

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2020

journey



Reason to party

Years ago, I served briefly on the board of an ecumenical campus ministry group at the University of Kansas. Because I volunteered in this capacity, I was invited to an appreciation meal and party in January.

The purpose of the party was to thank those connected to the ministry, whether we were board members, student leaders, or staff. The party was on January 6. In the midst of a very cold winter that year with more snow than eastern Kansas was used to experiencing, we gathered in the home of Thad Holcombe, campus pastor. We gave thanks, but also observed the liturgical season – and day – of Epiphany.

I was aware of Epiphany, at least academically. I remembered studying the three “wise men,” who were probably more like astrologers than royalty. In seminary, we talked about the Magi visiting the Christ child. I remember some of my classmates decrying the absurdity of including these three in our Christmas pageants because the scriptures tell us they probably made their way to Jesus the toddler, not Jesus the infant. But that’s about the only awareness I had, having not grown up in a church that marked time with liturgical celebrations.

And yet, at this party, which was part festive and part ritualistic, I was introduced to a tradition I had never experienced before on Epiphany. The host baked a “King Cake.” Within its dense and frosted goodness was a plastic baby, just a bit bigger than a quarter. We were advised to watch for this baby as we bit into our dessert. Once the baby was found, we were told, its discovery would be announced and celebrated.

I remembered when the “winner,” a graduate student with short brown hair, bit into her slice of King Cake to find the baby. She raised it in the air and all who gathered whooped and hollered. She was presented with a pointed party hat, we were all given noise-makers, and a champagne toast erupted in celebration of the baby found, as well as the projected good fortune for the finder. It was kind of like New Year’s 2.0.

I’ll never forget that party, though it is going on a decade ago, because it introduced me to traditions that were old, but new to me. Not only that – it was fun!

I often think of that party, as bizarre as it seemed in the moment, as a place the church should go more often. Most of the important days that are marked on our liturgical calendars are meant to be “feast days” – a.k.a. “parties.” I’m not saying these are occasions to buy a bunch of disposable décor and plates, overcon-

sume, and glut in our gluttony. Those markers of celebrations often give ‘feast’ a bad name. But more so, a liturgical celebration is a reminder of the radical good news of the gospel, whether it’s a baby messiah coming to us at Christmas, a trio of astrologers following a star to the baby in Epiphany, or dozens of other biblical moments that remind us of God’s grace and that we might observe in our congregations or our households.

I don’t know if I’ll ever attend another Epiphany party – we’ll see. But my hope for this coming year is to pause in wonder of God’s timeless grace and goodness and the ways I might experience them afresh this year. And parties. Maybe there will be more reason to party.



KENDRA THOMPSON
pastor of children & family life



ON THE COVER:
Bridgette Weis

journey

JANUARY 2020
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MISSION
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Youth choir alumni singing rings in the New Year

Welcome the new year at St. Paul with a beloved annual event.

All former Youth Choir singers are invited to join the current Youth Choir for worship on Sunday, Jan. 5. Gather to rehearse a favorite anthem, "Who Is the Lamb?," at 8:20 a.m. in the Chapel. The choir sings during the 9 a.m. service. No need to sign up. Parents: Just spread the word. Questions? Contact Dan Pepper, pepper@stpaulqc.org.

So All May Eat: Serve a meal at Zion Lutheran Church

On Wednesday, Jan. 29, help cook a meal and serve at Zion Lutheran Church at 8th and Marquette streets in Davenport.

Cooks and servers are needed for this six-times-a-year effort. Cooks meet in St. Paul's lower level kitchen at 2 p.m. for meal prep. Servers meet at St. Paul at 5 p.m. for food pickup, then caravan to Zion for serving. Shoppers also are needed to purchase a list of food before cooking day – reimbursement is provided.

Sign up to help at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

Annual meeting set for Feb. 2

St. Paul's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 2, at 10:10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

This meeting includes items of important business: approving the 2020 budget, the review of 2019 financials and annual report, and a vote on the slate of candidates for congregational council, mission board, as well as the endowment, memorial, and nominating committees.

