

# journey



# Core values



**ON THE COVER:**  
Jordan & Eric Stewart

## journey

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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, courageous service, extravagant generosity.

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When I moved to the Quad Cities with Susan and our young children 25 years ago, it quickly became apparent to me that life was going to spin out of control without some serious focusing of priorities. It was then that I typed up a list of personal and professional things that mattered deeply to me. I placed that list (of what turned out to be 13 points) on a tiny 1 ¾ x 2 ½ inch card. I then added a title to the top — “Priorities that don’t always get the time they deserve” — and laminated it. It’s been in my wallet every single day for a quarter-century. I haven’t walked a step without it.

This ever-relevant to-do list is comprised of behaviors, perspectives, and relationships I want to keep attending to. It is not a record of my values; my values are what rest behind and beneath these assignments I’ve given myself. My values shape my character and the kind of person I hope to become. I’m not sure I have values in any possessive sense, but I (hopefully) have character and integrity — traits that give a center to my life. And those traits happen to be shaped by very particular values that are informed by faith, scripture, and countless experiences throughout my life.

Our congregation has values too, in case you are unaware. These are written out and well-articulated (see page 3). We call them CORE values because they are foundational to our collective faith and life. They’re not strategies or rules of thumb or operating practices like that little card in my wallet. They’re certainly not a measurement of our sanctity. They’re more like guiding principles that clarify who we are, just as they remind us of what we prize as a Christ-shaped community.

Eighteen years have elapsed since we first established our congregation’s core values. Last year, our St. Paul staff, and then church council, reviewed these core values to update them. I’m thrilled with how the five different values speak to our place and identity in the world. Each of them is informed by faith, scripture, and our congregational experiences that have accumulated over our 139-year history. Together they send an important signal to the world around us that we are not a club of like-minded people but a home for individuals from all walks of life.

As you read and absorb these core values, I hope you sense a joy that bubbles up, passion that’s unmistakable, inclusivity that’s generous, and humility that’s essential. When I read the prophets of the Old Testament, I hear God telling us that we’re going to have to learn to care about all whom God cares about. And if, for some reason, those people don’t matter to us, then we need to conclude that God doesn’t really matter to us either.

When I read the Gospels — take Matthew 25:31-46 as but one example — I get a quick reckoning that to live the Christian life well is to want the world’s vulnerable to flourish, and to do what we can to make that possible.

As the people of St. Paul Lutheran Church, we want to play a role in constructing a society where justice is available to more and more people. Systems, structures, and institutions that work so well for many of us haven’t benefited others in nearly the same way. The church can be a difference maker here. And, as a member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which is statistically (and embarrassingly) the whitest denomination in the United States, we have big work to do in better understanding and applying our energy toward making life more whole for those who continue to get passed by. Grace-filled ideas of justice that flow through the pages of the Bible have the best chance of becoming reality when love is deployed. And, at St. Paul Lutheran, love happens to be one of our strengths.

If you’ve traveled abroad, you know how some signs translated into English read humorously by accident. One of the best was seen two decades ago at a five-star hotel in Paris: “Please leave your values at the front desk.” That sign encourages me to say to you: Please don’t leave these St. Paul core values stuck to a page in the monthly magazine of your church. Take them to heart and live them with the faith that is yours and ours together. Peace,

**PETER W. MARTY**  
*senior pastor*




# ST. PAUL'S CORE VALUES

Five core values shape the heart and soul of everything St. Paul is all about.




## Radical Hospitality

Everyone counts at St. Paul. Everyone matters. No exceptions. We take seriously the biblical understanding of the church as the Body of Christ. We value people of every racial identity, ethnicity, citizenship, age, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity — yes, everybody. We celebrate diversity as a gift from God. Inclusivity enriches our congregation as we become a more vibrant reflection of the larger community.




