

THE MAGAZINE OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH September 2021

journey

FALL GUIDE



Effervescence



ON THE COVER:
Dortha and Dave DeWit

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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Is it soda or pop? The answer doesn't matter to me. I have no affection for either one. In six decades of living, I can tell you confidently that I've not consumed more than a total of 12 ounces of soda or pop. That would be one can's worth, or an average of two ounces per year. Call me strange for the rebuff, but sugary liquid that fizzes holds no appeal to my taste buds. Never has. The only reason I've consumed any soft drink at all goes back to the need to swallow malarial pills while traveling in the developing world. Clean drinking water is scarce in certain regions.

We call things that are bubbly or carbonated *effervescent*. In a drink, invisible gas that's dissolved in the liquid causes bubbles to escape. In people who are effervescent, there's a lively and contagious enthusiasm about them that bubbles over with excitement. I have a friend who likes to say that before the pandemic inflicted its emotional toll, his life was a full can of soda; now that the pandemic has sufficiently worn down his spirit, he feels like the same can without the fizz.

One thing we've all seen plenty of, once it became clear that the pandemic would drag on, is a lot of people (ourselves included) enthused to discuss their lack of enthusiasm.

There's good reason why our enthusiasm drops when we spend so much time isolated from others. Our emotions are inherently social. We may think that happiness or sadness are mere states of our individual minds and making. But, actually, they're products of our interactions with other people. We laugh more frequently and heartily when in the company of others than when simply by ourselves. Think of the last cartoon, joke, or movie segment you either chuckled at or busted your gut laughing over, all dependent on whether you were by yourself or with someone else.

A century ago, the French sociologist Emile Durkheim coined the phrase collective effervescence. He used this idea to describe the energy and synchronicity that occur when we come together as a group around a shared purpose. It happens in football stadiums, backyard parties, brainstorming groups, religious gatherings, and countless other settings. When people come together, said Durkheim, "their proximity generates a kind of electricity that quickly transports them to an extraordinary degree of exaltation."

This is why it's more fun to sing a hymn or spiritual song in church surrounded by the swell of other voices than alone in the front seat of your car. The electricity of the experience works like a contagious disease. We infect one another emotionally through shared

encounters. Most of us think we need to pursue happiness individually. But social scientists tell us that our greatest well-being and deepest flourishing occur when we are connecting, caring, and contributing together. Collective effervescence.

For many of us at St. Paul, life has regained some of its fizz since we've been able to regather as a congregation. If you've come and participated, you know the emotions that accompany the experience. It's almost hard to put into words. Just seeing people show up in the same place at the same time, for no reason except to worship God and thank this source of life, this is enough to moisten a lot of eyes. As one woman exiting worship put it to me recently, "Being together just sends a chill up my spine." She doesn't begin to know everybody at St. Paul anymore than anyone else does. But she feels the energy and carbonation of togetherness.

I don't know everything that this autumn will bring, especially with the evolving nature of the pandemic and this nasty Delta variant. But we're pushing forward with St. Paul life and programming as sensibly and realistically as we can. You'll evidence that vibrancy in this issue of the *Journey*. We're also staying nimble, ready to adapt or even postpone different events if health and safety require as much. So, thank you for your own grace and flexibility, and for putting yourself generously into this ministry. Together, by faith, we generate a lot of fizz. And, the taste of *this* effervescence happens to really appeal to me.



PETER W. MARTY
senior pastor

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

We ground our lives in the glories of worship. Together, we listen for God. We sing songs of praise. We discover hope. We give thanks. We welcome all.

FALL SCHEDULE

All are welcome to attend any service

Saturday

- ▶ **5:00 p.m.** (traditional)

Sundays

- ▶ **8:00 a.m.** (spoken eucharist)
mask-required service
- ▶ **9:00 a.m.** (traditional)
- ▶ **10:20-11:05 a.m.** Learning for all
- ▶ **11:15 a.m.** (contemporary)

At St. Paul, please wear a face mask if you are unvaccinated. Be gracious to others. Mask up when and where it's the right thing for you.



Fall Start-up Weekend

Saturday, Sept. 11 & Sunday, Sept. 12

Fall Start-up is when we return to the fullness of our Sunday morning learning for all ages and worship life. Learning for all takes place from 10:20-11:05 a.m.

Healing Liturgy

First Saturday of the month, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, Nov. 6, & Dec. 4, 6 p.m.

