

APRIL 2022

The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

# journey



# Easter Eggs



**ON THE COVER:**  
The Open Spirit ensemble

## journey

APRIL 2022  
Volume 10 | Issue 2

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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.

*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

Those who fancy themselves movie aficionados or “hip” to pop culture know the immense value and pleasure of “Easter eggs.” Such eggs have nothing to do, of course, with the Easter bunny or even the Easter holiday. They are not designed in the shape of ovals or adorned with pastel patterns. Easter eggs in the movie and television industries refer to hidden messages, images, or other such references from one story or world tucked into another. *Disney*, for example, is notorious for sneaking Mickey Mouse ears into the backgrounds of its animated features. George Lucas slipped the name of his first movie, *THX 1138*, into various moments of his infamous *Star Wars* series. Easter eggs in movies are purposefully difficult to find and oftentimes require an expert eye and insiders’ hints to spot; but once discovered they give viewers a greater sense of connection to the filmmakers—a richer reward than any candy or cash prizes recovered in plastic egg hunts.

The Bible is filled with these sorts of “Easter eggs” too. An especially powerful one lies in the middle of Christ’s passion. It’s a curious little detail. It gets clouded over by the storm of chaos and emotion of the scene, rendering it easily overlooked. We tend to hang on Christ’s last words and fixate on his final breath, but, along with the helpless onlookers gathered at the foot of the cross, what happens next is a rapid, disorienting blur. Fortunately, as readers, we have the power to rewind. We can scrub back before the famous epiphany of the centurion (“Truly, this man was God’s Son!”), before the mysterious rising of the saints and the seismic earthquake that shakes the world. In doing so, we notice this snippet: “The curtain of the temple was torn in two” (Matt. 27:51).

Insiders “hip” to Old Testament writings or ancient Judaism will recognize this curtain as the veil before the Holy of Holies room in the Temple, the supposed residing place of God. In ancient Judaism, people believed it was incredibly dangerous for anyone to slip behind the curtain and enter God’s awesome presence. Even a quick peek might leave one eviscerated! Only the high priest on the sacred Day of Atonement could move behind the veil, complete with a rope tied around his ankle to facilitate



emergency rescue. The heavy-duty curtain may have been 80 feet tall and four inches thick—a dramatic drape separating divinity from humanity, pure goodness from chronic sinfulness.

But on that “Good” Friday, at the pivotal moment of Christ’s surrender to death, the very first event to occur was the ripping of the curtain from top to bottom. The distinct symbol of God separated from humanity was torn asunder. It’s as if God were shouting: “It is finished!” or “No more!” No more barriers between God and God’s people; no more fear over God’s reaction to sinners; no more threats to life when approaching the throne of grace. God’s incredible journey from cradle to cross was complete. The true destination had been reached, and it turned out to be us.

So, if by the end of this Lenten journey, you find yourself still questioning “Am I good enough for God? Have I done enough to earn God’s mercy? Am I worthy to be called a child of God?” then rewind back to Matt. 27:51 and recover the Easter egg of God’s acceptance and grace. Like flinging open the shutters on a sunny day, we might feel the relentless love of God suddenly radiating in upon us.

MEGAN EIDE  
pastor in residency

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER

These are days central to our faith. We wave palms. We recount Jesus' last meal with his disciples. We travel to the cross where Jesus suffered and died. And we rejoice on Easter: He is risen!

## Palm/Passion Sunday

April 9 | Saturday worship at 5 p.m.

April 10 | Worship at 8, 9, & 11:15 a.m.

With festive palm branches waving, the mood turns somber as we come to terms with the death of Jesus. Pastor Sara Olson-Smith preaches at 8/11:15 a.m., Pastor Peter W. Marty preaches at 5 p.m./9 a.m.

## Maundy Thursday

April 14 | Worship at 12 noon & 7 p.m.

In scripture, liturgy, and song, we mark Jesus' last meal with his disciples. Pastor Katy Warren preaches. Our fourth-graders culminate a period of preparation with their First Communion at the 7 p.m. service.