Pastor Peter Marty will present a report, and a year-in-review slideshow will be shown. The church leadership candidates to be considered at the annual meeting are:

- **Church Council:** Jeff Bass, Craig Hellyer, Jill Lechtenberg
- **Mission Board:** Jerry Linn, Pam Long
- **Endowment Committee:** Lori Dryg, Lynne Groskurth
- **Memorial Gifts Committee:** Traci Gerth, Sherry Horan
- **Nominating Committee:** Tom Buhr, Samantha Schulze

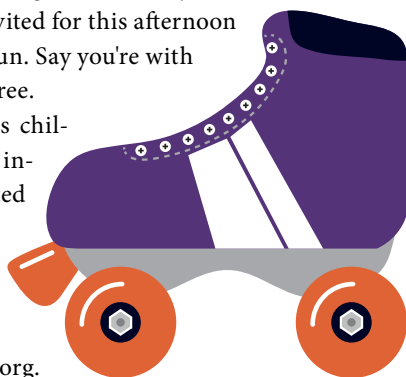
A skating party for all ages

Lace up your skates and come for a St. Paul skate party on Sunday, January 19, from 1-4 p.m. at the Eldridge Community Skatepark. Skaters of all ages are invited for this afternoon of intergenerational roller skating fun. Say you're with St. Paul at the door and the cost is free.

Skates are included, from sizes children's 8 to adult 15; both quad and inline. Please note only cash is accepted at the concession stand.

Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Contact Kendra Thompson with questions at kendra@stpaulqc.org.



Sixth-grade milestone: Digital identity

Sixth grade is a time of great transition for all kids – new schools, new friends, changing bodies, and increasing independence. Some students are well into exploring digital media, such as texting, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, and online gaming.

St. Paul will host a faith milestone for parents and sixth-graders. On Sunday, Jan. 5, 10:20 a.m., in Fellowship Hall, we will gather to talk about creating and maintaining an identity that reflects God in our daily and digital lives. We will explore together the responsibilities carried with each username and interaction. We will talk about practical tips for navigating decisions that accompany digital independence, and offer helpful suggestions to consider.

Each student will receive a gift that will help them remember the trust parents have in their decisions. A special blessing will be offered during the 11:15 a.m. worship service.

Signup online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Questions? Contact Andy Langdon at andy@stpaulqc.org.



ONE-YEAR-OLD MILESTONE ON JAN. 26

Connect and share in the joy and exhaustion of life with a newborn. Learn what it means to form a child's faith.

A gathering for parents of children born in 2019 will be held on Sunday, Jan. 26, 10:20-11:05 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Each child will receive a colorful story Bible and Pastor Sara Olson-Smith will lead a discussion. A photo of all of the babies and parents will be taken.

To sign up, visit stpaulqc.org/signups.

THIS BLESSED EARTH

Writer, photographer spend one year documenting the life of a family farm

Editor's note: Author Ted Genoways discusses how This Blessed Earth came about, and about the stories and themes that emerged. To read more, www.tedgenoways.com

Mary Anne and I set about looking for a farm family that would allow us to do something simple but intrusive: follow their operation from one year to the next, as they went through the cycle most Americans have forgotten — harvest, calving, planting, breeding, corn detasseling, livestock sale, and harvest again.

That's when we met Rick Hammond. Rick grew up on a small ranch in western Nebraska, and for 40 years he has raised cattle and crops on his wife's fifth-generation homestead in York County, Nebraska, with the hope of passing it on to their four children. But as the handoff has grown nearer, their small family farm—and their entire way of life—has increasingly come under siege.

When we first got to know Rick, he and his daughter Meghan had become leading voices of opposition to the Keystone XL pipeline. That project, intended to carry heavy crude pumped from the Alberta tar sands in Canada nearly 2,000 miles to Port Arthur and Houston on the Texas Gulf Coast, was slated to cut through major portions of their family cropland.

Meghan and Rick argued that it would not only slash their production but also posed an existential threat to the Ogallala Aquifer, the underground reservoir of fresh water that most midwestern farmers depend on to irrigate crops and water their cattle. Rick was so determined to stop the project that he agreed to let the anti-pipeline nonprofit Bold Nebraska build a solar-powered barn on land he rented from his in-laws. If he was going to give up farmland, he said, he'd rather lose it to a solar project than to tar sands.