Once a month, a healing liturgy is held after 5 p.m. worship. The gathering seeks God's goodness and care for those seeking physical, spiritual, or emotional healing.

Upcoming Concerts

Talented ensembles. Acclaimed choral performances and recitals. Music events are a gift from St. Paul to the community, welcoming area music lovers. Watch for any updates.

- ▶ **Nova Singers:** Sunday, Oct. 17, 4 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.
- ▶ **Quad City Symphony Orchestra Holiday Brass Concert:** Sunday, Dec. 12, 3 p.m.
- ▶ **Big River Brass Band Holiday Concert:** Sunday, Dec. 19, 3 p.m.

CHOIRS

Come and sing. Rehearsals begin Sept. 8.

- ▶ **Alleluia Choir | Ages 4-K**
Wednesdays, 6-6:30 p.m., Room 206
Director: Sara Harless
- ▶ **Youth Choir | Grades 7-12**
Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m., Chapel
Director: Dan Pepper
- ▶ **Jubilate Choir | Grades 1-3**
Wednesdays, 6-6:30 p.m., Room 203
Director: Katie Casey
- ▶ **Chorale | College & Adults**
Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m., Room 011
Director: Nathan Windt
- ▶ **Cantate Choir | Grades 4-6**
Wednesdays, 6-6:30 p.m., Room 009
Director: Margaret Thompson
- ▶ **Open Spirit contemporary ensemble**
Thursday rehearsals
Director: Bill Campbell

SPECIAL DATES

ALL SAINTS WEEKEND

Nov. 6 & 7, all services

Give thanks for the saints of God.

JOY WEEKEND

Nov. 13 & 14, all services

We lift up our ministries and pledge for 2021.

THANKSGIVING EVE

Nov. 24, 7 p.m.

Come for worship steeped in gratitude.

CHORAL ADVENT

Dec. 12, 9 a.m.

All choirs come together.

BLUE CHRISTMAS

Dec. 21, 6 p.m.

This quiet service offers hope and comfort.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Dec. 24, various times TBD

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

MISSION AND SERVICE

At St. Paul we give away more than 21 percent of our annual budget to people in need. St. Paul people also find great joy in volunteering for the benefit of others. Take a look at some of the opportunities available this fall, and get involved where you can.

FOOD

So All May Eat meal serving

Wednesdays, Sept. 29 and Dec. 29

People assemble meals at St. Paul and serve a meal at Zion Lutheran Church, Davenport. The initiative is called *So All May Eat*. Needed for the date above are shoppers, cooks, and servers. Providing a warm meal to those who are struggling is one way we show God's grace to others. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

Thanksgiving food and care collection

Thanksgiving Eve worship, Nov. 24, 7 p.m.

Stock a paper bag with nonperishable food and personal care items and bring it to worship Nov. 24-Nov. 28 to serve those who are food insecure. The food gathered will be used to fill the shelves at the Friendly House Food Pantry. Feminine hygiene products, diapers, and wipes go to Madison Market.

What's needed? Soups, mac & cheese, canned meat (chicken & tuna), cereal, peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, bar soap, laundry soap, tampons, menstrual pads, baby wipes, diapers size 3-6. Help sort the donations on Sunday, Nov. 28, 12 noon. Contact: Jessica Taylor, jessica@stpaulqc.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

At Madison Elementary, being together is what it is all about. Students and staff delight in the relationships built with St. Paul people. Make a difference in the lives of kids, some of whom face tough challenges. Contact: Dana Welsler, dana@stpaulqc.org.

- ▶ **Grounds care:** Prune, weed, pick up litter on the Madison grounds. Everyone walking onto this campus needs to know that they will be cared for, just as the school grounds are.
- ▶ **Madison Market:** On the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, a food pantry comes alive at the J.B. Young Opportunity Center. Help with food delivery, sorting or shelving, or offer hospitality to the guests. Hours are in the morning or afternoon.



EARTH CARE

Make It Yours Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, Nov. 6, 10 a.m.-12 noon

The St. Paul corner of the world is a beautiful place. A few times each year, St. Paul people gather to pick up trash and debris in the blocks surrounding the campus. It's called the *Make It Yours* Neighborhood Cleanup. Supplies and snacks are provided. Contact: Jules Irish, julesi@mchsi.com.