## Good Friday

April 15 | Worship at 12 noon, 4, & 8 p.m.

**12 noon:** A 45-minute contemplative service. Pastor Megan Eide preaches.

**4 p.m. Children's service:** Featuring a reflective children's message; Children's choirs sing.

**8 p.m. Tenebrae service of darkness:** Pastor Peter W. Marty preaches for this somber and meditative service of readings and music. The Chorale sings.

## Easter Sunday

April 17 | Worship at 6, 8, 9:45, & 11:45 a.m.

No Saturday service

*NOTE: New Easter worship times*

With shouts of Alleluia, rumbling timpani, triumphant brass, and a dynamic ensemble (leading the contemporary service) we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Holy Communion is included in all services. Childcare offered at 8, 9:45, and 11:45 a.m.

**6 a.m. sunrise:** We begin outside around a fire in the Memorial Garden, with a procession into the Sanctuary. Candlelight transforms the dark early hours. Pastor Katy Warren preaches.

**8 & 9:45 a.m. festive services:** Choirs, brass, and organ fanfare mark these services. Pastor Peter W. Marty preaches.

**11:45 a.m. contemporary:** With the Open Spirit ensemble leading, Pastor Marty brings the message of resurrection joy.

## Crowd Considerations

A limited number of extra chairs will be set up in the Sanctuary for the 8 & 9:45 services, the two that typically fill to capacity. Overflow space, with livestream worship, will be available in the Chapel for additional worshipers and comfort at all four Easter services.

**Sunday learning** for children and adults will not be held on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday. Learning will resume Sunday, April 24, 10:15-11 a.m.



# april

## HAPPENINGS

### St. Paul women to hold spring gathering

The Women of the ELCA will hold their spring gathering on Saturday, April 23, 9:30 a.m.-12 noon. The gathering will take place in-person in Lower Commons and is open to all St. Paul women and their guests. The morning will include refreshments and a presentation by Dawn Deines-Christensen, liturgical artist, potter, and teacher.

Sign up at the Info Center or at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Doris Mack, 563-332-6054, or Artie Simms, 563-359-1303.

### Upcoming faith milestones this spring

**Ninth-graders** and their parents come together on Sunday, April 24, 10:15-11 a.m. for conversation about new responsibilities in life, including the ability to drive. Meet in Fellowship Hall. A blessing is said over car keys. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Andy Langdon, [andy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:andy@stpaulqc.org).

A **gathering for parents of children born in 2021** will be held on Sunday, May 1, 10:15-11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Connect and share in the joy and exhaustion of life with a newborn or infant. Learn what it means to form a child's faith. Each child will receive a colorful story Bible and Pastor Sara Olson-Smith will lead a discussion. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, [sara@stpaulqc.org](mailto:sara@stpaulqc.org).

### St. Paul to host Nova Singers concert

Welcome spring by coming to hear the Nova Singers perform at St. Paul on Sunday, April 10, 4 p.m. Tickets will be available at the door or online at [novasingers.com](http://novasingers.com).

Professional bluegrass band Monroe Crossing will once again join Nova Singers to perform Carol Barnett's *The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass*. This unique piece combines traditional choral music with folk and bluegrass styles.

### Explore the Passion without blaming "the Jews"

This online video series engages experts in Bible, history, and theology around four key images of Jesus' Passion that have led to persistent anti-Jewish attitudes. This self-study delves into the facts about Judas, the so-called Jewish conspiracy against Jesus, the Jewish crowd before Pontius Pilate, and the crucifixion. Explore different ways of telling Jesus' Passion that emphasize the gospel message without perpetuating misplaced blame. Watch at [www.iccj.org/resources/passion-video-series](http://www.iccj.org/resources/passion-video-series). Contact: Peter Pettit, [ppettit@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ppettit@stpaulqc.org).



### Come and sing: 'Hallelujah Chorus'

On Sunday, April 24, the 9 a.m. service will include a magnificent expression of Easter faith: *The Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *The Messiah*.

