

JULY 2022

The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

journey



No cost involved



ON THE COVER:
Sam Dickman

journey

JULY 2022

Volume 10 | Issue 4

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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

If you ask Shoji Morimoto, a lifelong resident of Tokyo, what he does for a living, he might just tell you that he does nothing. And it would be pretty close to the truth. After identifying what seemed like a significant need, Morimoto started his own business by offering a very specific service — his presence. And though it may sound a bit strange to some, in the past four years it's grown to be quite a successful enterprise.

At a cost of 10,000 yen (or about \$85 US dollars) per session, Morimoto has taken on a variety of different roles. Everything from waiting at the end of a marathon for a client who wanted to see a familiar face as they crossed the finish line. Or showing up to listen quietly to health care workers who just needed someone to hear the frustrations and the mental health toll this pandemic has caused.

One woman, recently divorced, wanted to eat at a restaurant that she and her former husband would frequent. But she didn't want to eat alone or be overcome with old memories or forced to explain to her friends the range of emotions she was feeling. So, she called Shoji and asked him to meet her there for lunch. For 45 minutes or so, they sat in near silence. In any of his work encounters, he never initiates conversation — only responding when the other person engages or asks questions. It was exactly what his client wanted.

It seems that most of his work comes during a time when people are experiencing a difficult situation where they feel vulnerable or a strange mix of emotions that can be hard to articulate. He's been hired to be present in a doctor's office when one person feared receiving a serious diagnosis. Or to accompany a woman when filing divorce papers. Or to show up and wave goodbye when a person was moving from Tokyo to Osaka.

Morimoto mostly thinks people don't want to burden their friends with certain intimate moments. "They become more sensitive," he said, "wondering how they will be perceived, or the kind of actions others will take for them. So, they reach out to a stranger without any strings attached."

For what it's worth, it seems to me like these sorts of situations are exactly where our faith might

play a pretty significant role. Whether we're feeling disappointed, heartbroken, or somewhat lost... or we're content as can be. We have a God who has promised to walk through life beside us.

It's true... God's presence may not feel as tangible and real as Shoji Morimoto eating lunch across the table from you. But throughout scripture, God has told us that "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Or when the psalmist sings "In your presence, there is fullness of joy," among countless other examples.

When we pray or when we engage in worship, what we're doing is finding ways to remind us of the reality of God's comforting and loving presence, especially when it might be a bit harder to remember or recognize. God is eager to accompany us to doctor's appointments or restaurants, on travels or in the mundane details of everyday life. Most importantly — in contrast to Morimoto's business — there's no cost involved. No phone call or schedule needed. There's no judgment or prerequisites either. Simply God's abiding care for us offered in unlimited supply and without hesitation.



Katy Warren

KATY WARREN
associate pastor

summer adult learning:

American Dreams & Gospel Promises

Two options:

- ▶ **Sundays, July 17-Aug. 7**
10:15–11:05 am, Chapel
- ▶ **Tuesdays, July 19-Aug. 9**
12 noon–1 pm,
Lower Commons

A podcast offering will be available following each week's session. A livestream of the Tuesday session is available for those unable to attend in-person. Please sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups if you plan to attend a Tuesday session both in-person or via livestream. Questions? Contact Peter A. Pettit, ppettit@stpauqc.org.

From the earliest days of European settlement in the Americas to the headlines in today's newspapers, there have been strong connections between the Christian faith and dreams of what life in North America can be. How does the strong cultural presence of Christianity square with the constitutional neutrality regarding religion?

People of faith in many traditions disagree about the place of faith in their national allegiance, while people who disavow faith also argue among themselves about the foundations of their aspirations for the country.

The four sessions of St. Paul summer learning in 2022 will explore these dynamics by examining several versions of "the American dream." What religious principles and biblical references support each version of the dream? How does the connection between vision and verses shape the movements that use them?

As important as learning about what has been and what is, we will ask what we hope for and how it connects to our own faith. We will explore with one another our different visions for the lives we share as Christians and Americans, seeking not to win converts but to understand better who our neighbors are.



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HAPPENINGS

Social Spectrum: A Peer Group for ASD Caregivers

Social Spectrum is an open group for parents and caregivers of individuals on the autism spectrum to find connection, relaxation, and empathy in the presence of one another. Our first meeting will be Saturday, July 9, 10-11 a.m. in the Church House Living Room. Childcare provided upon request. For more information, contact Pastor Megan Eide at megan@stpaulqc.org.



Quilting dates set for summer

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.

During the summer, this crew will be working on the third Tuesday of the month — July 19, and August 16 at 9 a.m. Come for togetherness and serving. Contact: Belinda Holbrook, belinda@holbrook.fm.