Environmental Team

The Environmental Team is a band of earth-minded St. Paul folks. They pick up trash every week on the St. Paul campus, scrub dishes at church suppers, and support recycling initiatives, too. Think globally and act locally as a steward of this Earthly home. Contact: Duane Haas, dlhaas@mchsi.com.

- ▶ **Recyclers needed:** Twice a month volunteers gather all the items from the recycling bins at church. Wash, flatten, bag, and prepare items to be picked up by Scott County Recycling. Contact: Jan Lloyd, cmjljml@q.com.

MENTAL HEALTH

NAMI Walk

Saturday, Sept. 18, 9:30 a.m., Veterans Memorial Park, Bettendorf

Lace up your sneakers and join the St. Paul crew who walk each year to encourage understanding, reduce stigma, and support programs for people affected by mental illness. Registration is free; everyone gets a T-shirt. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Beth Laureijs, beth@stpaulqc.org.

Mental Health Awareness Team

Third Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., Chapel

The St. Paul Mental Health Awareness Team, through educational offerings and events, strives to increase understanding of mental health issues. Help us continue to create a supportive, caring, compassionate community for people affected by mental illness and those who care about them. Interested in being a part? Contact: Beth Laureijs, beth@stpaulqc.org.

Survivors of Suicide Loss

First Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Library Conference Room

Offering support for those who have lost a friend or family member to suicide at any time. This monthly gathering is for care, compassion, and encouragement. No need to sign up, just come. Contact: Deb and Joe James, joedeb1984@gmail.com.

Counselor/Social Worker available for appointments

Angie Vaaler, the St. Paul social worker/counselor, is available to St. Paul members and the Madison Elementary School community, free of charge. She can assist those who would welcome support with back-to-school or pandemic-related struggles, as well as difficult transitions, relationships, depression or anxiety, working through trauma, or in need of a listening ear.

Angie is available for appointments, both in-person and through telehealth (by telephone or video means). Call 563-326-3547, ext. 312 to schedule.

Working with Habitat for Humanity is one of the most rewarding volunteering opportunities I get to participate in. I know the impact to the partner family and our community is real. Habitat has been a great opportunity to blend my profession and skillset as a builder with my desire to positively impact our community.

LEE MARBACH



HOUSING

Habitat for Humanity

Saturdays, Sept. 11 and Oct. 2

St. Paul people are building a home, in partnership with Habitat for Humanity in the Quad Cities. Swing a hammer, raise a wall, run a table saw. No prior construction experience needed. To sign up for a shift, visit stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

THE JOY OF COMMUNITY

Together, we are one of the deep joys of a life of faith. St. Paul people gather in groups, large and small, to share in each other's lives. Below is a sampling of groups that welcome all with open arms.

WOMEN AND MEN

Women of the ELCA

Women of the ELCA is a community of women who gather each month for friendship, support for your faith journey, Bible study, and service. Monthly gatherings are held at church, and in members' homes, as well as special events throughout the year. Contact: Janice Melvin, 563-332-3665.

- **Online Circle:** Gather on Zoom on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Anyone who has a computer, phone, or tablet can join the video conference from the location of their choice. To express interest, contact Martha Wells, marthawells99@gmail.com.

Second Saturday Men

Second Saturdays of the month, 9 a.m.

Men of St. Paul gather for service, fellowship, and discussion. First gathering of the year will be on Saturday, Sept. 11, 9 a.m. The idea is to strengthen guys in their faith. Contact: Todd Byerly, todd@stpaulqc.org.

Guys Coffee Group

Second and fourth Mondays, 10 a.m., North Lawn

Grab a cup of coffee and settle in with your computer to connect with fellow St. Paul men. Led by Dave McPherson, this group will meet two times a month through the fall. Contact: Dave McPherson, davemcph@msn.com.

YOUNG ADULTS

2136

Twice monthly

2136 is a ministry for adults in their 20s and 30s to be social, to study, and to serve. Its name comes from both the general age of those involved (in or around 21-36) and the street address of St. Paul. To stay up-to-date on 2136 happenings, check out the 2136 Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/stpaul2136. Contact: Emily Reinholdt, emily.maiden927@gmail.com.

- **Tailgating kick-off:** On Thursday, Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m., wear your team colors, and bring a dish and a chair to gather around a fire to celebrate friends and fall. Meet in the west parking lot.

College-age young adults

College or grad-school aged, in school or working or both, will meet for conversation, fun, and connection. Reach out to Haley, associate youth director, about how to be involved. Contact: Haley Rhoads, haley@stpaulqc.org.



