

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 2020

journey



Sharing the same boat

There is a story of a well-published philosopher working on yet another scholarly book – his biggest yet.



ON THE COVER:
Teacher Dawn Stone

Journey

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EDITOR Ann McGlynn

DESIGNER Lauren Brown

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

CONTACT
Email 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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One day when writer's block got the best of him, and he wanted a change of scenery, he hired a local dock worker to row him across a lake so he could enjoy a solitary lunch and getaway. Making idle conversation with his rower, he asked, "Have you ever read any philosophy?" The poor man told him he couldn't read. "You mean you're illiterate?" said the professor. "That means you've wasted half your life." "It's just who I am," said the dock worker. Halfway across the lake, a violent storm erupted. The boat began to take on water. The rower turned around to look at his passenger in the bow. "Have you ever learned to swim?" "Nope," said the philosopher, "there's not time for that in my life." "Well," said the guy pulling at the oars, "then all of your life is lost, because we are sinking fast."

I could take this old story and extrapolate all kinds of meanings from it. But a quick five come to mind as I think about being in the midst of this coronavirus pandemic.

First, this may be the perfect time for each of us to learn some new things. What better occasion to acquire a new talent or two? That learning could be as complicated as discovering and memorizing bird species that show up at your bird feeder, or as simple as learning how to play the harmonica. By the way, you get to decide what's simple and what's complicated these days! Learning to swim may not be an option, and philosophy may not give you a high. But think of all the adventurous options out there when you're stuck at home.

Second, it's never a great idea to disparage others who don't share the same interests, outlooks, or talents you have. The philosopher in the boat started that game. But we're all capable of it, and the Bible warns against it. My suggestion for weathering the pandemic is to turn off cable news periodically, or more than periodically. Disparagement of different experts, authorities, and governmental leaders seems pretty common, and some of it takes our boat nowhere.

Third, why didn't the professor invite the dock worker to lunch on the other side of the lake? Maybe he did, but that doesn't appear to be his intent. He seems more determined to have his own time for his own little self. During the pandemic, we may not be able to invite people over for lunch, but we ought to look for ways to invite them into pieces of our lives in any way we can. Be creative here.

Fourth, I can't help but wonder why the learned prof didn't offer to share the rowing task. We're all learning the value of distributing the load in these weighty times. I see countless efforts of people committed to reaching out. Nothing should be beneath us, right? When I see the personal sacrifice of frontline essential workers doing all kinds of things they never asked to do, that sight inspires me to put my hand on an oar and pull wherever I can. Same with you, I'm sure.

Fifth, we need multi-faceted lives and minds for surviving this pandemic. If you've grown weary of trying to make sense of which COVID-19 metrics to pay attention to, or which "opening up" recommendations to heed, you're not alone. Even public health officials admit to some confusion over the bombardment of information from so many sources. But being multi-faceted creatures is a virtue right now. So is having a faith that's flexible, creative, and multi-dimensional. I hope you're finding St. Paul to be that place for growing your own diverse approach to handling the joys and stresses of life.

We've designed our ministry to be multi-faceted in the months ahead. As you enjoy this copy of the *Journey*, pay attention to the following two icons:



Indicates an in-person opportunity.



Indicates an online opportunity.

Sharing the same boat with you, and looking forward to lunch together (at some point) on the other side.

PETER W. MARTY
senior pastor



PREPARING FOR GRADUAL STEPS OF REOPENING

St. Paul is looking forward to some gradual steps of reopening the church for small group gatherings and other meetings and events this summer. Scale will be everything. Given a size limit requirement for all in-person group gatherings and events because of the COVID-19 pandemic, all but regularly scheduled on-site committee meetings will require signup. The signup requirement will not only help guarantee a safe small size for the in-person gatherings but will also save time and disappointment for those who may otherwise show up and have to be turned away. A number of these small gatherings and events — always socially distanced in character — will be offered in repeat fashion to accommodate more people who have interest in attending.

Throughout this edition of the *Journey*, you'll see new opportunities available to you, offered both online and in-person.

The sheer size of St. Paul, combined with gathering limits imposed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mean that all large gatherings at the church (including full worship in the Sanctuary) are indefinitely suspended. The congregation will continue to meet online for worship every Sunday. A link to receive weekly email notification of these worship services is available at bit.ly/stpaulenews.

