

Invisible connection

Quantum entanglement is the phenomenon in physics according to which particles can share certain properties even when separated by vast distances.



ON THE COVER:Jared Masterson and
Rolla Lucas (pre-pandemic)

journey

MAY 2020

Volume 8 | Issue 3

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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 The result is that when a property of one particle is measured, there is an immediate effect on the same property in all other particles in the group. Put crudely, if one is measured to be up, another will be down. They share, as one children's book on the subject puts it, a special bond. This phenomenon has fascinated and even scared scientists since at least the 1930s, when Albert Einstein called it "spooky action at a distance."

Scientists are still trying to explain such weird particle behavior. Early on it was thought that, upon being measured, one particle in the group could quickly transmit information to all the others, like a mass email, so that they all came up the way they were supposed to. The problem with this is that recent experiments have shown that the information would have to travel faster than the speed of light, which is not an option, even in quantum mechanics.

Others conjectured that the particles somehow could get on the same page before separating, like a backyard football team huddled before a play: "you go right, I'll go left." But this, too, has been shown to be incomplete. Interpretations of the phenomenon continue to vary. All struggle to come to terms with a central, strange observation: in an entangled system, there are not individual particles, but instead a single inseparable whole.

Entanglement among people can be just as strange, and beautiful. Perhaps you know sets of twins who have an almost telepathic connection. Often, I will be thinking of someone at the precise moment when I happen to receive a text from the person. A St. Paul pastor called someone recently just as they happened to be pulling into the parking lot to drop off an offering.

What could the resurrection of a Palestinian Jewish man two-thousand years ago possibly have to do with our lives in this moment? The assertion of a connection can feel wacky, like Einstein's "spooky action at a distance." After all, the church has always insisted that God connects to us by coming close: in the handshake of someone we share the peace with, in the voice of another reading the Scriptures in a sanctuary, in water and oil on our heads, in bread and wine on our lips. But the church has also always insisted that God connects us in invisible ways. Just think of first-century Christians who watched Rome burn in terror, and later were blamed for it. Imagine the mothers in Europe who in

the 1340s, at the peak of the Plague, held their children close. Consider the Irish Catholic potato farmers in the 1840s figuring out how to feed their families amid widespread starvation. These are people sustained by faith in Jesus and connection in the body of Christ that



you and I have never met. Very occasionally, we hear the stories of some of these saints. Much more often, though, any connection we share with them remains totally invisible.

In these Covid-19 days, we need the promise of these invisible connections, and the promise that they won't remain invisible forever. I'm not just comforted to know and trust that I'm connected with you even though I can't see you. I'm spurred by that reality not to give in to terrible feelings of isolation and disconnection, and the despair and anxiety that come with them. I'm sparked, just as you are, to keep reaching out through notes and phone calls, letters and emails. Every chance we have to make these connections visible, we should. When we can gather at church again, when we can share meals around tables, when we can hug our friends — how great it will be. But even now, every touch point we can make bears witness to God's promise of the invisible connection, the special bond we share. The sense of longing for that connection to be made visible is real—but so is the gratitude for the enduring, inseparable whole we call the body of Christ, sustained everywhere by the new life of our risen Lord.

HAYDEN KVAMME
pastor in residency

Hayden Kramme

St. Paul groups gathering online

A handful of St. Paul groups continue to meet by videoconferencing during the pandemic. Interested in learning more? Connect with the person listed as the contact, or call the church office, 563-326-3547.

St. Paul 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.

- St. Paul Youth: Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org
- WELCA Bible study: Martha Wells, marthawells99@mchsi.com
- 2136 young adults: Hayden Kvamme, hayden@stpaulqc.org
- Women's Bible study: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org
- Centering Prayer: Marcia Jensen, jensenyetta@gmail.com
- Adult Children of Alcoholics: Marcia Jensen, jensenyetta@gmail.com
- Confirmation: Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org
- Early Morning Book Group: Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org
- Chorale: Chris Nelson, chris@stpaulqc.org
- Heart. Soul. Mind. Bible study: Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org
- Theology Pub: Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org
- Mental Health Team: Beth Laureijs, beth@stpaulqc.org



On three Tuesdays this month, May 12, 19, and 26, at 7:30 a.m., gather online with Pastor Katy Warren and others to read Everything Happens for a Reason by Kate Bowler.

