

FEBRUARY 2022

The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

journey



Changing seasons



ON THE COVER:
Alana Peitscher

journey

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MISSION
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Just over a week ago, the residents of Utqiagvik, Alaska saw the sun peak over the horizon for the first time in 64 days. Utqiagvik is the northernmost town in America — a little over 500 miles northwest of Fairbanks and sitting just north of the Arctic Circle. The town is home to around 4,500 residents, many of whom are Inupiat Alaskan Natives.

In mid-November, the last official sunrise was at 12:46 p.m. with the sunset coming just 50 minutes later. And from that day on, the polar night set in for the next 2+ months. I can only imagine the joy that was felt when the sun rose again on January 22nd, even if only for a brief 27 minutes. It would be enough to warm any heart (though not likely to warm their faces, with an average high temperature of -7 in the month of February).

To be sure, the people of Utqiagvik don't experience total darkness during these winter months each year. There are still a few hours of twilight that provide some sense of the divide between night and day. And now that the sun has once again appeared, it won't be long until minutes turn into hours of sunlight each day.

It makes me wonder what must go through the minds of these hearty Alaskans as they inch toward darkness each winter. Even those of us in the Midwest start to take notice of the shorter days and longer nights, missing the warmth of the sun (even if we enjoy the beauty of the snow). Seeing the sun in the sky is the sort of thing most of us might easily take for granted.

While I've never met anyone who lives in Utqiagvik, Alaska, I imagine their approach to winter might be to jump in with all the hope they can muster. Even this period of darkness and cold... it definitely won't last forever. I'm convinced that any season (of weather or life) is manageable if we're able to focus on the light at the end of the tunnel — in this case, the sun rising once again.

The Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes essentially says the same sort of thing. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." So, as the scripture continues, there is "a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ...a time to keep silent and a



time to speak." If there's anything certain about seasons, it's that they continue to change. No season lasts forever.

We could each write our own version of Ecclesiastes. In our lives, there are seasons of great joy or excitement. And there are seasons of feeling overwhelmed, exhausted, or heartache. Seasons where we feel strong. And other seasons where we need to rely on the help of others. Seasons of great adventure and seasons that seem dull or tedious. Seasons that are bright and full of sunshine. And seasons where we wonder when the sun will ever shine again.

For the people of Utqiagvik, they have a new season to look forward to in the not-so-distant future. During the months of May through August, the sun never sets. They'll experience full days of (relative) warmth and sunshine.

Maybe we could take a cue from this Alaskan community. Whatever season we find ourselves in, however much or little sunshine might currently be present in our lives, we'll keep holding onto hope. Soon enough, the season is sure to change again.

KATY WARREN
associate pastor

ALL ST. PAUL READS 2022

Little Faith

All St. Paul Reads returns in-person for 2022 with *Little Faith*, the 2021 All Iowa Reads book selection, by Nickolas Butler.

Inspired by true events near Butler's current home in Eau Claire, Wis., and by his family and in-laws as well as his own faith and religion, *Little Faith* draws you into the lives of Lyle and Peg Hovde. Lyle and Peg feel familiar, they are your friends, your neighbors, those you see at church each Sunday.

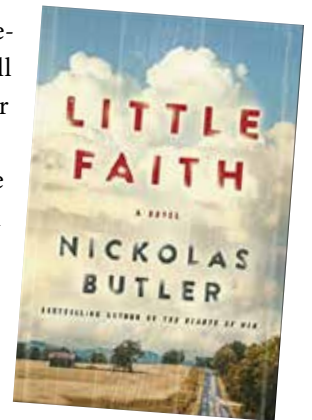
Little Faith, told through the eyes of 65-year-old Lyle, explores a sincere view of the relationship between young and old, father, daughter, and grandson, life and death, faith and doubt, in a way in which all ages can relate and empathize. Questions of faith are posed with both the simplicity of the main character and the complexity of the larger world around us.