Sign up online

Looking for a way to plug into St. Paul? Sign up for one of the many upcoming opportunities this fall. There's something for everyone.



Dad's group (see page 12)

TOGETHERNESS

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, Oct. 3, 1 p.m., North Lawn

On the Feast Day of St. Francis, gather with the beloved creatures of St. Paul and their owners. The sounds of barking, mewing, cawing, and snuffling will join our prayers as we give thanks to God for our pets and all that God has made. We'll gather on the lawn, some on lawn chairs or picnic blankets, others on leashes or in cages. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Golden Agers luncheon

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 10:30 a.m., Chapel

St. Paul senior adults, 75 years and older, come together each October for the Golden Agers worship and luncheon. The shape of the day may change, but mark your calendars. Contact: Ken Winter, ken@stpaulqc.org.

Coffee Chats

First and third Tuesdays of the month, 10:30 a.m., North Lawn

Bring a beverage of your choice and settle into a conversation on faith, health, and wholeness. No need to sign up, just come! Each month features one or two topics on different subjects. September: Finding Purpose in Different Seasons of Life, October: Personality Types. Contact: Dave and Dortha DeWit, dorthamd@aol.com.

SUPPORT AND CARE

Adult Children of Alcoholics

Wednesdays, 6 p.m., Zoom

This is a group for people who grew up in dysfunctional homes of any type (mental illness, alcoholic, verbally abusive, etc.). We learn together and support each other, using a spiritual approach. Contact: Dick Jensen, rrjensen65@gmail.com.

Blood Donor Day

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 1:30-6 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Give the gift of life. Blood donation is a simple process that takes about 45 minutes to one hour. Enjoy conversation and refreshments afterwards. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Stroke Support Group

Third Wednesday of the month, 2-3 p.m., Luther Loft

The group brings together stroke survivors and their families in an atmosphere of caring and sharing to assist recovery. Education about life after a stroke, including helpful hints and coping skills, is included. Contact: Karen Caldwell, kcl254@aol.com.

Motherless Daughters

Second Saturday of the month, 9 a.m., Church House Living Room

Open for any woman who has experienced mother-loss at any time and needs a safe place for support. Gather to celebrate our mothers, deepen relationships, and develop a network for continuous healing. Contact: Nicole Rathje, rathjefamily@gmail.com.

Prayer Chain

The Prayer Chain works quietly and steadily behind the scenes. Prayers rise for illness or challenges, and in praise or thanksgiving. No request is too small. Requests are worded for confidentiality. For a prayer request or to volunteer as one who prays, contact Karin Hanson, 563-528-2064, tkmax2502@gmail.com.

Walking the Grief Journey

Sundays, Oct. 24-Nov. 21, 10:20-11:05 a.m., Church House Living Room

A supportive, compassion-filled series for those who have experienced the recent loss of a loved one. Explore anger, depression, fears, acceptance, and new strength for a hopeful future. Led by Pastor Sara Olson-Smith and Joel Moore, deacon and registered nurse, sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Veterans' Gathering

Are you a veteran from any era? Led by Lyle Peterson, this group connects in a variety of ways to provide camaraderie, support, and conversation. Contact: Lyle Peterson, petedav72@gmail.com, 563-343-1817.

ADULTS

As Lutheran Christians, we consider our lives to be unfinished products. That's why we're constantly seeking ways to grow in faith and deepen the meaning of our days. At St. Paul, we cultivate a community of lifelong learning.

FAITH EXPLORATION

Heart.Soul.Mind.

Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 8, 12 noon-1 p.m., on Zoom

Thursdays, beginning Sept. 9, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

More than the other gospels, the Gospel of John focuses in a variety of ways on the idea of life, both the life that is in Jesus and the life that Jesus brings to people. Jaime Clark-Soles' book, *Reading John for Dear Life: A Spiritual Walk*, will be our guide through a complete reading of the gospel during the fall season. The book is available for free at the of the church; a \$15 donation to offset costs is optional. Each week offers two opportunities to join in the study and discussion, one on Zoom and the other in person (please have a mask handy). Contact: Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.

DiDAX

Fourth Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Chapel

The basics of the Christian faith, St. Paul style, for anyone — really, anyone! The monthly, year-long series from Sept.-April will be an introduction to the Bible and its interpretation. No background needed; all questions welcome! Contact: Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.

CC Conversations

Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Dec. 2, 6-7:15 p.m.