I admired the fierce and outspoken stance that the Hammonds struck — but it also put them at remarkable risk. A neighbor who supported the pipeline abruptly terminated a long-standing tenant contract, which meant that Rick would no longer be able to rent that land for soybean production. At the same time, after nearly a decade of record-high corn and soybean prices, the bottom dropped out of the markets, making it ever harder for small farmers to shoulder their loans — forcing more and more to sell out and dragging down land values.

So, headed into the harvest of 2014, Rick and his family needed everything to go right. Without that money coming in from the rented land, Rick knew that he couldn't afford to buy new machinery for the year, or replace his center-pivot irrigation system. He needed to have a full year of paying down loans, not incurring new debts. He needed a year in which crops came in early and healthy, prices rebounded, equipment held out. And if he was forced to take out more loans, he needed interest rates to stay low.

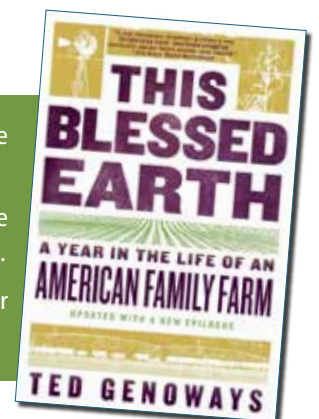
I told Rick and Meghan, as well as Meghan's fiancé, Kyle Galloway, that this would be an ideal year to show readers just how much pressure the average farm family is now under. I asked if Mary Anne and I could be with them for every major event on the farm for the coming 12 months.

To my surprise, they agreed.

This Blessed Earth: A Year in the Life of an American Family Farm by Ted Genoways and Mary Anne Andrei is the 2020 All St. Paul Reads book.

All St. Paul Reads is encouragement for all to read and talk about a single book title in the same year. In 2020, this dinner and discussion event will take place on Thursday, February 13, 6-8 p.m.

This Blessed Earth is available for purchase for \$10 in the St. Paul Book Corner. To help plan for dinner, please RSVP at stpaulqc.org/signups.



WINTER GUIDE

This winter, settle in and be warmed by joyful gatherings. Here's a sampling of what St. Paul people can experience, with more information online at stpaulqc.org and in the weekly *Connections* flyer.

Kids & Families

678 NIGHT

Wednesdays, Jan. 29 & Feb. 26, 6:30-8 p.m.

High-energy games + fun + togetherness + great Bible studies + campfire-style worship = 678. This group for those in grades 6, 7, and 8 meets periodically throughout the year. Contact: Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org.

FAMILY LEARNING EVENT

Sunday, Feb. 16, 10:20-11:05 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Making room for love: How much time do we have with those we love? Time and space seem limited when we subtract work and school, chores and responsibilities, meal and bedtime routines. Maybe the key is not to add more to our full lives, but to see the daily blessing in what already is! Join Pastor Kendra and other leaders in exploring different expressions of love and how to make the most of our time together. All ages welcome. Contact: Kendra Thompson, kendra@stpaulqc.org.



Adults

CC CONVERSATIONS

First Thursday of the month, 6-7:15 p.m., Luther Loft

CC Conversations is an opportunity to discuss faith, politics, and culture, springing from articles and news from *The Christian Century* magazine. Think critically and faithfully about a whole host of contemporary issues. Pastor Peter Marty will facilitate discussion. Contact: Pastor Peter Marty, peter@stpaulqc.org.

HEART. SOUL. MIND.

Thursdays, starting Jan. 9, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

One by one, the prophets of biblical Israel who have books ascribed to them will be our focus through the winter and spring. Who they were, what they said, how they were received, how their books came to be, and what they mean for us — these are all part of understanding our biblical heritage and our own potential for prophetic witness today. Contact: Pastor Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.

THEOLOGY PUB

Second Thursday of the month, 6 p.m., Front Street Brewery

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. Plan to eat or plan to feast on the fellowship. Contact: Pastor Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.

FAITHFUL READERS

Thursday, March 12, 7 p.m., Church House Living Room

Listen to the whisper of God's voice in the pages of good books. The March selection is *Charming Billy* by Alice McDermott. Contact: Katie Hanson, katiehanson@augustana.edu.



WALKING THE GRIEF JOURNEY

Five Sundays, March 1-March 29, 10:20-11:05 a.m., Church House Living Room

This supportive series is for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Explore anger, depression, fear, acceptance, and new strength for a hopeful future. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Lynn Batchelor Robinson, ldbatches@hotmail.com.

