

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2020

# journey



# Soul structure



**ON THE COVER:**  
678 small group

## journey

**JULY 2020**  
Volume 8 | Issue 5

**EDITOR** Ann McGlynn

**DESIGNER** Lauren Brown

### ADDRESS

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
2136 Brady Street,  
Davenport, Iowa 52803

### CONTACT

Email [journey@stpaulqc.org](mailto:journey@stpaulqc.org)  
Phone 563.326.3547

### MISSION

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

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### POSTMASTER

Send address changes to *Journey*, 2136 Brady Street, Davenport, Iowa 52803

Our refrigerator/freezer at home has one of those water and ice dispensers mounted in the door. Neither water nor ice has come out of the door for at least three years despite persistent hope on our part. We've pushed the buttons as vigorously as for an elevator that won't arrive. This month, something possessed us to try and fix the problem. Bob answered the phone at the appliance repair outfit and said we might be able to save the cost of a house call by simply replacing the air and water filters on our own. "Sometimes that triggers a reset," he said. "Let me know if it works for you." We ordered the two filters online, unpackaged them when they arrived, and dutifully inserted them. With more hope and excitement than a five-year-old at a birthday party, we pushed the button for running water. Nothing. We pushed it repeatedly – think elevator again. Nothing. We waited five hours and pushed the button for ice. Nothing. At least we had two new fancy filters to show off to friends.

My wife Susan called Bob back to report the disappointing results of the filter exchange and to request a repair call. What followed next was fascinating. A long silence ensued over the phone. After a period of sighing and pausing on Bob's part, he said apologetically: "I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to regretfully decline your invitation for a repair call. These things are notoriously difficult to fix. You can try and try and just not get anything to work. I've been there. I just don't have access to the latest and greatest tricks that come from the manufacturer. I'm not sure that anything I do would work. That would really bother me. I wouldn't be able to sleep at night. I'd be so bothered."

The guy was genuine. Susan kept listening. "I know how important customer service is," Bob said. "That's how I've built my business. I just know that I couldn't assure you that you'd be a satisfied customer when all was said and done. I wouldn't be able to sleep with that kind of disappointment." Susan remarked later to me how thoroughly this guy seemed to understand his work as a calling.

Bob comes to my mind at this mid-summer moment as I think about our recently graduated high school seniors. As far as I can tell, there aren't many upsides to the virtual commencement exercises these seniors endured this year except possibly one. Graduating seniors have not had to face the one question that well-wishing friends of the family so commonly ask, "What are you planning to major in?" With commencement and graduation parties mostly nixed,

there's been less opportunity for people to pump that question toward the half-blank faces of college-bound 18-year-olds.

The question itself has never seemed particularly fair or helpful, especially if we ask it mostly to imagine a career. Just when a teenager is figuring out some of the moral vocabulary and character issues that make for living a thoughtful

young adult life, we pivot straight to career talk. We seem more interested in *what* field somebody is going to enter than in *who* they want to become as a thinking human being virtue. I've always been less concerned about what field some young person may enter – as long as there is some eventual fulfillment – and more interested in what sort of person that individual desires to become.

I guess my hope for each and every graduating senior, whether they enter appliance repair training or declare a medieval literature major, is that they'll enter this next chapter eager to understand their own life as a calling. Whatever field any of us enter, we're bound to meet some frustration and failure. But for every one of us who is able to structure our soul around questions of excellence, ultimate purpose, moral evaluation, and, I would add, FAITH – this all makes for good sleep at night.

No, we don't have ice or water yet dispensing from the fridge. But Bob can sleep at night. And that's its own good thing.



**PETER W. MARTY**  
senior pastor



## Gather with a pastor

Enjoy an hour of summer conversation and meeting other people with different St. Paul pastors and other friends from the congregation. Share a good time through two opportunities available each week:

- 1) Zoom gatherings where up to 20 people may sign up for an online conversation with a pastor, or
- 2) Driveway/outdoor gatherings where up to a dozen people may sign up. Bring your own lawn chair (and drink if you'd like).