## Passionate Worship

Nothing a congregation does compares with the importance and passion of its worship life. Worshiping together with other believers is our most prized moment for giving honest thanks to God. It's that focused occasion in a given week for all of us to stop pretending to be God. Lutheran worship is not a spectator sport. Everyone participates. Our exuberant praise, stirring music, grace-filled words, holy communion, and prayers draw on our deep tradition and from influences around the world.




## Intentional Faith Formation

Lutheran Christians consider their lives to be unfinished products. They are constantly seeking to grow in faith and deepen the meaning of their days. Lifelong learning is a big deal at St. Paul. We delight in every opportunity to strengthen our relationship with God over the entire course of our lives, learning with other Christian brothers and sisters and people of different faiths. Ours is a congregation that does not act as if it has all the answers. In fact, we think clarity in asking the right questions is more important than presuming to have some corner on the truth, especially given the complex issues of the day.



## Courageous Service

St. Paul is a servant church. We take our cues for serving others from Jesus Christ, who in a single sentence summed up the importance of being available to others: I came not to be served, but to serve (Matthew 20:28). Although self-interest is an everyday human instinct, St. Paul people strive to show up for others. We recognize that structures and systems often fail to meet people's basic needs and limit their wholeness as children of God. Our faith moves us to work for change wherever it is needed. Acts of solidarity, advocacy, and personal sacrifice are at the heart of our commitment to building a more just and hope-filled society.



## Extravagant Generosity

Grateful people are generous people. Interestingly enough, they are also happy people. St. Paul centers its life around gratitude to God for the abundant blessings of life. We believe strongly in the idea that "you make a living by what you earn; you make a life by what you give away." Our congregation makes an extraordinary commitment to give generously to others. This generosity is fueled by the individual joy and commitment of all our people seeking to lead grateful — and happy — lives.

# February HAPPENINGS

## St. Paul to hold annual meeting Feb. 7

The St. Paul annual congregational meeting, set for Feb. 7, will be hosted online this year due to COVID-19.

Instead of a Zoom meeting where scores of parishioners would be unable to interact successfully, the meeting will be released by email at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 7, to all church members. Pastor Peter Marty, David Tews (congregation president), and Jeff Bass (congregation treasurer), will provide videotaped messages. Using an online Google form, members will have the opportunity to vote to approve the 2021 budget. A one-page summary of the church's financial position, that includes an outline of the 2021 budget, will be available for pick-up at the church in the days preceding and following the annual meeting. Please note: This summary report page is not required reading to benefit from the meeting's proceedings.

## Walking the grief journey to begin March 4

This supportive and compassionate series is for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Explore anger, depression, fears, acceptance, and new strength for a hopeful future. The first session of this four-week series will be Thursday, March 4, 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Luther Loft, continuing through Thursday, March 25. Bring your mask. Sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Lynn Batcher Robinson, [ldbatcher@hotmail.com](mailto:ldbatcher@hotmail.com).



## Preschool registration set for 2021-2022

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

Fall 2021 registration for St. Paul Preschool will take place February 8-9, 8 a.m.-12 noon, for currently enrolled students. New students will register the week of February 22. If you are interested in enrolling your child, please contact Karen Strusz, 326-3547, ext. 219, or [karenstrusz@stpaulqc.org](mailto:karenstrusz@stpaulqc.org).

## In-person worship times set for February

Starting Feb. 24, shortened in-person worship services will be offered in the St. Paul sanctuary on Wednesdays at 12 noon and Saturday evenings.

These services will include a short message, prayer, reflection, and music from Chris Nelson, organist and director of music ministries, Bill Campbell, director of contemporary music, and other musicians. Come and worship with others. Because of pandemic concerns, holy communion will not be served.

Sign up is required, at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). You can also call the church office at 563-326-3547. A reminder email will be sent the day before your chosen worship time. Households sit together at marked locations in the sanctuary, maintaining a safe physical distance. Please bring a face covering with you.