In a Midwestern town, not too unlike our own, Lyle and his wife Peg live out their days in relative simplicity. Still living in the same town in which they were born, still attending the same church in which Lyle was baptized and married, and, he muses, in which his funeral will take place, they are surrounded by the comfort of the familiar. Lyle's previously estranged daughter has returned, along with her five-year-old son, Isaac, to live with Lyle and Peg and her newfound involvement with an extremist church and a charismatic pastor causes disruption among the family and even threatens the safety of young Isaac.

Spread over one year, amidst the dynamically changing Midwestern seasons, *Little Faith* explores connection, community, family, and loss while posing deep, fundamental, and thought-provoking questions of faith and belief.

The events in the book, based on true events that occurred in 2008, lend themselves to a larger discussion surrounding the relationship between faith and science. St. Paul pastor Sara Olson-Smith and Chief Nursing Officer of Genesis Health System Joel Moore will serve as the presenters for the evening.

"The discussion with Sara and Joel will really center around how faith and prayer intersect with science and medicine," Book Corner manager Karen Holden said. "*Little Faith* is so beautifully written. We are excited to be back in person this year for All St. Paul Reads. *Little Faith* evokes deep questions that will make the discussion with Sara and Joel so meaningful."



All St. Paul Reads is an invitation for all to read and talk about a single book title in the same year. *Little Faith* is available for purchase for \$12 in the St. Paul Book Corner. To help plan for dessert, please RSVP at stpaulqc.org/signups. Questions? Contact Karen Holden, bookcorner@stpaulqc.org.

february

HAPPENINGS

Annual meeting set for Feb. 6

St. Paul's annual meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 6, at 10:10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

This meeting includes items of important business such as approving the 2022 budget and review of 2021 financials and annual report. There will be a brief recognition of St. Paul staff retiring this year. Pastor Peter Marty will report on the state of the church. The church leadership candidates to be considered at the annual meeting are:

- **Church Council:** Adrian Blackwell, Scott Dickman, Patty Herzberg
- **Mission Board:** K.D. Kalber, Dave McPherson
- **Endowment Committee:** Vida Luth, Jane Strittmater
- **Memorial Gifts Committee:** Lori Byerly, Georgia Dugan
- **Nominating Committee:** Annie Stern, Dave Tews

Family Bible study to be held Feb. 20

Families with children of all ages are invited to a Bible study on Sunday, Feb. 20, 10:15-11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall. This family learning activity will take the place of regular Sunday school. Children grade 3 and younger should be accompanied by an adult.

The season of Lent offers a reflective 40-day time to gather as a community of faith, to recall the practices that matter for a fully human way of life, to find our way. Gather with other families to explore ways to practice faith during this season. Experiential, hands-on activities for adults and kids will be included. Contact: Maddy Carroll, maddy@stpaulqc.org.



Preschool registration set for 2022-2023

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 2022 registration for St. Paul Preschool will take place February 7-8, 8 a.m.-12 noon, for currently enrolled students. New students will register the week of March 1. If you are interested in enrolling your child, please contact Karen Strusz, 326-3547, ext. 219, or karenstrusz@stpaulqc.org.

Faith milestones in February

Faith milestones are special markers along the growing-up journey.

First grade | 10 Commandments Milestone: Kids discover this gift of God's love, which provides guidance for navigating life. This milestone will be held on Sunday, Feb. 27, 10:15-11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall.

Second grade | Lord's Prayer Milestone: Children and parents learn together about the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples to pray. This milestone is set for Sunday, Feb. 13, 10:15-11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall.

Sign up online for both at stpaulqc.org/signups.
Contact: Maddy Carroll, maddy@stpaulqc.org.



Faith BasiX happening Feb. 22

The basics of the Christian faith, St. Paul style, for anyone — really, anyone! This series is an introduction to the Bible and its interpretation. On Feb. 22, 7-8 p.m. in the Chapel, explore the ways we can use the Bible in our lives of faith. No background needed; all questions welcome! Contact: Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.

Camp Shalom registration now underway

Summer camp registration for kids, youth, and families is now underway. Camp Shalom is a Christian camp, founded by the St. Paul congregation, which offers outdoor experiences in faith community for children, entering grade two, through high school youth. For all the details, visit the camp website: campshalomia.org.