Times with three pastors are set for July:

### ► Gather with Katy Warren

**Online:** Tuesday, July 7, 7-8 p.m.

**Driveway:** Wednesday, July 8, 4-5 p.m. (Eldridge)

### ► Gather with Peter Marty

**Online:** Tuesday, July 14, 1-2 p.m.

**Driveway:** Wednesday, July 15, 4-5 p.m. (Full)

### ► Gather with Peter Pettit

**Online:** Monday, July 20, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

**Driveway:** Wednesday, July 22, 7-8 p.m. (Davenport)

To accommodate as many people as possible, please limit your name to only one face-to-face gathering. The pastor will contact you a few days ahead of your scheduled date with further details about location and what to bring with you. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups) or call 563-326-3547.



## Guys coffee group meets Monday mornings online

Every week in July, some St. Paul guys will gather via Zoom from 10-10:40 a.m. to see each other's faces, enjoy each other's company, and have some casual conversation while sipping on morning coffee. If you'd like to receive the Zoom link for these gatherings, email Pastor Hayden, [hayden@stpaulqc.org](mailto:hayden@stpaulqc.org).



## Build a home with Habitat

Put on a tool belt and help build simple, decent houses through this ecumenical ministry. Each summer, St. Paul volunteers work alongside families who dream of owning a home – and do the work necessary to make that dream a reality.

Dates: Saturdays, July 18 and August 22.

The Quad-Cities Habitat chapter has built more than 100 homes, including those constructed with St. Paul funding and labor. Anyone 16 years of age or older can be on the work crew. This year, crews will be kept to 5 people or less to follow social distancing guidelines.

Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Katy Warren, 326-3547 ext. 232, [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org).



## HOLY COMMUNION OFFERED IN JULY

Beginning July 1, short Holy Communion worship on different weekdays — afternoons and evenings — will be offered in the St. Paul sanctuary. Please sign up for no more than one service per week. These services will allow St. Paul people to gather around a meal that is fundamental to our faith, forgiveness, and fullness as children of God. Plus we have the joy of worshipping together.

A seat will be guaranteed for you at marked locations in the sanctuary, maintaining safe physical distance. Please bring a face covering with you. Spares are available.

To sign up for a time during the first two weeks of July, visit [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups) or call the church office at 563-326-3547.



## Coffee conversations: Faith, health, & wholeness

Interested in faith, health, and wholeness? Come to these in person coffee conversations on three Tuesday mornings in July. We'll gather at St. Paul on the north lawn, weather permitting. Sign-up is limited to 10 spots. Please visit [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups) to secure your spot.

- **Tuesday, July 7, 9 a.m. — Coping with Transitions:** Join Angie Vaaler and Hayden Kvamme to discuss how we cope with transitions and how faith might shape them.
- **Tuesday, July 14, 9 a.m. — Stress and Prayer:** Join Beth Laureijs and Hayden Kvamme to discuss the body's physiological response to stress and a variety of prayer postures.
- **Tuesday, July 21, 9 a.m. — Being Nourished:** Join Allison Fassler and Hayden Kvamme to discuss nutrition and communion.



## Book Corner to be open by appointment

The St. Paul Book Corner is now open by appointment, for individuals to come and purchase books, cards, and fair trade/locally made items that support the work of a variety of organizations.

To make an appointment, or to purchase something for curbside pickup, please reach out to Karen Holden by email at [bookcorner@stpaulqc.org](mailto:bookcorner@stpaulqc.org). To learn more, visit [stpaulqc.org/book-corner](http://stpaulqc.org/book-corner).

# VBS Week

## Staycation 2020

Online for some, in person for others, St. Paul kids and youth gathered in June to explore their faith and how stories in the bible relate to their lives. They played games and stayed socially distant throughout. It wasn't what St. Paul kids are used to for VBS week, but it was meaningful and fun nonetheless.





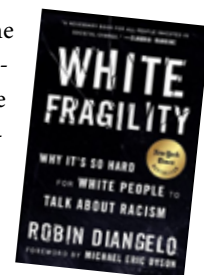
# EXPLORING ANTIRACISM

The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery are among recent deaths prompting protests and calls for a hard look at how systems and institutions in America exempt white people from regularly facing and addressing the harm of racism and what it means to both black and white lives. These two pages are dedicated to resources for the St. Paul community to work together in seeking a more just world, where systematic racism becomes unwound and ultimately ended.

