

AUGUST 2022

The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

journey



Holy imagination



ON THE COVER:

Group of St. Paul people and friends on the Three Passions in Germany trip

journey

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EDITOR Jessica Taylor

DESIGNER Lauren Brown

ADDRESS

St. Paul Lutheran Church
2136 Brady Street,
Davenport, Iowa 52803

CONTACT

Email journey@stpaulqc.org
Phone 563.326.3547

MISSION

St. Paul Lutheran Church is a faith community, shaped around five core values: radical hospitality, passionate worship, intentional faith formation, courageous service, extravagant generosity.

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Every night our family reads books aloud. It started with *Charlotte's Web*, then Roald Dahl's *Matilda*, then we spent months reading through the Lord of the Rings trilogy, and then even more months reading the Harry Potter series. Our kids have rich imaginations, and those books became the subjects of their play – with chopsticks turned into wands, blankets into cloaks, and bicycles into dragons.

My kids know that magic isn't real, but those stories show them the power of courage, friendship, and loyalty. I caught a glimpse of how these stories have taken root in their brains while reading about the battle of Minas Tirith in the *Lord of the Rings*. When all hope seemed to be lost, suddenly Aragorn and reinforcements arrived to turn the tide of the battle. My son heard this and whispered to me, "Mom, Walden would do that." (Walden is his best friend.) "He'd come anytime to help me. I would do it for him, too."

I love how these books have shaped my children's imaginations and taught us what is possible. As G.K. Chesterton said so beautifully, "fairy tales are more than true – not because they tell us dragons exist, but because they tell us dragons can be defeated." These stories offer imagination and possibility, stories about kids who save the world with creativity and fierce friendships, about people who are afraid and still act with courage, about the power of love in the face of evil. And mostly that good triumphs.

Our lives are made by the stories we tell because they shape our imagination and teach us what is possible. This is why reading scripture is so essential to our lives of faith, why we read the Bible at church and in our homes, telling the same stories over and over again. Jesus told a lot of stories to his friends, not because some rich guy actually invited homeless folks and perfect strangers to his wedding banquet or because there really was some dad who welcomed home his lost son with a feast.

Jesus told those stories to enlarge our imagination. The stories show us the possibility of a world where grace abounds, where forgiveness happens, where justice reigns. And it's not just the stories Jesus tells – but the whole story of scripture, those



true stories of God creating this whole world and calling it good, and God rescuing God's people from captivity, the hungry being fed, the lost being found, and the dead being raised.

Scripture gives us a vision of a world where everyone has enough, where there's a place at the table for each person, where all of creation thrives, where there is joy and freedom and wholeness. And once we imagine it, we can see it's possible, and if we see it, we can build it. Our imagination leads us to work together to make that possibility real.

Paul wrote at the end of his letter to the Romans "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."

When our lives feel scary and despair runs strong, our holy imaginations can give us hope. When it seems that the world is collapsing around us, when death feels too strong, and injustice too powerful – those stories remind us that dragons can be defeated, that the story is not over yet, and that Life and Love will, ultimately, win.

SARA OLSON-SMITH
associate pastor



love ^{IN} action

The Neighborhood Schools Partnership has been a mainstay at St. Paul for years, putting our core values into daily action. The partnership connects St. Paul with Madison Elementary and the love of St. Paul is needed now more than ever. Dana Welser is the Neighborhood Schools Partnership coordinator and while many of the in-school opportunities disappeared during the pandemic, even more opportunities to serve are opening up during the coming school year.

"It's really important that we have a presence in our own neighborhood, a direct impact on the kids, families, and staff at Madison Elementary," Dana said. "What we're looking for is an influx of love because they've endured some really hard years. They face challenges, the parent support is not the same as other schools, and the inequity they face. We can help with some of that."

That support comes down to the loving community at St. Paul. The connections can be one-on-one with a child or in a group setting supporting staff. These differing levels of connection appeal to different people. While some prefer to be on a team, others prefer an individual expression of their care.

"Recently Pastor Katy had a sermon about when you see a need, you go and help. This is a place that is calling to us, sharing their needs, and it's many of us that can lift this up with our individual gifts," Dana said. "It's not going to look the same for everyone. Some people want to serve three days a week while others only have the time for twice a month or occasional special events. There's a way to partner with exactly what you already have."

Whether once a week or once in a while, volunteers are the extra hands and hearts for children and staff at Madison.

