

journey



Worn out Bibles



ON THE COVER:
Heather Hepner

journey

JUNE 2021
Volume 9 | Issue 4

EDITOR Jessica Taylor

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, courageous 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

"I've stayed very close to God throughout the pandemic," Barb told me over the phone recently. "In fact, I've been talking to God so much that I wore out my Bible! The binding has fallen apart and the insides are coming out of the cover. I guess I'm in for a new one."

The pandemic has been especially tough on those who live alone. Barb was adjusting to widowhood following her husband Jerry's death when the pandemic struck suddenly. It came as a one-two punch. The Bible then became an even closer companion.

If you know Barb, you wouldn't be surprised to hear that it's God's word that has anchored her faith through the storms of the last two years. She's not any kind of societal norm, however, when it comes to relying on the Bible. According to the American Bible Society, 85 percent of Americans own at least one Bible; but for many of them, scripture is not the go-to source for moral meaning. Surveys indicate that 35 percent of those with a Bible in their house never open it; 30 percent say they are "not at all" familiar with its contents.

I've made the confession before that I don't mind repeating again: I threw away my brand new confirmation Bible, an eighth grade gift from my grandmother. It was white leather with razor thin pages, edged with gold that I was always sure was real gold leaf. The white gift box protected that Bible in the attic for decades. Not a moth ever dared come near it. When the local library didn't want it for its book sale, it went straight to the recycling bin. I didn't know of anyone who needed a Bible, and certainly not the dated translation that comprised this one. So, it ended up as a grocery bag or wrapping paper or maybe nasal tissue.

Today, I have a whole shelf of Bibles that I use for all kinds of different reasons. The one pictured here, though, has kept and guided me for decades. There is scarcely a page in it without my handwritten notes in the margin. (Okay, there's not much notation in 2 Chronicles.) On the inside cover I've crossed out eight consecutive work and home phone numbers of mine — "If lost, please return to ..." — all of them from the pre-cellphone era. The binding still holds, which means I don't read it as diligently as Barb. But duct tape is saving my friendship with this particular Bible.

If you were to travel to Rosenholm Castle in Hornslet, Denmark, you could see Martin Luther's personal Bible. It can't be touched or photographed. It's packed with his hand-

written notes from the early 16th century. The brittle binding is proof that the Bible wasn't a religious icon for Luther. In fact, the brown leather cover has turned black where the oil from his hands held it so frequently.

Barb's Bible may be thoroughly worn out and ready for recycling. I didn't ask if she's tried duct tape. But what hasn't worn out is her knowledge of the truths of God that she has managed to lift from the pages of scripture and actually live. "A Bible that's falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't," the 19th century preacher Charles Spurgeon once said. Barb's life is certainly not falling apart. Faith, if you want to know the truth, is what has held it together.



Peter W. Marty

PETER W. MARTY
senior pastor



VISITATION CHAPLAIN:

Ken Winter

Ken Winter began work as St. Paul's visitation chaplain in May

Tell us about your family.

I was born to Eleanor and Frederick Winter and raised in Clinton, Iowa, baptized and confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church, Clinton. I have an older brother, Charles, who lives in Littleton, Colo. with his wife, Priscilla. I attended Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, graduating in 1983 and Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. in 2019. I am married to Allison who was born and raised in Moline. We have four children, one granddaughter, and one grandchild due in August.

What makes you, you?

I have always believed that what makes me, me, is the sum of my life experiences. Like most of us I am on the journey of "becoming" the person God created me to be. Hopefully, these life experiences with all the challenges, sorrows, frustrations, disappointments, joys, gifts, and blessings have shaped me into an authentic, loving, sensitive, and faithful child of God. I was extremely blessed to have been born into a very loving family, with parents and a brother that lived out their faith. As an adult I continue to be blessed with an amazing wife and four awesome children. Living out this wonderful gift of family along with my years serving in the social work and mental health field led me to want to serve as a pastor/chaplain so I could give back to God and Christ's church.

(Before joining St. Paul I served as staff chaplain at Genesis Health System in Davenport, where I ministered to patients in the Behavioral Health Unit, previous to that, as director of discipleship ministry at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Anamosa, Iowa where I served in many associate pastor roles. While serving in my new role here, I will continue to be a per diem chaplain for VNA Hospice.)

