

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2020

journey



Resourcefulness and humility

Plenty of sad and worrisome stories flood the airwaves in these Coronavirus times. Most of us need some escape from the deluge of news. The only other screen experience that approximates our undivided attention to an event for weeks on end would be the Olympics.



ON THE COVER:
Blooming crocuses in the yard of Lauren Brown, artistic director.

journey

APRIL 2020
Volume 8 | Issue 2

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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

But the Olympics have been canceled this year. So, we're left with an abundance of time to view news reports of stricken people dying lonely deaths, whole communities demonstrating their greed over toilet paper, angry and frustrated hospital workers, and heartbreaking stories of jobs lost, families separated, and businesses closed. Many of us find ourselves saying, "I've never seen anything like this before," which is as much an understatement as it is the truth.

There are also beautiful stories arising from this global pandemic. We should not forget them. People are rising to meet the needs of scared neighbors who are trapped in isolation. New virtual communities are springing up like wildflowers in the desert. Stores have set aside shopping hours for seniors with compromised health. Distilleries have transformed whiskey fermentation processes into hand sanitizer production lines. Twelve-step programs have moved online to hold precarious lives together in new ways. Virtual campfire events, complete with ghost stories and recipes for making indoor s'mores, are getting streamed to homebound families. On and on the uplifting stories go.

Depending on what we notice or look for in the news these weeks when COVID-19 is on the rise, we can easily get discouraged or inspired. Some stories deliver a mixture of both emotions. Here's one to which a friend alerted me:

Dr. Rachel Hunt is a neurosurgeon in her third year of residency at Henry Ford Hospital in downtown Detroit. She's frustrated by the dwindling supply of surgical masks available to the medical staff there. So, she's doing her part to address the desperate shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE). Like countless healthcare workers across the country, Dr. Hunt puts herself at significant risk on a daily basis in order to face the rising tide of sickness in the midst of a critical shortage of PPE. Every night that she has a wisp of energy, Hunt puts her operating room suturing skills to work sewing homemade surgical masks. She cuts up Oreck vacuum cleaner bags to insert inside the cloth masks she has stitched together. An inserted pipe cleaner becomes the adjustable nosepiece. Shoelaces serve as the ties to tuck behind the ears.

Something is deeply wrong with this picture. That a neurosurgeon should have to sit at a sewing machine after completing a 24-hour on-call shift, just to sew vac-

uum cleaner bags into homemade masks – that's scandalous. That supply chains could be so wretchedly broken, and federal coordination efforts so woefully inadequate that physicians and nurses would be left wearing these marginally safe improvised devices – that's an abomination. Who

would've guessed that the high cost of medical school is to help physicians learn to cut up vacuum cleaner bags?

Setting aside outrage and disgust, let's not miss the positive takeaways from this young doctor. I see two things: First, Rachel is exceedingly resourceful. Her creativity and shrewd spirit suggest to me that she is unwilling to capitulate to the pressures around her. Second, she's demonstrating what it's like to behave as if nothing is beneath her – a nice virtue when there are more important things to behold than self-importance. Resourcefulness and humility are huge assets when in the midst of a crisis. If Rachel Hunt's personal example can inspire others of us to do what we must do for the sake our neighbors in these times, I'm delighted to share her story.

PETER W. MARTY
senior pastor

P.S. to St. Paul people: Thanks for your spirit of community despite our physical separation. So many beautiful gestures and kindnesses are happening amongst the people of this congregation every day. It's impossible to describe the full texture of all these connections. But keep up your love for the Lord and support for your church. We need you. With pews empty and our public activities shut down, your financial faithfulness is more important than ever. Thanks for your own resourcefulness and expressions of humility. They mean a lot.



VISITATION PASTOR:

Kristine Dohrmann

Pastor Kristine began work as St. Paul's visitation pastor in February

Tell us about your family.

My husband, Jon and I have been married for over 30 years. We have three children. Liz and her boyfriend, Spencer live in Denver. Matt and Mary will be married this month and live in Davenport. Our youngest, Nick lives in Ottumwa. We also have a one-year-old Golden Retriever, Ripley.

Jon works for John Deere as internal audit manager. After being gone from the Quad Cities for 15 years, we're glad to be back close to our extended family. Jon's parents live in Davenport and my parents live in New Windsor, Illinois.

As a family we enjoy attending Iowa State home football games, relaxing in our swimming pool, and vacationing together. We also like playing cards, bowling, hiking, biking, golfing, and visiting craft breweries.