St. Paul is taking every precaution to honor strong health safety standards. Our top concern as a Christian community is to be thoughtful of others' susceptibility to virus infection and to avoid jeopardizing their health through casual practices of our own. A whole series of measures are in place to help secure the health and well-being of anyone attending a small in-person gathering at St. Paul. Watch for more details in a mid-June pastoral letter from Peter Marty.

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. Angie is able to assist those who may be feeling lonely and isolated or having difficulty coping with the many changes brought on by the current pandemic. In addition, she's able to continue working with those who are struggling in relationships, experiencing depression or anxiety, working through trauma, or in need of a listening ear.

In light of the Coronavirus pandemic, in-person counseling sessions are on hold. 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.

Book Corner taking orders by phone for books, cards, gifts

Looking for books, gifts, or cards for graduation or other special occasions? A card to lift someone's spirits? The Book Corner is taking orders by phone for curbside pickup.

Email bookcorner@stpaulqc.org with what you have in mind to start the process. Karen Holden, Book Corner manager, would love to put together something for you.

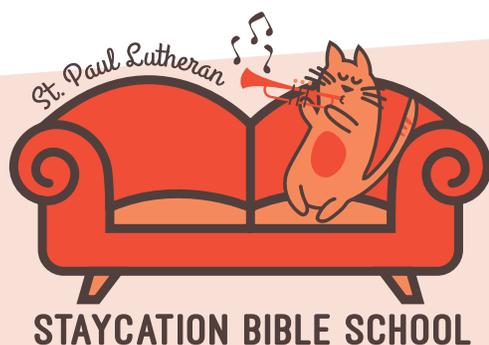


Small services of Holy Communion to be offered

We expect to be able to offer small services of Holy Communion throughout the summer, beginning late June. Offered at an array of convenient times, these services will be signup only. As with everything planned right now, changes to these services would need to take place if COVID-19 numbers in the region rise alarmingly and new restrictions on gatherings were to be imposed. Each of these refreshing 15-minute services of Holy Communion will allow St. Paul people to gather around a meal that is fundamental to our faith, forgiveness, and fullness as children of God. You'll have the chance to sign up online for one of multiple services offered in the main Sanctuary each week.

Communion in these brief services will be served in an entirely different manner than we're accustomed to. Large distances between very few people seated in the pews of the Sanctuary will combine with other safety protocols being put in place by the staff. While singing will not be an option, because of its contribution to spreading the virus, we will have the chance to be together in small communities of faith. Weather permitting, we'll be able to greet each other on the patio outside after each service. As with other events, bring along your face mask. Watch for more details in the mid-June pastoral letter.

JUNE HAPPENINGS



Age 4-grade 5: The people of God at home

Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches. — Psalm 149:5

We can't be together at St. Paul this year for Vacation Bible School — so we're sending VBS to you! Staycation Bible School will be June 15-19.

Every St. Paul family with kids ages 4 by Sept. 15 through entering grade 5 this fall will receive a packet and materials in the mail with the story of the day, suggestions for activities, and prayers. No need to register. The program this year is free for all.

Daily stories will be:

- Monday: 1 Samuel 3, Listening for God's words
- Tuesday: Luke 10:38-42, Different ways to welcome God
- Wednesday: Jonah 1 & 2, Learning through struggle
- Thursday: 1 Kings 17:7-16, You have something to offer
- Friday: Luke 24:36-49, Jesus comes to us with hope when we're afraid

Grades 6-8: 678 Week

St. Paul will offer activities for all middle school kids — entering grades 6-8 — each day during the week, June 15-19. To accommodate small groups online or in person, 678 will occur multiple times during the day with leaders helping us have fun and learn about God. To indicate your interest, please visit stpaulqc.org/signups. Cost is \$15 for a shirt and supplies. Watch for more information by email from Andy Langdon, director of youth ministries.

Grades 9-12: Summer Experience

High school students will take part in small group, socially distanced tailgate bonfires and service projects. Watch for more information by email from Andy Langdon, director of youth ministries.