Occasional Tuesdays book group begins in July

Gather for conversation centered around a good book on Tuesdays, July 12, 19, & 26, 7-7:45 a.m., in the Library Commons. In Susan Cain's *Bittersweet: How Sorrow and Longing Make Us Whole*, explore why we experience sorrow and longing, and the surprising lessons these states of mind teach us about creativity, compassion, leadership, spirituality, and love.

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

Summer resources for racial awareness

► Just Mercy movie screening | Wednesday, July 20, 6:30 p.m., Chapel:

After graduating from Harvard, Bryan Stevenson heads to Alabama to defend those wrongly condemned or those not afforded proper representation. One of his first cases is that of Walter McMillian, who is sentenced to die in 1987 for the murder of an 18-year-old girl, despite evidence proving his innocence. In the years that follow, Stevenson encounters racism and legal and political maneuverings as he tirelessly fights for McMillian's life.

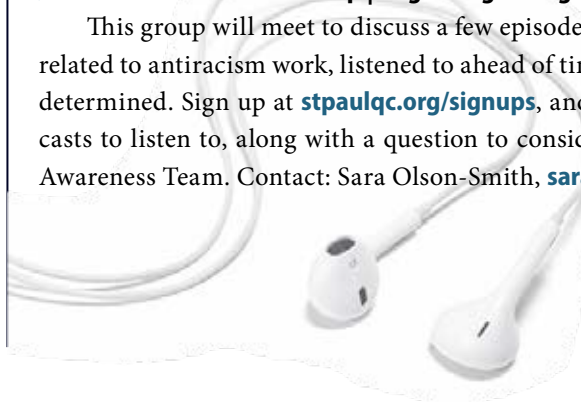
Come to learn, listen, be inspired by the movie *Just Mercy*, hosted by the Racial Awareness Team.

It's a powerful story with discussion to follow. *Just Mercy* is based on the book of the same title by Bryan Stevenson and was the 2017 All St. Paul Reads book selection. It is available in the Book Corner. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.



► Podcast Discussion Group | Beginning in August

This group will meet to discuss a few episodes from different podcasts related to antiracism work, listened to ahead of time. Dates and times to be determined. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups, and we'll send you the podcasts to listen to, along with a question to consider. Hosted by the Racial Awareness Team. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.





Vets meeting Vets

Immediately following the 9 a.m. service on July 10th, grab a doughnut and a cup of coffee then meet other St. Paul veterans in Luther Loft for connection, community, and conversation. Family members are welcome. Questions? Contact Lyle Peterson, petedav72@gmail.com, 563-343-1817.

July 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 July:

River Bandits Game | July 13, 5:30 p.m.: Meet downtown at the stadium for a good ol' ball game! Plus get free rides on the ferris wheel and carousel! RSVP to megan@stpaulqc.org.

Mini Golf | July 29, 7 p.m.: Meet at Lil' Mississippi Mini Golf Course off of Kimberly Road for some classic putt putt! RSVP to megan@stpaulqc.org.

Habitat for Humanity Build | Aug. 6, 12-4 p.m.: Whether you are a master builder or simply have a heart for service, come lend a hand in building a home for a Quad Cities family in need. Learn more and RSVP at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Coffee Chats on Faith, Health, and Wholeness

Bring a beverage of your choice and settle into a conversation on faith, health, and wholeness. This group will meet on July 19, 10:30-11:30 a.m. on the North Lawn (weather permitting). Otherwise, the group will meet in the Chapel. July's topic will be how music affects our faith and health. No need to sign up, just come! Contact: Dave and Dortha DeWit, dorthamdw@aol.com.

SUMMER for 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.

✿ High School Summer Social, Sundays July 10/31, Aug. 14

Meet on the North Lawn of St. Paul for fun activities, super-sized games, deep devotional content, engaging conversation, and campfire worship.

✿ Adventureland Trip | Tuesday, July 12, 8 am-8 pm

For students in grades 6-12, take a day trip to Adventureland for some summer fun. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.

✿ Detroit Mission Trip | July 24-28

A team of St. Paul youth and adult leaders will travel to Detroit to learn and serve in the city.

✿ Adventure Trip for High School Juniors | July 31-Aug. 3

Students are invited to attend an adventure trip, preparing them for leadership in our community and exploring their faith stories.

✿ Maquoketa Float Trip | Tuesday, Aug. 9, 12-6 pm

High school youth take an afternoon float down the Maquoketa River. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.



CONSTRUCTING A PLACE OF PEACE

For his Eagle Scout project, St. Paul youth Sam Dickman created a place for youth to study and serve God, connect with their peers and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors for years to come.

