

Mattering

"There are some days I wonder if I even matter." That's the sentence I remember most from the lips of the woman in my office reflecting on her post-retirement life.



ON THE COVER:

Noella Zamukunda (center) and her children (top left clockwise): Charlene, Chantal, Rebecca, Rehema, Jerome, and Deborah

journey

FEBRUARY 2020

Volume 7 | Issue 12

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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.

Journey (USPS 8314) is published monthly by St. Paul Lutheran Church ELCA, 2136 Brady St., Davenport, IA, 52803. Periodicals Postage Paid at Davenport, IA.

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to Journey, 2136 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa 52803 I didn't spot any classic signs of depression that day. There was some expected loneliness to her life. Her daughter lives half a continent away. She misses the stimulation of a really neat work environment. But what she really seemed to be expressing a shortage of was meaning.

By all appearances, this is a together woman. She's gracious and kind. Prayer is a deep part of her life. She stretches enough, walks enough, and presumably flosses enough. You won't find her giving tedious organ recitals – those long and boring explanations of pains and ailments that go with aging. She simply wonders if she matters. Mattering involves questions having to do with whether we believe we make any difference to others. It's an acute question for many older adults especially, as life spans extend longer and longer.

John F. Kennedy once spoke of it being insufficient for a great nation "merely to have added new years to life. Our objective," he said, "must also be to add new life to those years." Kennedy was addressing the need to better utilize the energy, talent, and wisdom of older adults. It was an explicit call to infuse new meaning and purpose into the lives of seniors. With such meaning and purpose, surely older adults would discover that they matter. Yet all kinds of people I know – not just the woman in my office – continue to struggle with questions of worth and meaning. "All my life I was taught how to die as a Christian," Billy Graham once said in his 90s. "But no one ever taught me how I ought to live in my later years."

Unless we understand retirement to be mostly a glorification of leisure, or chatter about IRAs, or a strange pursuit of a second adolescence, there are all kinds of things we can do in the second half of life. In order to be interesting people, we have to be interested in others. A good way to cultivate mattering is to allow other people to matter to us. Instead of asking ourselves questions like: How much do others pay attention to me? How interested are they in what I have to say? How important am I to them? ... We ought to be asking: How much do I pay attention to others? How interested am I in what they have to say? How important are they to me?

I was talking with a lunch buddy in our congregation the other day. "Lunch buddies" are those adults of any age who take time out of their day a couple times a month to share lunch with a Madison elementary school kid across the street from church. It's not strenuous work or heroic work; it's just happy work. These lunch buddies are happy people for a reason: They're investing in the next generation. Visit with one of them if you doubt my assessment of their happiness. They're busy falling in love with kids who, for of all kinds of



reasons, wonder if anybody notices them or cares about them. They're helping kids know that they matter, even if their home life may be really tough. There's also a serendipitous side benefit that comes to the adult. These lunch buddies discover that mattering is contagious. It's not a feature of an individual's life – something we quest for and eventually find in sufficient measure. No, it's a feature of a life that is in relationship with other people, in this instance, with much younger people.

Generative people are those who understand how much they have received in life from those who have mentored or shaped them, and who in turn want to nurture those who will outlast them. If you have a hankering to discover more about mattering, and what it means (over a sandwich) to matter to someone much smaller than you, be in touch with Dana Welser – dana@stpaulqc.org. She's our amazing Neighborhood School Partnership coordinator who herself happens to matter to a lot of people.

PETER W. MARTY senior pastor

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St. Paul to hold annual meeting Feb. 2

St. Paul's annual meeting will be 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

Ash Wednesday services on Feb. 26

Christians gather on Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of the Lenten journey to Easter. Pastor Peter Marty preaches for these services of Holy Communion on Wednesday, Feb. 26, 12 noon and 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

On this solemn day you'll receive, if you'd like, an ashen cross on the forehead reminding us of our frailty and sin. It's an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness.

12 noon: This 45-minute service is a meditative respite in the work day.

7 p.m.: The evening service includes music by the Chorale, along with a message for children.

Walking the grief journey to begin March 1

This supportive and compassionate series is for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Explore anger, depression, fears, acceptance, and new strength for a hopeful future. The first session will be Sunday, March 1, 10:20-11:05 a.m. in the Church House Living Room, continuing through Sunday, March 29.

Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Lynn Batcher Robinson, ldbatcher@hotmail.com.



FAMILY BIBLE STUDY TO BE HELD FEB. 16

Families with children of all ages are invited to a special intergenerational Sunday morning learning on 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. Join Pastor Kendra and other leaders in exploring different expressions of love and how to make the most of our time together.