New member classes set for this summer

St. Paul is pleased to be offering two separate in-person opportunities this summer to explore membership at St. Paul. Pastors Peter Marty and Sara Olson-Smith will lead these informal sessions, each limited to 12 people. Expect to laugh and learn and discover what drives St. Paul ministries. A tour of the church building is included. Bring your mask to have on hand. Expect to sit in socially distanced fashion.

To sign up for either Wednesday, July 15, or Tuesday, Aug. 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m., please contact Sara Olson-Smith at sara@stpaulqc.org or 563-326-3547, ext. 248.



Theology Pub to meet twice in June

Theology Pub offers a rich mix of people and perspective, exploring informally the many ways in which our faith intersects with our lives and the world. Current events will shape the topics month by month, as pastors offer reflections and we all dive into the conversation.

Theology Pub will be held twice in June on Thursdays, June 11 and 25, 7 p.m. If you are interested in being a part of the event, please sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.



Help in the St. Paul garden

The St. Paul Community Garden is growing vegetables for Cafe on Vine and Madison Market. Volunteers are needed to assist with weeding, watering, and harvest throughout the summer.

Small numbers of volunteers will work at the garden on Monday evenings through the summer. The first volunteer evening is set for Monday, June 8, starting at 5 p.m. If you are interested in helping, please sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.



Online organ recital: Chris Nelson to play on Tuesday, June 23

Chris Nelson, director of music ministries, will play an online recital on Tuesday, June 23, at 3 p.m.

Since St. Paul suspended worship in March, Chris has played music from a variety of composers on St. Paul's 12-year-old pipe organ. The recital can be viewed online at facebook.com/stpaulquadcities or youtube.com/c/stpaulquadcities.



Occasional Tuesdays Book Group: *Exactly As You Are*

Occasional Tuesdays Book Group will read and discuss *Exactly As You Are: The Life and Faith of Mr. Rogers*.

In June, the group will meet on June 9, 16, and 23. Each day, two sessions will be held — one in the morning at 7:30 a.m. and one in the evening at 7:30 p.m. — by videoconferencing.

Sign up online to get the link at stpaulqc.org/signups. The book is available for curbside pickup through the St. Paul Book Corner for \$16. Email Karen Holden at bookcorner@stpaulqc.org to start the ordering process.

In *Exactly as You Are*, Shea Tuttle looks at Fred Rogers' life, the people and places that made him who he was, and his work through Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. She pays particular attention to his faith — because Fred Rogers was a deeply spiritual person, ordained by his church with a one-of-a-kind charge: to minister to children and families through television.



FACE-TO-FACE: Gathering with a pastor

Enjoy an hour of summer conversation 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 gatherings where up to a dozen people may sign up. Bring your own lawn chair (and drink if you'd like). Call one of the pastors below if you have a spacious driveway (that can accommodate good social distancing), and if you're open to hosting one of these driveway gatherings. Signups at stpaulqc.org/signups begin June 10. To accommodate as many people as possible, please limit your name to only one FACE-TO-FACE gathering from the 12 options below:

Gather with Peter Marty

Online: Wednesday, June 17, 1-2 p.m.
Driveway: Friday, June 19, 4-5 p.m.

Gather with Katy Warren

Online: Tuesday, July 7, 7-8 p.m.
Driveway: Wednesday, July 8, 4-5 p.m.

Gather with Hayden Kvamme

Online: Wednesday, June 24, 2-3 p.m.
Driveway: Friday, June 26, 10-11 a.m.

Gather with Peter Marty

Online: Tuesday, July 14, 1-2 p.m.
Driveway: Wednesday, July 15, 4-5 p.m.

Gather with Sara Olson-Smith

Online: Wednesday, July 1, 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Driveway: Tuesday, June 30, 10-11 a.m.

Gather with Peter Pettit

Online: Monday, July 20, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Driveway: Wednesday, July 22, 7-8 p.m.



Grief Support to meet in June

These days are particularly hard for those of us who are grieving, without the usual rituals that help us make meaning and find courage. We need each other to make it through.

Gather with Pastor Sara Olson-Smith and others for support, learning and (virtual) community the first two Tuesdays in June at 1 p.m. on Zoom. Sign-up online at stpaulqc.org/signups to ensure you get the meeting link. Contact Pastor Sara at sara@stpaulqc.org, not only about these meetings but for other grief support.