## Podcast Discussion Group to meet Feb. 11

Once a month, this group will meet to discuss a few episodes from different podcasts centered around a certain theme, listened to ahead of time. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups), and we'll send you the podcasts to listen to each month, along with a question to consider. The next meeting will be Thursday, Feb. 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Zoom. Led by Katy Warren and Hayden Kvamme. Contact: Hayden Kvamme, [hayden@stpaulqc.org](mailto:hayden@stpaulqc.org).

## CC Conversations

Thursday, Feb. 4, 6-7 p.m., online via Zoom

On the first Thursday of every month (February thru May), St. Paul people gather for conversation on topics involving faith, politics, and culture, using articles and news from the *Christian Century* magazine as a springboard for conversation. Follow the church calendar for information on whether the month's meeting is in-person or by Zoom. Articles for discussion will be posted one week in advance of each first Thursday, and spare copies of those will be similarly available in the church library. Peter Marty facilitates. Contact: Peter Marty, peter@stpaulqc.org.

## Coffee Chats to continue in February

Come participate in hour-long coffee chats on faith, health, and wholeness this month, on the first three Tuesdays in February, 10:30-11:30 a.m., in the Chapel. Please sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Beth Laureijs, beth@stpaulqc.org.

- **Feb. 2:** Groundhog Day and Intentions — What does it look like to come out of hibernation with some fresh direction?
- **Feb. 9:** World Religions and Health — How do people from different religious traditions integrate health, wellness, and healthcare into their lives?
- **Feb. 16:** Shrove Tuesday — Come learn about this unique day of the church calendar, a celebratory day as the church approaches Lent.

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

Angie Vaaler, the St. Paul 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.

On staff part-time, Angie is available for telehealth appointments over both audio and video. Please contact Angie at 563-326-3547, ext. 312.



## Fourth-graders begin First Communion prep

Learning together about this sacrament of grace will take new shape this year. Fourth-graders and their parents will gather for two Sunday morning learning sessions on Feb. 21 and March 28, (parent's choice: in-person at 9:00 a.m. or on Zoom at 10:15 a.m.) In the weeks between these sessions, we'll equip families with everything they need for experiential learning and conversations at home.

More information will be shared to 4th grade families in the coming days. Sign-up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org, 563-326-3547 ext. 248.



## Aging Innovatively to offer guidance on healthy aging

Learn new strategies to help yourself live well as you age. In this five-week program, St. Ambrose doctoral students and faculty from the Occupational Therapy department at SAU will talk about successfully aging in place, brain health, new assistive technology, and more. Each week a professor will lead a discussion and students will share new innovations and information at 4-5 learning stations. Come and learn how to improve or maintain quality of life as we age.

Sessions will be held on Friday mornings, Feb. 19-March 26, 9-11 a.m. Spots are limited. Masks, social distancing and safe measures will be taken during this in-person program. Sign-up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). The program is free. To learn more, please contact Beth Laureijs, beth@stpaulqc.org, 563-326-3547, ext. 215.

# growing herbs

Eric and Jordan Stewart started growing herbs earlier this year — a hobby that has given them joy during the pandemic.

It all started when Eric Stewart wanted to drink less Dr. Pepper.

Actually, that's when the need for iced tea started... which then grew into a desire for homegrown mint in his iced tea.

"I take a Thermos full of tea each day to school," said Eric, who is a religion professor at Augustana College. "My grandmother used to grow mint in her garden. I thought if mint grows easily, why am I paying for it?"

"I haven't paid for mint since March."

From his daughter Jordan's perspective, it all started with the mint as well.

"Dad started having a little mint farm," she said. "And then we thought about making an herb garden. Then...we went to Hy-Vee and they have herbs that are already grown."

Pots, a four-tier rack, purply-pink indoor growing lights, and lots of learning later — an herb garden was born. "It's all right next to our kitchen table. We can smell it at the table. It does smell pretty nice," Eric said.