Care Companion gathering on Feb. 10

A Care Companion is not an expert or a counselor, but someone who walks alongside and shares a journey for a time. Friendship, presence, and prayer are their tools.

Gather with other Care Companions on Thursday, Feb. 10, 6-7 p.m. This gathering is not only a chance to reconnect those who have been active in this ministry of care in the past, it's also for people who would like to become a part of this compassionate team. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Lenten resources available in the Book Corner

Shauna Niequist's memoir *Present Over Perfect* offers reflection on her life-transforming journey from frantic to meaningfully connected. The brief essays will guide discussion on Wednesdays in Lent, starting March 9, 6:15 p.m. Led by Pastor Peter A. Pettit. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Grace Unbounded: Devotions for Lent 2022 highlights readings from the gospel of Luke from Ash Wednesday to Easter. Explore Jesus' journey from baptism to the cross and the empty tomb. The pocket-sized book is available for \$3, large print for \$5.

Occasional Tuesdays Book Group begins Feb. 1

Gather for conversation centered around a good book on Tuesdays, Feb. 1, 8, and 15, 7-7:45 a.m., in the Library Commons. In *The Gifts of Imperfection*, author Brené Brown explores the psychology of releasing our definitions of an “imperfect” life in order to embrace living authentically.

Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.



February events for young adults

The St. Paul young adult ministry is for those in their 20's and 30's looking for ways to connect and build relationships at church. Come to one of the upcoming events planned for February:

Saturday, Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., volunteer to serve food at Café on Vine in Davenport. Café on Vine provides a free, lunchtime meal to the needy of the community 365 days each year.

Tuesday, Feb. 22, come to the church for a young adult mixer. Watch the young adult facebook page for more details.

Contact Haley Rhoads, haley@stpaulqc.org, or Pastor Megan Eide, megan@stpaulqc.org.



Upcoming concerts at St. Paul

Talented ensembles. Acclaimed choral performances and recitals. Music events are a gift that St. Paul hosts for the community, welcoming music lovers from around the Quad Cities. This winter, enjoy two upcoming concerts at St. Paul:

► Salvation Army Chicago Staff Band

On Saturday, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m., come enjoy the sounds of brass and percussion. The Chicago Staff Band has come to represent the best in banding traditions of The Salvation Army. It is composed of members of Salvation Army congregations from throughout metropolitan Chicago, dedicated to Christian service and musical excellence.

► Wartburg College Choir

On Friday, March 25, the Wartburg College Choir will perform in the Sanctuary. The Wartburg Choir performs sacred music from all historical periods and styles and often collaborates with contemporary composers.

Kidpreneurs

While lemonade stands, lawn mowing, and pet sitting were the quintessential businesses for kids and youth in the past, many of today's kids have found new and innovative ways to start their own entrepreneurial endeavors right at home.

FizzieFoxy

When Alana Peitscher was just six years old she decided to forgo store-bought bath items to ensure she had a healthier alternative to her self-care routine. Now, at nine years old, instead of going to the store to pick up the latest bath bombs, Alana simply heads over to her at-home work station where she will sift together her ingredients, wait for them to set, then plop them into the tub for an upgrade to her usual bathtime routine.

"I just wanted to take a bath with bath bombs," Alana said. "We wanted to use more natural ingredients so I asked my mom and she looked up a video about how to make your own at home and that's how FizzieFoxy started."

FizzieFoxy, named for her love of foxes, has grown since she started crafting the fizzy treats three years ago. Alana now teaches others how to make their very own bathtime fun.

"In second grade, my teacher had a student of the week highlight. We could tell about something we liked or were interested in. I told my whole class how to make bath bombs."

This demonstration led Alana to begin offering bath bomb-making classes for birthday parties and family events. Commanding the demonstration like a pro, Alana outlined the process step by step, just like she did with her class.

"First you need a bowl and sifters. You put baking soda and citric acid into the sifter. You sift that together. Then you put

your oils in, whatever oils you choose, and mix that up. Then add witch hazel and mix until it's kind of clumpy. You put them in your molds and can either bake them or let them sit overnight."