Shooting hoops, *Tom Bley*

The lunch buddy program is an opportunity for one-on-one time with students during their lunch hour. The objective is to offer role models, a connection to help children learn how to have relationships with and faith in adults. Some of these kids are struggling to find that in their lives. Tom Bley has been a lunch buddy

for years, having connected with one buddy through a round of lunchtime basketball.

"My buddy and I would eat lunch together but he enjoyed eating lunch away from the other students," Tom said. "He and I would go into the gymnasium and shoot baskets. We enjoyed doing that together. We talked a lot and had fun together. We really were just two friends shooting hoops."

This kind of personal connection would not have been possible without Tom's willingness to spend a little time connecting with a new friend.

"It's really easy to be someone's friend. Anybody can do it. The kids respond to it. You can make such a difference in a kid's life by being a lunch buddy, or a reading tutor, it's so important. You're providing something that matters so much."

Turning love into action, *Suzanne Benson*

Suzanne Benson has been on the Madison Market team for years and sees the impact of putting your love into action.

"Love is an active verb. To be a listener, to be actively caring, getting to know the families, spending time together, that's active love," Suzanne said. "The conscious act of really listening to what they have to say. We're the face they are going to see every time and they know they can trust us. That trust and that love transform the whole experience. It's a circle of love. What you give comes back to you. It's just magic. You can say love but to actually live it makes it a whole different thing."

There are numerous areas of volunteer opportunities at Madison Elementary including in the classroom, cafeteria, parking, grounds care, and more.

To volunteer at Madison, please contact Vanessa Stone, stonev@davenportschools.org and let her know which area you may be interested in volunteering and she will work to place you in that area.

Interested in being a reading buddy? Contact United Way and tell them you want to read with a new friend at Madison Elementary.

august

HAPPENINGS



Food ingathering planned for Aug. 13 & 14

Fill a bag with nonperishable food items, diapers/wipes, and feminine hygiene products. and bring it to church for St. Paul's annual back-to-school ingathering.

The food goes to the Friendly House Food Pantry in Davenport and the women's and baby products go to families served by Madison Market.

What's needed? Soups, mac & cheese, canned meat (chicken & tuna), cereal, peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, bar soap, laundry soap, diapers (sizes 5 and 6), wipes and feminine hygiene products (tampons and pads). You can also write a check to St. Paul with "Food Pantry" in the memo line.

Please, no expired items. Contact: Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

Women of St. Paul fall gathering slated for Aug. 27

The annual fall gathering for the women of St. Paul will be Saturday, Aug. 27, 9-11:30 a.m. Come to connect, grow, and serve together — with old and new friends. Learn about a wide variety of St. Paul ministries and meet St. Paul's new resident pastor, Max Franks and his wife Liz.

Refreshments will be served. Child care is available upon request. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups or at the Info Center. Contact Linda Allebach, 563-349-9407, lindajallebach@gmail.com or Beth Johnson, 309-269-9543, bajohnson4008@gmail.com.

7th-graders: Sign up for confirmation

Students entering 7th grade this fall are encouraged to sign up now for St. Paul's confirmation ministry. Meeting on Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m., September through April, confirmation is key to shaping the faith of middle school students.

Teenagers and parents are asked to attend a family orientation session in August before confirmation begins next month. Families can sign up for one session by going to stpaulqc.org/signups. For more information and registration materials, contact Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org, 563-326-3547 ext. 232.

Milestones for little ones

Three-year-olds and kindergartners at St. Paul will mark important faith milestones this month. They are special times along the growing-up journey. Signup online at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Three-year-olds | Sunday School Milestone: Come for a pizza lunch and connect with other families on Sunday, Aug. 21, 12:15 p.m. We welcome 3-year-olds into Sunday-morning learning — it's a big step into a classroom setting. Each child receives a colorful storybook Bible.



Kindergarten | Discovering Worship Milestone: Kids ask questions and explore St. Paul worship during this interactive session on Sunday, Aug. 28, 12:15 p.m. A monogrammed worship bag for each child and a pizza lunch adds to the fun.

Contact: Maddy Carroll, maddy@stpaulqc.org, 563-326-3547 ext. 311.



Help clean up the St. Paul neighborhood on Aug. 27

The St. Paul corner of the world is a beautiful place. On Saturday, Aug. 27, 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. No need to sign up, just come! Supplies and snacks are provided. Contact: Jules Irish, julesi@mchsi.com.