"We're figuring out the watering as we go along," Jordan said. The lighting is simpler — they have determined which plants can handle being closer to the chillier spot near a sliding glass door to get the natural sunlight. Otherwise, the indoor lights come on in the morning when Eric gets out of bed, and they go back off when the family goes to sleep at night.

They are acquiring all sorts of knowledge about what kind of soil each herb prefers, such as which ones need sandy soil with good drainage. The best method and timing for harvest? Also a learning curve.

The mint growing started in March, with the rest

starting in October. They grow oregano, thyme, cilantro, sage, basil, mint, parsley, and rosemary.

The Stewart family, which also includes mom Rikka and twin brother Aron, include the herbs in their cooking. Red wine pork, baked chicken alfredo, feta and lemon braised chicken wings. "We're planning out different meals based on the herbs we're growing," Jordan said.

Jordan has been cooking since she was little. "By the time Jordan and Aron were 14 months old, they could crack eggs without getting shells in what we were making," Eric said. They usually bake something two or three times a week.

This spring, the Stewarts are planning to get one more rack and another set of lights to start seeds. Tomatoes and jalapenos are on their list. They also have a raspberry bush out back that is growing really well. They will be reclaiming some raised garden beds in their yard as well.

"My grandmother was a gardener, my father was a gardener," Eric said. "It's nice to pick up the tradition to pass it on to Jordan. I assume that the herb garden will go on as long as we live here. It's a way to pass down some of the knowledge that my grandmother and father passed on to me."





## herbs

Herbs flavor food and have wonderful scents. Here are descriptions of a few favorite herbs.

**basil:** The classic large-leaved Italian sweet basil, prized for its flavor and heady aroma, is a top pick for many cooks when making pesto. It can be chopped and frozen in olive oil for winter use.

**chives:** The slender, onion-flavored, green foliage of chives can be eaten fresh or cooked, and can even be frozen for use later. The cheery, lavender-pink flowers of this perennial herb are also edible and make this species a welcome addition to ornamental borders.

**cilantro:** The fresh leaves of this herb, commonly known as cilantro, are used in a variety of Asian and Latin cuisines, but its seeds are also collected and used as a spice called coriander.

**rosemary:** Mediterranean native. Attractive evergreen shrub with grey-green pinnate leaves. Classic herb has a spicy flavor used extensively to season meats and vegetables. Great for pots.

**spearmint:** The dark-green, toothed leaves of this mint species are used for making tea and cocktails and for flavoring candies and desserts, as well as for adding fragrance to lotions and tinctures.

**thyme:** One of the most versatile herbs used in cooking, thyme can be used to season any meat or vegetable.

“It’s nice to pick up the tradition... it’s a way to pass down some of the knowledge that my grandmother and father passed on to me.”

Source: Seed Savers Exchange, a nonprofit organization based in Decorah, Iowa. They educate and connect people through collecting, regenerating, and sharing heirloom seeds, plants, and stories.

# (extra)ordinary

# encounters

Lent is a journey — a path for people from all walks of life to the joy of Easter. There are many ways to explore the words of God to prepare your soul for the Resurrection of Christ.



## Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 17

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten journey to Easter for Christians. An online Ash Wednesday service will feature a host of gifted musicians and Pastor Peter Marty preaching. The link will be sent by email at 4 p.m. or available at [youtube.com/c/stpaulquadcities](https://youtube.com/c/stpaulquadcities).

On this solemn day, if you wish to receive an ashen cross on the forehead — a reminder of our frailty and sin — or a small handout with an Ash Wednesday blessing, pull up to the main church door during the designated times to receive your "drive-thru ashen cross." Pastors, with ash in hand, will be available Wednesday, Feb. 17 from 7-9 a.m., 12-2 p.m., and 5-7 p.m. Receive the sign of the cross on your forehead from the seat of your car!

