Paul guest speaker the week following his visit, and consider the Gospel of Matthew – the year ahead in scripture.



## ROOM 208

John 3:16 is one of the most familiar verses in the Christian Bible. Interestingly, 49 of the 66 books in the Protestant Bible have at least 16 verses in chapter 3, giving us a 3:16 in 49 places. Each week, explore the contexts, meaning, and significance of these verses for our life, our faith, and our world. A few of the 3:16 verses that St. Paul people will encounter this year:

**Leviticus 3:16** – Then the priest shall turn these into smoke on the altar as a food-offering by fire for a pleasing odor. All fat is the Lord's.

**Joel 3:16** – The Lord roars from Zion and utters his voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and the earth shake. But the Lord is a refuge for his people, a stronghold for the people of Israel.

**John 3:16** – For God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

**James 3:16** – For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind.

**1 John 3:16** – We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

**Revelation 3:16** – So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth.



# Exploring faith: KIDS & FAMILIES

Kids and families can find a wonderful second home at St. Paul. Staff and volunteers bring hearts for sharing faith, and the congregation seeks to be a loving sign of God's grace for families.

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## SUNDAY MORNINGS

### Learning for kids

*Sunday mornings, 10:20-11:05 a.m. starting Sept. 8*

On Sept. 8, Sunday morning learning begins for the school year. Look for friendly St. Paul faces on that day to guide you.

The classroom journey begins at age 3. The *Spark* curriculum from Augsburg Fortress guides the adventure. Parents are asked to remain in the building each Sunday during learning. You'll find your child's classroom in the education wing:

- ▶ Main Level: Age 3-PreK
- ▶ Upper Level: K-Grade 2
- ▶ Lower Level: Grades 3-5

### Special Sundays | 10:20-11:05 a.m.

- ▶ **Fall Family Learning:** In place of regular learning on Sunday, Oct. 27, families will strengthen their intentional conversations by digging into the Bible. Meet in Fellowship Hall.
- ▶ **Family Advent Learning:** On Sunday, Dec. 1, we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Lord. Meet in Fellowship Hall for an Advent lesson, Christmas carols, and family craft, in place of regular learning.

### Childcare

Staffed childcare is available, all Sunday morning. It's for families with infants and young children through preschool age. Children are always welcome in worship. But, there are times when your child needs a break, and you'd like some focused time to soak up a class or sermon. Parents may move easily between a pew and the childcare room as needed. Silent pagers are available.

### Nursing Moms' Room

A room for nursing moms, located next to the elevator area near the central staircase, is available too. Find rocking chairs, a changing table, supplies, and a video feed from the Sanctuary during worship.



## FAITH MILESTONES

Milestones are foundational faith moments that shape our spiritual lives. Families gather for these celebrations; they mark moments in the rhythm of the congregation. Milestone events are planned for different ages throughout the year.

### Third Grade

*Sunday, Oct. 20, 10:20-11:05 a.m.*

Students and their parents learn together about God's written word. Each child will receive their own Bible and a blessing from the congregation at 9 a.m. worship. Signup at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Pastor Kendra Thompson, [kendra@stpaulqc.org](mailto:kendra@stpaulqc.org).

## PARENTING

### Moms' Morning

*Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m., starting Sept. 12, Church House Living Room*

Friendships form when mothers of young children get together. Moms' Morning is an every-Thursday-morning gathering that celebrates parenthood with laughter, prayer, and mutual support. A Bible study is held once a month, along with service projects and learning. Childcare is provided. Contact: Pastor Kendra Thompson, [kendra@stpaulqc.org](mailto:kendra@stpaulqc.org).

### St. Paul Parenting Fellowship

St. Paul Parenting Fellowship is a community of families from all walks of life. The mission is to share in the joys and trials of parenting, give to others in the spirit of Christ, and grow in efforts to raise kids in a life of faith. Gatherings feature friendship, support, and learning.

- ▶ **Trunk or Treat:** Sunday, Oct. 20, 5-7 p.m. It's the annual orange-and-black frivolity at St. Paul for the whole family. Gather for a simple meal, a short worship service, treating, and a parking lot dance party! Costumes are encouraged.
- ▶ **Parents' Game Night:** Friday, Sept. 27, 5:30-8 p.m. Come for dinner and get ready to laugh out loud with other parents. After a delicious meal and witty conversation, we'll break out the games where fun will be had by all. Childcare provided. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Sean Harless, [sharless57@gmail.com](mailto:sharless57@gmail.com).

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

*Sunday, Dec. 22, 10:20 a.m.*

Calling all stars, angels, shepherds, and sheep! Children will delight in sharing the story of Jesus' birth through the singing of traditional Christmas carols and speaking parts. Everyone receives a costume to wear. Contact: Pastor Kendra Thompson, [kendra@stpaulqc.org](mailto:kendra@stpaulqc.org).



My kids feel connected and feel loved by others in the community of St. Paul. Britta's favorite memory is taking her first communion and Klara's is being the star in the kindergarten Christmas pageant.



*Aryn Lloyd*



## PRESCHOOL

St. Paul Preschool is a loving community for children, ages 2-5. The church's classrooms fill with light and life on Monday through Friday mornings, 8:45-11:45 a.m., September through May.