This family learning activity will take the place of regular Sunday school. Children should be accompanied by an adult. Contact: Kendra Thompson, kendra@ stpaulqc.org.



Preschool registration set for 2020-2021

St. Paul Lutheran Preschool provides a rich variety of age-appropriate developmental activities in a Christian atmosphere. Opportunities abound for growth and learning for kids ages 2-5.

Fall 2020 registration for St. Paul Preschool will take place February 18-19, 9 a.m.-12 noon, for currently enrolled students. New students will register the week of February 24. If you are interested in enrolling your child, please contact Karen Strusz, 326-3547, ext. 219, or karenstrusz@ stpaulqc.org.

Social worker available for appointments

St. Paul's social worker, Angie Vaaler, is available to supplement the counseling services of our pastors.

Her services to St. Paul members and the Madison Elementary School community assist those who may be going through a difficult



transition, struggling in relationships, experiencing depression or anxiety, working through some trauma, or in need of a listening ear.

On staff part-time, Angie is available for appointments: 563-326-3547 ext. 312.



Three Passions in Germany

"Passion" is a fascinating word. Long before it was a perfume, it started life in Latin and meant "suffering." Since the medieval period, its original meaning has been applied specifically to Jesus' suffering, so that we speak of "Christ's Passion" and observe "Passion Sunday" at the beginning of Holy Week. As it moved through French to English, passion came to refer also to any strong emotion that one experiences or suffers, which may give one an intense focus or drive.

Each of these meanings – drive, suffering, and Christ's final journey – will offer opportunity for learning and reflection on a trip that St. Paul teaching pastor Peter A. Pettit will lead in early August. Planned sites are italicized in story.

The Passion of Martin Luther

Martin Luther's passionate **drive** was for the clear preaching of the good news of God's forgiving grace and love in language that all could understand. It set him at odds with the pope and emperor and led to the Protestant movement within western Christianity.

Travelers will visit key sites of Luther's 16th-cenutry life and work. He was declared an outlaw of the empire in *Worms*, hidden in the *Wartburg Castle in Eisenach*, where he translated the Bible into common German, and he taught and preached at the University of *Wittenberg*. Born in *Eisleben* in 1483, he also died there on a visit in 1546. His early training as a monk took place at the Augustinian monastery in *Erfurt*.

The meaning of Luther's work for German national identity and the shaping of modern Christianity come into focus in a seminar with a leading German theologian and in discussions led by Pastor Pettit.



The Passion of European Jews

One unfinished piece of reforming the Christian church that remained after Luther's time is the painful and sometimes violent rupture between Christians and Jews. Despite **suffering** and being persecuted under a Christian portrayal as stubborn, unbelieving, and degenerate, European Jews have sustained their faith and life as the people of God for more than 2,000 years.

The great Jewish philosopher Martin Buber reflected on Jewish-Christian relations in Worms, where the reconstructed synagogue of the magisterial 11th-century scholar, Rabbi Shlomo ben Yitzhak, stands. Nearby is Heppenheim and the headquarters of the International Council of Christians and Jews, located in the former Buber family home. Leipzig holds the fascinating intersection of the St. Thomas church where Johann Sebas-







tian Bach was organist and the largest Jewish community in central Germany. Its 19th-century Brody synagogue is a recently-restored example of a classic form. In Prague, Czech Republic, stands one of the most extensive Jewish communities remaining from the days of high Jewish culture in medieval and early modern Europe. Near Munich, Germany, in Dachau, stands the memorial site of the first Nazi concentration camp, with a design and exhibitions developed by surviving prisoners.

Presentations by local Jewish and Christian leaders will offer perspectives on the history and contemporary dynamics of Jewish communities and Jewish-Christian relations in this part of Europe.

The Passion Play of Oberammergau

Since 1634 the Bavarian Alpine village of Oberammergau has presented the story of Christ's final journey. The 5,000 villagers produce it every 10 years to fulfill the vow made by their ancestors when they prayed for relief from the 1633 plague and saw God's grace in their survival. As a spectacle and religious experience, it has been the model for dozens of passion plays around the world, including famous ones in Bloomington, Illinois, Eureka Spring, Arkansas, and Spearfish, South Dakota.

The play became notorious in the 20th century as an example of unreflective anti-Jewish attitudes. Beginning in 1990, the current director, Christian Stückl, has gradually transformed it into a more authentic presentation of the Jesus' life and death, caught in a recognizable power struggle between Jewish

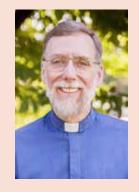
and Roman authorities in 1st-century Jerusalem. From that presentation also emerges the deep spiritual meaning of the story for Christian life and faith.