From Easter eggs, polar bears and paws, to unicorns, baseballs, and butterflies, Alana's cart of tools has grown and so has her knowledge. She recommends using silicone baking molds (like you find in the baking aisle) and, after some trial and error, liquid dyes as opposed to powdered. She's currently experimenting with adding surprises to her bath bombs to take them to the next level. Alana's mom, Jenn, is a doTERRA consultant and offers guidance on which scents to use.

"I'm happy that she's able to have fun making the bath bombs with a product I totally trust is healthy and going to be good



RECIPE

Title: FizzieFoxy Bath Bombs

From the kitchen of: Alana Peitscher

Ingredients: Directions:

1 cup Baking Soda
1/2 cup Citric acid
10 drops essential oil
Witch Hazel

Sift baking soda, citric acid, and 10 drops essential oil into a bowl. Mix together. Spray with Witch Hazel in a small spray bottle. Start with five sprays and clump together in hand. When the material begins to stick together push it into the silicone mold. Add more witch hazel as needed to make it stick. It should feel like clumpy snow. Let dry overnight and then pop out of the mold. Or for a quick-release, bake in the oven at 200° for 20 minutes.

For best results use witch hazel instead of water, as many recipes call for. Add in fun colors (liquid dyes recommended for less staining of the bathtub) or other mixables for a bathtime surprise!

for her body,” Jenn said.

Alana and FizzieFoxx are no strangers to giving back as well.

“We did a fundraiser for Batting for Kids (a local non-profit) so I made baseball bath bombs,” Alana said. “That was a tricky mold. Most recently, we had a family friend in an accident and we did a benefit for her at Bettendorf High School. She’s a fan of monarch butterflies so we did a butterfly mold. I also donate to King’s Harvest.”

Jenn wants to make sure they’re balancing Alana’s love of creating, learning to manage a business, and just enjoying life as a nine-year-old.

“We don’t want to make it feel like too much work. We try to keep it light,” Jenn said. “I love her learning the management and the giving side, learning to portion her money out. She manages the business side, the accounting — she’s learned that the supplies don’t just appear. We’ve talked about how you can make money to buy the things you want but how are you also going to make more products for the next event?”

Freddie’s Cheesecakes

Freddie’s Cheesecakes are all mixed together with family. At just 10 years old, Freddie Lassers found a love of baking through his grandpa and with the time spent in the kitchen learning from his mom, Christine.

“I just love eating cheesecakes. My grandpa has a friend in Ohio that makes cheesecakes. That made me want to make them,” Freddie said. “I also like spending time with my mom and baking in general.”

“It’s all my father’s fault. He worked at General Motors with a friend we affectionately nicknamed Marky Mark,” Christine said. “They started their own ‘cheesecake of the month’ club. Marky Mark would make a cheesecake, he would sometimes experiment with flavors, then bring it to my dad. My dad would freeze it until Freddie came to visit him. He always waited for Freddie to eat the cheesecake.”

These special memories with his

RECIPE

Title: Reese’s Peanut Butter Cup Cheesecake

From the kitchen of: Freddie Lassers

Ingredients: Directions:

16 Oreos
3 T melted butter
24 oz cream cheese, softened
3/4 cup sugar
1 t vanilla
3 eggs
1 cup smashed Reese’s PB cups
7 Reese’s PB cups halved

Heat oven to 350. Smash the Oreos by placing them in a plastic bag and rolling over them with a rolling pin. Pour the Oreos into a bowl and mix with melted butter. Firmly press the Oreo mixture into the bottom of a 9in springform pan. Set aside.

Beat together cream cheese, sugar, and vanilla. Mix until smooth. Add one egg at a time until well blended. Then add the PB cups. Pour the cream cheese mixture onto the crust. Then evenly space apart the PB cups cut side down along the edge of the cheesecake.

Bake for 45 minutes until center is set. Let cool and refrigerate 6 hours or overnight.

grandpa, who he refers to as “Papa,” planted a deep seed in Freddie’s mind years before Freddie’s Cheesecakes was born.

“In first grade, Freddie was asked to draw a picture of someone important to him. He drew a picture of Papa because ‘he brings me cheesecake,’” Christine said.