Singers of all types and descriptions (middle school age and older) are invited to sing. Come rehearse with choir director Nathan Windt on that day, April 24 at 8:30 a.m. in the Music Room. Contact: Chris Nelson, [chris@stpaulqc.org](mailto:chris@stpaulqc.org).

### Support for veterans

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

## Day to Day: Navigating the challenges of a loved one's dementia

Caring for someone with dementia can be overwhelming. Gather for support on Tuesdays, April 19-June 2, 2-3 p.m. at St. Paul. These eight weeks will provide an opportunity to share and learn with others to help lower caregiver stress. Angie Vaaler and Beth Laureijs will facilitate. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Questions? Contact: Beth Laureijs, [beth@stpaulqc.org](mailto:beth@stpaulqc.org).

## Coffee Chats to meet on April 5 & 19

Bring a beverage of your choice and settle into a conversation on faith, health, and wholeness. This group meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month, 10:30 a.m.. No need to sign up, just come! On April 5, talk about self-compassion and mindfulness with Pastor Sara Olson-Smith. On April 19, we'll discuss Lectio Divina. Contact: Dave and Dortha DeWit, [dorthamdw@aol.com](mailto:dorthamdw@aol.com).



## Mission trip planned to rural Appalachia

St. Paul volunteers regularly travel to rural central Appalachia to make homes safer, warmer, and drier for families who do not have many resources.

Volunteers lodge in centers of Appalachia Service Project, an organization that works throughout the region to build relationships and repair homes. This fall's trip will be Oct. 15-22. An informational meeting will be held Sunday, May 15, 10:15 a.m., in Luther Loft.

The trip cost is \$350 with an initial non-refundable deposit of \$50. Spots are limited. To sign up, visit [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Pastor Megan Eide, [megan@stpaulqc.org](mailto:megan@stpaulqc.org).



## CELEBRATING THE earth

Seed packets, recycling bins, and yard rakes are the stuff of caring this spring. Interested? Just step forward!

### Grounds care at Madison Elementary

A diminishing school budget means little landscaping for the school. Madison Elementary needs volunteers to prune, plant, weed, and pick up litter. Everyone walking onto this campus deserves to know that they will be cared for, just as the school grounds are. 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. Willing to help? Contact: Dana Welser, [dana@stpaulqc.org](mailto:dana@stpaulqc.org).

### Spring cleaning in the St. Paul neighborhood

The St. Paul corner of the world is a beautiful place. On Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m.-12 noon, 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](mailto:julesi@mchsi.com).

### Recyclers, litter picker-uppers needed

Two teams of St. Paul people help keep trash out of the landfill and our environment – and they are searching for a few good helpers.

**The recycling team** gathers items placed in the recycling bins at St. Paul and prepares them for pick up. People can sign up for as many or as few shifts as they'd like. Contact: [Jan Lloyd, cmljml@q.com](mailto:Jan Lloyd, cmljml@q.com).

**The litter picker-uppers** walk the St. Paul property, picking up the trash that accumulates for a variety of reasons, including the campus' placement along two major streets in Davenport. A fancy yellow vest is included in the fun. Interested in learning more? Contact: Jules Irish, [julesi@mchsi.com](mailto:julesi@mchsi.com).

# INTRODUCING

## Edward "Max" Franks

*St. Paul's new resident pastor – coming August 2022*



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

I grew up in West Des Moines, Iowa and attended Lutheran Church of Hope. I was enrolled at the University of Iowa for my first two years of college as a pre-veterinary medicine major. An uncle of mine was a veterinarian and, as a young person, I wanted to be like him. I ended up in the religion studies department at Iowa after some discernment work on my major. As I got deeper into my coursework and started to experience life on my own as a young person, I started to realize God was calling me to ministry. I transferred to Wartburg College halfway through my college career. I was a pre-seminary/theology major there. I'm thankful for that decision, not just for the education but because Wartburg was where I met my wife, Liz.

### **What makes you, you?**

I'm a conversationalist. I enjoy being in conversation with people. A lot of who I am has to do with the relationships I've had or have with other people. Those relationships are really rooted in surface-penetrating conversation. I love to have deep and rich conversations with others because it's from those discussions and connections that I discover more about other people which helps me discover more about myself.