The play will bring this journey to an inspiring conclusion with its 5-hour performance (with a 3-hour intermission for dinner!). The travel group will also meet privately with director Christian Stückl and one of the two actors who portray Jesus, and enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of the playhouse complex.

Three Passions in Germany

Trip dates are August 3-14, 2020. For full itinerary, costs, and sign up, visit stpaulqc.org/signups. For more information, contact Peter Pettit, teaching pastor, at ppettit@stpaulqc.org or at 563-326-3547 ext. 237.





Peter Pettit, teaching pastor, is a leader in Christian-Jewish engagement, including the programs of the International Council of Christians and Jews. He is currently part of an advisory group to the Oberammergau Passion Play. Prior to the trip and along the way, he will lead learning about the sites, history, spiritual opportunities, and theological significance of the places, people, and ideas that travelers encounter. As noted, several guest presenters will also be highlighted at key places. The journey is designed to include encounter with local Christians and Jews as well as to provide some leisure time for individual exploration.



Tapestry Farms seeks a community where refugees and neighbors can flourish together.

Their plane arrived at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2016. From the gate walked seven people – six kids and their mom, refugees originally from the war-torn country of Democratic Republic of Congo.

A crew from St. Paul Lutheran and World Relief Moline, a refugee resettlement agency, helped welcome them that night, with snacks and basic greetings in Swahili. After a van ride to Rock Island and some signatures on required paperwork, the family settled into their new home in their new country after 11 years of living in a refugee camp in Uganda.

Noela, Charlene, Chantal, Deborah, Jerome, Rebecca, Rehema – each had one backpack to their name.

Through learning the bus and the grocery store, going

to doctor's offices and school registration, it became clear that gaps existed in the Quad Cities for refugee families who face significant barriers to rebuilding their lives. The short-term welcome is good. The long-term welcome lacked.

Ten months after Noela and her kids arrived, Ann McGlynn, director of communication at St. Paul, incorporated Tapestry Farms. Tapestry Farms earned its nonprofit status in 2018. The organization now works with seven refugee families in the Quad Cities. They are from Somalia, Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Burundi. They lived for as many as 20 years in camps in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, and Rwanda.

This year, the goal is that the organization's fledgling business enterprises will take root – including an urban farm, sewing business, and coffee roasting operation that will hire refugees.

All along the way, St. Paul people have played important roles in the lives of Noela's family and now, the Tapestry Farms families, showing kindness and care – from making handmade quilts and stocking caps, to delivering used furniture and appliances, to ensuring that all have food to eat, a community who loves them, and a place to call home.

"The ways that people have cared are as countless as they are meaningful," said Ann, who continues her work as director of communication at St. Paul while also leading Tapestry Farms as executive director. Specifically, the small but mighty team of people who surround Noela's family are especially deserving of gratitude. "This is all built on the belief that people who have resources, power, and privilege must ensure that people who do not have as much in terms of resources, power, and privilege are offered the same opportunities to thrive. We're stronger as a community when more people can reach their goals."

Advocate and encourage

Refugees are people who were forced to flee their home country because of violence and persecution. They often spend years in refugee camps before resettle-



ment in a third country. They come to the Quad Cities, part of a welcoming network of communities nationwide. For initial resettlement, refugees have little choice on where they are assigned to live.

Tapestry Farms advocates and encourages as refugees seek work, education, housing, medical and mental health care, citizenship, and community. The mission is to empower refugees to connect, contribute, and thrive. What does that mean?

Connect – Tapestry Farms seeks to open access to the resources already available in the Quad Cities for refugees. Tapestry Farms is built on a spirit of cultural humility, relationships, and collaboration.

Contribute – The people of Tapestry Farms are recognized as individuals with gifts, resilience, and strength. Our fledgling social enterprises offer an opportunity for refugees to earn a living.

Thrive – A thriving life is a self-determined life. Perhaps that means English language classes in the morning and tending a community garden in the afternoon. It could be children taking part in soccer teams, gymnastics lessons, summer camp, or art classes. Or, it can mean pursuing mental health treatment for trauma.

Tapestry Farms also lives by a set of values.

- **Accompaniment:** We walk with refugees as they embark upon their new lives.
- Encouragement: We recognize, respect, and celebrate the gifts of refugees.
- **Resourcefulness:** We understand and engage the resources available to refugees.
- **Humility:** We have a lot to learn about the culture and experiences of refugees.
- **Hope:** We long for the day when resettled families find home once again.