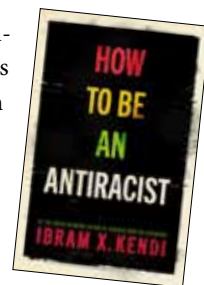
## READ THIS

These books, and others on race, are available in the St. Paul Book Corner. To order, message Karen Holden at [bookcorner@stpaulqc.org](mailto:bookcorner@stpaulqc.org). A complete list is available at [stpaulqc.org/book-corner](http://stpaulqc.org/book-corner).

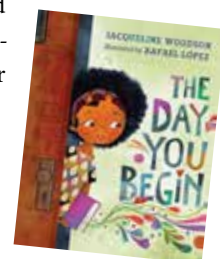
**White Fragility:** Antiracist educator Robin DiAngelo deftly illuminates the phenomenon of white fragility and allows us to understand racism as a practice not restricted to ‘bad people.’ Referring to the defensive moves that white people make when challenged racially, white fragility is characterized by emotions such as anger, fear, and guilt, and by behaviors including argumentation and silence. These behaviors, in turn, function to reinstate white racial equilibrium and prevent any meaningful cross-racial dialogue.



**How to be an Antiracist:** Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism—and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Ibram Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas—from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities—that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves.



**The Day You Begin:** There will be times when you walk into a room and no one there is quite like you. There are many reasons to feel different. Maybe it's how you look or talk, or where you're from; maybe it's what you eat, or something just as random. It's not easy to take those first steps into a place where nobody really knows you yet, but somehow you do it.



## STAFF STATEMENT

The tragedy and turmoil of recent weeks in our nation has shaken all of us. Inspired by the life of Jesus Christ, we take seriously the mandate to love God and love our neighbor. Our Christian faith compels us to speak out against all systems and structures of racism that have permeated American society for centuries – realities that we abhor, but from which many of us have benefited.

At this fresh moment of pain and awareness, we affirm that black lives not only matter, but that they are to be deeply valued. The world we believe God desires, and that we want to help build, is one where racial injustices cease, everyday lives flourish, and the dignity of all people is prized. This is our hope.

We commit ourselves to learning more and to building up one another in our work for racial justice, and we look forward to growing together with the congregation as effective agents for change in ourselves, in our church, and in our world.

– The Staff of St. Paul Lutheran Church

## WATCH THIS

**Just Mercy:** After graduating from Harvard, Bryan Stevenson heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned or those not afforded proper representation. One of his first cases is that of Walter McMillian, who is sentenced to die in 1987 for the murder of an 18-year-old girl, despite evidence proving his innocence. In the years that follow, Stevenson encounters racism and legal and political maneuverings as he tirelessly fights for McMillian's life. A powerful story. Available through multiple streaming services.