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

From the moment we first worshipped at St. Paul, Allison and I sensed there was a profound sense of invitation and service to Christ's church happening here. What draws me to, and what intrigues me most about St. Paul, are the ministry opportunities. There is something for everyone to become involved in. The feeling of inclusion Allison and I received was the strongest reason we became members. The pastors and staff did an amazing job of intentionally making us feel welcomed and valued. We are looking forward to becoming immersed in congregational life, most especially after the long and difficult journey through the pandemic. I am incredibly grateful to be coming on board during this time of rebirth and looking forward to getting to know and serve as many members as possible.

What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about a lot of things, music being one of them. I am a drummer and have been active in a couple rock bands over the last 14 years; Holiday Road Band out of Iowa City and The Blue 60 Band out of Anamosa and with whom I still play. Allison and I have been active in church choir and love to sing duets for special occasions. I am an avid Cubs, Hawkeye, Cyclone, and Green Bay Packers fan and love to golf.

The most important thing I am passionate about is listening to the stories of those who walk in faith and affirming God's promises in Christ. As visitation chaplain, I am eager to listen and attend to the stories of those who may, for whatever reason, feel separated physically, spiritually, and emotionally from St. Paul. My calling will be to remind them that they continue to be loved, cherished, and integral members of this body of Christ. They will forever be connected to this church family so that whatever they may be experiencing, they know that nothing could ever separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus.



"What draws me to and what intrigues me most about St. Paul are the ministry opportunities. There is something for everyone to become involved in."

KEN WINTER

June HAPPENINGS

PLAN SET FOR JUNE 12 & 13 REOPENING

Weeks of work and consultation among St. Paul leaders has resulted in a reopening plan that is safe and inviting for the whole congregation. The staff is thinking of the plan as a 13-week transition throughout the summer, leading up to fall schedule changes. If COVID-19 case numbers in the region were to spike, the church would need to re-evaluate the plan.

Beginning June 12/13, the mask policy for indoor activities and worship at St. Paul is as follows: **Fully vaccinated adults and youth** can be mask optional if they wish (*with the exception of the 8:30 service*). **Yet-to-be vaccinated adults and children** should have a mask on when in the building. This standard is per CDC guidelines. Given our large and diverse community of faith, we honor mask-wearing as a sign of care for others. Whether you or your children are unvaccinated, or you are vaccinated and still operating with the caution of a mask at different moments, together we trust the guiding words: “In humility, regard the value of others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:3-4)

Online sign up is no longer needed for any service. Beginning June 12/13, communion will be offered at all four services; kids’ messages will be offered at all three Sunday services. Donuts (though not self-serve) and coffee return to Sunday mornings. Sunday childcare reopens with staff fully vaccinated.

Drop-in family activity center: On Sunday mornings during the summer (*with the exception of July 4*), come as a family to the Lower Commons for a fun, faith-focused, family activity, 9:30-11 a.m. Stay as long as you like; come after worship or before; leave when you choose. Activities will be designed for 20-30 minutes, and families will be able to do them safely at their own tables.

Volunteers needed: From hosts, donut servers, and communion helpers to ushers, greeters, and office volunteers, there is room for you to serve. Go to stpaulqc.org/signups and explore where you can step forward and assist.

Online worship: Through the toughest seasons of the pandemic, St. Paul has offered superb quality online video worship each week. With vaccines now accelerating, and weekend life at church picking up, the time and resources devoted to video production are unsustainable. The broadcast will cease at the end of June.

St. Paul podcast: St. Paul will be launching a new audio podcast in July, featuring elements of our Sunday worship. Our long-standing local radio broadcast (1420 AM Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m.) continues as well. Also, watch for high quality video segments on social media each month highlighting fun facets of our ministry.