Pulling up a picture of Freddie’s drawing, Christine read exactly what Freddie wrote: “My grandpa is the best because he gets cheesecakes. He gets a mix of crust. The cheesecake he gets most is turtle. That’s why he is the best.”

Just about three years after that drawing was created, Freddie was creating his first cheesecake for Thanksgiving, a pumpkin cheesecake. Since that time, Freddie and his cheesecakes have grown and changed. While he starts his process with a few recipes, he always makes them his own. And mom is teaching him to add his own flair.

“We never measure spices. We teach him to go by the heart,” Christine said. “Like vanilla, you never measure vanilla! He’ll never make this cheesecake again. It’s never the same.”

Like Alana, Freddie is finding the balance between the love of his hobby, learning the business elements, and being a kid.

“Freddie bought boxes to hold the cakes. We bought two really nice cheesecake pans for him, that was our investment in it,” Christine said. “He keeps a journal so he can track what he’s made and spent.

It’s important he learns the accounting side. But there’s a balance between making cheesecakes and being a kid. Plus mom needs her kitchen sometimes.”

Freddie’s sister Lizzie also helps out from time to time, brainstorming ideas of new recipes, but most importantly, giving her feedback as a taste tester. Recently, Freddie made one of his special creations for Christmas, complete with red and green sprinkles.

“It was really good. Papa said he nailed that one,” Lizzie said. “And Papa is very particular.”





Only Good

Tyrone Stone, Brandon Johnson, Albert Redmond — these are just three of the ten men studying hard to earn a four-year bachelor’s degree in communication studies from Augustana College.

One of the ten is the father of a freshman in college - they’re working through their first year of higher learning together. One is the father of an eight-year-old who is so proud of the hard work his dad is putting in to obtain his degree.

These ten men meet together in a classroom setting, seated in a circle to better facilitate discussion, walls adorned with Augustana’s mission, pennants, and words of inspiration, like most college classrooms. But unlike most college classrooms, the view outside of their classroom is a little different, its grounds surrounded by fencing, barbed wire looped through the top.

These men are the inaugural students in the Augustana Prison Education Program (APEP). APEP began its first semester in the fall of 2021, offering qualified men, currently incarcerated at the East Moline Correctional Center, the opportunity to obtain a four-year Bachelor of arts in communication studies degree from Augustana College.

APEP is funded privately through the Austin E. Knowlton Foundation. The foundation’s mission is to promote and advance higher education in the United States. Dr. Sharon Varallo, a communications studies professor at Augustana since 1998 and Executive Director of APEP, was the driving force behind bringing the program to campus.

Sharon understands firsthand the plight of the incarcerated and the pressure it places on families. Having been impacted by her own family experiences with wrongful incarceration, she said

her experience and her desire for change planted the seed of the prison education program in her mind.

“My doctoral studies were focused on interpersonal communication which grew into intercultural communication,” Sharon said. “When done best we understand the world and who we are in relation to other people. We use good decision-making to make ethical decisions in a complicated world. When my daughter faced a situation with injustice, that shined a light on what I needed to do with my knowledge and power in this world. This is the only thing I’m qualified to do to help generate positive change.”

The program is modeled after the highly successful Bard Prison Initiative (BPI) at Bard College in New York. Like Bard College, Sharon said this program would not be possible without the support of many individuals and organizations, especially Augustana College.

“Augustana is a college. This is what we do and we can do it well. We practice what we preach, that you can be a servant leader in a diverse world. I’m not a judge or a lawyer. I’m a professor. I teach.”

One of those teachers is St. Paul member Dr. Paul Olsen. Paul teaches African American/Black Literature, the study in which he



“There’s hope, personal and institutional hope, and there’s confidence. They’re inspired, they’re inspiring.”

has his doctorate. This course consists of only literature written by black authors. Students are introduced to everyone from Langston Hughes to poets from the Harlem Renaissance, Richard Wright to Toni Morrison — giants in the realm of literature. Racial injustice and racial justice, awakening powers and institutional powers are just a few of the themes the course explores with topics ranging from physical enslavement, psychological enslavement,

spiritual enslavement, to freedom.