## CONSIDER THIS

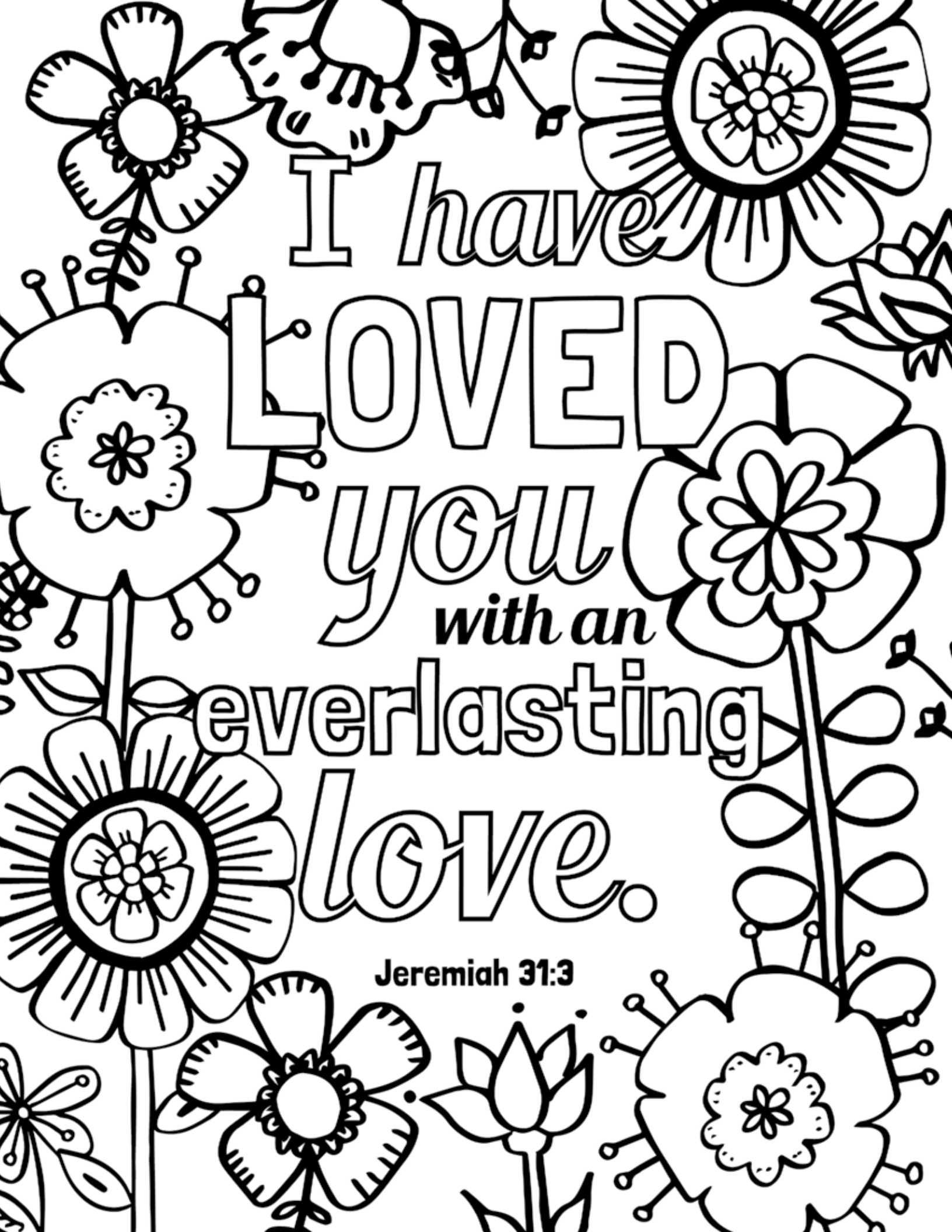
Support any number of black-owned businesses in the Quad Cities. Eat an incredible meal from Bayside Bistro or Taste of Ethiopia, get your family photos taken by Coach Cross Photography, go for a haircut at Joe's Barbershop. Think of every effort as an investment in the black community.

See the list at [bit.ly/2B8XxiR](https://bit.ly/2B8XxiR).

## LISTEN TO THIS

**"Ingrained Injustice" podcast:** How did racism get embedded in the structures of society and become so invisible? Different speakers, from a comedian to a historian to a poet, discuss hard realities. Listeners get a taste of how errant headlines shape public perspective, why racism makes our whole economy worse for all people, and the impact when white people insist on calling the police about black people doing everything things.

The podcast is part of the TED Radio Hour series on NPR, and can be heard at <https://n.pr/30OI16R>.



I *have*  
**LOVED**  
*you*  
*with an*  
**everlasting**  
*love.*

**Jeremiah 31:3**



## St. Paul Word Search

C	N	R	A	S	A	R	N	T	P	U	V
O	U	K	E	C	A	E	B	R	U	D	M
M	A	E	A	J	D	N	E	P	I	O	W
M	Y	Y	H	R	B	S	C	Y	O	O	C
U	A	S	A	P	C	I	Q	T	D	M	E
N	J	G	U	H	F	B	T	N	U	O	W
I	S	H	O	O	J	Z	D	C	O	T	I
O	B	O	F	A	J	S	K	J	U	W	T
N	L	L	B	A	C	N	X	R	T	G	J
S	K	Q	W	L	E	Z	E	O	U	N	L
L	Q	H	J	G	P	H	F	T	N	I	K
H	O	S	P	I	T	A	L	I	T	G	M
F	P	T	D	I	A	L	J	Y	E	N	K
P	U	P	Z	S	U	V	A	E	E	I	S
W	Y	N	K	V	I	R	K	N	H	S	W

**Communion**  
**Hospitality**  
**Sanctuary**  
**Youth**  
**Fun**  
**Mission**  
**Singing**  
**Garden**  
**Preschool**  
**Worship**

# SUMMER LEARNING:

## What to do with a bestseller

The Bible remains the best-selling book of all time. Many people have also suggested that it is the least-read bestseller. It is not unusual to talk with people who have at some time tried to “read the Bible beginning to end” only to find that it is not an easy task; most give up.