Temporary labyrinth to be drawn in west parking lot

A labyrinth, a circling route that offers an opportunity to walk and pray, will be temporarily drawn on the St. Paul campus at the end of June.

Labyrinths assist individuals in Christian meditation and prayer. In the Middle Ages, labyrinths were used as a way for people to participate in a pilgrimage without the expense or time required in actually going to another place. Labyrinths were created on the floors of cathedrals to help draw people into meditation.

The labyrinth will be drawn on Monday, June 29, weather permitting. People who wish to use the labyrinth do not need to register, but please do keep social distancing guidelines in mind. Watch St. Paul publications for more information.



Women's Bible study: Put your own oxygen on first

No two women are the same and our to-do lists are vastly different. But not many of us put ourselves on that list. Let's change that! Scripture will serve as a taking off place as we discuss how to make space in our lives for rest, prayer, play, and more. On Tuesday, June 9, 8 p.m. on Zoom, take a deep breath, enjoy the company of other women, and be filled with the joy that comes from connection. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.



Preschool celebration

Preschoolers and their families drove through the St. Paul parking lot to wave and say hello to preschool teachers. Music, bubbles, juggling — it was a beautiful day to celebrate community, at a distance.





St. Paul Preschool hiring teachers for 2020-21 school year

St. Paul Lutheran Preschool in Davenport is seeking part-time teachers for the 2020-2021 school year.

Preschool leaders are looking for caring, creative and enthusiastic people who love working with young children and are team players. Successful candidates would possess a love for children, a college degree or CDA, and/or experience working with young children.

Interested? Please send your resume and a letter of interest to karenstrusz@stpaulqc.org.



Teaching, reconfigured

Educators, from preschool through college, embarked upon an adventure (and struggle) of teaching their students online for the last two months of the 2019-2020 school year. Meet some St. Paul educators, who offered their perspectives on the challenge.



MIKE REINHOLDT, *Buchanan Elementary, Davenport*

This school year has been unlike anything I or any teacher has ever known. In a span of only a couple of weeks my classroom has transformed into one that is completely virtual. Let me tell you, teaching during a pandemic is not for the faint of heart. Assignments are posted in my “classroom” — a webpage that allows students to access materials in a somewhat coherent fashion. Online lessons come in the form of me waiting in a virtual meeting for students to attend (or not). Participation is completely voluntary at this point, so long gone are the days of my classes being full. Much of the personal connection of a student and a teacher has evaporated, the “lightbulb” moments and the impromptu situations that present themselves in a traditional classroom as well.

However, through this experience I have begun to better understand the obstacles my students face in their daily learning. At home many of my students must prioritize between school and taking care of younger students or preparing meals for their family. They often don’t have access to internet and need to leave their homes to complete schoolwork. In spite of these challenges, these students continue coming to class, completing assignments, and learning. This passion in the face of ever-present obstacles inspires me to keep pushing on, innovating the classroom, and bringing my best face to the class. I hope that I take these lessons back with me when we return and we can safely gather again. Even though the school halls are dark and the classrooms empty, learning for everyone continues albeit very different from before.

DAWN STONE, *Williams Intermediate, Davenport*

Friday the 13th was our last day of school. I feel it’s pretty safe to say that very few of us ever dreamed it would be our last “normal” day of school.

Teaching during a pandemic has been a challenging, adventurous experience. Aside from required meetings during the day, I do most of my school work after Stone Family School is completed. As a middle school vocal music teacher, singing together has become something we only dream about doing again someday. However, a silver-lining to this experience has been the opportunity to collaborate with vocal music teachers in our district to prepare lessons and videos for our Vocal Music and General Music Google Classrooms. Using different recording techniques and programs has been a learning curve for all of us.

The mental aspect of this has been more difficult. I didn’t get to say good-bye to my eighth-graders that I’ve had since they were in sixth grade, I didn’t get to teach the last group of sixth grade general music students, we didn’t have the end-of-year anticipation and we didn’t get to perform our final concerts. Returning to my classroom again a couple of weeks ago heightened these feelings of grief. I’m in the process of writing letters to all of my seventh- and eighth- grade students. I say my good-byes and tell them how much I’ve enjoyed working with them. I’ve received handwritten letters back from four of my students and several more emails from others. These have brought me joy in a disappointing time.