Antiracism podcast discussion group begins Aug. 4

On Thursdays, Aug. 4-25, 6:30 p.m., in the Library Commons, this group will meet to discuss a few episodes from different podcasts related to antiracism work, listened to ahead of time. 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.

A night with C. S. Lewis

C. S. Lewis called himself "the most reluctant convert" to Christianity. However he came to his mature Christian faith, he shared it widely with the world in books that still captivate the imagination. A one-man performance of Lewis is coming to the Adler Theater on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2 p.m. St. Paul member David Crowe will lead a study of Lewis' book, *The Great Divorce*, in September (time TBD).

Adler tickets will be discounted to \$27.50 per person for the St. Paul group. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups before Labor Day.

Summer music: Come and play

Summertime allows for a different rhythm at St. Paul, a time for musicians of a variety of abilities to shine, explore, and create beauty with instruments and voices.

Brass ensemble: On Sunday, Aug. 14, during 9 a.m. worship, all who play a brass instrument gather together to create harmonious melodies. Please sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups if you are interested in being part of this one-time ensemble.

Summer Pick-up Choir: Singing is great, but singing together is even better! St. Paul people of ages and singing experience are invited to join this one-time choir on Sunday, Aug. 21, at 9 a.m. worship. Please sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Big Band: Proudly proclaim "I'm with the band" on Sunday, Aug. 28, when St. Paul gathers all woodwind, brass, and percussion instrumentalists to play at 9 a.m. worship. One rehearsal for all ages will be Saturday, Aug. 27 at 10:30 a.m. Music available in advance. Please sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact Chris Nelson, chris@stpaulqc.org.

Backyard movie night planned for Aug. 12

Gather on the North Lawn with other St. Paul families for a movie night on Friday, Aug. 12, 6:30 p.m. Movie TBD. Bring a picnic dinner and snacks and enjoy a night outside in community. All are welcome! Contact: Maddy Carroll, maddy@stpaulqc.org.



SUMMER for YOUTH

✿ 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.

✿ High School Summer Social, Sunday Aug. 14

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



NAVIGATING together

The span of time from your 20s into your 30s can bring significant transition. You've spent the majority of your life in a structured educational setting, many years living under the roof of others, and surrounded by familiarity. So...now what?

This transitional time in young lives is transformative yet often overwhelming. Many large life events occur from getting your first full-time job to buying a house or a car, paying taxes, moving to a new place, and possibly even getting married and having kids. It can be a challenge to know how to navigate these changes but being surrounded by others, many of whom are experiencing these new shifts alongside you, helps bring comfort in the unknown.

Resident pastor Megan Eide now leads the Young Adult group. Megan is in her 20s, moved away from home for the first time last year, accepted her first call as a pastor, and is learning all about managing these new life changes.

"Up until this point in our lives meeting friends has all been set up for us. Whether through school, sharing the same love of a specific activity like soccer or choir, then you meet people in college with whom you share the same academic interests," Megan said. "When you go out on your own into the 'real world' suddenly you're in a work environment where you're often younger or you're trying to do things like buy a house or pay taxes and no one taught you how to do that. It's important to be with people that remind you you're not alone. We all need a space to just relax and be ourselves around people who are experiencing what it's like to navigate the world as a young adult.

Our goal with the young adult group is to provide a space for people to develop meaningful social relationships. The whole group is centered around this idea of integrity. Rather than sitting around and preaching to each other about the importance of service and generosity, we go out and be of service in our community.

We've had an amazing time exploring the QC together and supporting our neighbors and local businesses. We regularly serve meals at Cafe on Vine, we go on field trips to places around the Quad Cities like the River Bandits and the Farmer's Market. We had a social gathering at Dead Poet's Espresso owned by St. Paul's own Tom and Joan Lahl. There's been bowling, hiking, and sand volleyball. We've had coffee, frozen yogurt, and video game nights. We try to do things that appeal to different people's interests."

Connecting with people in a new area

When Josh Baez moved to the Quad Cities in December of 2019 to be with his fiancée, now wife, Maddie, he didn't yet have a friend group of his own. The pandemic made getting to know people in a new area difficult, but Josh has since found a friend group with other members of the St. Paul young adults.

"The one big takeaway from the group is getting to feel that connection with other people around my age. I love my coworkers but they're much older than I am. So it's nice to connect with my peers, getting to chat with one another and learn from the perspectives of others who have gone through similar things, learning about one another and from one another helps me feel very connected on a deeper level.