Summer worship
All are welcome to attend any service

Saturdays

- ▶ **5:00 p.m.** (traditional)
mask optional for those fully vaccinated

Sundays

- ▶ **8:30 a.m.** (traditional)
mask-required service for everybody who attends with spaced-out seating
- ▶ **9:30 a.m.** (traditional)
mask optional for those fully vaccinated
- ▶ **11:15 a.m.** (contemporary)
mask optional for those fully vaccinated

Adult Summer Learning: An Inheritance to Possess

“Everyone has to be some place,” as the adage goes. Where we are geographically — what land we live on — is the result of many forces and circumstances. Together we will explore the dynamics of land possession through the lenses of Scripture, theology, and the history of land possession in the Quad Cities area.

The series will run July 11-Aug. 2 in two sections with identical agendas; Sunday afternoons, 4-5 p.m.; and Mondays, 12 noon-1 p.m. Planning is underway to offer a simultaneous activity program for elementary-age children and child care during the Sunday session. Watch for more details in the July issue of *Journey*. Contact: Peter A. Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.

Sunday Social planned for high school youth

Sunday Social is a new weekly gathering that gives youth entering grades 9-12 an opportunity to begin their summer hanging out with friends on Sundays, June 13-July 11, 6-9 p.m. A meal is served in the backyard at St. Paul followed by fun activities, super-sized games, deep devotional content, engaging conversation, and campfire worship.

Sign up for all four Sunday nights for \$30 or pick the days that work for you: \$5/day for dinner plus \$10 for the t-shirt. Please sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org.

Three Passions in Germany: Study travel in 2022

Germany remains on the horizon for St. Paul learners, and the horizon continues to brighten as Europe begins to open up to travel. The Oberammergau Passion Play has been rescheduled for 2022 and St. Paul has reservations for the June 30 performance. We will take time together next fall and winter to prepare with study and conversation around the passions individually and as they intersect.

This study travel will take place June 20-July 2, 2022 and there is a place available for you! All travel arrangements for your participation in the trip will be managed on your behalf. The program cost includes air, accommodations, Oberammergau ticket fees, and estimated food.

Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups for more information; we will have an information meeting early in July. Contact: Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.

Help in the St. Paul garden

The St. Paul Community Garden is growing vegetables for Café 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, May 24, starting at 5 p.m. If you are interested in helping, please sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Coffee Chats to continue in June

Join in conversation on faith, health, and wholeness with Angie Vaaler, Hayden Kvamme, and Beth Laureijs. Conversations are Tuesday mornings from 10:30-11:30 a.m., on the North Lawn, with the chapel as a backup in case of inclement weather. Please sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Topics are:

- **June 1 | Death:** We live in a culture that spends a lot of time denying, avoiding, or working our way around death. For this hour, come do the opposite. We'll consider what makes it difficult to talk about death, how we might face it more directly, and how we might prepare for it well.
- **June 8 | Grief:** While grief has taken all kinds of different forms over the course of this pandemic, this hour will focus especially on what it's like to grieve the deaths of loved ones dear to us. Come share experiences and, more broadly, discuss together how we grieve, and all the forms grief can take.
- **June 15 | Chronic Conditions:** Many of us carry conditions, medical or otherwise, that show no signs of going away anytime soon. How do we live well with a chronic condition? What are small steps we can take toward abundant life? How can we remain curious about and open to whatever the present and future holds?



678 field trip to the QCCA Wetlands

Youth in grades 6-8 will have the opportunity to spend time together at the QCCA wetlands kayaking, fishing, and hiking on Wednesday, June 30, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon.

This is a zero contact event where all participants and leaders can remain socially distant while they explore the wetlands and learn about God's amazing creation.

Participants may choose to transport themselves, or meet at church and ride together with masks on. Directions will be emailed to participants who will need to provide their own transportation to and from.

Fishing gear and kayaks provided. There is no cost, but sign up is required at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org.

Racial Awareness Team

With a deep commitment to helping shape a world where all people are treated as God's beloved, absent of prejudice and hate, St. Paul's Racial Awareness Team exists to expand awareness of our world, love our surrounding community, deepen empathy, advocate for change, celebrate justice, delight in diversity, and partner with neighbors in our city.

The group will meet on Tuesday, June 8, 7 p.m. in the Chapel. Anyone is welcome. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.