## Five Lenten Wednesday Services (Online), Feb. 24 — March 24

Wednesdays in Lent will bring a worshipful video on the theme, *(Extra)ordinary Encounters*. Each week, a member of the congregation will discuss with a St. Paul pastor an object that has special meaning because of an experience it brings to mind. An ordinary thing that might otherwise pass by unnoticed will rise to significance by the discussion about its place in the owner's life story and relationships. In the encounter that gets told and in our encounter with the story, the extraordinary blessing or love or possibility that God pours into our lives day by day can emerge.

Watch for the videos to go live each Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. beginning Feb. 24. The link will be sent by email, or available at [youtube.com/c/stpaulquadcities](https://youtube.com/c/stpaulquadcities).

**For families:** For each Wednesday in Lent, beginning Feb. 24, a packet will be available with prayers, devotions, and a coloring page. These will be available via download or pickup in the church office each week.

## Lenten Adult Learning: *I Want You to Be: On the God of Love*

Our book discussion for Lent 2021 will focus on a devotional reflection on the God of love and the twin commandments to love God and love the neighbor (and even the enemy.) Czech theologian Tomáš Halík, who worked underground as a Catholic priest during the Communist regime, extends his earlier reflections on faith and hope into the realm of love. In the two great commandments, Halík finds a door into mystery that ties love of God and love of neighbor into an intimate oneness. That mystery may just be the Christian's most powerful resource in an age of unbelief, secularity, and cynicism.

Join pastors Hayden Kvamme and Peter A. Pettit in weekly discussion to explore this provocative, inspiring work. Bring your questions, and be ready for more! In-person on Fridays in the Chapel at 1 p.m., Feb. 19–Mar. 26; on Zoom on Sundays, 7 p.m., Feb. 21–March 28. Signup for both groups online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](https://stpaulqc.org/signups). The book is available for \$15 in the St. Paul Book Corner.



## Confirmation

Wednesdays, Feb. 24-March 24, 6 & 7 p.m.

Seventh-graders will meet at 6 p.m. and eighth-graders at 7 p.m. Teenagers will meet onsite to engage in learning about big questions of faith and will take part in experiential worship each week. Contact: Pastor Katy Warren, [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org), 563-326-3547 ext. 232.

## Devotional book: *A Story to Tell*

*A Story to Tell: Devotions for Lent 2021* highlights readings from the gospel of Mark from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer.

This accessible and colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into your Lenten journey. The book is available for \$3 in the Book Corner.



## Special offerings: World Hunger

By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) World Hunger organization meets basic needs and recognizes the universal human right to food. But ending hunger is about more than food. By connecting people with education, health care, and sources of income, long-term, sustainable change can be accomplished.

The ELCA is active in 60 countries through World Hunger.

All midweek Lenten offerings at St. Paul (in envelopes or cash) will be given to fight hunger. St. Paul aims again to exceed \$20,000. If you would like to make an additional Lenten offering toward this cause, please earmark your check memo line with “Lent — World Hunger.”

## Holy Week and Easter

Palm/Passion Sunday falls on Sunday, Mar 28 this year and Easter falls on the next Sunday, Apr 4. We don't know exactly what will take place in-person or online during this precious week, given the unpredictability of the pandemic. All we know for certain is that our Lord Jesus Christ died and was raised, and we will do something to honor the impact of this saving grace on our lives. Watch for the March edition of the *Journey* and stay tuned to other church notices that will provide updates on Holy Week.



# new members / WINTER 2021



**JOE KEENEY** is a retired district supervisor for Job Service of Iowa. He enjoys daily walks, visiting neighbors, and reading about flying. Community service and St. Paul's commitment to the city attracted him. His wife Audrey is a member and they have been worshipping together at St. Paul for more than 15 years.

**RON & CARLETTE KETELSON** (*not pictured*) are both retired. They are former members who are back at St. Paul.



**DARYL ANN MOORE** is a retired human resources director. She spends her free time golfing, being with friends, and walking her dogs. She's passionate about education.