How did you become a pastor?

Being a pastor is a second vocation for me. After working in the business world, I spent two years working at our home church, Grace Lutheran, Davenport, as director of volunteer and small group ministry. One day my pastor said, "I believe you're being called into ministry." This was just before our family moved to the Raleigh, North Carolina, area.

I originally understood the call to public ministry as a lay professional, an Associate in Ministry (AIM), now Deacon. I at-

tended Campbell University Divinity School (CUDS) in Buies Creek, North Carolina, which was near our home. I received a Master of Arts in Christian Education degree and was approved as an AIM in 2008.

While waiting for a call to serve, I discerned I wasn't finished preparing for ministry and was being called to ordained ministry as a pastor. That meant more school, so I attended Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina, for a year to fulfill my Lutheran requirement. I served as a chaplain intern at WakeMed hospital, Raleigh and returned to CUDS, where I completed my Master of Divinity degree in December 2010.

Just as I finished my degree, we moved back to Iowa, this time to the Des Moines area. I completed my pastoral internship at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Ankeny. I was ordained in 2013 and served as pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Knoxville, Iowa. In 2017, I was pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Davenport. After serving as interim pastor in the Northern Illinois Synod and doing pulpit supply, I was called this past fall to serve as half-time pastor at Zion Lutheran Church, Princeton, Iowa.

What intrigues you about St. Paul? What are you looking forward to?

St. Paul has a wonderful reputation in the Quad Cities for being a vibrant church,



helping people grow and serve others as disciples of Jesus Christ. The visitation pastor position shows the commitment and care to all St. Paul disciples, even those who can no longer come and join others in worship as often as they would like. The part-time position at St. Paul fits nicely with my call to Zion and allows me to serve in full-time ministry again.

I love to hear people's stories — the stories of their childhood, families, vocation, and their stories of faith. Who taught you about Jesus? How did your community of faith nurture and support you through the highs and lows of life? What's your favorite hymn? I also feel called to help people live a life of faith in their daily lives. How did you experience God's grace today? Who's our neighbor and how can they be encouraged?

The dean of my divinity school would call our special days of celebration, High and Holy Days. I am humbled and honored to serve the church as an ordained minister of word and sacrament. When I preside over communion, I consider it a High and Holy moment. Whether communion is being celebrated in the sanctuary, at a kitchen table or bedside, it's a holy moment. In communion we are reminded of God's promises through the crucified and risen Christ. In this mystery of faith, we are assured of God's forgiveness and get to taste the goodness of God's loving grace.



Kristine: Third from the right with her family

Worship. Connect. Help.

WORSHIP

In-person worship and activities suspended through April

Continuing the attempts to lessen the impact of Coronavirus on our community and health care system, in-person worship and public activities at St. Paul remain suspended through April 30. Exact worship plans for May will be shared as health department recommendations evolve. Preschool will follow state guidelines — school is now closed through at least April 13.

Online worship, learning, and fellowship opportunities online will continue.

Holy Week begins on April 5 with Palm Sunday and concludes with the joy of Easter Sunday, April 12. Enjoy participating in online worship from your own home.

Palm Sunday, April 5: We won't be waving palm branches to signal Jesus' triumphant final entry into Jerusalem. But sit near a green plant, or put a coat on the chair next to you (since cloaks covered the

path Jesus trod) and enjoy the power of Palm Sunday worship and what it means for us.

Maundy Thursday, April 9: We remember the Last Supper of Jesus' earthly ministry differently this year. Instead of gathering at church, we go online to experience our own breakfast and supper tables of meaning and togetherness — all this through prayer, reflection, and music.

Good Friday, April 10: This is crucifixion day. The spiritual goodness of it involves the undying love our Lord displays for us. So light a candle before going online. Be ready for holy music, stirring scripture, and prayers we need to take seriously.

Easter Sunday, April 12: You've never celebrated Easter quite like this year. But worship online with the rest of St. Paul as we reckon with the joy of a Lord whom death could not pin down. Who knows what all will happen in this service. The important thing is that you be included.

CONNECT

Online

St. Paul people can connect in a variety of ways with worship and learning, even though we cannot be together. Please like, subscribe, and follow to keep in the loop. Choose one or a few that best fit how you prefer to engage digitally.