In this award-winning book, the prospect of her own mortality forces the author to realize that she has been tacitly subscribing to the prosperity gospel, living with the conviction that she can control the shape of her life with "a surge of determination." Kate is stripped of this certainty only to discover that without it, life is hard but beautiful in a way it never has been before.



The book is available for curbside pickup at St. Paul through the Book Corner. Cost is \$12. To place an order, send Karen Holden your name and phone number at bookcorner@stpaulqc.org, and she will call you. The group will use the Zoom video conferencing system to meet. To sign up and receive the link to join, contact Pastor Katy at katy@stpaulqc.org.

Blood Donor Day now Blood Donor Week

Due to the pandemic, St. Paul's twice-a-year Blood Donor Day will become Blood Donor Week this month, and will move from St. Paul to the blood center.

When: Monday, May 18, through Saturday, May 23.

Where: At MVRBC Donor Centers

- 5500 Lakeview Parkway, Davenport, user group code 3868
- 1320 W. Kimberly Rd #12, Davenport, user group code 3870

How: To schedule an appointment, call 359-5401, ext. 1281, or go online to www.bloodcenter.org. Use the user group code above to ensure credit for St. Paul.

Special notes: Appointments are required, facial covering/mask is encouraged. Answering screening questions before is optional - go to www.bloodcenter.org/earlyq. This must be done the day of your donation. Donors must present the donor pass/QR code at registration.



WORSHIP AND PUBLIC ACTIVITIES REMAIN SUSPENDED THROUGH MAY

Continuing the attempts to lessen the impact of COVID-19 on our community and health care system, in-person worship and public activities at St. Paul remain suspended through at least May 31.

St. Paul Preschool, in accordance with direction from the state of Iowa, is now closed through the end of the school year.

Worship and activity plans for June will be shared at the end of May.

Connect with St. Paul 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: stpaulgc.org



Weekly enews: Sign up at bit.ly/stpaulenews



Facebook: facebook.com/stpaulquadcities



Vimeo: vimeo.com/stpaulquadcities



Youtube: youtube.com/c/stpaulquadcities



Twitter: @stpaulgc



Instagram: stpaulqc

Serve Care Love

Through this pandemic, the people of St. Paul continue to do what we do best — serve, care, and love.

SERVE

Families from Madison Elementary School and Davenport Central High School, refugee families with Tapestry Farms, as well as St. Paul neighbors and friends, are fed two times a month at the Madison Market food pantry. In partnership with River Bend Foodbank, a small but mighty crew of volunteers work hard to feed bodies and souls. Kids also receive activity packs to keep their minds engaged now that in-person school is no longer in session. Contact: Dana Welser, dana@stpaulqc.org.









May in-gathering for diapers, wipes, feminine hygiene products

Madison Market is continuing its efforts to ensure all families who need them have diapers, wipes, and feminine hygiene products.

If you'd like to donate for this modified annual May in-gathering, you may drop off items at the church office, Monday-Friday, 8-4 p.m. Please leave the donations on the table right inside the office door and wave hello to the person at the receptionist desk. Pick up is also available by emailing Ann McGlynn at ann@stpaulqc.org.

Sizes 4, 5, and 6 in diapers and 3T-5T in pull-ups are preferred. Wipes of any kind will work. For feminine hygiene products, tampons and pads are most needed.





The congregation's creators are sewing love in the form of face masks for people who are working on the front lines to ensure our community is healthy and safe, as well as people who are more vulnerable to serious complications from the virus. If you need a mask, or to donate masks, message Ann McGlynn at ann@stpaulqc.org.