PRIMETIME 60+

February, time and date TBA

Prime Time 60+ (for folks 60 and older) will attend the Showchoir Showoff at the Adler Theatre in downtown Davenport in February, with breakfast in advance at Bix Bistro. George & Cindy Bleich, 563-355-4850.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY: PUT ON YOUR OWN OXYGEN FIRST

Second Tuesday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m., Library Commons

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. Childcare available. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

A STAR IS BORN

Bridgette Weis to perform in The Penguin Project's production of "The Lion King Jr."

On the stage at the Brunner Theatre at Augustana College, the smile of Bridgette Weis cannot be mistaken.

Bridgette is one of the cast members of the upcoming performance of "The Lion King Jr.," a production of The Penguin Project of the Quad Cities. The project gives children and young adults with special needs the opportunity to develop creative skills in the theatre arts.

Bridgette will play Baby Nala in the first act and Lioness in the second act for the production, which is set for Jan. 24-Feb. 2. Tickets are already sold out. Rehearsals started in October.

"It makes me feel happy," she said while sitting in the center of the stage.

Penguin beginning

The Penguin Project was born in Peoria, 15 years ago.

Andy Morgan is the founder and director of the Penguin Project. He is professor emeritus of clinical pediatrics and the former head of the Division of Child Development at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria. He has been the primary medical specialist in central Illinois involved in the diagnosis and treatment of children with disabilities for over 35 years.

Known as Dr. Andy, he has been actively involved in community theater for more than 30 years as a director and as a performer. He has more than 20 directing credits including "The King and I," "Gypsy," "Bye Bye Birdie," "Crazy for You," and "Thoroughly Modern Millie." He lists his favorite roles as Atticus Finch in "To Kill a Mockingbird" and Tevye in "Fiddler on the Roof."

Andy created the Penguin Project in 2004 to combine his professional expertise with his passion for theatre to give children with disabilities an opportunity to experience the performing arts. Following the advice of Penguin parents in Peoria, he subsequently developed a

replication process to bring the program to communities around the country.

The Quad Cities chapter was the 13th chapter in the country. Now, the Penguin Project is present in 38 communities, mostly in the eastern half of the United States.

Arrival in QC

A few years ago, Jeff Coussens, who is professor of theatre arts and chair of the theatre department at Augustana College, attended a conference. There, he heard a presentation about the Penguin Project. He knew immediately he wanted to bring a chapter to the Quad Cities.

"What makes the Penguin Project unique is that they do fully mounted productions," he said. "The cast members have a friend on stage with them, shadowing them, helping them learn their lines. From time to time, if a cast member is unable to go on stage, their friend can go on for them as understudy."

Leaders try to match mentors with kids who go to the same school, Coussens said.

The theme song for all chapters is "Don't Stop Believing." Each performance ends with a choreographed rendition of the song, and all Penguin Project participants who are in the crowd are invited to come on stage to sing and dance along.

"The Lion King Jr." is the Quad Cities' chapter's fourth production. It involves 90 families, with Dino and Tina Hayz as the directors. The chapter is for people age 11-22. However, this coming summer, the Penguin Players will be coming to the Quad Cities. The age range for that group is 16-99 (or more).

"I was sold on this the moment I saw the group in Peoria singing 'Don't Stop Believing' and heard the founder talk about the experience," Coussens said. "It's just such an amazing experience, so gratifying

to see families who never, ever thought that they would see their kids in the spotlight on stage - it means so much to them. As someone who is helping to make that happen, it is very fulfilling.”

Play bill

The play bill for the production includes bios for the cast. Bridgette’s bio is spot-on.

Bridgette is super excited to be a part of this performance of "The Lion King Jr." This is her first role on stage in a play. She loves to sing and spend time with her new friends. She lives in Bettendorf with her mom, sister Faith, her pets (Hunter & Scruffy Bubba – the dogs; Geppetto and Star – the cats). She has two more siblings, and a nephew on the way. Her family members are her super star supporters! Bridgette has Williams Syndrome, a genetic deletion involving chromosome 7 (multiple & various genes) which affects all her smooth muscles, her heart, and gives her sensitive ears and a beautiful voice all wrapped up in a small, slight person who has a great big smile on her pixie face and who cares about pretty much everyone.