**CHRISTIE NOVAK** (*not pictured*) has a four-year-old son named Grayson. She works as a paralegal. She spends her free time caring for her father, riding motorcycles, reading, and traveling.



**TOM STAHL & SAM ZUST** are an engaged couple who were drawn to St. Paul by the sense of community. Tom is a financial planner with True Financial Partners and loves to golf. Sam is a dance teacher and administrative assistant at Studio A Dance and enjoys spending time with family.



**DEREK & JESSICA ZABRANSKY** are parents to Lydia, Izzy, and Gwen. They're both teachers and brass players. Jessica is the daughter of Joel and Janet Youngs, also St. Paul members.



**Membership Inquiry Classes:**  
Learn more about the faith expressions that ground us, the mission commitments that inspire us, and the program life that can grow your faith. Come to an upcoming class on Saturday, Feb. 27, 9-10:15 a.m., online via Zoom.  
Sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups).

## St. Paul welcomes Jessica Taylor, new director of communication

Jessica developed a knack for storytelling at a young age through her passion for reading and the theatre. Jessica believes that by telling the stories of others, we are drawn into aspects of their lives that we may never know otherwise and can celebrate our own unique experiences.

A Davenport native, Jessica attended St. Ambrose University to hone her communication skills, majoring in Radio/TV and Journalism with a minor in Theatre. She wrote for The Buzz, the St. Ambrose newspaper, and anchored news broadcasts for TV11.

When not at St. Paul, you can find Jessica on the stage performing with local theatre companies or in front of the camera working on various commercial and film projects. In her downtime, she enjoys sitting back with a cup of tea and devouring books of all kinds.

Jessica lives in Davenport with her husband, Tom, and her daughter, Avery. As a family, they enjoy cooking, playing games, and dance parties.



## Council Notes

The St. Paul Congregation Council gathered together for its first in-person meeting since October. The council began its meeting with a budget presentation by business manager Paula Durham, and an executive session with the Personnel Committee to review 2021 compensation and benefits.

The council took multiple actions to continue moving the church forward during the pandemic. Members affirmed the Memorial Committee's support of renovation for two lower level rooms referred to as the "Youth and Booth" rooms. The improvements will make an important contribution to the growth of our youth ministry. Upgrades will include painting, light fixtures, sound system, new flooring, and some more permanent spaces to provide comfortable seating. The council praised Youth Ministry Intern Haley Rhoads for her detailed plan for the renovations. In separate action, the council affirmed the recommendation of the Endowment Committee for Mission Outreach to lend support to preschool scholarship-related expenses with a \$7,500 grant.

The proposed 2021 budget of \$2.9M was

approved by the council and recommended for passage at the congregation's annual meeting on Feb. 7. The format for the Annual Meeting has been updated to reflect the current safety measures in place in our community. A video message from Pastor Peter Marty, Congregation President David Tews, and Congregation Treasurer Jeff Bass will be made available to the congregation at 10 a.m. on Feb. 7. A virtual voting form will accompany the Annual Meeting video. A financial summary page will be available to members of the congregation for pick up in the church office.

The council expressed gratitude for Marcia Robertson, giving ministry coordinator, for her outstanding work and tireless dedication. The council also gave thanks for the generosity of the individual household pledge commitments that have brought St. Paul into the new year in a strong financial position.

A final thank you to the members of various St. Paul committees and teams who have agreed to remain in their leadership positions for an extended year of service, due to the pandemic.

## Endowment committee approves support for Liz Kuster

The St. Paul Endowment Committee recently approved tuition support for Liz Kuster, a St. Paul member and seminary student at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, or LSTC. She was recently featured in a campus publication. Here is an excerpt:

Liz Kuster comes to LSTC from Bettendorf, Iowa, right on the Mississippi River in eastern Iowa. She was drawn to LSTC by the sense of community.

"Even in difficult situations, the student body seemed to rally together to support one another," she said. "Even in a time of social distancing and Zoom-everything, I feel integrated into this community because of the intentionality of students reaching out to one another."