INTRODUCING Megan Eide

*St. Paul's new
resident pastor —
coming August 2021*

Tell us about your family/where you grew up/went to college.

I grew up in Bloomington, Minn. with my parents and my younger sister, Emma. I attended Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minn. all my life. I especially loved participating in Vacation Bible School, attending Cathedral of the Pines Church Camp Lutsen, Minn., and teaching Sunday School. Outside of church, my biggest passions growing up were playing with my neighbors, making cards with my Grandma, and all things band-related (I play the clarinet, bass clarinet, and saxophone).

From 2015-2019 I attended Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter, Minn., where I graduated with a double major in Religion and Communication Studies and a minor in Film and Media Studies. The highlight of my undergraduate experience was completing a pastoral internship abroad in Denmark.

Most recently, I completed my MDiv through the accelerated and innovative MDivX program at Luther Seminary. While a full-time student, I was also a part-time pastoral intern at Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Lakeville, Minn.

What brings you joy?

I am a kid-at-heart who loves to learn with and from others. I especially love learning about the world around me via stories, media, and traveling. Nothing brings me more joy and wonder than seeing how the Holy Spirit lives, moves, and works through all people all over the world.

Why did you want to become a pastor?

I always knew that, no matter what I did in life, I wanted to help people, but I could never quite figure out how to support people without bringing God into the picture. Even as a little kid, I would see someone feeling sad or hurt, and I wanted to tell them that it would be okay because Jesus loves them. One day in high school I experienced that message for myself — a deep sense of calm and trust that I am a beloved child of God. Ever since then, I have felt called to help others experience God's loving care through faith and community too.

What intrigues you about St. Paul?

I feel quite honored and excited to continue growing in my vocation at St. Paul. My previous internship site was a small, suburban congregation with one pastor and one part-time secretary, so St. Paul will give me a whole new learning experience with a large, central city, intergenerational congregation.

What are you looking forward to?

I am looking forward to meeting the congregation, learning about all of St. Paul's ministries, and having some of my pastoral "firsts" like accompanying people at important moments of their lives.



What draws you to St. Paul?

I am drawn to the warm congregation with its passion and energy for God's work in the world. I am also humbled and thrilled to be part of the St. Paul pastoral residency program. This congregation has an outstanding reputation for helping new pastors grow in their vocations and hit the ground running in ministry, and I am blown away by the colleagues and members I will have the chance to work with over the next two years.

What are you passionate about?

As both a minister and a theologian, I am passionate about children, youth, and families. I believe children have some of the strongest, most beautiful embodiments of spirituality and God's love, and as a Christian public leader, I am always wondering how the Church can better support and empower young people.

GET TO KNOW MEGAN:

- 1 My cocker spaniel Nisse is the love of my life! We enjoy hikes and volunteering as a therapy dog team together.
- 2 For fun, I love to cross country ski, try out new coffee shops, and have game nights with friends and family. Also in my free time, I study Danish language and culture. It is my not-so-secret dream to do ministry in Denmark again someday.
- 3 Before moving to Iowa to serve at St. Paul, I played bass clarinet professionally with the First John Philip Sousa Memorial Band, Edina, Minn., and I hope to find some other opportunities to make music in Davenport!
- 4 I have had the opportunity to pursue my academic interests in children and religion in two projects so far: a peer-reviewed journal article on depictions of religion in children's visual media and a global anthology on child theologies (co-edited with one of my Gustavus professors). I hope someday to go on for a PhD, so I can do more research in these areas.

I am a kid-at-heart
who loves to learn
with and from
others. Nothing
brings me more
joy and wonder
than seeing how
the Holy Spirit
lives, moves, and
works through all
people all over
the world!

DELIGHT *in the beauty* of the BUTTERFLY

Two St. Paul women's hobby takes flight

It's a nearly 3,000 mile journey. The voyage of a butterfly is a long, remarkable trek. The first generation of butterflies mate in Texas and go through a month-long maturation process. Only the second generation females make their way north to lay their eggs, typically arriving in Eastern Iowa mid to late May.