CC Conversations is a monthly opportunity to discuss religion, culture, and social issues of the day using news and articles from the *Christian Century* magazine as conversation starters. Bring personal perspective, passion, and openness to others. Ten days before each month's session, the church website calendar lists advance reading assignments. Those without a print or online magazine subscription can pick-up onsite copies of the articles on a rack in the church library. Have a mask handy in case we're in a tough stage of the pandemic. Pastor Peter Marty facilitates discussion. Contact: Peter Marty, peter@stpaulqc.org.

Centering Prayer

Thursdays, 6 p.m., Zoom

Practice an ancient prayer form in which you will experience God's presence within. Centering prayer does not replace other kinds of prayer, but is a discipline that allows a person to move beyond conversation to resting in God and communion with Christ. Contact: Dick Jensen, rrjensen65@gmail.com.



"We're here because we found a lot at St. Paul. You can find all kinds of viewpoints and everyone is accepted and nurtured. There are places we can plug in and feel comfortable helping — there's a variety of things you can do. I like the feeling that we're helping in the community."



DORTHA DEWIT

Theology Pub

Third Thursday of the month, 6 p.m., Location to be announced

Word has it that some of the best theology has been fashioned over tables loaded with good food and drink, and strong friendships. Come to enjoy a rich mix of people and perspective, as we explore informally the many ways in which our faith intersects with our lives and the world. Contact: Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.

Women's Bible study: In Real Life

Fourth Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., starting Sept. 28

This fall, after a year on Zoom, this women's Bible study will be back to meeting "IRL" (In Real Life). And we'll be talking about how our faith can become more deeply connected to our real lives. As we read the Bible and talk with each other, we'll come to know more of God's presence in our lives, and how we can live faithfully, in our day to day. Childcare available upon request. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Men's Bible study

First and third Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m.

Gather together for a time of fellowship, and study. Meet in the 129 House on the St. Paul campus, corner of Lombard and Main Streets. Contact: Jeff Keller, jeff.keller1964@gmail.com.

The Bible for Worship

Weekly on YouTube, linked in the Thursday eNews

Get your weekly "fix" of Bible study with this brief video introduction to the passage that guides the upcoming Sunday sermon. The segments are on the "Bible for Worship" playlist in the St. Paul Quad Cities YouTube channel, so you can go back and catch it after Sunday, as well. Contact: Peter A. Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.

The St. Paul Church Library

Open whenever the church building is open

A wealth of up-to-date, stimulating, interesting resources awaits your curiosity and invites your exploration. The self-help check-out system is easy to navigate — just fill out the card and drop it in the box on the counter. Among other resources, the library includes copies of the DVDs that were shown in the August film series, "Lives of Note." Every book that is in stock in the Book Corner is also on the shelf in the library. Come and see!

Travel with St. Paul to Germany in 2022

Three Passions in Germany is a study trip scheduled for June 20 – July 2, 2022, designed and led by Pastor Peter A. Pettit. A few spaces remain available as this Journey goes to print. For more information, contact Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.



BOOK LOVERS

Occasional Tuesdays Book Group

Tuesdays, Oct. 19-Nov. 2, 6:45-7:30 a.m.,
Library Commons

In *No Cure for Being Human (And Other Truths I Need to Hear)* author Kate Bowler asks, how do you move forward with a life you didn't choose? It's hard to give up on the feeling that the life you really want is just out of reach. A beach body by summer. A trip to Disneyland around the corner. A promotion on the horizon. Everyone wants to believe that they are headed toward good, better, best. But what happens when the life you hoped for is put on hold indefinitely? The book is available in the Book Corner. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

Faithful Readers

Thursdays, Sept. 9 and Oct. 14, 7 p.m.,
Church House Living Room

The first fall meeting of this literature discussion group, Sept. 9. Conversation will focus on *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward. The October meeting will be *The Song of the Lark* by Willa Cather. Contact: Katie Hanson, katiehanson@augustana.edu or Dave Crowe, davidcrowe@augustana.edu.

"Outside of a dog, a book
is man's best friend.
Inside of a dog, it's too
dark to read."