I really enjoy going to events and adding service work in there. I'm passionate about



Josh Baez

volunteering and getting to do that with friends is wonderful. I do some service work on my own but being out in the community altogether is very exciting. Hanging out with everyone is just that added bonus.

Friendships have started to form outside of the group. We support each other. We're forming a community and getting a lot more comfortable with each other. Being able to find that connection grounded in faith adds positivity to my life. The biggest thing for me is the connection. Hearing other people's stories and strengthening my faith through their stories."

Shared experiences

After moving to the Quad Cities in 2018, Matt Lee, an engineer with John Deere, and Josie Lee, a teacher, soon found a church home here at St. Paul. Both Matt and Josie have found connections with shared experiences among other members of the group.



Matt & Josie Lee

"It's a lot of fun. I've met a few other teachers so that's a good way to make connections," Josie said. "Mostly talking about jobs and life experience. When we got fro-yo at Peachwave, KarrieAnne Burke and I shared that we're both getting our Master's degrees. We got to enjoy fro-yo and talk about going back to school and the challenges that come with that."

"I made a connection with someone that was really interesting, Matt said. "Nico Palazious is going to Iowa State University next year, where I graduated from, so we talked a lot about the ISU experience. He's going to become an architect and my grandpa was an architect so we connected by talking about architecture and buildings and also all of the places and traditions on campus."

"I would say to anyone that's considering the group to just try it," Josie said. "I was nervous at first, it's something new. A new group of people but it's such a great group."

"And it's really casual and really fun too," Matt added. "If you can get over that first step of anxiety, it's the same welcoming atmosphere as at church. It's a good way to do fun things."

GETTING connected

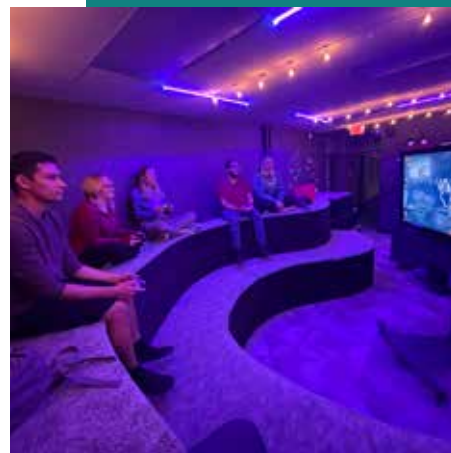
The St. Paul young adult ministry is for those in their 20's/30's looking to connect and build relationships at church. Come to one of the upcoming events in August:

► **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. Lunch included! Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.

► **Video Game Night | Aug. 11, 7-9:30 p.m.:** A night of gaming, trash-talking, and snacking. Come for one, two, or all three! RSVP to megan@stpaulqc.org.

► **Serve a Meal | Aug. 31, 5-7 p.m.:** St. Paul hosts "So All May Eat" to feed the homeless population in Davenport. Help serve the meal and get to know some of our neighbors. RSVP to megan@stpaulqc.org.

► **Coming up in September,** the young adult group will host a mixer. Date and time TBD. At this event, the group can express their interests and communicate what events and activities they find meaningful.



Three Passions in Germany

Willkommen zurück (welcome back) to St. Paul Three Passions in Germany travelers! 20 St. Paul people, friends, and family embarked on a 1,100-mile adventure. Landing in Frankfurt, then journeying to Heppenheim and Eisenach, Wittenberg, Prague, Munich, Oberammergau, and more. The group spent nearly two weeks amid the sights, sounds, food, and culture of Germany as they explore Luther's passion for the gospel, the passion of European Jews in both persecution and perseverance, and the iconic Passion Play in Oberammergau.

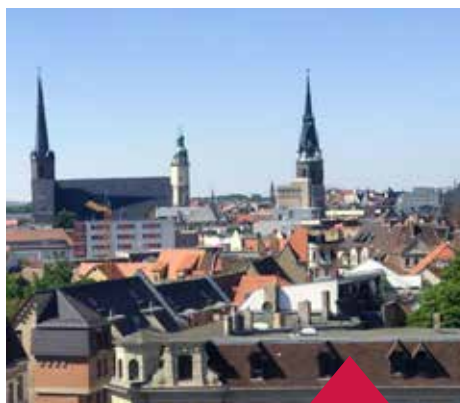


Heppenheim: Travelers visited the International Council of Christians and Jews at the Buber House. Buber was a 20th-century Jewish philosopher.

Wartburg Castle: Luther hid in the Wartburg Castle in Eisenach, where he translated the Bible into common German.