Thank goodness we said yes

The story of how this all came to be could fill a book. That might happen someday. But for now, what we all know is this: Thank goodness St. Paul said yes to Noela's family. And thank goodness they said yes to St. Paul. Because of that, we:

Experienced a 20-year-old find her niche, use her skills and contribute to our community by taking care of community gardens. Witnessed an 18-year-old sit down next to a newcomer to church and quietly welcome her in Swahili. Cheered when a 13-year-old landed the backflip she worked so hard on. Been in the bleachers for a 11-year-old's baseball games. Celebrated when an 9-year-old graduated from her English Language Learner studies. Danced with a 6-year-old at her school Valentine's dance. And over time, we started to see hope that a single mom with six kids felt at home.





Tapestry Farms awarded grant from ELCA World <u>Hunger</u>

Tapestry Farms is one of several organizations nationwide that will receive funding in 2020 from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) World Hunger organization. By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, the organization meets basic needs and recognizes the universal human right to food.

But ending hunger is about more than food. By connecting people with education, health care, and sources of income, long-term, sustainable change can be accomplished.

The ELCA is active in 60 countries through World Hunger.

All midweek Lenten offerings at St. Paul (in envelopes or cash) will be given to ELCA World Hunger. St. Paul aims again to exceed \$20,000. St. Paul also gives to Tapestry Farms through the Daily Ministry Budget benevolence fund.

Leaders from Tapestry Farms and Christian Care, the two local organizations that will receive funding through the domestic hunger grants of ELCA World Hunger, will speak during Sunday morning learning during Lent.

- ► Tapestry Farms, Sunday, March 1, 10:20 a.m., Chapel
- ► Christian Care, Sunday, March 15, 10:20 a.m., Chapel

Learn more about Tapestry Farms and its mission at **tapestryfarms.org**.

Snapshots of St. Paul

February is annual meeting time at St. Paul. It gives the congregation a chance to celebrate 2019 and look forward to 2020. These photos represent some of our most favorite snapshots of 2019. You can see more on Instagram at Instagram.com/stpaulgc.



Quilters & kids: With fabric dyed by survivors of gender-based violence in Tanzania, the St. Paul quilters showed preschoolers how to create art and warmth.



Sunny winter day: The snow and cold can be quite warm, with the sun and St. Paul in the frame.



A growing garden: Veggies grew to feed hungry people in

the St. Paul neighborhood.



Water slide!: It was cold, but gosh, was it fun! Teenagers slid their way down a massive water slide at the end of VBS week.









Stained glass light: How beautiful when the sunshine hits the stained glass in the Sanctuary.



Hello to a new adventure: The pastoral residency program brings the gift of first-call pastors. But then, we must say good-bye.





Breaking ground on a Habitat home: A new home for a family is under construction, with St. Paul people offering gifts of drywalling, framing, and painting.

Good morning, St. Paul: Early one morning, a pastor with a penchant for taking photos captured this beautiful sunrise.



Cleaning trash, taking **care:** With picker-uppers and trash bags, this crew and others gave hours ensuring that the St. Paul campus and neighborhood are garbage-free and beautiful.

Big umbrella: Sometimes, the most interesting weather hits when St. Paul people come to worship. And sometimes, a really big umbrella saves the day.



Abandoned no more: Filled with debris and empty for more than a decade, this Davenport house is undergoing a transformation for a Madison Elementary





Singing at fall start-up: The joy and community of singing together is apparent when summer becomes fall, and the adult and children's choirs return to create music.



Digging in Appalachia: Crews traveled to Appalachia to make homes warmer, safer, and drier – knowing that home can mean everything.



Silent Night: In five services, St. Paul people and guests celebrate Christmas joy and a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes.





ROLLER SKATING FUN

A little bit of fun with the Chicken Dance, a few spins around during the Hokey Pokey, a couple of first-time skaters getting their wheels under them, and lots and lots of smiles there's just something about spending an afternoon with friends roller skating. Kids and adults braved the cold one January afternoon to come and have some good old fashioned fun.













Council Notes

The congregation will consider approval of a \$2.8 million daily ministry budget in 2020 at the Feb. 2 annual meeting, as recommended by the Congregational Council.

The proposed 2020 budget represents a slight increase over 2019. Proposed benevolence and mission giving – money to outside initiatives that support local, national, and international work – remains more than 20 percent of the budget, or approximately \$568,000.

St. Paul generosity through benevolence giving will support 50 organizations. The Madison Elementary Neighborhood School Partnership and mission service trips are also included in the calculation.