I'm also a huge Iowa Hawkeyes sports fan. I grew up playing ice hockey, baseball, and football. My plan was to play sports in college but I had a plan-altering injury my junior year in high school. Losing that in my life was difficult but turned out to be a blessing in disguise. It's been an important part of my faith journey.

### **Why did you want to become a pastor?**

If you were to ask most pastors this question I get the sense they would say 'I was called to be a pastor' and that's the way I feel about it too. I feel God's call so strongly that if I were not to answer it, that would stick with me the rest of my life. I have a passion to help guide others in their seeking, questioning, and learning about themselves as beloved children of God.

I've often experienced that, in many ways, we find God in the places we least expect to find God; so I enjoy connecting with people and discovering who they are and where they are in their lives. I like turning over rocks and seeing how God might be at work there, in those shadowy places we may not expect to find God. Talking to people about their faith and helping people with the wrestling that often comes with the life of faith brings me joy. I get a lot out of those moments where people seem to grow in their faith or grow more in their understanding or perception of how God is at work in their lives or in the lives of their neighbors, their community, or their church.

### **What intrigues you about St. Paul?**

My dad's side of the family is all from Eastern Iowa. It feels like home even though I've never actually lived there. I come from a large church (Lutheran Church of Hope), my internship is at a large church. Liz and I have been members at that church for four years. I really resonate with the environment of St. Paul. Large churches can make a big impact and I'm interested in how large churches can play a vital role in the community.

### What are you looking forward to?

I feel really drawn by the spirit back to Eastern Iowa and to St. Paul. There are little God hints here and there. I want to develop my pastoral skills and experiences in a conducive and supportive context. The opportunity to assume different leadership roles and take risks that would normally be more challenging in a traditional first-call context is really exciting. The residency program has a great reputation for cultivating emerging leaders. As a plus, I'll get to be in Iowa Hawkeye territory, and taste Happy Joe's pizza.

### What are you passionate about?

My wife and I love to travel. We have a Prius and we take that thing everywhere. We were in Utah this past summer, we did some camping and hiking in Moab, Arches and Zion National Parks. We lived in Colorado Springs our first two years outside of college so we did a lot of hiking, whitewater rafting, and camping outdoors.

I love to cook. I love to cook for other people. I'm also really focused on eating good foods. We've gardened these past two seasons so gardening has become a big passion of ours, picking fruits and vegetables right off the vine. There's something special about caring for the plants or the vegetation you're growing, and then eating of that. Food takes on a new meaning. We love to host people, that's something we really value. I look forward to having a home where we can host dinners. That's where a lot of those rich conversations happen.

**A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 3, 10 a.m.** in the Sanctuary. The purpose of this short meeting will be to call Max Franks as resident pastor at St. Paul.

As resident pastor, Max would take part in St. Paul's two-year residency program for new pastors. Funded through the Lilly Endowment of Indianapolis, it is designed to shape wise pastoral practices in the context of a healthy congregation.



## Checking in with Megan Eide

Current pastor in residency Megan Eide has been busy connecting with St. Paul people during her six months in the Quad Cities.

"I have loved every opportunity I've had to get to know people and build relationships, from big events like the WELCA luncheon and confirmation retreats to simple dinners and coffee get-togethers with individuals. I have learned the immense value and fun of collaborating with a staff of highly talented folks. It is rewarding to lean on and learn from the various passions, gifts, and skills of others. I'm looking forward to accompanying more people through key events in their lives, be those faith milestones, marriages, or other life changes."

Megan has kept busy plugging into the community and culture of the Quad Cities by sampling different coffee shops, volunteering with her therapy dog Nisse, and seeking out opportunities to make music, like performing in the pit orchestra for Assumption High School's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*.

# Days central to our faith

St. Paul people are finding ways to connect and be together — all with a backdrop of sunny skies, budding flowers, and the promise of spring. We worship together. We gather on Lenten Wednesdays around the theme *Enough*. We laugh and play together. And we continue to shine God's light in our community.