14-year-old Sam Dickman worked hard to reach this accomplishment. From Cub Scouts in first grade to entering Boy Scouts in 5th grade and climbing the boy scout ranks by achieving merit badge after merit badge. From Tenderfoot to second class and up to Life Scout, the goal of his nearly ten years of hard work is to reach the rank of Eagle Scout. And to reach that rank, a final capstone project must be completed. Where this project would take place was an easy decision for Sam.

“Two things they instill in Boy Scouts, now BSA, are leadership and citizenship — giving back to people. I’ve been going to Camp Shalom since I was really young, about 2 or 3 years old. First for family camps and then summer camps.



It’s always been a big part of my life. I had a big part of my faith life formed by my experiences at camp.”

So he approached Camp Shalom to see if they had a need he could fill. Working with Dwayne, the Camp Shalom maintenance director, the two found the perfect spot in need of a new Bible Study space.

Beginning with a 32-page Eagle Scouts workbook, Sam worked through a project plan including a cost breakdown of materials, volunteer needs, project phases, logistics, and more.

“Dwayne really left it up to Sam. We knew we needed a fence, we would need mulch to hold down weed growth and make it look nice. But what it would look like, how to design it, how to support and stabilize it so it stays in place, Dwayne gave Sam the creative control,” said Sam’s dad, Scott Dickman.

FROM START TO FINISH

One of the main requirements of the capstone project is to demonstrate leadership and Sam did just that. Sam assembled a crew of more than 40 volunteers to dig, build, fill, haul, and clean. It takes a lot of time and help to complete a project from scratch. The work hours for the finalized project totaled around

400, with nearly 50 of those hours being just Sam designing, planning, and coordinating the different pieces and volunteers.

“Once volunteers arrived in the morning I would split them into different groups for the jobs we needed to accomplish. The first day was very difficult because in the maintenance shop we had a group building benches but the group clearing out our new area was about half a mile away. It was a lot of going back and forth to communicate with them.”

In addition to the volunteers working at Camp Shalom, family, friends, and local businesses stepped up to help.

Sam raised money and supplies by first sending out letters to families and friends to support the project and asking for donations. Next he worked with local companies for in-kind supply donations. A total of \$1,555 was raised in cash gifts alone and around \$2,000 in lumber, mulch, and other material donations from companies like Builders First Source, Hahn Ready Mix, and Markman Peat. The funds were used to purchase any additional materials needed and to help keep volunteers fed and hydrated.

Not only was Sam able to cover the project’s expenses but the generosity of so many led to a cash surplus with Sam donating an excess of \$700 back to Camp Shalom.

“It feels really good to accomplish a project of this magnitude,” Sam said. “The things I learned were organization, work ethic, and leadership. It teaches you a lot about follow-through and working hard to finish things. The leadership skills I learned



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"The leadership skills I learned from it were huge. Being a good leader isn't telling people what to do but it's leading by example. Which isn't always an easy thing to do."



from it were huge. Being a good leader isn't telling people what to do but it's leading by example. Which isn't always an easy thing to do. Helping to keep volunteers motivated by communicating with them."

The completed project features five benches, a new fence, a beautiful view of the water through the trees, and the proud work of Sam Dickman.

A PLACE OF PEACE

The history of Camp Shalom begins with St. Paul, which first purchased the land for a camp in 1976. Originally called "St. Paul Outdoor Ministry Center," it primarily served youth of the congregation. A master plan was formed to provide a vision of the future. Volunteers labored to turn the rough farmland into a working campsite. They constructed cabins, cleared trails, cooked meals, and created a summer program.

By 1995, many of the buildings from the master plan were in place, but summer camp was very small. The people of St. Paul felt that the sole ownership of Camp Shalom was limiting the camp's potential. Therefore, in 1996, Camp Shalom incorporated as an independent ecumenical ministry.

Camp Shalom continues to grow. This Bible Study space will be used by cabins at summer camp to study different topics and grow in their faith. Summer camps, retreats, and other gatherings still bring people of all ages out to camp. Shalom, the name a young camper offered as an idea, is a Hebrew word meaning peace. Often used as a greeting, it can also mean the kind of peace only God can give.

And Sam has brought to Camp Shalom a place to gather, to connect, and to find peace with friends and with God.

DISCOVERY ON *Adventure* ISLAND

QUEST FOR GOD'S GREAT LIGHT

With games, snacks, crafts, music, and visits from Beacon the Puffin and Lighthouse Keeper Katy each day, St. Paul explorers went on a quest searching for ways God shines light on us and the world.





new members



Ben & Jenny Ferrell are the parents of Luke and Josie. Ben is an engineer at the Rock Island Arsenal and likes to run and read. Jenny works at St. Ambrose University as an administrative assistant and spends her free time playing piano and guitar. They were attracted to St. Paul by the strong children's ministries and hospitality.