“Thank you for letting me do this performance” - Bridgette

Being a part of the Penguin Project has given Bridgette the opportunity to transition well out of high school, mom Amy Anderson said. Bridgette really missed the social parts of school – and this experience has given her the opportunity to make lots of new friends.

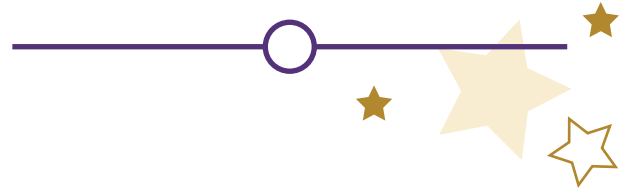
In a bit of a funny twist, Bridgette’s mentor on stage has the same name as her mom.

“It’s been so much fun to watch her be a part of the show,” said Amy, who was ready to buy up tickets as soon as they were available so that family and friends could come watch. “Her confidence has grown – she really loves being on stage.”



“It’s been so much fun to watch her be a part of the show. Her confidence has grown – she really loves being on stage.”

AMY ANDERSON



Penguin Project Statistics

- **96% of surveyed artists and mentors** reported feeling more proud of themselves since being a part of the Penguin Project.
- **86% of artists** reported improvement in doing things on their own since being a part of the Penguin Project.
- **Over 70% of artists** reported finding it easier to be friends with kids without disabilities since being a part of the Penguin Project.
- **100% of participating parents** reported they experienced growth in connections with other families with kids with disabilities, as well as new friendships.
- **80% of parents** reported growth in their children in feeling a sense of belongingness.
- **All participating parents of mentors** reported their children are more accepting of differences in others since being a part of the Penguin Project.

Belonging, connection, faithfulness, grit

With roots in the Lutheran church and a connection to St. Paul, Mosaic serves thousands with disabilities

Axtell, Nebraska, is a town in the south-central part of the state that 726 people call home. One of those people is Paul Schafer.

Paul has lived much of his life in Axtell, a farming community that is the place where an organization called Mosaic began in 1913.

It all started with one Swedish Lutheran pastor, one house, and a belief that people with disabilities had the right to live a happy, thriving, and healthy life.

Today, Mosaic serves people with disabilities, mental and behavioral health needs, and autism, as well as aging adults. A total of 4,500 people are a part of Mosaic programs in 11 states, including Illinois and Iowa. From empowering people to live as independently as possible to 24-hour support, Mosaic offers a wide range of person-centered services. It is based in Omaha.

About 55 years ago, Paul, the son of dearly departed St. Paul members Royce and Celia Shafer, went to live in Axtell when he was four years old. His parents, seeking a place where their child with profound intellectual disabilities could thrive, had found what was then called the Bethphage Mission.

Now 60, Paul is happily at home in Axtell, his sister Ann Nelson said. She was 15 years old when Paul was born.

"He likes to play with objects in his hands," Ann said of her brother, who communicates nonverbally. She lives about two hours away from him in Omaha. "He loves to be in the water. They have a swimming pool there. He likes to hold hands and have his back rubbed and his head rubbed. He's happy there. Mosaic has activities for him during the day. He's gotten very good care there.

"Mosaic is really a terrific place," she said.



"There is a genuine sense of mission at Mosaic, a sense of call. This is something bigger than us, a spiritual component that is driving this."

— David deFreese, vice president of church relations & international programming

For many years, St. Paul benevolence fund of the Daily Ministry Budget has given a gift to Mosaic. In 2019, St. Paul sent \$6,000. Mosaic also is a social ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the denomination to which St. Paul belongs.

History

In 1913, a young Lutheran pastor named K.G. William Dahl was called to serve in Axtell. He had a dear friend named Gustav who had epilepsy, said David deFreese, who is vice president of church relations and international programming for Mosaic. Gustav had a seizure in public and

was incarcerated. When Pastor Dahl went to visit, Gustav was naked, in a cell, and humiliated.

Pastor Dahl gathered his small congregation. Fifty-four donors gave \$1 a piece to rent a house in town for people who faced difficult circumstances. The first residents were Gustav, a person with an intellectual disability, and a person with an addiction to alcohol.