Paul Olsen

“Literature takes readers on a journey to knowledge and awareness, an awareness of change. When I introduce a poet, I share a picture,” Paul said. “What that says is ‘here is this person that looks like you. And they’re famous, they’re important, people think they’ve got something to say.’ This program gives power to their voice.”

The experience in the program is far more than academic. The changes and growth of the students in the APEP program are exponential, moving beyond the topics in their textbooks and into the larger world.

“There’s hope, personal and institutional hope, and there’s confidence. They’re inspired, they’re inspiring,” Paul said. “I saw men inspired by literature, inspired by a college that is willing to bring our program to them. There’s a new sense of hope on a broad racial justice platform. Then there’s this intimate, individual hope. I’m going to get a job, I’m getting a college degree, I’ve got teachers who will write recommendations.”

And Paul’s class is only one of the many courses students complete while working toward their four-year degree.

St. Paul member Dr. Jason Mahn, professor of religion and director of the presidential center for faith and learning at Augustana College, teaches a course on religion. Students explore various religions and their traditions including Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Daoism, among others, to learn about these different religions and how to think and communicate across lines of religious difference.

“I’m interested in all kinds of justice, and because I’m a Christian theologian, I’m really interested in lives of redemption,” Mahn said. “When the Lutheran church through Lutheran colleges builds bridges to communities that would otherwise be forgotten, marginalized, or stereotyped, we are living out our personal and institutional faith.”



Photo credits to Augustana Observer photographer, Chris Ferman.

While recidivism rates are a goal of these programs within the prison system, Augustana has a much wider focus.

“Recidivism rates are high, largely because prison offers too little opportunities to heal and reform. By participating in a Lutheran liberal arts curriculum that educates in mind, body, and spirit, students reenter communities with a better handle on how they can contribute,” Jason said. “While cutting back on recidivism rates is often a primary goal, we at Augustana tend to measure success in much wider terms. Thinking critically, problem-solving, and developing curiosity, empathy, and an embrace of ambiguity are skills that are good in and of themselves.”

One student in the program spoke with KWQC-TV6 back in October, just a few months after the program had begun.

“(APEP) provides a better opportunity upon my release to go out there and become more productive than destructive, which was the past life I was living. Not coming back, not being another statistic of recidivism, that’s my aim.”

The recidivism rate of prison education programs throughout the country is dramatically lower for students who participate in the program compared to those who do not.

“The Augustana prison education program only brings about good,” Paul said. “It’s only good.”



Jason Mahn

February adult learning

Explore the Augustana Prison Education Program with Dr. Sharon Varallo and St. Paul members (and Augustana faculty) Jason Mahn and Paul Olsen:

- ▶ Feb. 13: Racism and mass incarceration during Covid-19
- ▶ Feb. 20: Introducing the Augustana Prison Education Program

A photograph of Todd Byerly, a man with glasses wearing a light blue button-down shirt, standing in a church sanctuary. He is positioned in front of a wooden console with a digital mixing board. The background shows the interior of a church with wooden paneling and a cross on the wall.

A new chapter

Out of the 52 weekends in a year, there are very few where Todd Byerly is not found at the back of the Sanctuary and behind the technical booth, making sure everything runs smoothly. For nearly eight years, Todd has served as the Operations Director of St. Paul, responsible for leadership in a variety of capacities throughout St. Paul. His time on staff as a full-time employee is coming to a close this month.

Todd's journey with St. Paul started all the way back in 1959 with his baptism. His family was active in Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and choir. It wasn't until many years later, after his initial retirement, that he joined the staff.

"I had taken an early retirement from the electrical industry. I saw that the Operations Director position was not filled, and put my hat in the ring," Todd said. "I did not plan it — it just seemed to happen. My first retirement lasted eight weeks."

Many changes can occur in eight years and Todd has been in the thick of things, heading projects that consist of physical changes — like the sanctuary screen upgrades to updating the

roofing and changes within the church itself.

"St. Paul has found that mission and serving others has great purpose. Since St. Paul is fairly well known in the community, eyes are upon us, and what we do with our time and resources indicates what kind of people we are. I am very proud that St. Paul continues to look for ways to share what we have with others."