With its wide range of types of writing, its many references to people and places and practices that are thoroughly unfamiliar to us, its aura of holiness, and its too-frequent use as a source of judgment and accusation, the Bible does invite us in very generously.

What do we do with this bestseller?

During July, St. Paul will offer a four-week series of videos, an on-site exhibition in the Lower Commons, some practical guidance and exercises, and multiple weekly opportunities to gather around this question in person and online.

This summer learning opportunity will introduce several ways of using the Bible and the tools and practices that support them. Participants will approach the Bible as a devotional resource, a place to find guidance in life, a fount of inspiration, and a seedbed for growing in faith.

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*“All Scripture carries the breath of God to our advantage.” — 1 TIMOTHY 3:16*

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### Week of July 5

**Devotion:** Focused by who we are, devotional Bible reading leads us into reflection on our identity and affirms us as children of God. It shapes our sense of self and our place in the world, deepening our sense of the presence of God in our lives.

### Week of July 12

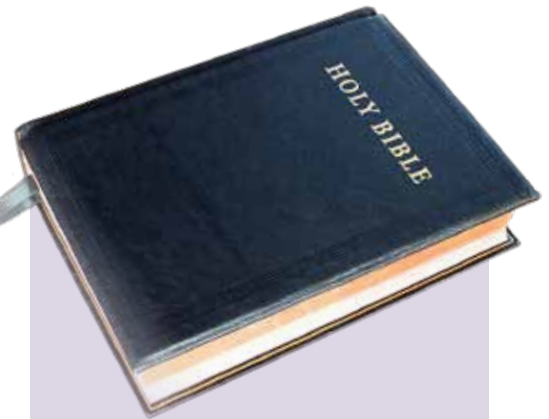
**Guidance:** Focused by the situations and challenges that we face, reading the Bible for guidance discovers the practical and spiritual insights that best shape our choices in life. It draws distinctions among priorities and aligns our values with those of the people of God throughout history.

### Week of July 19

**Inspiration:** Focused by the artistry of biblical language and literature, as well as the arts that people have used to express the biblical message, inspirational Bible reading draws out our aesthetic senses and opens up truth to us as beauty. It leads us along paths where we join with God as an artist of creation.

### Week of July 26

**Growth in Faith:** Focused by the Bible’s many images of God, creation, humanity, and society, reading the Bible to grow in faith clarifies and expands our understanding of the divine and our relationship to it. It equips us to think more powerfully through life’s toughest questions, grounding our worldliness in the world’s inherent truth.



### Weekly schedule, July 5-27

**Video:** Posted each Sunday at 12 noon on YouTube

([youtube.com/c/stpaulquadcities](https://youtube.com/c/stpaulquadcities))

**On-site discussions:** (choose one for each week)

- ▶ Mondays, 7 p.m.
- ▶ Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.
- ▶ Fridays, 3 p.m.

**Zoom discussion:** Wednesdays, 12 noon

**Sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](https://stpaulqc.org/signups)**

### Exhibition in July:

- ▶ Weekdays, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- ▶ Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.
- ▶ Sundays, 1-3 p.m.

*Other times by arrangement, just ask!*

### Exhibition

The exhibition in Lower Commons will offer examples of Bibles that are especially suited for each approach, tools that make it easier to pursue each approach, and illustrations of the ways that the various approaches to Bible study have emerged over centuries of Bible study and production.

Texts from the Dead Seas Scrolls, illuminations from the medieval period, devotional Bibles of various types, and many useful tools for Bible study will be displayed with explanations that offer a self-guided tour through many of the dimensions of this topic that will be studied in the video classes and discussions.

## Council Notes

The St. Paul Congregational Council met in June meeting, for its first in-person meeting since February. Council members gathered in the Library Commons, spread out among tables and wearing masks. They expressed gratefulness for the ability to be together after three months of meeting online.

The council viewed a video segment from Robin DiAngelo, a sociologist who studies race and wrote *White Fragility*, a book highlighted for St. Paul people in this edition of *Journey*. A discussion followed regarding conversations about racism, systems that perpetuate it, and how we can better understand our place in and through the experiences of others.