St. Paul people are brightening the lives of others who are hospitalized, in care facilities, or who are isolated and lonely at home.

Hand-written letters, cards, or pieces of artwork can be mailed to St. Paul, c/o Church Friend Mail, 2136 Brady Street, Davenport, IA 52803. The pastors and staff will ensure that these expressions of love and care will get into the right hands.

We ask that the pieces have messages of hope, peace, and good cheer that will lift spirits and let people know they are not alone.

GROW

The St. Paul Community Garden will be planted this year, but with some modifications due to the pandemic. Three Saturday morning clean up and plantings are planned, each with small, socially distanced crews

- ▶ May 2: Clean all beds and install fencing in south garden
- ► May 9: Finish fencing install and plant vegetables and flowers
- ► May 16: Rain date if needed

If you would like to help, signup at stpaulqc.org/signups. Tools, seeds, seedlings are provided. Questions? Contact Todd Byerly, todd@stpaulqc.org.





Recycling center employees work to minimize what goes to the landfill

On a sorting line, Rolla Lucas takes his place at 5 a.m. four days a week. Each day, for 10-hour shifts, it's his job, and the job of his co-workers, to sort the recycling that comes through the Waste Commission of Scott County.

He spots the paper that comes through his line one day. Some days it's cardboard or plastics. Glass, tin, and aluminum make their way through the sorting center employees as well.

"I can't say enough good things about how the Waste Commission has treated me and others from HDC (the Handicapped Development Center)," Rolla said. The Waste Commission of Scott County partners with HDC, which serves people with disabilities. "I love the challenge of working here."

Collecting recycling from Davenport, Bettendorf, Rock Island, Moline, East Moline, Iowa City, Pella, and West Liberty, the Scott Area Recycling Center is one of the Waste Commission of Scott County's facilities. Despite changes in the recycling industry, the center has remained successful in its endeavor to reduce the impact that trash has on our environment.

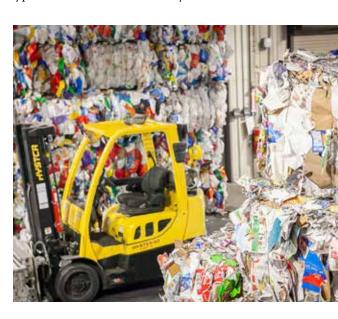
Because of that success, the Scott Area Recycling Center has been recognized in the *Wall Street Journal*. The center processes approximately 80-90 tons of recycled material per shift. With two shifts, that is 160-180 tons of material — just from the surrounding area.

Where does it all go? Scott Area Recycling Center has found all domestic customers for its product. In addition, the products that they send out are extremely clean — this is due to workers like Rolla ensuring nearly no styrofoam or plastic bags make it into the sorted material.

In addition, about a year ago the facility made a \$1.4 million investment in a new robot machine. The robot sorts out clear plastic from the rest of the material. This machine has made a significant impact on the recycling process. It has reduced labor costs and frees up other line workers to focus on getting other types of material more accurately sorted.

"I love the challenge of working here."

ROLLA LUCAS



Does it make that big of a difference if we recycle? Recycling prolongs the life of our landfills, people from the recycling center say. Recycling also helps to conserve natural resources. Recycling paper uses less water than making new paper, which also results in more carbon dioxide being removed from the air by trees. Recycling plastic saves oil.

At the recycling center, Rolla finds meaning in his work. "It's protecting God's creation, plus teaching us to reuse and recycle more and throw away less," he said.

Rolla, who loves God deeply and serves faithfully as a St. Paul usher at the 11:15 worship, suggested to a coworker, who was looking for a church, that he visit St. Paul. Jared Masterson and his fiancee, Katie Sass, took Rolla's advice and became members last October.

Jared is a lead site technician and is responsible for line operation during second shift. Making bales, loading trucks, and motivating his workers on the line are some of Jared's daily tasks. The goal is for line workers to sort as accurately and quickly as possible to minimize the amount of material going to the landfill.