The life cycle of a butterfly is fascinating. A female butterfly will lay 100 to 300 eggs on the underneath side of a milkweed leaf. Once these eggs hatch, the larvae go through a maturation process, enter a chrysalis, and an adult butterfly emerges. In the Midwest they'll stay up to three weeks and then make their way farther north, continuing that process until the last generation migrates down to Mexico for the winter and the whole cycle starts all over again.

St. Paul members Becky Griesbach and Heather Hepner have spent countless hours experiencing the beauty of the butterfly life cycle. Both started their butterfly hobbies in the same fashion, a project each of their daughters brought home and a continuing fascination with the butterfly life cycle.

Becky

Regrowing the butterfly population

"I raise monarch butterflies," said Becky. "It got started with a project of one of my daughters at school in North Scott. They did a butterfly unit first part of the school year back in the late 90s and it just got me interested."

She started raising butterflies in her home when she realized the rapid decline in the butterfly population. In 1997, researchers estimated there were 1.2 million but by 2019, only 29,000 butterflies remained.

"I started wholeheartedly in 2015, after a lot of discussion with friends and when I found out just how much they had declined," she recalls. "Mexico is where they'll actually do the count when the monarchs are wintering. They roost and they have tree, after tree, after tree of them so they measure how many hectares. Hectares are two and a half acres each. In the winter of 1996 into 1997, there were 18.2 hectares. Last year we were down to 2.8 hectares. That's how much they've declined."

Habitat destruction is the biggest reason for the rapid decline. It's caused by humans with the creation of roads, housing developments, and agriculture. These developments transform the landscape, losing the natural habitat and milkweed needed for butterflies to survive.

You don't need a fancy setup. It only requires minimal supplies. Becky uses tupperware to store the eggs which turn into caterpillars and finally, butterflies.

"It's so much fun to raise them. You just need a good milkweed supply. You purchase a swamp milkweed plant and put it in your garden."

Milkweed is essential for the butterflies to survive. It's what they eat and



Becky Griesbach

lay their eggs on. The reason they use it to lay their eggs is because it secretes a chemical that is a natural repellent to protect the eggs from other insects and birds who don't like the chemical taste. But milkweed is becoming more scarce with the destruction of the natural prairie.

"Anything we humans can do to help keep the natural prairie, that's going to help the process," she said. "Even just creating a simple nectar garden, or monarch waystation."

Only about 2% of butterflies in the wild will survive from egg to adult. When raised inside, the survival rate increases to 90%.

Becky's passion goes beyond just raising butterflies. Armed with an iMovie containing facts, data, photos, and backed by a song about butterflies, Becky educates others to bring awareness to the decline in monarch butterflies and the need for repopulation of the butterfly community.

"Just knowing that I can help repair a small part of what we've done to nature is the best part of raising butterflies," Becky said. "It's very heartening. It's changed the way I live in a lot of respects. In respect to the earth, other animals, other people, relationships, kindness. It's that giant circle of life. You learn to be more compassionate. It's the learning to be more mindful. A lot more understanding of life and everything around me."

Heather

Bonding over butterflies

Fourteen years ago, what started as a small project, has blossomed into a hobby for the entire family.

"My daughter, Maizie, went to a workshop when she was five years old and came home with a monarch and I started learning about it with her," Heather Hepner said.

Looking for the eggs and caterpillars quickly grew to include Heather's younger daughter, Charlie.

"When the kids were little and we were in the car they would see milkweed and they'd say, 'milkweed!' so we'd safely pull over on the side of the road and jump out and go down in the ditch and look for caterpillars and we've brought them home many, many times that way," Heather said.

She homeschooled her two girls, until Maizie left for college, and raising the butterflies lent itself perfectly to the curriculum.

"This just went right along with what we were doing," she said. "We'd sit and watch them in the kitchen. We'd spend hours watching the caterpillars eat. If the house is quiet and they're eating, you can actually hear them crunching. I can't tell you — it's been countless hours of watching them."

All that time watching, the Hepners soon discovered the caterpillars have their own personalities.

"They have their little idiosyncrasies," Heather said. "Sometimes they don't want to be touched and they'll bob their heads. The swallowtails are really funny because they have horns that stick out, you don't see them, there's nothing there, and then they get mad and this long thing comes out and it's orange with these two things on the end."