In 1925, a group of like-minded people had a similar vision in the small Nebraska town of Sterling. They created Martin Luther Home, a residential school for children with disabilities. Enthusiastic families sent their

children to Sterling before the building was open. Pastor Julius Moehl and his wife Martha welcomed them to live with their family until the school was ready for them.

From the 1930s-1950s, the two organizations continued to grow. They survived the Dust Bowl, the Great Depression, World War II, and the recovery afterward. With the passage of the Medicaid and Medicare Act of 1965, more funding became available to support desperately needed services. Undaunted by the prospect of increased regulation and oversight, both organizations expanded their services rapidly, growing community-based services in other states for the next three decades.

In 2003, Bethphage and Martin Luther Home united to become Mosaic, David said.

Genuine life of possibilities

David was 6 or 7 years old when his Sunday school went to Axtell to spend time with the people who lived there. He returned during college to work in the summers. Then, after 12 years as the bishop for the Nebraska synod of the ELCA, he decided to return to work for Mosaic.

The organization is in a time of growth, and is shifting its mission to be a healthcare organization while honoring its history of always considering the whole person, including spiritually, he said.

The hope of the church, he believes, is in social ministries. He buys whole-heartedly the theory that every 500 years or so, the church goes through an unsettling. With the reformation just more than 500 years ago, it seems as if that time is now.

“There is a genuine sense of mission at Mosaic, a sense of call,” he said. “This is something bigger than us, a spiritual component that is driving this.”



Mission

Embracing God’s call, Mosaic relentlessly pursues opportunities that empower people.

Vision

We are the changing face of healthcare, passionate about serving the whole person and partnering for quality outcomes.

Values

Belonging, Connection, Faithfulness, Grit

Mosaic continues to be fueled by faith and driven by mission. It relies on a few steadfast principles that have endured for more than a century. These are the “why” of Mosaic:

- The love of Christ compels us to serve people.
- Our faith in God’s call sustains us.
- People matter most and are at the heart of our mission.
- We invite others to be partners in our mission.
- Faithful stewardship of resources creates a legacy that will endure.



new members / DECEMBER 2019



Meg & Jason Ambrosion, Eleanor, Vivian



Kristin & Michael Burchett, Charlotte



Darcie & Bryan Kress, Lauren, Carolyn



Kirste & Ryan Kuntz, Denver



Lynn Lorber, Allie



Michael & Kayla Martinez, Brenley



David & Lori Turner



David Varner

JASON & MEG AMBROSON have two children, Vivian and Eleanor. Jason works in marketing at John Deere and Meg manages the home front. They like to spend time with family and are passionate about food security and education. The message of inclusivity and activities for kids is what brought them to St. Paul.

MICHAEL & KRISTIN BURCHETT are parents to one-year-old Charlotte. Michael is employed with Genesis Health Group as a surgeon and likes to garden and cheer on the Hawkeyes. He is also a pilot. Kristin is a stay-at-home mom and takes an interest in exercise and cares a lot about mission work. They find St. Paul to be a friendly community. Michael is the cousin of Garrett Burchett and family, St. Paul members.

BRYAN & DARCIE KRESS have two daughters, Lauren and Carolyn. Bryan works as an apartment sales specialist with Re/Max and enjoys kayaking and travel. Darcie is a teacher leader with the Pleasant Valley School District and likes to read. What drew them to St. Paul? "The positive energy and good work of the church."

RYAN & KIRSTE KUNTZ are new parents to baby boy Denver. Ryan and Kirste both work at John Deere – Ryan in supply management and Kirste in event planning. They enjoy the outdoors, hiking, and spending time with family. They find St. Paul to be a welcoming community.

LYNN LORBER has two children – Allie and Ryan (not pictured). Lynn is employed at EMJ Metals as a sales supervisor. She is passionate about volunteering and helping in the community. The welcoming atmosphere is what drew her to St. Paul.

MICHAEL & KAYLA MARTINEZ are parents to five-year-old Brenley. Michael works at TCC Verizon and Kayla is a program manager with E2Open. They take an interest in traveling, hunting, fishing, and spending time with family. Kayla is the granddaughter of St. Paul member Maren Moomey.

DAVID & LORI TURNER have five children – Dalin, Luke, Sarah, Hannah, and Matthew. David is a chaplain educator with St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria. Lori works as director of operations at Genesis Health Group. They like to spend their free time together as a family.