With a highly educated staff leading the way, this little village for preschoolers is solidly constructed in Christ's love. Children find a home in classrooms:

- ▶ Two-year-olds (two- and three-day programs)
- ▶ Three-year-olds (two- and three-day programs)
- ▶ Four-year-olds (four-day program)
- ▶ Five-year-olds (four-day program)

Contact: Karen Strusz, [karenstrusz@stpaulqc.org](mailto:karenstrusz@stpaulqc.org).



# YOUTH

God-inspired enthusiasm

This is the place for off-the-charts fun, faith, and friendship. But it's so much more. Every encounter is aimed at powerfully nurturing and strengthening the faith of young people and their families. Contact: Andy Langdon, [andy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:andy@stpaulqc.org).



## GRADES 6-8

### Sunday mornings

Sundays, 10:20-11:05 a.m., Youth Room

Sunday gatherings are offered each week for students in grades 6-8. Most seventh- and eighth-graders also serve as acolytes during worship, or sing in the Youth Choir.

### 678 Night

Wednesdays, Sept. 25 & Oct. 23, 6:30-8 p.m.

High-energy games + togetherness + great Bible studies + campfire-style worship = 678. This group for those in grades 6, 7, and 8 meets periodically throughout the year.

### Confirmation

First three Wednesdays of the month, beginning Sept. 4, 6:30-8 p.m.

For youth in grades 7 and 8, St. Paul's confirmation ministry is a creative, Spirit-enlivened experience, built on relationships with God and others.

**The fall confirmation retreat** for seventh-graders will be Sept. 13-14 at Camp Shalom, and for eighth-graders in the Quad Cities on Nov. 8-9.

### Faith Stories

Sundays, Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 10:20-11:05 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Faith stories are the culmination of confirmation at St. Paul. This fall, for five Sundays during the learning hour, ninth-graders will share three-minute presentations describing how they have experienced the presence and work of God in their lives.

Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org).

## HIGH SCHOOL

### Sunday mornings

High school youth volunteer to teach Sunday morning learning for younger children, assist with worship, usher, work in the nursery, or sing in the Youth Choir.

### Sunday Night Live (SNL)

Sundays, 7:15-8:30 p.m., starting Sept. 8, Youth Room

Grab a booth or a spot on "the carpet monster" for Sunday Night Live (SNL). SNL is a strong framework for high school youth, a fun place to get recharged before school on Monday morning. Live, grow, and serve. Jump into super-sized life experiences. SNL has something for everyone. Small groups meet beforehand, on- and off-site.

- ▶ **Small group kick-off potluck:** On Sept. 8, 6:30 p.m., come before SNL and plug in with a small group for the year. Meet the leaders, share a meal, play some games. Bring a drink/side dish to share.
- ▶ **Midweek Recharge:** Wednesdays, starting Sept. 4, 6:45-8 p.m., this small group is designed for students who do not attend Sunday evenings. In Room 208.
- ▶ **2020 summer trips info meeting:** Sunday, Nov. 3, 6:45-7:15 p.m., Library Commons. During the November potluck, 2020 trip dates, costs, and details will be announced.

### Tenth-grade milestone

Sunday, Nov. 17, 10:20 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Share, save, spend: This is a moment to pause and talk about money intentionally. In this milestone morning, families will begin the conversation about money and examine our hopes and values. Signup at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Andy Langdon, [andy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:andy@stpaulqc.org).





## Council Notes

The Congregational Council toured the nearly completed preschool renovations and learned about the changes to parking in the north parking lot at their August 2019 meeting.

The preschool wing renovations added some safety features and reconfigured administrative offices. It also expanded the Library Commons space a little bit.

The parking lot changes include the addition of parking spaces and sidewalk ramps for people living

with disabilities or special needs. The spaces will also be available for parents who find themselves with hands full and strollers to push.

The council also received an update on the continuing business office systems upgrade, as well as the affordable housing initiative in partnership with the local organization One Eighty. Information on how the congregation can connect with this neighborhood housing effort will be coming soon.

**ON AN ADVENTURE:** With oars flying and a bit of climbing, a crew of incoming St. Paul high school seniors went on an annual adventure trip recently. They talked faith, friendship, and futures on the four-day trek.



## UPCOMING worship

### AUG 31 & SEPT 1

Season after Pentecost  
Labor Day weekend

#### PREACHING

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

### SEPTEMBER 7 & 8

Season after Pentecost  
Fall Start-up Sunday

#### PREACHING

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

#### MUSIC

**7:45** Quartet  
**9:00** Chorale

### SEPTEMBER 14 & 15

Season after Pentecost

#### PREACHING

**5:30** Peter W. Marty  
**7:45** Sara Olson-Smith  
**9:00** Peter W. Marty  
**11:15** Sara Olson-Smith

#### MUSIC

**7:45** Quartet  
**9:00** Chorale

### SEPTEMBER 21 & 22

Season after Pentecost

#### PREACHING

**5:30** Peter Pettit  
**7:45** Katy Warren  
**9:00** Peter Pettit  
**11:15** Katy Warren

#### MUSIC

**7:45** Quartet  
**9:00** Youth choir

### SEPTEMBER 28 & 29

Season after Pentecost

#### PREACHING

**5:30** Hayden Kvamme  
**7:45** Hayden Kvamme  
**9:00** Peter W. Marty  
**11:15** Peter W. Marty

#### MUSIC

**7:45** Quartet  
**9:00** Chorale





**ST. PAUL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA 52803



# Start-up Sunday

**SUNDAYS STARTING SEPT. 8:**

**Worship: 7:45, 9, & 11:15 a.m.**

**Learning for all: 10:20-11:05 a.m.**