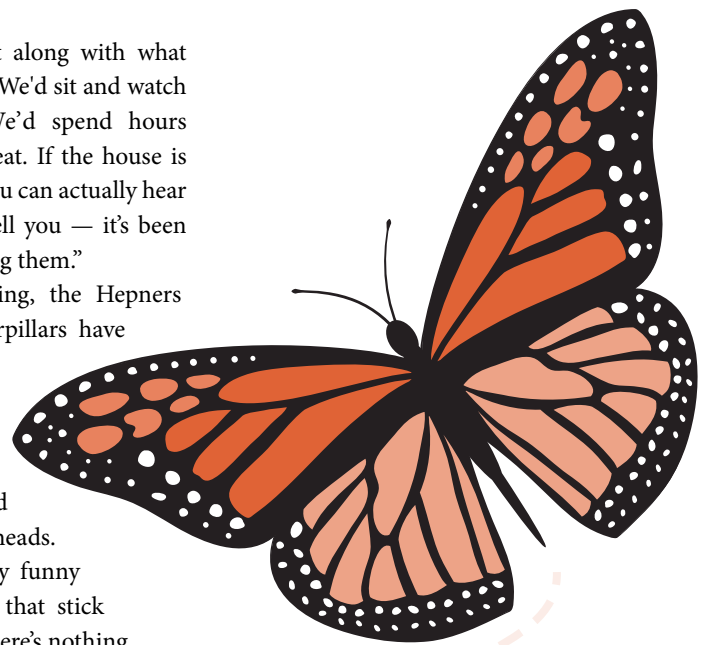
One of the most unexpected things for Heather about raising caterpillars is how it becomes the interest of everybody that comes to her house.

"Anybody that visits sees the aquamarine and is like 'oh, what's in there?'" she said. "Everyone thinks it's pretty cool. I know, over the years, both of my parents have been there and have gotten to release the butterflies. Everyone's gotten to hold the butterfly, walk outside, and watch it take off."

Even though Maizie is now 19 and Charlie is 14, they haven't lost their love of finding



Heather Hepner



eggs and caterpillars.

"The girls will still come into the house and say, 'Oh look I found three!'" And I'll be like, "Great! Here we go again," she laughed. "But none of us can help it. If you find one, you can't help but bring it in because you know what can happen to it. If you look and you find one, you know it's coming in. Last summer, they were still bringing caterpillars in."

For many years, it's been a part of their entire summer, always an aquarium sitting in their kitchen, always, every summer and into the fall.

"I'm glad that we accidentally stumbled into raising monarchs because we've helped the monarch population and it's been something we did as a family," Heather said. "My girls, husband, and I look at them sometimes like it's our little project together. When we drive around and stop and look for caterpillars, the kids are in heaven."



It's changed the way I live in a lot of respects. In respect to the earth, other animals, other people, relationships, kindness. It's that giant circle of life. You learn to be more compassionate. It's the learning to be more mindful.

BECKY GRIESBACH

new members / SPRING 2021



HANNAH & DARREN DILLON are new parents to four-month-old son Carter. Hannah is a teacher and Darren works for John Deere. The family spends their free time outdoors. They were attracted to St. Paul by the youth and preschool programs.



ROB & ALYSSA DOMINACKI are parents to Adaline and Grayson. Alyssa operates a small business, Uncorked Crafts, and Rob works at the Springfield Armory. The couple enjoys bowling and several outdoor sports.

LAURA HAUBER (*not pictured*) is vice president at Repay. She is the mother of Ella, Luke, and Emma. Laura likes to travel and participate in outdoor activities. The family was drawn to St. Paul by the youth program and strong sense of community.

JUDY HEINRICH (*not pictured*) is a retired Lutheran pastor and church musician. She is passionate about church music, worship, and service opportunities. Judy enjoys traveling and spending time with family. Our worship life and service opportunities brought her to St. Paul.



ERIC & JACKIE JOSUPAIT are the parents of seven-month-old Miller. Both Eric and Jackie are teachers and care deeply about working with children. In their free time, the family spends time outdoors. The spirit of giving and robust youth programs are what attracted the family to St. Paul.