WORKING TOGETHER

Safer Foundation Volunteers

Wednesday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m.-12 noon, J.B. Young Opportunity Center

The Safer Foundation's annual event, Safer Sacks, is seeking volunteers to assemble bag lunches. All items will be provided. St. Paul partners with the Safer Foundation to provide help with this important fundraising event, as well as monetary support for their operational costs. The Safer Foundation supports the efforts of those with arrest & conviction records to find employment and become full members of the community. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

Racial Awareness Team

Third Tuesdays of the month, 7 p.m., Library Commons

When there is a deep commitment to help shape a world where all people are treated as God's beloved, prejudice and hate can be transformed into love and respect. 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. Anyone is welcome. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

KnitWits

Third Thursday of the month, 6 p.m., Church House Living Room

Knitters and crocheters are invited to share time over yarn as we work on service and individual projects. Don't know how to knit or crochet? We'll be glad to teach you. Contact: Belinda Holbrook, belinda@holbrook.fm.

Quilters

Sept. 20, Oct. 19, Nov. 8, and Dec. 21, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

This devoted group of caring quilters, beginners and experts alike, gather monthly to sew, tie, cut, and piece together beautiful works of art that are donated to those in need. This crew will be working on some special projects this fall. Contact: Cathy Hagglund, crh4quilts@msn.com, or Karin Hanson, 563-528-2064, or Belinda Holbrook, belinda@holbrook.fm.

Sign up online

Looking for a way to plug into St. Paul? Sign up for one of the many upcoming opportunities this fall. There's something for everyone. Scan the QR code with your phone's camera, or sign up online: stpaulqc.org/signups.



SUNDAY LEARNING

On Sunday mornings, you'll find a variety of presenters and topics for adult classes, 10:20-11:05 a.m. Meet up with God's word, riveting ideas, and interesting people. No need to register in advance. Grab your cup of coffee and settle in.

"Faith" is the name of the relationship we have with God, much as "marriage," "friendship," and "parenthood" name the relationships we have with our spouses, our friends, and our children. Like those relationships, faith grows and changes over time. Learning from the Bible, from other Christians, from people of other faiths, from history and culture and the arts and sciences equips us to understand and benefit from our faith in ever-expanding ways.

Learning takes place in many areas of the congregation's life. Worship itself can help to learn about our faith, as can that casual encounter in the Gathering Area that Martin Luther would have called the "mutual conversation and consolation of the community." Singing has been a vehicle of learning in the church for centuries, as hymns and choral works have carried images of God and shaped religious imaginations even for those unable to read. In counseling, in small group encounters, in service projects, and in countless other ways, God leads us into deeper and deeper understanding of the relationship we share.

In St. Paul's focused learning program on Sunday mornings, children ages 3 and up and adults in every stage of life can explore the many dimensions of faith. Classroom groups at the preschool, elementary, and middle-school age levels are complemented by multi-generational family learning events and by milestone events marking key developmental moments. Some high school students share leadership in the classrooms of their younger peers while others choose to participate in adult learning. Adults have a wide range of topics to explore in one or more forums, as well as a weekly video available online with background on the preaching text for each Sunday.

Because of pandemic planning challenges, there will be one Sunday adult learning forum offered each week during September and October, in the Chapel. November plans will be shared in the months ahead as the pandemic evolves and more is known about our possibilities for gathering together.

When we are baptized, God creates the relationship that we call faith. This faith grows over time through God's faithfulness to the promises shared at baptism. Come and enjoy.

Watch for the learning schedule and descriptions in the weekly *Connections* flyer and eNews.



KIDS AND FAMILIES

Kids and families can find a wonderful second home at St. Paul. Staff and volunteers bring big hearts for sharing faith, and the congregation seeks to be a loving sign of God's grace for all families.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Learning for kids

Sunday mornings, 10:20-11:05 a.m. starting Sept. 12

On Sept. 12, Sunday morning learning begins for the school year. Look for friendly St. Paul faces on that day to guide you.

Registration and weekly check-in will take place in Lower Commons for K-5th grade, in classrooms for PreK, and 6th-8th grade will meet in the youth room on the Lower Level. Masks will be expected for unvaccinated children and all classroom teachers and aides will be masked and vaccinated, until circumstances allow for a change. Contact: Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.

Special Sundays | 10:20-11:05 a.m.

- ▶ **Fall Family Learning:** In place of regular learning on Sunday, Oct. 24, families will strengthen their intentional conversations by digging into the Bible. Meet in Fellowship Hall.
- ▶ **Family Advent Learning:** On the first Sunday in Advent, Nov. 28, an Advent lesson, carols, and a family craft activity will turn our focus towards the wonder of Jesus' birth. Meet in Fellowship Hall.
- ▶ **Christmas Program:** Plans are underway to celebrate the joy and wonder of the Christmas story through the eyes of children. Stay tuned.