# HELLO NEIGHBOR

Zip up your red sweater, lace up your blue sneakers, and take a nostalgic walk with other St. Paul people through *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*

On Friday, April 8, 6:30 p.m. a screening of the 2019 movie *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* will take place in the Sanctuary followed by a brief discussion.

*A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* takes us for a trolley ride into the world of public television icon and beloved children's hero Mr. Rogers. Inspired by the 1998 article "Can You Say...Hero?" by Tom Junod for *Esquire* magazine, the movie explores the impact of Fred Rogers through the eyes of a troubled journalist. Starring Tom Hanks as Fred Rogers and Matthew Rhys as journalist Lloyd Vogel, the movie is a time machine for those who remember switching on PBS to watch Mr. Rogers and wondering which human or puppet the trolley would take us to today and an uplifting reminder in the good of ourselves and others for those unfamiliar the show.

It focuses on a cynical Vogel, known to write unflattering, controversial pieces on subjects, throughout his assignment to profile Fred Rogers for an article on American heroes. You're often left wondering — "is there anything bad he could write about Mr. Rogers?" All while Vogel is in a transformative point in his life, forced to address past traumas in his relationship with his father as he prepares himself for fatherhood. The movie, much like *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*, explores difficult topics like resentment, anger, death, and acceptance with gentleness and honesty.

Beth Laureijs is the coordinator of the St. Paul Mental Health Awareness Team which is responsible for selecting and sponsoring the movie screening.

"This movie is so much more than mental health. It's life. There's much that we can learn from this person and how he approached individuals and

## ALL ST. PAUL MOVIE SHOWING:

*A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*

Friday, April 8, 6:30-9 p.m.

Movie screening with discussion to follow. Free and open to the public.



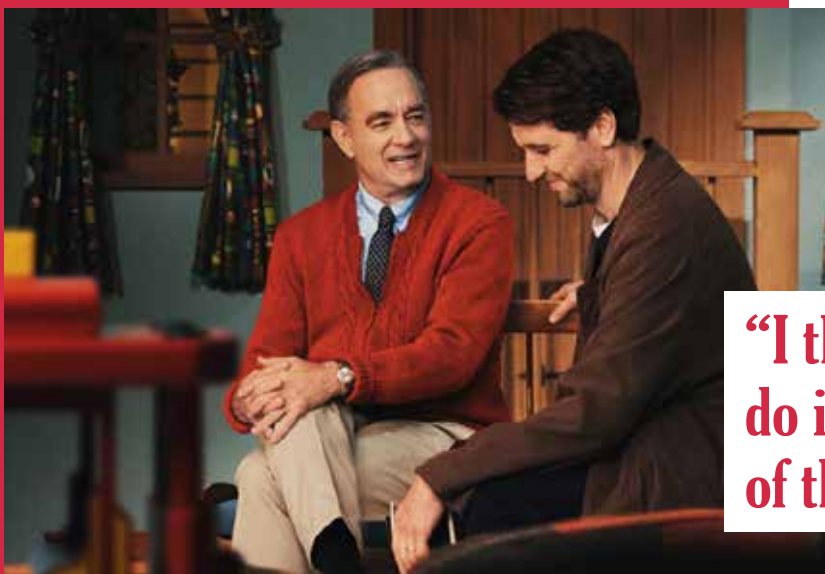
life, the connections that he made with people, and how he maintained those connections and relationships. That takes time and effort and is so valuable."

Fred Rogers was an accomplished musician and songwriter, graduating from college with a degree in music, who went on to become an ordained Presbyterian minister with the mission of working with families and children through the media.

"It's moving how accepting Mr. Rogers is of Lloyd, how accepting he is of everyone. There are a lot of lessons throughout the movie and everything Fred says is as much for adults as for kids," Beth said. "Fred's lesson or Lloyd's journey shows that we need to be more accepting of ourselves and thus more accepting of others, a willingness to understand each other. That we are all worthy. Worthy to be loved, listened to, cared about."