Website: stpaulqc.org



Weekly enews: Sign up at bit.ly/stpaulenews



Facebook: facebook.com/stpaulquadcities



Vimeo: vimeo.com/stpaulquadcities



Youtube: bit.ly/stpaulyoutube



Twitter: [@stpaulqc](https://twitter.com/stpaulqc)



Instagram: [stpaulqc](https://www.instagram.com/stpaulqc)

St. Paul also has a Zoom video conference account that can be used for groups to meet online. From Bible study to a young adults trivia night, St. Paul people are finding new and interesting ways to connect with this tool. Message Destiny Ellingsworth to set up a meeting for your group, destiny@stpaulqc.org.

The old fashioned ways

St. Paul people can stay connected in a couple of good old fashioned ways as well.

Radio broadcast: Tune in on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. on WOC Radio, 1420AM. This outreach, which broadcasts the previous week's worship, blesses many of our older and homebound members. The broadcast can also be heard worldwide at iheartradio.com.

Prayer chain: The Prayer Chain works quietly and steadily behind the scenes. If you have a prayer request, call the Prayer Chain. It may be for a problem or illness, or in praise or thanksgiving. No request is too small. Requests are worded for confidentiality. Contact Karin Hanson to add a prayer request, tkmax2502@gmail.com or 563-528-2064.

HELP

Donate blood — A St. Paul tradition

St. Paul hosts two blood drives a year for the Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center. On average, St. Paul people donate about 40 units of blood at each of the two blood donor days. We hope we will still be able to hold our spring drive, now set for the afternoon and evening of May 20.

If you plan to give on May 20, great! We still have our goal of 40 units for that day — a goal that will be really important to meet. The blood drive is important in order to help keep the supply steady. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.

If you decide to donate blood to help the blood center maintain adequate levels during the Coronavirus response, mention that you are giving on behalf of St. Paul Lutheran Church. To sign up to give at one of the two centers in Davenport or the center in Moline, visit bloodcenter.org.



Madison Market continues feeding people

As of publication time, the Madison Market, which nourishes Madison Elementary School families and people connected to St. Paul, continued its work through the pandemic.

A crew of volunteers gathered at the end of March to feed 89 families in the community. They observed strict adherence to health and social distancing guidelines.

Using a drive-through procedure, each family received an abundance of food to keep stomachs full during this time of uncertainty. The food was donated from Riverbend Food Bank.

"Thank you, all, for work and presence and prayers and support," said Dana Welser, coordinator of St. Paul's neighborhood school partnership. "A small but mighty team kept the six feet distancing rule while packing with care. So many families said they didn't know what they were going to do without this support. Our God and God's people shined bright."



Supporting needs for health care workers

The Quad-Cities COVID-19 Coalition is accepting donations of supplies through the Salvation Army office, 100 Kirkwood Blvd., Davenport. Drop off can be made Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Calling ahead, and patience, is recommended: 563-324-4808.

As of the time of publication of this edition of *Journey*, the coalition was asking for supplies to prepare should the number of people with COVID-19 rise sharply in the coming weeks. The list of needs will be updated at genesishhealth.com/coronavirus.

Suggested donation items as of March 24 were:

- ▶ Bleach wipes
- ▶ Anti-microbial hand soap
- ▶ Spools of one-quarter to three-quarter inch elastic of any color. For people who would like to sew, recommended patterns are below. However, all sewn masks will be accepted.
- ▶ N95 face mask covers: bit.ly/n95covers
- ▶ Basic face masks: bit.ly/basicmasks

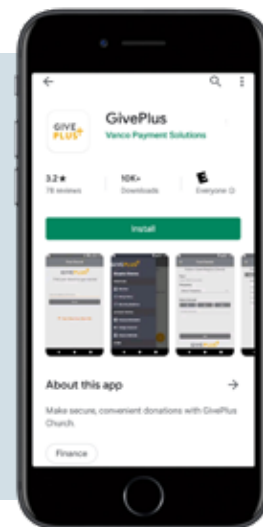
GIVING TO ST. PAUL *from home*

Thank you for continuing your gifts to St. Paul. They're invaluable for ensuring our ministry and avoiding staff reductions.

St. Paul people can mail their offerings to 2136 Brady Street, Davenport, IA 52803. They can give online at stpaulqc.org/give-online. Or, they can download a new-to-St.-Paul app on a mobile device from our secure gifts processor, Vanco.

The GivePlus online app is one easy way to give. Just download the app, find St. Paul Lutheran by typing in the 52803 zip code, then follow the prompts and give.