Childcare

Staffed childcare for infants through preschool age is available every Sunday morning. Staff are vaccinated and masked. Children are always welcome in worship, but the childcare service helps families who need assistance during the worship hour and at other times.

Nursing Moms' Room

A room for nursing moms, located next to the elevator area near the central staircase, is available. Find rocking chairs, a changing table, supplies, and a video feed from the Sanctuary during worship.

PARENTING

Dads' Group

This is a twice-a-month gathering of dads hoping to strengthen some connections in the QCA. The group gathers for food and beverages, games, discussions, and other opportunities. Contact: Sean Harless, sharless57@gmail.com.

Mom's Night Out

Tuesday, Sept. 14, 7:30 p.m., private residence

Gather with other moms for a backyard get-together as we talk, laugh, and connect. This is the first of monthly gatherings of various activities for fun, support, and community. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups or connect with Pastor Sara for location details. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Parenting Teens: A new weekly email series

Watching your child grow into an independent young adult can be amazing. Sign up to receive a weekly email with information and ideas, centered around faith, to support you and your child

on the journey through teen years. Scan the QR code with your phone's camera, or sign up online: <http://eepurl.com/hGnedb>.



EMPLOYMENT

Director of Children's Ministries

St. Paul Lutheran Church is seeking a full-time Director of Children's Ministries. This individual has the opportunity to build a regionally inspiring children's ministry program where faith comes alive for kids (birth – 5th grade). The goal of this ministry is to provide innovative, playful, and relational opportunities for children to know the power of love and the joy of Jesus Christ. Learn more by visiting stpaulqc.org/employment.

Adult Childcare Worker

St. Paul Lutheran Church is seeking an adult childcare worker 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.

FAMILY FUN

Trunk or Treat

Sunday, Oct. 24, 5-7 p.m., South Parking Lot

It's the annual orange-and-black frivolity at St. Paul for the whole family. Gather for a short worship service, treating, and a parking lot dance party! Costumes are encouraged.



PRESCHOOL

St. Paul Preschool is a loving community for children, ages 2-5. The church's classrooms fill with light and life on Monday through Friday mornings, 8:45-11:45 a.m., September through May.

With a highly educated staff leading the way, this little village for preschoolers is solidly constructed in Christ's love. Children find a home in classrooms:

- ▶ Two-year-olds (two- and three-day programs)
- ▶ Three-year-olds (two- and three-day programs)
- ▶ Four-year-olds (four-day program)
- ▶ Five-year-olds (four-day program)

If interested, check availability by contacting Karen Strusz, karenstrusz@stpaulqc.org.

MILESTONES

Milestones are foundational faith moments that shape our spiritual lives. Families gather for these celebrations; they mark moments in the rhythm of the congregation. An annual calendar of milestone events is available at the Information Center.

Third Grade: Explore the Bible

Sunday, Nov. 7, 10:20-11:05 a.m.

Students and the adults who accompany them learn together about the written word of God. Each child will receive a personal Bible and a blessing from the congregation at 9 a.m. worship. Signup at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.

Tenth Grade: Share. Save. Spend.

Sunday, Nov. 14, 10:20-11:05 a.m.

This is a moment to pause and talk about money intentionally. Families will begin the conversation about money and examine our hopes and values. Signup at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org.

YOUTH

This is the place for off-the-charts fun, faith, and friendship. But it's so much more. Every encounter is aimed at nurturing and strengthening the faith of young people and their families in powerful ways.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

678 Daybreak

Sundays, 10:20-11:05 a.m., Youth Room

Sunday gatherings are offered each week for students in grades 6-8. Join Andy and Haley in the youth room where kids will develop a devotional pattern of asking questions, reading the Bible, and wondering and sharing about God. Most seventh- and eighth-graders also serve as acolytes during worship, or sing in the Youth Choir. Contact: Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org.

678 Night

Wednesdays, Sept. 29 & Oct. 27, 6:30-8 p.m.

High-energy games + togetherness + great Bible studies + campfire-style worship = 678. This group for those in grades 6, 7, and 8 meets periodically throughout the year. Watch for 678 announcements. Contact: Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org.

Confirmation

First three Wednesdays of the month, beginning Sept. 8, 6:30-8 p.m.