What's next for Todd? He will continue to be part of the St. Paul staff, taking on a part-time role as Technical Assistant to help with occasional weekend worship services and assorted special projects. But he'll have a little extra time in his schedule for family.

"I'm hoping to be able to see my mother more often. I might rejoin the St. Paul Chorale — if they'll have me. I also hope to be more present for some kids that need rides to events or opportunities that they otherwise wouldn't get to participate in. I'm looking forward to visiting some good friends in Africa. I've been working with some of them for more than 15 years and since I'm not so young anymore, I've wisened up enough to know that to be in relationship with folks from another country is more than a blessing."

Welcome Miles!

As we bid Todd a fond farewell, we also say hello to his successor, Miles Thompson. Miles has been a friendly face around St. Paul for many years, joining the church after his marriage to lifelong member, Margaret (Vogel). Since then he has regularly volunteered with Todd for Sunday worship services, though it was during the pandemic, while many were isolating and disconnected, that Miles helped create the beautiful Sunday worship videos that connected St. Paul members when we couldn't be together in person.

Miles' background with projects, experiences, and education has coalesced into a unique set of skills that lend themselves to his new position.

"I have always been intrigued by Todd's position because it utilizes my strengths," Miles said. "It utilizes my audio piece, my visual piece. I have a theatre background. Plus, I did heating and air conditioning sales for years so I understand electrical systems on a basic level."

Miles studied graphic design at Coe College in Cedar Rapids before transferring to Iowa State to study horticulture, landscape design, and management, which sparked his interest in sustainability and green living — a passion he's excited to explore at St. Paul.

Miles is married to Margaret and together they are parents to five-year-old Christian and one-year-old Charlie.



Council Notes

Council met on a blustery January evening. During the December meeting, Council recommended the Mission Board identify a way to contribute to the widespread tornadic disaster in Kentucky. The Mission Board identified and provided funds to Dresden, Tenn., an area in great need and with a connection to St. Paul. Council expressed appreciation for the excellent work of Karen Strusz and Kathy Becker in leading the preschool through a year of great challenge.

Council expressed overwhelming gratitude for congregation members' support throughout 2021 and their generous pledging for 2022. Council reviewed the proposed 2022 daily ministry budget of \$3,040,022, and recommended that it go to the congregation for approval at the

annual meeting in February. Business manager Paula Durham led the review.

Becky Schmidt, senior counsel at HNI and a volunteer with St. Paul youth ministries was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Personnel Committee.

The Annual Meeting will be held February 6 at 10:10 a.m. Financial reports will be presented along with the proposed 2022 budget and a report on the state of St. Paul.

A heartfelt thank you was shared with Council members Annie Stern, Glen Hummel (VP), and Dave Tews (Pres) for serving an additional year on Council due to the pandemic, closing out their service after four years.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:

visitation chaplain

The personnel committee has begun the search for a new visitation chaplain or pastor who has the gifts and commitment for visiting St. Paul seniors in retirement communities, nursing care facilities, and their own independent homes. This search follows the resignation of chaplain Ken Winter who recently accepted a full-time position as staff chaplain for Genesis Hospice. Congregation members are being asked to explore their networks for possible name suggestions for this 20-hour/week position. Contact the personnel committee chair Laura Scott, or one of the St. Paul pastors, with name ideas or further information.

YOUTH FRENCH FRY CHALLENGE:

And the winner is...



Ever wondered where the best French fries are in the QC? St. Paul youth spent a fun afternoon in January building connections, laughing, and judging the tastiness of fried food. Teens had a chance to taste and cast a vote on French fries from seven different fast food restaurants. Here were their top picks:



Arby's



McDonald's



Wendy's

WORSHIP at St. Paul

February 5 & 6

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Preaching:

All services: Peter W. Marty

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

February 12 & 13

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Preaching:

All services: Sara Olson-Smith

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

February 19 & 20

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Preaching:

5pm/11:15 am: Katy Warren

8 & 9 am: Megan Eide

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

February 26 & 27

Transfiguration of our Lord

Preaching:

All services: Peter W. Marty

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803

Ash

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 2
WORSHIP AT 12 & 7 P.M.