The budget is crafted around the faithful pledging of St. Paul people. For 2020, 1,098 pledges created the foundation for our daily ministry budget, with an average household pledge of \$2,300. The council ex-

pressed gratitude for the serious commitment of all St. Paul members.

The council approved the hiring of Kristine Dohrmann as St. Paul's new visitation pastor. She is stepping into the role formerly held by now-retired Pastor Ron Huber. Her work will include visiting seniors who live in care facilities, cannot regularly attend church, or are alone in their independence. She also serves as part-time pastor at Zion Lutheran in Princeton, Iowa. She will begin at St. Paul on Feb. 13.

The council appointed Doug Reiling, an accountant, and Randy Miller, a retired banker, to serve on the finance committee. Stepping away from leadership there is Curt Oppel. For personnel committee, the council appointed Laura Scott and John Foley. Jenny Molyneaux and Adam Hass are completing their terms on that committee.

February learning features a variety of topics

The learning calendar for February is a varied assortment of learning opportunities. Please note: Sunday morning learning for adults will not be held on Sunday, Feb. 2, due to the annual meeting.

February 9

Environmental theology: Genesis 1 and 2 show God creating our natural environment before humans enter the picture. Yet Christian theologies have only recently begun to focus on the environment and its indispensable place in God's story. Fr. Bud Grant, St. Ambrose University. In the Chapel.

Make It OK: This initiative helps to educate and begin conversations about mental illness in ways that reduce stigma. Start by understanding more about mental illness. Then learn how to respond constructively and with kindness when someone opens up about their mental illness. And if you have a mental illness yourself, learn more about sharing your own story. Beth Laureijs, health and wellness educator. In Luther Loft.

For God so loved the world, and other 3:16s: Pastor Hayden Kvamme. In Room 208.

February 16

The Schnekloth story: One hundred sixty years ago, Heinrich Schnekloth bought 80 acres of farmland near Eldridge. Now with seven generations, Schnekloth Farms is a large grain-farming endeavor that utilizes the latest technology and smart business practices with a foundation of hard work. Bring your questions to this conversation with the Schnekloths. In the Chapel.

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. Explore different expressions of love and how to make the most of our time together. This family learning activity will take the place of regular Sunday school for kids. Children should be accompanied by an adult.

For God so loved the world, and other 3:16s: Pastor Peter W. Marty. In Room 208.

February 23

Journaling — A Lenten practice: Lent is a time when Christians have focused on reflection and self-examination. One practice that supports those activities is daily journaling — using the Bible as a stimulus and mirror for our lives and concerns. Writing changes how we think, as we see words land on the page and consider how our thoughts will come to expression. It also gives us a record of the Lenten journey as it is lived. Katie Hanson, Augustana College. In the Chapel.

Affordable housing update: Affordable housing is a critical issue in our region and a ministry focus of St. Paul. Get the latest details on both the congregation's work on a Madison school neighborhood renovation project and community-wide long-term planning. John De Taeye, Humility Homes, and Angie Vaaler, St. Paul social worker/counselor. In Luther Loft.

For God so loved the world, and other 3:16s: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith. In Room 208.

UPCOMING worship

FEBRUARY 1 & 2

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Annual Meeting, 10:10 a.m.

PREACHING

5:30 Sara Olson-Smith

7:45 Sara Olson-Smith

9:00 Peter W. Marty

11:15 Sara Olson-Smith

MUSIC

9:00 Chorale

FEBRUARY 8 & 9

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany New Member Sunday, 11:15 a.m.

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, Cantate choir

FEBRUARY 15 & 16

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

PREACHING

5:30 Hayden Kvamme

7:45 Katy Warren

9:00 Hayden Kvamme

11:15 Katy Warren

MUSIC

7:45 Quartet

9:00 Chorale

FEBRUARY 22 & 23

Transfiguration of our Lord

PREACHING

5:30 Sara Olson-Smith

7:45 Peter W. Marty

9:00 Sara Olson-Smith

11:15 Peter W. Marty

MUSIC

7:45 Quartet

9:00 Chorale, Jubilate choir

FEB. 29 & MARCH 1

First Sunday in Lent

PREACHING

5:30 Katy Warren

7:45 Peter W. Marty

9:00 Peter W. Marty

11:15 Katy Warren

MUSIC

7:45 Quartet

9:00 Chorale, Alleluia choir



2136 Brady Street Davenport, IA 52803

This Blessed Earth

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY FARM

All St. Paul Reads | Thursday, Feb. 13, 6-8 p.m.

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. This year's presenter for the evening of discussion and dinner is Matt Russell, executive director of Iowa Interfaith Power & Light and a fifth-generation Iowa farmer.

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**.