For youth in grades 7 and 8, St. Paul's confirmation ministry is a creative, Spirit-enlivened experience, built on relationships with God and others. Contact: Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

The fall confirmation retreat for seventh-graders will be September 17-18, and for eighth-graders on Nov. 5-6. Both retreats take place at church and around the QCA. Campfirmation — an optional overnight at Camp Shalom — will take place Oct 15-16. All 7th & 8th graders participating in confirmation are invited to join in games, bonfire, and tons of camp fun.

Faith Stories

Sundays, Sept. 19-Oct. 17, 10:20-11:05 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Faith stories are the culmination of confirmation at St. Paul. This fall, for five Sundays during the learning hour, ninth-graders will share brief presentations describing how they see God at work in the world and in their lives. Anyone from the congregation is welcome to attend and listen to these stories. Contact: Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.



HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday mornings

High school youth volunteer to teach Sunday morning learning for younger children, assist with worship, usher, work in the nursery, or sing in the Youth Choir.

Sunday Night Live (SNL)

Sundays, 7:15-8:30 p.m., starting Sept. 12, Youth Room

Grab a booth or a spot on “the carpet monster” for Sunday Night Live (SNL). SNL is a strong framework for high school youth, a fun place to get recharged before school on Monday morning. Jump into super-sized life experiences. SNL has something for everyone. Small groups meet beforehand, on- and off-site. During September, SNL kicks off with meals provided at 6:30 p.m. each week until small groups are formed in October. Contact: Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org.

- ▶ **Midweek Recharge:** Wednesdays, starting Sept. 8, 7-8 p.m., Students meet in the youth room to center their lives on faith, while sharing the joys and concerns of every day. Plenty of laughter, personal stories, and deep questions frame this small group. Contact: Haley Rhoads, haley@stpaulqc.org.

Connect with St. Paul Youth ministries on Instagram

Follow all the fun of St. Paul youth ministry on Instagram by scanning the QR code with your camera.



Council Notes

Council enjoyed news from Habitat for Humanity regarding the groundbreaking of three new homes in Davenport with St. Paul contributing \$8,000 in financial support of one of the three homes. Various St. Paul people volunteer their time to build, provide lunch, and mentor new homeowners.

In reviewing staff reports, council was delighted to hear news of pastoral resident Megan Eide arriving in town and preparing for her start on the weekend of Aug. 28-29. Praise was expressed for the counseling services provided by Angie Vaaler, which remains free of

charge to St. Paul member families and Madison School clientele.

Multiple improvements and updates are being made to the building during the pandemic. Refurbished exterior signage is part of upcoming improvements. Fall start-up will begin the weekend of Sept. 11 and 12. (See page three for details)

A weekly pandemic update will be communicated to the congregation each week in Thursday's eNews as the congregation prepares for a changing pandemic landscape.

TRIPS FOR YOUTH

Spring Break Mission Trip

High school youth will take a several day mission trip during spring break. Emphasis for this trip will be on service, faith building, and relationships among each other and a new community. Capacity for this trip will be limited but will resemble previous St. Paul mission trips hosted in the summer. Watch for more details to come. Contact: Haley Rhoads, haley@stpaulqc.org.

Mini Mission Trip

High school students are invited to participate in an overnight mission trip, April 22-23. The group will travel to Chicago to serve at food packaging plants. A quick trip — but one in which youth will be reminded of the value of service and blessings we receive while doing so. Watch for more details to come. Contact: Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org.

National Youth Gathering - July 24-28

The National Youth Gathering — where high school youth from all over the ELCA gather for a week of faith formation — takes place in Minneapolis, July 24-28. Students will spend days in interactive learning, worship, bible study, and fellowship. St. Paul will be eager to take a group of high schoolers that are excited about learning and forming relationships with each other and fostering their relationship with faith. Watch for more details to come. Contact: Andy Langdon, andy@stpaulqc.org.



UPCOMING *worship*

September 4 & 5

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Katy Warren

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8:30 & 9:30am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

September 11 & 12*

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Peter W. Marty

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

September 18 & 19*

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

5pm & 8am: Megan Eide

9 & 11:15am: Peter W. Marty

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

September 25 & 26*

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Sara Olson-Smith

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

**New service times begin Sept. 12.*



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803

Fall

START-UP WEEKEND



New service times starting Sept. 12:
Saturdays: 5 p.m.
Sundays: 8, 9, & 11:15 a.m.
Learning for all: 10:20-11:05 a.m.