

NUMBERS

SEPTEMBER 2022

The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

# journey



# Hunger stones



## ON THE COVER:

The Kolwey family: Ashanti (15), Marzell (10), Rosie (6), and Maisie (6)

## journey

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## MISSION

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

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Some large boulders with carved inscriptions became exposed on the banks of the Elbe River in the Czech Republic a few years ago. A drought that lowered water levels to historic lows revealed rocks that have come to be known as “hunger stones.” Inscriptions from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, hand-chiseled into these sedimentary rock boulders, provide a remarkable meteorological chronicle from an age before more standard recording of weather took place.

The inscriptions carved into the rocks reveal a series of devastating droughts that hit Europe over the centuries. At different points in time, when the absence of rainfall created crop failures, a lack of food, and widespread famine, townspeople took it upon themselves to record their hardship. Onto these “hunger stones” are carved sayings with dates that mark droughts in the years 1417, 1616, 1707, 1790, 1800, 1868, 1892, and more. Among the more poignant inscriptions is one that reads: “Wenn du mich siehst, dann weine;” “If you see me, weep.”

Visitors to these hydrological landmarks get to eavesdrop on devastating droughts of the past, events that meteorologists now predict will become increasingly common as the planet warms. Ordinary people with a hammer and chisel in hand sought to ensure that future generations would know what life was like for them.

St. Paul Lutheran has no log of meteorological events in its 140-year-history. We do keep record of plenty of other activities, however, storing them in a repository cleverly named “The Archives.” That’s a reference to the walk-in vault in the church basement where a steel door with a sticky combination lock might frustrate even the best of thieves.

Fascinating pieces of other eras rest quietly in these archives: Record of the church council’s decision in the 1920s to remove the apostrophe “s” from St. Paul’s, simplifying our name to St. Paul. The photo postcard of Teddy Roosevelt speaking before 6,000 people from the stage of the Central Park (today Vander Veer Park) bandshell on November 4, 1910. The 1901 photo of a horse-drawn trolley on Brady Street beside the hitching post and watering hole in front of our Church House property. The declaration by Pastor Miller in the 1930s that St. Paul would not engage in “money making schemes” (e.g. bazaars,



carnivals, tickets, fundraisers), preferring congregational giving that is generosity- and gratitude-based instead. The decision of the church council in the 1890s to give the St. Paul pastor a horse when the congregation couldn’t afford a salary. And much more.

Items we add to the archives these years can seem uninteresting. Someday, though, our descendants will learn how we survived and rebounded from a pandemic. They’ll read about our beloved Pastoral Residency program. They’ll see when refugees from different countries began populating some of our pews; when cremation became more common than embalment; when fabulous worship music reached thousands; when teenagers took trips to serve people with lives very different from their own.

Because church members don’t line up to serve as volunteer archivists these years, we default to the next best option: We stuff artifacts into a mail slot across from the receptionist desk – a kind of purgatory where they await a someday-trip down to the vault. It’s not a perfect method for securing history. But it’s something. My hope is that future generations can peek back at our time and find themselves saying, “Those people in 2022 were beautifully generous in a cultural moment when it was difficult to be the church; faithful when so much of the population decided religion wasn’t worth its time.”

*Peter W. Marty*

PETER W. MARTY  
senior pastor





# WORSHIP & MUSIC

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

## Fall Start-up Weekend

*Saturday, Sept. 10 & Sunday, Sept. 11*

Fall Start-up is when we return to the fullness of our Sunday morning learning for all ages and worship life. Learning for all takes place from 10:15-11:00 a.m.

## Healing Liturgy

*First Saturday of the month, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, & Dec. 3, 6 p.m.*

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

## Upcoming Concerts

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

- **Nova Singers:** Sunday, Oct. 9, 4 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.
- **Quad City Symphony Orchestra Holiday Brass Concert:** Sunday, Dec. 11, 3 p.m.
- **Big River Brass Band Holiday Concert:** Sunday, Dec. 18, 3 p.m.