Heather McCollough is employed at UnityPoint Moline as a nurse practitioner. She likes to be outside and spend time with family. She has three adult children and is connected with Mark and Kelly McCollough who are St. Paul members. Heather was drawn to St. Paul because it is "open to all."



Bob and Sue Miller are both retired from the Rock Island Arsenal – Bob from math statistics and Sue from facilities. They spend their free time traveling, babysitting, playing pickleball, and gardening. Friends and family brought them to St. Paul. Their daughter, Laura Hammes, sings with the Open Spirit ensemble.



Michele Pittington works as a principal with the Moline School District, but really enjoys teaching. She takes an interest in reading, walking, yard work, and volunteering. She has two young-adult children. The warm welcome, sense of belonging, and music attracted her to St. Paul.



Chelsea Thode works as a retirement account administrator with Alerus Financial. She enjoys reading, exercising, and cooking. She was a part of St. Paul as a child, and is now back because of "the local outreach and positive world views" of the church.

Membership Inquiry on summer evenings

Explore the faith community we call St. Paul on a summer evening. Membership Inquiry Class is the place to bring your inquisitive spirit about St. Paul life and ministries, worship practices, community action — and the faith that motivates everything we do here. Consider one of these gatherings:

- Wednesday, July 27, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

You'll connect with others who are new to life here. Come tour the building, survey the ministry landscape, and glimpse God's grace. Pastors Peter Marty and Sara Olson-Smith lead the way.

Childcare is available on request. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups, or contact Pastor Sara at sara@stpaulqc.org, 563-326-3547 ext. 248.

Council Notes

Council met on a beautifully warm June evening during the week of Vacation Bible School.

The women of St. Paul hosted the Southeast Iowa Women's Synod gathering earlier this month. About 75 women came together for two days of community and faith sharing. Reports of the event were all enthusiastic.

The high school youth held their first Summer Social event complete with nine square, volleyball, net ball, songs, and connection together. Youth co-leaders for this summer, Jamie Carroll and Sarah Lammers, made the night a great success and have a summer calendar filled with activities for middle and high schoolers. Vacation Bible School has been a great success with around 150 children grades PreK through 5th, 6-7-8 kids, 50 volunteers, and many, many activities. Council received more details of the The Three Passions in Germany trip June 20 – July 2. Around a dozen St. Paul members will be traveling along with the group, led by Peter Pettit.

The director of youth ministries search is ongoing. A new recruitment video is live on Facebook and YouTube. The congregation is encouraged to share the video with their own networks of friends to help spread the word. The youth search committee continues to meet and find new ideas for to spread the word.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

director of youth ministries

St. Paul is conducting a national search for a new director of youth ministries. This opportunity will allow a mature individual with youth ministry skills and experience to advance a solid program and establish new frontiers. St. Paul people are encouraged to explore networks and connections of their own for help with identifying potential candidates. See stpaulqc.org/employment for further information. All questions, suggestions, and other inquiries may be directed to:

youthsearch@stpaulqc.org.

As we continue our search for a new youth director, we want to showcase the St. Paul youth ministry's fun, energetic, and lively spirit to potential candidates. There's no better way to do that than with a video featuring our youth. You can watch and share the video from the St. Paul Facebook page: facebook.com/stpaulquadcities, or on Youtube at youtube.com/stpaulquadcities.



St. Paul Child Care is hiring!

We need one high schooler to join the team that provides infant and toddler care for Sunday mornings, weekday evenings, and special programs. Flexible hours possible; background check and COVID-19 vaccination required. Contact: Teresa Whitbeck, teresa.whitbeck@yahoo.com by July 31.

WORSHIP at St. Paul

► July 2 & 3

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Peter W. Marty

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► July 9 & 10

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Katy Warren

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► July 16 & 17

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

5pm/11:15 am: Megan Eide

8 & 9 am: Peter W. Marty

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► July 23 & 24

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Sara Olson-Smith

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► July 30 & 31

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

5pm/8 am: Megan Eide

9/11:15 am: Peter W. Marty

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803



HABITAT *FOR* HUMANITY

Put on a tool belt and help build alongside families who dream of owning a home. No previous building experience is necessary. To help, visit stpaulqc.org/signups.

- ▶ **Saturday, July 16:** The morning shift is 8 a.m.- 12 noon, the afternoon shift from 12 noon-4 p.m. Lunch is provided; helpers needed to provide lunch as well.
- ▶ **Saturday, Aug. 6:** The morning shift is 8 a.m.- 12 noon, the afternoon shift from 12 noon-4 p.m. Lunch is provided; helpers needed to provide lunch as well.