Questions? Contact Paula Durham, business manager, at paula@stpaulqc.org.



Flattening the curve, serving the community

St. Paul people are charting new normals for themselves and their loved ones as the impact of COVID-19 expands. Staying home is one of the most important ways to help decrease the spread of this novel (new) virus. Meanwhile, many St. Paul people are the essential workers who are facing the realities of how the virus will impact the community.

St. Paul stays home

Dixie Kutzbach, *sewing masks*

As soon as word started to spread that everyone should stay home to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus, Dixie Kutzbach knew that's what she would do.

She also knew she wanted to help.

"I started hearing about sewing masks (for people in the medical field) - you could make cloth masks to put over their disposable ones," Dixie said.

She asked her daughter, Beth Repp, an ophthalmologist, if it was something she could use. She said yes. "Then, pretty soon, my dental hygienist asked for some."

Dixie was on a mission.

Dixie has sewn since she was in sixth or seventh grade. She sewed her own clothes. Then she sewed her kids' clothes. Because of that, she had plenty of supplies on hand to make masks. "I didn't have to go out for a thing."

She downloaded the pattern online (see page 5 for directions on how to make masks for Quad-City area medical professionals). She makes them with 100 percent tightly woven cotton.

When she's finished with a batch, the great porch exchange takes place. She and her daughter wave hello to each other from at least 10 feet away.

"At least we can say hi to them for a few minutes," she said.



Rose and Ken Nuernberger, *music in the hallways*

The keyboard she uses is one her students gave her in 1985.

Rose Nuernberger has played the keyboard for 35 years. Most recently, it's been put into use to offer a bit of joy in the hallways at Ridgecrest Village.

The complex, due to Coronavirus, is taking precautions that many other housing complexes for senior citizens are taking. The most important? No visitors.

So to pass the time, husband Ken pushes Rose along in her walker in the hallways with her keyboard on her lap. "We're a team," she said.

"We started doing it Wednesday or so of last week," Rose said during an interview on March 24. "If people open their doors, great. Some of them come out and bring their music. We stay at least six feet away. They sing with me."

Rose started taking piano lessons when she was 5 or 6 years old. She lived on a farm, and her parents had to make special trips into town to get her and her two siblings in for lessons. She started learning organ on her own as she got older, and took an organ class in college.

Rose usually plays a couple of times a day, she said. Ken enjoys listening to the music. "I am thankful to my parents for involving me in music. It's a big part of my life."

Essential workers on the front lines



Kurt Andersen, leading medical response

The first thing Kurt Andersen says when asked about the community's response to Coronavirus is this: "We're in this together."

Kurt, a physician for 23 years, is the executive medical officer for Genesis Health Group. The group consists of 100 primary care physicians, 50 specialists, and 50 mid-level providers such as nurse practitioners, who provide care at more than 40 locations throughout the Quad Cities.

During this pandemic, his role is to help guide these medical providers as they work to keep the community well.

What does that look like? Shifting systems to best respond to the virus. Twice daily conference calls with providers and care teams – one in the morning and one later in the day. Understanding the human toll the disease can take on family and friends of loved ones – and the medical professionals who care for them.

"It's important for us to realize this is something different," he said. "Nobody is perfectly protected from it."

He continued: "The way to protect more people is to keep sick people away from well people. If we don't do this now, the consequences could be catastrophic."

His most important piece of advice? Stay home.

Amy Anderson, caring for others by educating

Amy Anderson became a nurse nine years ago after years of running a ballet studio. Since then, she's taken on many roles – from cardiac to hospice care. Most recently, she has served as an educator for Genesis Medical Center on a unit that serves patients who have cardiac challenges who are held for observation.

Her work focuses on ensuring that fellow staff members are up-to-date on practices and procedures to best serve patients. In this time of COVID-19, that can be a tricky task – new information and guidance can come one, two, three, or more times a day.