It's a good reminder that it doesn't matter what street you're on, you're always in Mister Rogers' Neighborhood and any day can be a beautiful day.

**"I think the best thing we can do is let people know, each one of them is precious."** — Fred Rogers



Sponsored by the Mental Health Awareness Team



## first communion for fourth-graders

The evening service on Maundy Thursday marks the special time when our 4th-graders (and some 5th-graders) receive their First Communion. For several weeks, they have been learning about these gifts of bread and wine, given and shed for God's people.

We welcome to the Lord's table these children and their families, remembering them in prayer as they grow in Christ:

Jack Bloomer	Quinn Johnson	Amelia Page	Christopher Sivertsen
Gabrielle Bries	Dallas Joyce	Alana Peitscher	Lillian Sivertsen
Carolyn Chester	Calvin Kenyon	Victoria Prantner	Harper Sponsler
Rose Deines	Drew Langdon	Susannah Olson-Smith	Ian Stone
Joseph Essman	Lizzie Lassers	Bryce Rieger	Ian Suddarth
Cora Foster	Mason Lukowicz	Dylan Rieger	Bailey Taylor
Cole Griffin	Kelsey Marbach	Natalie Rieger	Sofia VanDeWalle
Kollin Hamann	Gus Meyer	Tate Runkle	Lydia Zabransky
Alex Hass	Chase Mital	Holden Ryan	
Charlotte Heston	Mason Mital	Stella Schroeder	

## Sunday morning learning for adults

### ▶ April 3: Ukraine and Russia at the Model UN

In late February, as Russia was launching its invasion of Ukraine, a dozen St. Ambrose University students were at the Midwest Collegiate Model UN in St. Louis. Their charge: to represent Russia and Ukraine. Several delegates will bring their research and insights into these two countries to help us understand the conflict that is underway and its background. St. Paul member Laura Meloy is president of the Model UN club at SAU. In the Chapel.

### ▶ April 24: Nature experiences around us

The St. Paul Environmental Team will discuss experiencing nature in and around the QCA. Have you ever wondered what bird species live in the area or might pass through during migration? Where are some of the places can you go to see wildlife? What can I do to help maintain the environment around us? All of these topics and more will be part of an interactive presentation in the Chapel.

### ▶ May 1: New Yorker cartoons with Pastor Peter Marty

The *New Yorker* cartoons return to St. Paul. As good as they are when published in the magazine, these cartoons take on deeper, more meaningful, and sometimes even funnier character when Pastor Marty mixes them with his wit and wisdom. This pandemic edition will include cartoons from the past two years. In Fellowship Hall.

*Please note: Sunday morning learning for adults will not be held on Palm Sunday, April 10, or Easter Sunday, April 17.*

## WORSHIP at St. Paul

### ▶ April 2 & 3

*Fifth Sunday in Lent*

#### Preaching:

All services: Sara Olson-Smith

#### Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

#### Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

### ▶ Wednesday, April 6

**Worship:** 12 noon & 7pm

### ▶ April 9 & 10

*Palm/Passion Sunday*

#### Preaching:

5pm/9 am: Peter W. Marty

8 & 11:15 am: Sara Olson-Smith

#### Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

#### Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

### ▶ April 14, Maundy Thursday

**See page 3 for details**

### ▶ April 15, Good Friday

**See page 3 for details**

### ▶ April 17

*Easter Sunday*

**See page 3 for details**

### ▶ April 23 & 24

*Second Sunday of Easter*

#### Preaching:

5pm/11:15 am: Katy Warren

8 & 9 am: Megan Eide

#### Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

#### Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

### ▶ April 30 & May 1

*Third Sunday of Easter*

#### Preaching:

5pm/11:15 am: Peter W. Marty

8 & 9 am: Sara Olson-Smith

#### Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

#### Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am



ST. PAUL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA 52803



June 13-17, 2022 | Registration deadline: June 1

Sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups)

▶ **Vacation Bible School**

Age 4-Fifth grade, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

▶ **Summer Stretch**

Grades 9-12, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

▶ **678 Week**

Grade 6-8, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

▶ **Volunteer**

There's a job to fit your gifts!

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