In her first-year profile provided to admissions, Liz said she has in the last several years become "incessantly curious" about the world around her, eager to explore,

travel, and learn as much as she can.

"I love being challenged and embracing the hard work and growth that accompanies those challenges. I hold dear to my heart the lost art of storytelling; language and words are a critical form of expressing and communicating for me, and I find myself writing often. Authenticity is one of my core values."

Seminary and online learning have been overwhelming in every sense and emotion, she said, both welcome and unwelcome. "That being said, I am still so glad to be here on this journey within this community."

Liz serves as the Master Student Association treasurer, enjoys being outside and exercising, cooking good and healthy food, and being a huge fan of classic films.



Liz Kuster

## with SYMPATHY

as of Jan. 22:

- ▶ Marilyn Puck, husband Bill Puck
- ▶ John Seeck, wife Vicki Seeck
- ▶ Peter & Lynn Pettit, his father Alfred W. Pettit
- ▶ Jill & Wally Lechtenberg, her father Will Branch
- ▶ Mark & Nancy Ehrecke, his father Bill Ehrecke
- ▶ Kathy Tomsha, mother-in-law Josephine Tomsha
- ▶ Sonja & Jon Hurty, her uncle Maury Berggren
- ▶ Lamoine & Shirlene Rekemeyer, daughter-in-law Maureen Rekemeyer
- ▶ Family of Cynthia Olsen: Harry Olsen, daughter-in-law Lisa & Lee Gaston, sister-in-law
- ▶ Family of Rhoda Frank: Renee & Bob Wade, her mother Chelsea & Jason Guerin, her grandmother
- ▶ Family of Donna Cavins: Mike & Jen Cavins, his mother John & Matt Cavins, their grandmother
- ▶ Family of Dave Parker: Lori Parker, husband Taylor Parker, father Dylan & Tia Parker, his father Ayva, Cameron & Antigone Parker, their grandfather
- ▶ Family of Debra Oldham: Chelsea & James Robinson, her mother Louella Robinson, grandmother
- ▶ Marla Brundies, her stepfather Walter Hageney
- ▶ Ericka & Chris Page, her aunt Jeannie Turpin

## DEATHS

- ▶ Bill Puck, Dec. 21
- ▶ Vicki Seeck, Jan. 8

## WEDDINGS

- ▶ Anna Loken & Weston Maass, Dec. 31
- ▶ Alyssa Conway & Alex Osborn, Jan. 9

## BIRTHS

- ▶ Hailey Ann Elpers, daughter of Laura & Curt Elpers, Jan. 2



ST. PAUL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA 52803

ALL ST. PAUL READS 2021

# A MAP IS ONLY ONE STORY

*A virtual event on Thursday, Feb. 11, 7-8 p.m.*



All St. Paul Reads is encouragement for all to read and talk about a single book title in the same year. *A Map Is Only One Story: Twenty Writers on Immigration, Family, and the Meaning of Home* is the 2021 All St. Paul Reads book. This virtual event will take place on Thursday, Feb. 11, 7-8 p.m. Sign up online to receive a video link via email at 7 p.m. The video will also be available on [facebook.com/stpaulquadcities](https://facebook.com/stpaulquadcities) and [youtube.com/c/stpaulquadcities](https://youtube.com/c/stpaulquadcities) It will include speaker Laura Fontaine, director of World Relief Quad Cities, and an encouragement to patronize specific Quad City restaurants for takeout dinner that evening.

*A Map Is Only One Story* is available for purchase for \$12 in the St. Paul Book Corner. Pick up is available by emailing [bookcorner@stpaulqc.org](mailto:bookcorner@stpaulqc.org), or during Book Corner business hours, posted on the St. Paul website.

Contact: Karen Holden, Book Corner manager, 563-326-3547 ext. 242, [bookcorner@stpaulqc.org](mailto:bookcorner@stpaulqc.org).