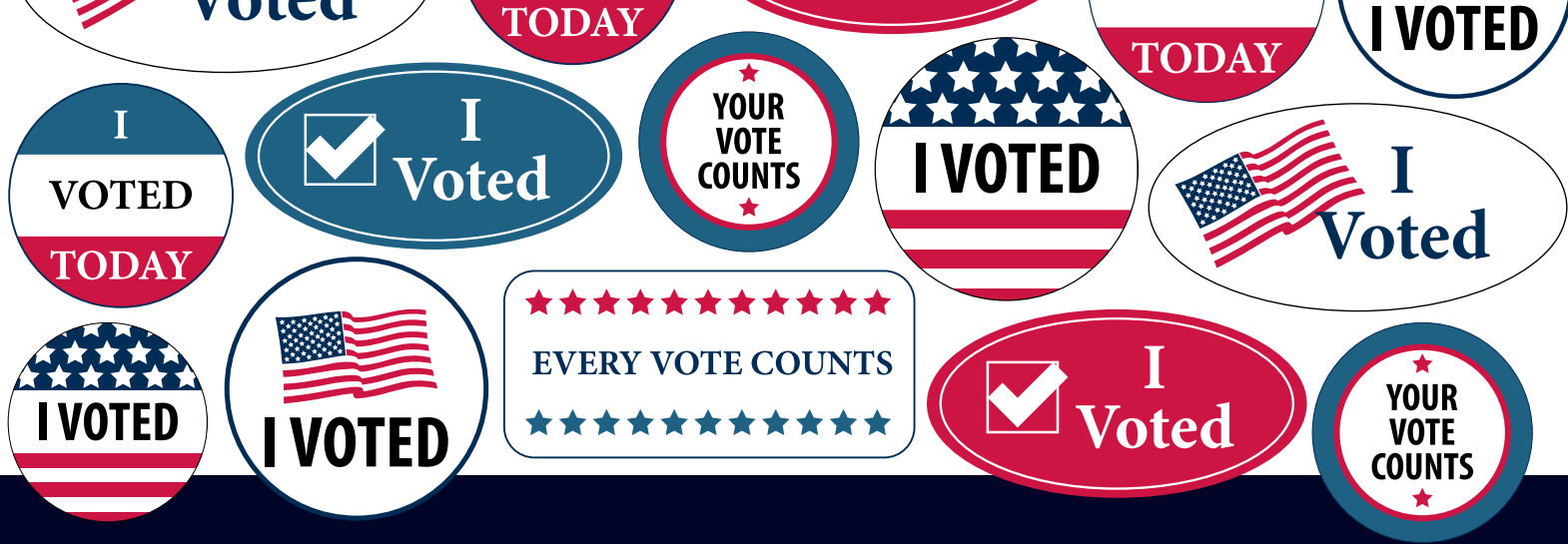
She strives to keep a positive outlook. "I work to keep everyone reassured because so much is unknown," she said.

Her mom, Sue Anderson, has a goal of making 1,000 cloth masks for medical professionals with a dozen of her friends. Amy feels really supported by that, and by her entire family.

She has felt the impact the disease is having. A cruise to the Bahamas planned for April is postponed. She had serious conversations with her parents and children about reducing the chances the virus will impact her family – no more visits to her parents' house, and who will go where if one of them becomes ill.

"That's one of the hardest conversations I've had to have with my parents," she said.





Tending the polls

With 16-hour days, election day workers 'ensure democracy works at its best'

Early in the morning on election day, 300 people in Scott County rise before the sun is up and head to the polls.

They pack lunch, dinner, and some snacks, and arrive ready for the day at dozens of polling sites throughout the county. They stay until about 10 p.m. All of the 60-some precincts have workers who consider themselves Republican and Democrat.

Who are they? "They are people who are engaged in ensuring democracy works at its best, and that happens when people go to the polls and exercise their right to vote," said Roxanna Moritz, the Scott County Auditor. She leads elections in the county, and as president of the Iowa Association of County Auditors.

"I don't know what my life would be like without such civic-minded people who want to ensure that our democracy continues in a fair and honest manner," Roxanna said.

St. Paul members who are poll workers include Phil Simms (11 years), Deanna Feuerbach (12 years), and George Bleich (18 years).

George recently took some time to take part in a Q&A about his work at the polls.

What made you decide to become a poll worker?

My uncle, Ernest Kleeman, was a poll worker in Plymouth, Nebraska. I admired him and thought to myself that after I retire, I would like to try being a poll worker in Scott County. After I retired on January 15, 2002, I contacted the auditor's office and they assigned me to be chairperson at McKinley School. This voting site has been moved to Duck Creek Lodge, where I have worked ever since.

What is a typical day at the polls?

We start setting up the voting machines, e-poll machines, tables and chairs for the voters and usually five or six poll workers at 6 a.m. The polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. for primary elections or 9 p.m. for general elections. We have one of the busiest work sites with 500 to 700 voters for the primary election and 1,100 voters for the general elections. There is at least one voter in the

building every second of the day.