DANAE KRUTZFELDT and her sixth-grader, Henry, were attracted to St. Paul by the friendly and charitable nature of the church. DaNae is a dentist at QC Dentistry. She enjoys running, cooking, and spending time with her son.

MARLA & AARON MATLOCK (*not pictured*) have two teenage sons – Drew and Ethan. Marla works for Allsteel and Aaron works in HUB International. The family spends time traveling, skiing, and golfing.



GARETH REES & AMANDA AHLSTRAND have twin children – Owen and Rosemary. Both do remote work for their Washington D.C. jobs. The family enjoys traveling and watching movies together. They were attracted to St. Paul by the church's commitment to the community and have extended family who are members.



JOHN & CAROLINE SWIDERSKI are parents to one-year-old Blaire. The couple are alumni of Augustana College. They are passionate about mental health awareness. John works for John Deere as an accountant.



CRAIG VAN HOOK is a retired accountant from John Deere. He is passionate about social justice and affordable housing and likes golfing and fishing. Craig was drawn to St. Paul by the community atmosphere.

Council Notes

The church council met in-person for its May meeting, celebrating a sense of opportunity as the pandemic's deadly impact begins to shrink a bit and society starts to open up further. The council reviewed the opening-up plan for the church's worship life as it returns to more regular worship and fellowship opportunities beginning June 12/13. Attention was given to the need to rebuild ministries of hospitality within the congregation that are dependent on so many volunteers.

Council members celebrated the announcement of Ken Winter, who starts immediately as our new part-time Visitation Chaplain. They also reviewed the unanimous congregational vote for our newest pastoral resident, Megan Eide. Megan met the church council and personnel

committee in late May.

The impact of the congregation's ministry with Madison School was noted for its extension well behind the Madison Market food pantry. When school staff have resource needs, or gather for lunch, St. Paul's partnership commitment is often able to underwrite these efforts.

The council approved a congregational ingathering for the "Cops 'N Kids Reading Program" recently launched in Davenport. This program permits thousands of new and used children's books to be distributed to kids through neighborhood policing programs. St. Paul is glad to receive such donations through July.

Gratitude was shared for the pledge commitments of St. Paul people, making for strong April financials.

with SYMPATHY

as of May 21:

- ▶ John & Kathy Bucciferro, his aunt Mary Jane Bucciferro
- ▶ Family of Wally Priester: Susie Rathje, father Charlie & Jessica Rathje, his grandfather Katie Rathje, grandfather
- ▶ Family of Dave Ahlstrand: Amanda Ahlstrand & Gareth Rees, her father Owen & Rosie Rees, their grandfather Phyllis Ahlstrand, brother-in-law
- ▶ Jon & Sonja Hurty, his father Dave Hurty
- ▶ Haley & Erin Wikoff, Haley's grandmother Margaret Wikoff
- ▶ Family of Gene Zager: Gail Zager, husband Aryn & Ben Lloyd, her father Britta & Klara Lloyd, their grandfather Anne Zager, father Matt & Allison Zager, his father Samuel Zager, grandfather

BIRTHS

- ▶ Hallie Esbaum, daughter of Kory & Brett Esbaum, Jan. 13
- ▶ Eleanor Knuth, daughter of Hannah & Brian Knuth, March 29
- ▶ Wren Needham, daughter of Britta & Dan Needham, April 3
- ▶ Benjamin Sivertsen, son of Amy & Andrew Sivertsen, May 4
- ▶ Milton Niyonkuru, son of Aline Niyokwizera & Emile Niyonkuru, May 9
- ▶ Abigail Spencer, daughter of Andrea & Jonathan Spencer, May 14

DEATHS

- ▶ Verna Johnson, April 22
- ▶ Gene Zager, May 18

UPCOMING *worship*

JUNE 5 & 6, Season after Pentecost

Preaching: Hayden Kvamme

JUNE 12 & 13, Season after Pentecost

Preaching: Peter W. Marty

JUNE 19 & 20, Season after Pentecost

Preaching: Peter W. Marty

JUNE 27, Season after Pentecost

Preaching: Katy Warren

St. Paul Child Care is hiring! We need one adult and three teenagers to join the team that provides infant and toddler care for Sunday mornings, mid-week evenings, and special programs. Flexible hours possible; background check and COVID-19 vaccination required. Contact: Teresa Whitbeck, teresa.whitbeck@yahoo.com.