CATHY ANDERSON, *Butterworth Elementary, Moline*

The first time I hosted a video call with my class of third graders, I had to hold back tears of joy each time another student joined the call. It was so wonderful to see each of their sweet smiling faces! And the kids were SO excited to see each other.

It's been many weeks of distance learning, and I am still happy each day when I get to see my students on video calls. I have just over half of my class who log on every single day, watch my daily videos, complete all their assignments, and attend every reading group and class video call that I host. About ¼ of my class logs on a few days a week, completes part of the work, and comes to some video calls. And ¼ of my class I have not been able to reach — at all. Phone calls, texts, emails, classroom app messages have all gone unanswered. I mailed them paper packets of work to complete and I can only hope that they are working on them or doing some sort of learning, and I pray that those students are being fed and cared for at home.

I have had to be creative in new ways as a distance learning teacher. I'm constantly coming up with new things to do at our Google Meets. Scavenger hunts, science experiments, virtual four corners games, and multiplication mysteries have been big hits. Singing our spring concert songs together with the lag time of a video call was not so successful. Small online reading groups have given the kids a chance to connect with each other, and help me keep that connection with them. I know it's not easy for parents to help their kids learn at home, and I try to assign work that each student can complete individually. I love the videos my students submit to me, telling me what they learned from reading an article, or what their favorite part of a book was. And it is so much easier to read the typed rough draft of their opinion writing than it was to read their sprawly cursive handwriting.

We all miss being together. Learning together. Working together. Someday, we will be able to do that again, but for now, our virtual fist bumps and chants of "I'm glad you came to school today!" at the beginning of each video call will have to do.



JASON MAHN, *Augustana College*

Two months ago, Augustana College announced an extended spring break, followed by the decision to move to distance-learning for the remainder of the semester. A couple hundred colleagues and I used that spring break to learn the best practices of "distance learning" — how to use Moodle and Google, Zoom and Loom, forums and chat rooms and blogs (oh my!).

Fast-forward to this, the last week of the semester, and I'm helping eight graduating religion majors put together a journal that showcases their "senior inquiry" projects, now that the academic conference they had planned to present at was cancelled. A handful of pre-seminary students and I just had our final "Working with Faith" class over Google Chats — a rather deep discussion of Nadia Bolz-Weber's latest book. I've finished responding to essays from 20 "Encountering Religion" students writing about Islam and Islamophobia after they interviewed a local Muslim leader. After meeting one-on-one (through screens) with me, all of my first-year advisees have successfully registered for Fall courses that we desperately hope will be on campus.

Being a college professor through this difficult time has been a gift and a challenge. It's a gift that my work can be done at home — and occasionally from a deserted Old Main. It's a gift to work with fellow educators who are going out of their way to be patient, caring, and supportive of one another. Most of all, it is a gift to work with 18-22-year-olds, to continue to help them find their voice and paths, and to learn from them in the process.

The greatest challenge is how to connect with students, to inspire them and be inspired, when most of the connections are virtual. I don't want liberal learning (that is, deep and wide learning) to be reduced to "conveying" some information through cyberspace. I miss sitting with them in our classrooms, or going over drafts of their writing in "The Brew," or even playing a "noonball" pickup game of basketball with those I am still able to guard. When I am teaching at my best, I am modeling my own learning, a learning that happens through the body and spirit as well as the mind. I'm more than ready to be back together in the Fall — even if only every-other desk is filled, if we have to forgo noonball, and if the chairs in the coffee shop are six feet apart.





Congratulations, CLASS OF 2020

St. Paul honors its graduating high school seniors each year with a baccalaureate breakfast and prayer during worship. Because we could not be together in worship in May, we honor them with their photos and a message from Andy Langdon, director of youth ministries.

"As your youth director, I'm just so proud of all of you. You have shaped the fabric of our youth group with your leadership, compassion, energy, and love. You remind me of Jesus. I can't wait to see you again when we gather for alumni events. You have a new adventure in front of you and I'm eager to hear how you discover more about God's love in your next chapter."