We make sure each voter lives in our precinct, has a valid Iowa driver's license, a United States passport, or a United States military or veteran ID before they are allowed to vote. We must initial every ballot and check their name as voted in the official election roster.

Of course, we encourage the voter to take an "I Voted" sticker to let their friends and neighbors know that they should vote. After the polls close, we must shut down the voting machines, and hand the results to the sheriff's department posse, who takes the results to the auditor's office for everyone to hear.



Putnam opens Liberated Voices/ Changed Lives for St. Paul tour

Discover the Quad Cities' unique suffrage story, 100 years after the 19th Amendment gave women the vote. Travel back in time to investigate the local roots of the women's suffrage movement from the perspective of local women and men from 1900 to 1920.

St. Paul people can come for a tour of this Putnam Museum exhibit at a time and date to be determined. Registration will be limited. Signup will be online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Questions? Contact Ann McGlynn, ann@stpaulqc.org.

“They are people who are engaged in ensuring democracy works at its best, and that happens when people go to the polls and exercise their right to vote.”

— ROXANNA MORITZ, SCOTT COUNTY AUDITOR

What is the best part of the job?

When everything runs smoothly throughout the day. You are always happy when you can see and talk with some of your neighbors and friends, if we aren't too busy with other things.

What is the most challenging?

Roxanna Moritz, auditor of Scott County, and her workers at the auditor's office, do an excellent job of training all the poll workers each year. They have all the directions written down and all we do is follow them. If the electricity should ever be off, we would have to go to a manual paper ballot that would be tabulated by the machine when the electricity goes back on.

We like to keep the line of voters moving quickly so they are able to get into the facility and out within a few minutes. When we are really busy, the e-poll machines will let us know if the voter lives in our precinct or not. If they live in our precinct and have not registered to vote, they may register that day at the poll if they have the proper identification. This will take more time for the poll worker.

What would you say to someone who is thinking about becoming a poll worker?

If anyone is interested in becoming a poll worker, they should contact the auditor's office and complete the employment form. There will be a background check before a job is offered, and you should be a resident of Scott County.

Poll workers are always needed. The workers get older each year, and many of them find the 15-16 hour work days too strenuous. We are not allowed to leave the place of work during the day. We all bring packed lunches and snacks to share for the long day.

For more information about working the polls, visit scottcountyiowa.com/auditor/poll-workers.



George Bleich

By the numbers

The Quad-Cities includes two Congressional districts: Iowa 2 and Illinois 17. How did they stack up for voting turnout in the 2018 Congressional election?

Iowa 2:

126 of 435 districts, with 53.8 percent voter turnout

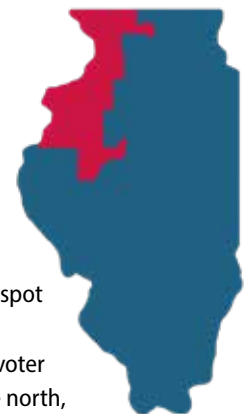
- 48.9 percent men; 51.1 percent women
- 11.1 percent of the district's voters live in poverty



Illinois 17:

312 of 435 districts, with 44.8 percent voter turnout

- 48.8 percent men; 51.2 percent women
- 13.5 percent of the district's voters live in poverty



Minnesota had four of the top 10 voting Congressional districts in 2018. The No. 1 spot in the country was Minnesota's third Congressional district, with 70.3 percent voter turnout. It is comprised of counties to the north, west, and south of Minneapolis.

Source: Census.gov

Wednesdays in Lent

Worship, dinner, study, prayer, singing. The first two Wednesdays in Lent were marked with the theme of Reimagining Home. Before health leaders recommended the end of group gatherings, we experienced the joy of togetherness.





Madison Market food pantry

"Usually at the Madison Market food pantry, love looks like shaking hands, hugging, laughing, high fives, and a bustling building. Love in the time of Corona looks like the huge space in our church foyer filled with food for 540 people (89 families) in boxes and bags packed ahead of time by 10 people keeping at least six feet apart and washing hands diligently and wearing gloves. Love looks like another set of 10 people carrying the boxes and bags outside to families as they pull up in their vehicles." — Sara Harless





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PEACE BE WITH YOU

**Worship and other activities:
www.stpaulqc.org**