St. Paul social worker/counselor available for telehealth and in-person appointments

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 and will soon be available for in-person counseling services. Contact Angie at 563-326-3547, ext. 312.



Membership Inquiry Classes:

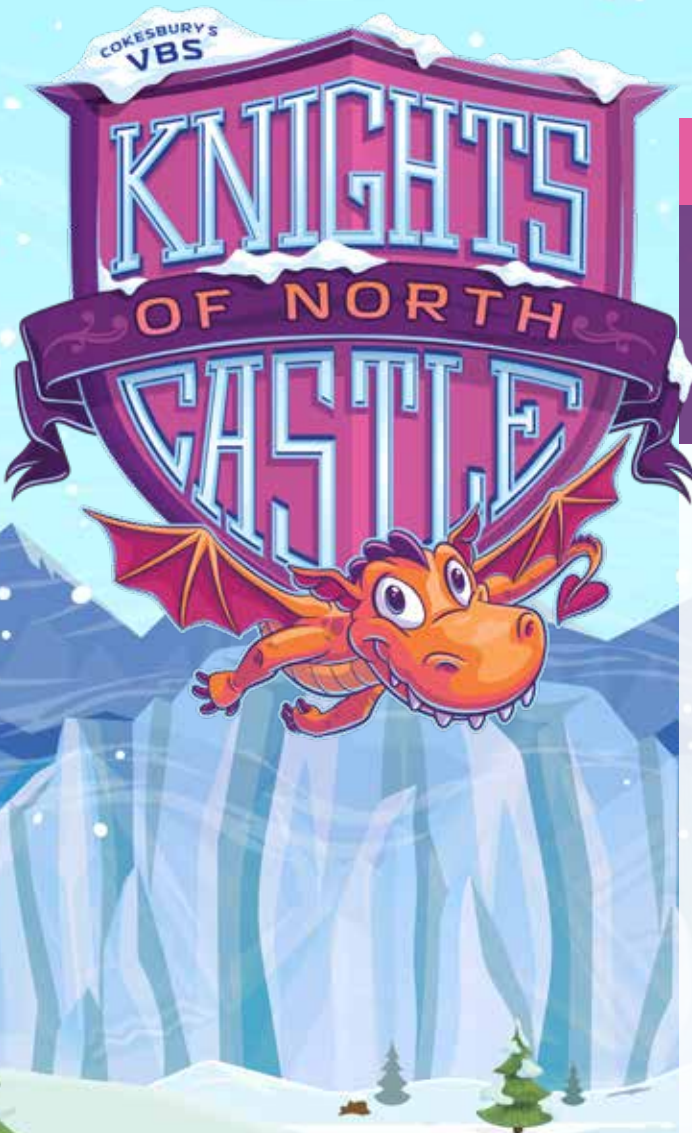
Learn more about the faith expressions that ground us, the mission commitments that inspire us, and the program life that can grow your faith. Come to an upcoming class on either Tuesday, June 29 or Wednesday, July 28, 6:30-8 p.m.

Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, June 21 — Friday, June 25

Register by June 13. Sign up online at
stpaulqc.org/signups.

Please note: No walk-ins or late registrations will be accepted.

Vacation Bible School

Kids age four (by Sept. 15) through entering fifth-grade, experience God's love and learn how to live life with God by their side. Registration is \$15 per child while spots remain available. A morning and afternoon session will be offered — masks, small class sizes, and creative indoor-outdoor activities will ensure a safe, meaningful, and engaging week.

678 Summer Experience

Middle-schoolers, entering grades 6-8, will spend the morning or afternoon having a blast and learning about God. Registration is \$15 per student. Deadline is June 13.

Volunteer

A strong corps of service-minded and joy-filled adults make it all happen. Parents, adults, and older youth are especially invited this year to join in the experience and connect with others by volunteering. Interested in helping? There's a job to fit your gifts. Sign up online.