DAVID VARNER is a retired engineer and enjoys spending time with family and volunteering. His volunteering activities include scorekeeping for Augustana and ushering at St. Louis Cardinal games. He has three adult children.

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, January 25, or Saturday, February 22, 9-11:30 a.m.

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



Council Notes

The Congregational Council wrapped up 2019 with a dinner meeting at the home of council member Jeannine Crockett.

Council members approved the slate of candidates for council, mission board, and the endowment, memorial gifts, and nominating committees. See page three for the nominees and announcement about the annual meeting on Feb. 2.

Council received updates on St. Paul's affordable housing ministry and news from various committees.

The personnel committee is leading the search process for a replacement to visitation pastor Ron Huber, who retired at the end of December. Candidate interviews are expected to occur in January.

Council reviewed financial pledge commitments to date for 2020, and received a briefing on the first draft outlines of a 2020 budget. Appreciation for members' pledge commitments was shared. The treasurer spoke of hopes for the church finishing 2019 in a strong position.

January learning features two series, film

January learning for teens and adults at St. Paul includes two Sunday-morning series and a film about angst. The Bible study of the 3:16 verses in the bible continues as well.

▶ **In the Chapel** on Sundays, Jan. 5-26, presenters will lead an exploration of *Toward a more peaceable kingdom – Living well with differences*.

The prophet Isaiah envisioned a day when "a wolf will dwell with a lamb and a leopard will take its rest alongside a goat" (11:6). Today it seems unlikely that we will see such harmony in nature, and even less, perhaps, in human society. Whether it is culture wars, polarization, nationalism, or something else, we humans seem bent of dividing ourselves from one another. Explore why that is, and how can people of God can choose a different path with support from social science and scripture.

▶ **In Luther Loft** on Sundays, Jan. 5-19, Jason Mahn, professor of religion at Augustana College, will consider Martin Luther's *The Freedom of a Christian*.

Martin Luther's landmark essay from 1520 begins with a paradox: a Christian is perfectly free, subject to no one, and a Christian is perfectly bound, subject to all. In 20 pages, Luther unpacks this paradox, showing how we achieve our highest freedom and power by binding ourselves to others in service and love. In this three-part class, we will interpret this important work together in historical, theological, and contemporary socio-political contexts. Links to relevant texts can be found at stpaulqc.org/sunday-morning-learning.

▶ **On Sunday, Jan. 26**, St. Paul will offer two showings of *Angst*, a documentary designed to raise awareness around anxiety. The film includes interviews with kids, teens, educators, experts, parents, and a very special interview with Michael Phelps.

The goal specifically is to help people identify and understand the symptoms of anxiety and encourage them to reach out for help. *Angst* screens in schools, communities and theaters around the world. The film and corresponding materials provide tools, resources and above all, hope.

Screenings will be held on Jan. 26 at 10:20 a.m. in Luther Loft and at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Both are free and open to the public.

Adult baptism info session to be held Jan. 26

While traditions like the Lutheran Christian one underscore the grace of God as freely given even to the youngest persons, baptism is not a churchy ritual reserved for infants. It's a blessed way of life and a bonding to God that Jesus invites all to engage.

Pastor Peter Marty will host a baptismal information session for any unbaptized adults on Sunday, Jan. 26, 10:20-11:05 a.m. in the Church House Dining Room. If planning to attend, RSVP online at stpaulqc.org/signups or to Becky Harper at 563-326-3547.