Throughout his shift, Jared keeps an eye on how much material is on the belt to the landfill. From his judgment he acknowledges or encourages his workers. Jared holds competitions, such as free lunch for the fastest sorter that day.

Starting as a pre-sorter and working his way up, Jared has worked almost four years at Scott Area Recycling Center. Product quality, effort into material, high standards, cleanliness, and pride in the work are among Jared's list of things that he believes makes the facility special.

"I love the family atmosphere," Jared said.



One recycled aluminum can saves enough energy to operate a TV for three hours.

Americans throw away enough aluminum to rebuild our entire commercial fleet of airplanes every three months.

Recycling 1 ton of paper saves 17 trees, 2 barrels of oil (enough to run the average car for 1,260 miles), 4,100 kilowatts of energy (enough power for the average home for 6 months), 3.2 cubic yards of landfill space, and 60 pounds of air pollution.

It takes about five 2-liter beverage bottles to make an XL t-shirt.

The U.S. is 5% of the world's population but uses 25% of its natural resources.

Many things can be discarded in residential curbside recycling — plastics, glass, paper, tin, aluminum. For things that cannot be recycled, here are some recommendations (once the time of staying at home has passed):

Plastic grocery bags: Many grocery and large market stores will take plastic bags to recycle them

Large quantities of bound books and textbooks: Midland Davis Recycling in Moline, 309-764-6723

Aerosol cans: Scott County Waste Commission's hazardous materials program

Gas cans: Scott Area Landfill

Source: Waste Commission of Scott County





Physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally well

With access to friends, family, and activities limited, program directors at area senior living facilities continue to keep people active during the pandemic

n Wednesday, it's bingo day at Senior Star at Elmore

Up until earlier this year, that meant lots and lots of people gathering together to play the much-loved game at the same time. Now, with COVID-19, it means more sessions, with no more than eight people in a space sitting at least six feet apart.

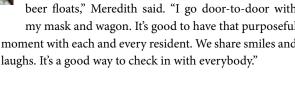
Senior Star is a high-touch place, "a hand on a shoulder, hugs" type of place, said Meredith Mercer, who has worked at Senior Star for seven years as a program director. "We had a lot of large group activities — live music, drinks, snacks, exercise class. They were in big groups eating with their table mates. We had three activities in the morning then three after lunch. We encouraged people to invite their friends and family."

"This was a big shift for us," she said.

Senior Star is just one of countless senior living organizations around the world that limit visitors to help protect the residents who live there. Coupled with a limit on group gatherings, and people staying in their rooms and apartments more, life is different now.

The staff and residents of all facilities are adapting, with window visits and video chats, and creations like a wagon made into a rolling happy hour cart.

"I load it up with arts and crafts supplies, root beer floats," Meredith said. "I go door-to-door with my mask and wagon. It's good to have that purposeful moment with each and every resident. We share smiles and



Activity professionals provide quality of life for clients through an ongoing balance of physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional activities, according to the Iowa Association of Activity Professionals. They encourage self-expression, self-discovery, and life-long learning.

These professionals work in settings such as retirement, assisted living, adult day programs, senior centers, and long term nursing facilities.

At Good Samaritan in Davenport, Lynette Wall leads the independent living apartments on campus. Before her



current position, however, she was an activities director for many years.

While the people who live in the Good Samaritan independent living apartments can still have a limited number of guests to help with care, the virus has drastically al-

"We had a full social calendar and daily meals in the dining room," Lynette said. "We had to adjust our thinking about how we're going to make this work."

"You can't just take care of the physical needs of a person. They must also be cared for spiritually, emotionally, intellectually, and socially. Exercise, devotions and bible studies, trivia and current events — all the different aspects of life. Eating together, parties, and outings. We had lots of outings, or going outdoors in the courtyards — enjoying time out there."