At press time, signups were going well

for events in July, including gatherings with pastors online and in member driveways, as well as services of Holy Communion. These opportunities will take place with careful social distancing measures in place.

The council learned of the forthcoming installation of an ionization system on air-handling units in the building that essentially converts oxygen molecules into charged atoms that cluster around and deactivate microparticles of bacteria, allergens, and viruses.

Preschool leaders are working hard on plans for the fall, while awaiting additional statewide guidance on returning to class. More information on the details of reopening is anticipated in July and August.

## Frequently asked questions for the gradual re-opening of St. Paul

### How is St. Paul making its decisions about gradual reopening?

Loving our neighbor by caring for the health and well-being of the greatest number of people is our commitment as a faith community. Even more important to our church council than what different authorities may publicly announce, our ability to follow the six-foot social distancing guidelines informs our decisions.

### Are masks required for all church events?

Yes, please bring one. Since any of our bodies could be carrying the COVID-19 virus asymptotically or pre-symptomatically (unknown to us), we view face coverings as a way for each of us to show people around us how much we love them. The need to periodically lower a mask for different reasons is understood. If you don't have a mask, the church has one-time-use paper masks available near the entry doors.

### What other safety measures is the church observing?

Hand washing is expected. Hand sanitizer is near all activity areas. High-use areas are disinfected regularly throughout the day. The only spaces that St. Paul will be utilizing this summer are large and open spaces where there is good to excellent air circulation. All events require sign-up, both to observe social distancing occupancy limits and so that we do not have to turn people away in disappointment.

### Where may I sign-up for activities?

All signups take place here at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups), or by calling the church office.

### Is there pressure to fully re-open the church?

The preferences of St. Paul members probably represent every point on the spectrum regarding preferred timings for a full re-opening. Because of the sheer size of St. Paul – 1,200 people per weekend present for in-person worship – the staff and church council want to be wise in observing social distancing guidelines. That means smaller numbers than we're accustomed to gathering.

### Will Sunday online worship continue?

Yes, Sunday online worship will continue for the foreseeable future. The church will be offering short Holy Communion services on various weekdays beginning July 1. These services in the sanctuary, with a maximum of 100 people spread over 65 designated seating locations, will comply with proper social distancing guidelines. Due to the higher risk of infection associated with congregational singing, other music will be offered.

## with SYMPATHY

as of June 18:

- ▶ Barbrie Denato,  
brother Robert Reveal, Jr.
  - ▶ Tom & Lori Dryg, his father Fred Dryg
  - ▶ Vince & Hildasue Honts,  
his brother Gary Honts
  - ▶ Debbie & Dave Jessen,  
her father Everett Holland
  - ▶ Family of Kenneth Paper:  
Gryg & Sheri Paper, his father  
Reece & Jena Paper, their grandfather
  - ▶ Family of Henry Thorberg:  
Myron Thorberg, brother  
Kristie Roberts, uncle
  - ▶ John & Linda Berry, his mother June Berry
  - ▶ Diane & Howard Swayne,  
her sister Patricia Lekander
  - ▶ Family of Roger Kirby:  
Sara Braack, father  
Kennady, Keaton, & Korbin Braack,  
grandfather
- \*member of St. Paul*

## DEATHS

- ▶ Karen Miller, June 14
- ▶ Christa Hebbel, June 18

### St. Paul's social worker/ counselor available for telehealth

Angie Vaaler, St. Paul's social worker/counselor, is available to St. Paul members and the Madison Elementary School community. Counseling services are offered free of charge.

In light of the Coronavirus pandemic, we now offer tele-health counseling services (over both audio and video). If you are interested in exploring these options and determining if this is an appropriate fit for you, please contact Angie at 563-326-3547, ext 312.



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## St. Paul Labyrinth

A labyrinth, a circling route that offers an opportunity to walk and pray, is now drawn on the lawn at the northwest corner of Main and High streets. Labyrinths assist individuals in Christian meditation and prayer. Come and be at peace in this corner of the world while it's up.

Resources on how to use a labyrinth are available at [stpaulqc.org/labyrinth](http://stpaulqc.org/labyrinth).