UPCOMING worship

JANUARY 4 & 5

Festival of Epiphany

PREACHING

5:30 Sara Olson-Smith

7:45 Sara Olson-Smith

9:00 Peter W. Marty

11:15 Peter W. Marty

MUSIC

9:00 Youth Choir & Alumni

JANUARY 11 & 12

Baptism of our Lord

PREACHING

5:30 Peter W. Marty

7:45 Peter A. Pettit

9:00 Peter A. Pettit

11:15 Peter W. Marty

MUSIC

7:45 Quartet

9:00 Chorale

JANUARY 18 & 19

Second Sunday after Epiphany

PREACHING

5:30 Katy Warren

7:45 Katy Warren

9:00 Katy Warren

11:15 Katy Warren

MUSIC

7:45 Quartet

9:00 Chorale

JANUARY 25 & 26

Third Sunday after Epiphany

PREACHING

5:30 Peter W. Marty

7:45 Hayden Kvamme

9:00 Peter W. Marty

11:15 Hayden Kvamme

MUSIC

7:45 Quartet

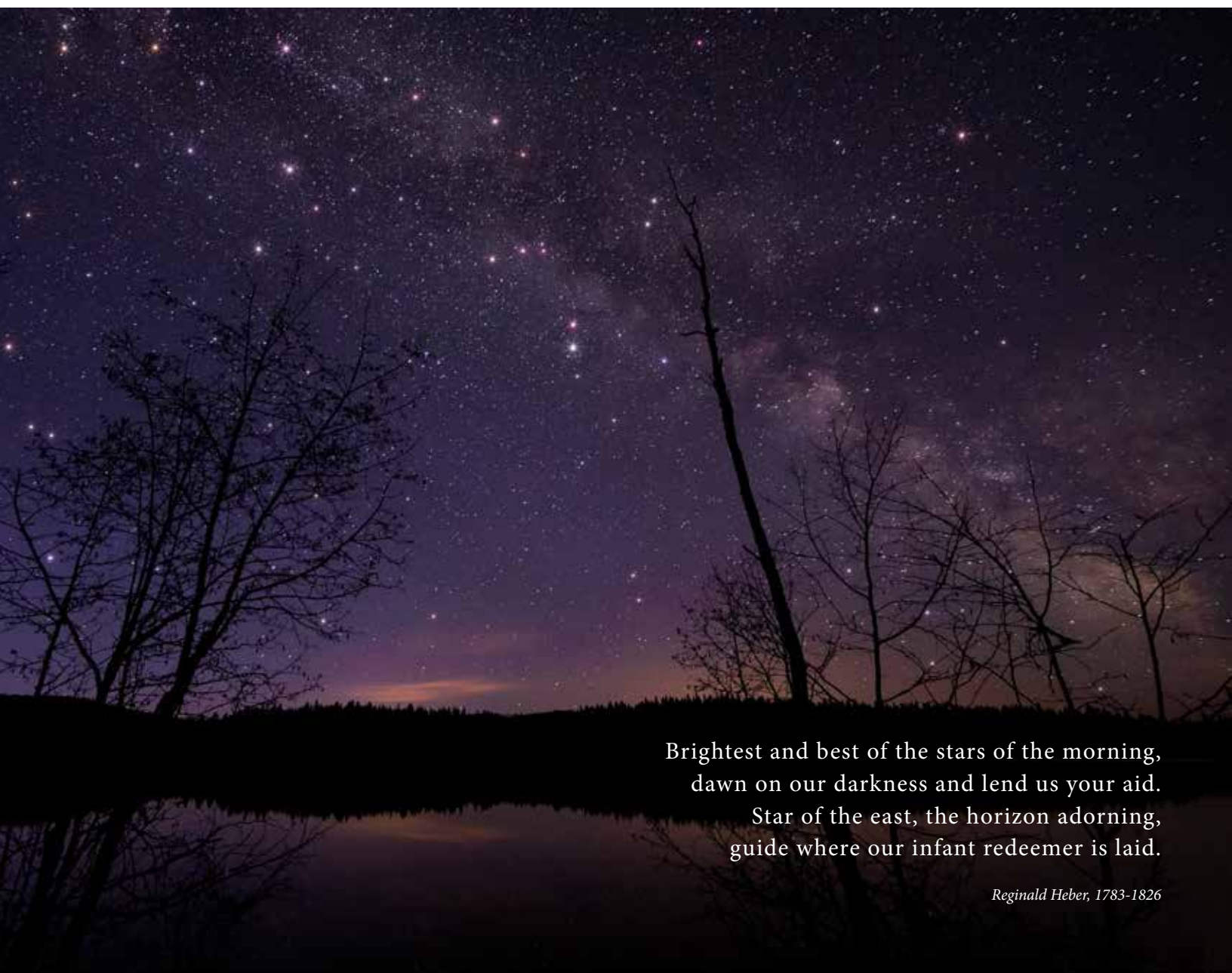
9:00 Chorale, Alleluia choir

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



Brightest and best of the stars of the morning,
dawn on our darkness and lend us your aid.
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
guide where our infant redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber, 1783-1826