Now, the programs in her three buildings follow the rules — no more than a handful of people gathered for activities, all six feet apart. Lynette has adapted her spaces so she can show movies in three or four different areas. Bingo is restructured, too. A weekly faith and fellowship is filling a spot left empty by shuttered churches. "Their



Lvnette Wall

faith is really important."

"I look back at the last six weeks and think, 'Is this even real?"

Lynette lost her grandparents when she was very young — and she feels like she was searching for a connection with older people because of that loss. As a young adult, the first time she started a job as an activities director, a nurse chuckled when Lynette told her she was just going to work one day a week to get herself out of the house. "We'll see about that," the nurse said.

Now, almost three decades later, Lynette continues her work. The nurse, Anna Flynn, died shortly before Lynette and her husband moved to the Quad Cities to be closer to family. She gathered with Anna's loved ones at her bedside to sing hymns and pray. "She always encouraged me."

Meredith, who works at Senior Star, knew she wanted to work with older adults since she was a child. She interned at Senior Star during college.

"I fell in love with the residents. They celebrate everything with you, and you celebrate everything with them," she said.

Meredith acknowledges how hard it is on residents to be isolated from their loved ones. "Easter was extremely hard," she said. "They wanted to be with their families. We had a service streaming, but that's not the best way for the older generation."

But also, there's joy.

Meredith said she really had to step up her Facebook game — as that is a tool that family members are using to see photos of their loved ones online.

On Palm Sunday, the people of Edwards Congregational Church drove through the Senior Star parking lot with palm branches waving. Annie and Gary Harless came and played Tic-Tac-Toe with residents through the windows — and Gary shared some "very funny" jokes. Zoom and Facetime and birthday parties through windows and donut decorating and Easter egg hunting and window paintings are part of the activity, too.

"They have a new norm," Meredith said. "They are troopers."

One important piece of joy for Meredith? Her grandma, Jo, lives at Senior Star. "She moved in last April. It's extremely good to have her here, especially during this time."



I love the residents. They celebrate everything with you, and you celebrate everything with them.

MEREDITH MERCER











Behind the scenes

Filming worship



Miles Thompson

Worship is available on Sundays at 7 a.m. A link is sent by email. It is published at:

- ► stpaulqc.org/worship
- ► facebook.com/stpaulquadcities
- ▶ youtube.com/c/stpaulquadcities
- ► instagram.com/stpaulgc
- ► twitter.com/stpaulqc
- ► vimeo.com/stpaulquadcities

Worship at St. Paul will be online through at least the end of May. How does it happen each week?

It's 8:30 a.m. on a Thursday morning, and worship is underway.

Chris Nelson takes his turn at the organ. Bill Campbell slides onto the piano bench. A pastor stands in the Sanctuary to deliver a sermon. Prayers are said, as is a children's message, too.

It's all different though. Each segment is done separately. Cameras are rolling, lights enhance the natural lighting in the space.

And the Sanctuary? It's empty — mostly.

Miles Thompson is behind the camera. A St. Paul member, he is also a vid-

For the first Sunday after St. Paul decided to suspend worship, staff put together a video in one day. As soon as the idea emerged about Miles creating the videos, it's been Miles at the camera ever since.

"I can't just sit here and just hang out," he said of the church he loves going to all online delivery for worship.

Each week, on Monday, Chris Nelson, organist and director of music ministries, sends out an order of worship and schedule for taping. One of the biggest

differences, he said, is that St. Paul now has one worship service instead of four.

"What are the important things for St. Paul and the worship that we do? How do we include all of that in one worship succinctly?" Chris said. "We want to be mindful of what everyone offers on a Sunday morning."

"I think we've made a bona fide effort to keep connecting with our members. We're not really straying from who we are. Our online identity is not different than our in-person identity. I like that people have a closer view of what is happening."

"But I miss the connections with people," he said.

Taping usually takes 6-10 hours a week, Miles said. Editing/producing is anywhere from 15-20 hours. Holy Week was an exception to that, with two additional services and additional time spent on Easter morning worship.