Worms: Jewish cemetery walking tour with friend and tour participant Dr. Marcie Lenk.



Wittenburg: Travelers visited key sites of Luther's 16th-century life and work. He was declared an outlaw of the empire in Worms.



Erfurt: The group took an Augustinian monastery tour where Luther did his early training as a monk.

"I learned that you don't need to bring your best friends or family to have an amazing time on a trip. Immersing myself with those that belong to the St. Paul community has definitely made it feel like even more of a family here." — Laura Meloy





Dachau Concentration Camp: The Jewish Memorial in Prague had 80,000 names etched into its walls for the Jews killed in Czechoslovakia. We were encouraged to commit to memory one name as a remembrance of their personhood.

A powerful understanding of this request was impressed upon us at the Dachau Concentration Camp. There each Jew was given a badge identifying them by number. This became their identity. But God still knew their names. We know that Jesus called his disciples by name, and we are baptized by our name into the body of Christ. These Jews who were killed were also God's children."
— Margaret and John Horn



Prague: Walking across the Vltava River on the Charles Bridge, travelers encounter Czech saints and heroes in 17th-century statues.

Prague: "Seeing the locations where Protestant reformers John Hus and Martin Luther lived, worked and carried out their part of history gave more meaning to the foundation of my faith." — KD Kalber



Wittenberg: The castle church tower stands out on the skyline for miles around. The church doors are famous for holding Luther's 95 Theses.



The Passion Play of Oberammergau: Since 1634 the village of Oberammergau has presented the story of Christ's final journey every 10 years. As a spectacle and religious experience, it has been the model for dozens of passion plays around the world. The group was able to take a backstage tour of the production and dine with Christian Stückl, the director, and Frederik Mayet, an actor that plays Jesus.

Allison Winter

Allison began work as St. Paul's business office assistant in July



*"Enthusiasm,
positivity,
encouragement,
and a glass half
full attitude.
I love to help
people make
connections."*

ALLISON WINTER

Tell us about your family/where you grew up:

I was born and raised in Moline. My parents have passed away and I have a brother Thom and a sister Laura, who both live out of the area. My church growing up was First Congregational in Moline. Upon graduation, I moved to Iowa City and became a Hawk-eye while working toward my dental hygiene degree. I found my first dental office job in Cedar Rapids.

During my dental hygiene career, I had many opportunities in addition to private practice. I taught dental hygiene at Kirkwood for 18 years. I have taken part in several dental research projects at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry and worked in public health with the I-Smile program. I have also worked and taught pharmacy tech courses and a brief stint in real estate.

I am married to Ken who was on staff here as the visitation chaplain. He is now at Genesis hospice as a chaplain. We are empty nesters. Our kids are Betsy & Matt, Meredith & Aaron with our eight-year-old granddaughter Claire, Grant & Natalie who have one-year-old Henry, and Dan & Frazier. They are all spread over the country from Iowa down to Texas and up to Washington. We have a Maltese named Louie who we adopted during the pandemic.

What draws you to St. Paul?

When we lived in Cedar Rapids, Ken and I were members of First Lutheran Church. We are used to a larger church with great music and lots of areas to serve. When we knew we were going to be in the Quad Cities, we made the decision to join St. Paul. Ken was familiar with the reputation and knew this would be a good fit for us. The music, the open and affirming beliefs, the opportunities, and how welcoming everyone here has affirmed our decision to be members.

What are you passionate about?

There are so many things that I enjoy. Probably the most important ones are learning and teaching. Also, anything from crafts to taking golf lessons. Music is important to us – we were in a classic rock band Holiday Road for 10 years. When in Anamosa I acquired a love for theater, participating in several productions both on and off stage.

What makes you you?

Enthusiasm, positivity, encouragement, and a glass half full attitude. I love to help people make connections. I like a variety of activities and try to always lend a helping hand. I think the title "assistant" describes me perfectly.

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. There is one more build date planned for this summer. To help, visit stpaulqc.org/signups.

- **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.



WORSHIP *at St. Paul*

► August 6 & 7

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Katy Warren

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► August 13 & 14

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Peter W. Marty

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► August 20 & 21

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

5pm/9 am: Sara Olson-Smith

8 & 11:15 am: Katy Warren

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► August 27 & 28

Season after Pentecost

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



BACK-TO-SCHOOL BLESSING

Sunday, Aug. 21

**Bring your backpacks
and school bags for a blessing
during worship at all
services, Aug. 20 & 21.**