"Wherever you go, may you always remember: You are a child of God, wholly and dearly loved. Jesus loves you and so do I!"



Council Notes

The St. Paul Congregational Council met via videoconference for its May meeting, with hope that they could move their online meetings to in-person this summer, as St. Paul begins taking a gradual process of reopening.

Members of the council expressed gratitude for the online offerings, especially worship, during the pandemic. They also expressed support for acting wisely over the next month with small, socially distanced gatherings within the congregation, keep-

ing in mind the spirit and joy of togetherness, safety, and the well-being of everyone around us.

The congregation treasurer presented the financial report, including word that St. Paul members appear to be doing their best to sustain household giving commitments. Some members have made additional gifts to assist with COVID-19 related assistance. Non-staff expenses are down, an expected result of the pandemic.

Scheduling a baptism

People are still binding their lives to Christ through the power and significance of baptism, in spite of the coronavirus pandemic affecting many aspects of communal life. If you are part of the St. Paul community and have been contemplating baptism for yourself or awaiting it for your child(ren), you may schedule by contacting Becky Harper 563-326-3547, ext 211, or becky@stpaulqc.org. All baptisms in the coming months will be private, with limited numbers able to gather, but nevertheless intimate, informal, and holy in nature.



Better Choices, Better Health

St. Paul to offer course for people with chronic conditions

Better Choices, Better Health — which helps adults with chronic conditions to build confidence in their ability to manage their health and lead active lives — will be offered beginning in June through St. Paul.

This evidence-based program, developed by Stanford University, will be held on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. for six weeks, June 16-July 21. At least the first three sessions will be held through the Zoom teleconferencing system.

Participants are asked to sign up online for this evidence-based program at stpaulqc.org/signups. Class size is limited. Questions? Contact Beth Laureijs, beth@stpaulqc.org.

The workshop sessions will be taught by Beth Laureijs, St. Paul's pastoral residency administrator, and Barb Wiese, a retired professor from St. Ambrose University.

Chronic conditions can include heart disease, arthritis, diabetes, depression, anxiety, asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, and other physical and mental health conditions.

Participants will learn:

- Techniques to deal with isolation, frustration, fatigue, and pain
- Suitable exercises for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility, and endurance
- Appropriate use of medications
- How to communicate effectively with family, friends, and health professionals
- Healthy eating and nutrition tips
- How to evaluate treatment options



Barb Wiese



Beth Laureijs

with SYMPATHY

as of May 21:

- ▶ Mike & Dawn Schroeder, his aunt, Elmira Schlichting*
- ▶ Family of Ken Tank*: Annette Tank, her husband Kathy & Todd Gehrls, her father Erin Gehrls, her grandfather
- ▶ Family of Marlyn Ann Brown: Marianne Casas, her mother Marisa Casas, her grandmother
- ▶ Family of Linda Barquist*: Brian & Steph Barquist, his mother Becky & Doug Schweizer, her mother Jenna & Nick Schweizer, her grandmother Will Barquist, his grandmother
- ▶ Gayle & Richard Farrar, her mother, Wilma Hoogheem
- ▶ Family of Lisa Jensen, Gary & Patty Maiden, his sister
- ▶ Joy & Steve Saladino, her mother, Betty Jean Scherer
- ▶ Family of Don Baustian, Gina & Brian Bettini, her father Christina Bettini, her grandfather Ellen & P.J. Scott, her grandfather
- ▶ Family of Dick Hillebrand, Sylvia Hillebrand, her husband Marian & Bill Storjohann, her brother-in-law
- ▶ Rick & Sue Rector, his father, Leland Rector
- ▶ Nick & Nate Hartje, their grandfather, Ronald Hartje

*member of St. Paul

BIRTHS

- ▶ Charlie Thompson, son of Margaret & Miles Thompson, March 20
- ▶ Jameson Scott Baker, son of Bailie & Nick Baker, April 25
- ▶ Isaac Randall Rathje, son of Jess & Charlie Rathje, May 3

WEDDINGS

- ▶ Leighton James and Patrick Hathaway, March 26



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803

PEACE BE WITH YOU

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