Miles is enjoying being a part of a team effort, he added. "I really like to brainstorm, find that creativity, and make something — together." One favorite highlight from the past few weeks? A split screen on the Easter morning organ postlude. St. Paul got to see Chris Nelson's feet in action — with fancy socks included.

Growing up, Miles' mom was known as the person who took photos of everybody's kids — at sporting events, musical performances, all sorts of events. She had her own small company that made some money off of her work. As Miles and his sister, MacKenzie Nash, entered the professional world, they decided to give the photography/videography business a try together.

Miles, who uses Adobe's Premiere Pro to edit his work, learned the software by watching a lot of "YouTube University," he said. He taught himself lighting and composition, as well as incorporating drone footage to help make videos really soar.

While video recording worship for online purposes is something that St. Paul has never done, Chris believes "we've done our best."

"It's important for people to know that we don't throw this together willy-nilly each week. It's a process," he said. "I'm thankful for everyone who has participated in it and have added to the experience."

Council Notes

The April meeting of St. Paul's Congregational Council focused on the work of the church during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many church staff members are working from home to reduce the number of people in the building. Staff who are on-site are maintaining social distancing and disinfecting requirements while responding to the needs of the congregation. All staff are being paid through this time.

Decisions regarding future in-person worship and activities will be made on a month-to-month basis. The council expressed gratitude for the membership doing its best to fulfill offering desires and pledge commitments in a trying time.

Beth Laureijs, pastoral residency program administrator, shared a written report on the program. Hayden Kvamme is the pastor currently serving in this program. Beth noted changes to some of the programming caused by the pandemic.

"The current pandemic we are all living through has created an unexpected and dramatic change in our lives. It is challenging us to find ways to maintain and build connections in this time of social distancing," she wrote. "Pastors and staff are utilizing technology and other creative means to provide a sense of community and support."

Quack, quack

The annual nesting for a duck family is underway at St. Paul, with Lucy and Jake preparing to bring 11 ducklings into the world.

Matt Spencer, building supervisor, is the ducks' human host, paparazzi, and story-teller. He ensures they have what they need during the month that they make the St. Paul campus their home.

By his incubation calculations, the ducklings should hatch in early May.







with SYMPATHY

as of April 24:

- ► Family of Ted Gamm: Jennifer Garvey & Eric Smith, her father Bridget & Chad Ihrig, her grandfather
- ► Paula & David McPherson, her brother Steve DeFosse
- ► Family of Dolores Jones: Donna Miller, sister Linda & Brad Gill, her aunt
- ► Barb & Don Hiesterman, her uncle Marlin Allchin
- ► Kevin & Kathy Shepard, his father James Willett, Sr.
- ► Chris & Terry Thompson, her father Robert William
- ► Family of Ted Schroeder: Art & Judy Schroeder, his brother Matt & Leigh Ann Schroeder, his uncle
- ► Family of Donny Wachal: Cory & Joanna Wachal, his father Jack & Deb Jecklin, his brother-in-law
- ► Family of Jack Albrecht*: Carol Albrecht, husband Wynne & Dave Schafer, her brother-in-law
- ► Arlene Johnson, her stepmother Alvira Raupp
- ► Bill & Michelle Campbell, his grandmother Elizabeth Campbell
- ► Lisa Miller, her father, Bob Miller*
- ► Debbie & Dave Jessen, her mother Pat Holland
- ► Mike and Joanne Klehn, his sister, Mary Ann Fellman
- ► Lois Hultgren, her husband, Carroll Hultgren*

*member of St. Paul



Davenport, IA 52803

RING, RING! DAILY ST. PAUL DIAL-IN TELEPHONE DEVOTIONS AVAILABLE

Honoring all of the different ways that St. Paul people are connecting these days, St. Paul staff will record a daily devotional by phone, Monday-Friday.

Access it by dialing 563-323-5489.
Once you hear the welcome message, press number 4.