## choirs

*Come and sing. Rehearsals begin Sept. 7.*

### Alleluia Choir | Ages 4-K

Wednesdays, 6-6:30 p.m., Room 206  
Director: Sara Harless

### Jubilate Choir | Grades 1-3

Wednesdays, 6-6:30 p.m., Room 203  
Director: Katie Casey

### Cantate Choir | Grades 4-6

Wednesdays, 6-6:30 p.m., Room 009  
Director: Margaret Thompson

### Youth Choir | Grades 7-12

Wednesdays, 6-6:30 p.m., Chapel  
Director: Dan Pepper

### Chorale | College & Adults

Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m., Room 011  
Director: Nathan Windt

### Open Spirit contemporary ensemble

Thursday rehearsals  
Director: Bill Campbell



## special dates

- **All Saints Weekend | Nov. 5 & 6, all services**  
Give thanks for the saints of God.
- **Joy Weekend | Nov. 12 & 13, all services**  
We lift up our ministries and pledge for 2023.
- **Thanksgiving Eve | Nov. 23, 7 p.m.**  
Come for worship steeped in gratitude.
- **Choral Advent | Dec. 4, 9 a.m.**  
All choirs come together.
- **Blue Christmas | Dec. 20, 6 p.m.**  
This quiet service offers hope and comfort.
- **Christmas Eve | Dec. 24, 12, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 p.m.**  
**Christmas Day | Dec. 25, 10 a.m.**  
Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

# MISSION & SERVICE

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



## food

### **So All May Eat meal serving**

*Wednesday, Nov. 30 & Thursday, Dec. 15, various times*

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

### **Thanksgiving food and care collection**

*Thanksgiving Eve worship, Nov. 23, 7 p.m.*

Stock a paper bag with nonperishable food and personal care items and bring it to worship Nov. 23-Nov. 27 to serve those who are food insecure. The food gathered will be used to fill the shelves at the Friendly House Food Pantry. Feminine hygiene products, diapers, and wipes go to Madison Market.

**What's needed?** Soups, mac & cheese, canned meat (chicken & tuna), cereal, peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, bar soap, laundry soap, tampons, menstrual pads, baby wipes, diapers size 3-6. Help sort the donations on Sunday, Nov. 27, 12 noon. Contact: Jessica Taylor, [jessica@stpaulqc.org](mailto:jessica@stpaulqc.org).

## mental health

### **NAMI Walk**

*Saturday, Sept. 17, 9:30 a.m., Veterans Memorial Park*

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

### **Mental Health Awareness**

*Third Thursday of the month, 7 p.m., Library Conference Room*

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

### **Friends and Family of Suicide Loss**

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

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

### **Counselor/Social Worker available for appointments**

Angie Vaaler, LMSW, is the St. Paul social worker/counselor. Her services are available to both the St. Paul and Madison Elementary communities, free of charge. She can assist and support with back-to-school or other difficult transitions, relationships, depression or anxiety, working through trauma, or simply be a listening ear. Angie is available for appointments, both in-person and through telehealth via video. Call 563-326-3547, ext. 312 to schedule.



# earth care

## Make It Yours Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m.-12 noon

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

## Environmental Team

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

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

# housing

## Habitat for Humanity

Saturday, Oct. 22

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



“We really enjoyed the NAMI walk for the first time last year. The St. Paul community coming together as one in support of mental health is a great thing.”

— JASON AND DAWN NICKLES

## neighborhood school partnership

At Madison Elementary, being together is what it is all about. Students and staff delight in the relationships built with St. Paul people. Make a difference in the lives of kids, some of whom face tough challenges. This mission ministry is at the heart of who St. Paul is: loving others as God first loved us. Contact: Dana Welser, [dana@stpaulqc.org](mailto:dana@stpaulqc.org).

- **Madison Elementary:** Students, their families, and staff thrive with connection and care from St. Paul. Work special events, help a child read, support a teacher in the classroom, spend time one-on-one, help after school or in the lunchroom. Whether once in a while, twice a month, or once a week, your time is truly a gift.
- **Grounds care:** Prune, weed, plant, mulch, and pick up litter on the Madison campus. The school grounds, when welcoming, beckon all inside for more of the same!
- **Madison Market:** On the second and fourth Tuesday of every month, a food pantry comes alive at the J.B. Young Opportunity Center. Help with packaging food, food delivery, and connecting with the guests.



# COMMUNITY

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

## women & men

### Women of the ELCA

Women of the ELCA is a community of women who gather each month for friendship, support of each others faith journeys, Bible study, and service. Monthly gatherings are held at church, and in members' homes, as well as special events throughout the year. Contact: Linda Allebach, 563-349-9407, [lindajallebach@gmail.com](mailto:lindajallebach@gmail.com) or Beth Johnson, 309-269-9543, [bajohnson5674@gmail.com](mailto:bajohnson5674@gmail.com).

► **Advent Luncheon:** Saturday, Dec. 10, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Kick off the holiday season with the singing of Christmas Carols and a potluck luncheon of salads and desserts. All women are welcome to attend.

### Women's Bible study: The Holy Spirit

*Second Monday of the month, 7 p.m., starting Sept. 12*

This fall, gather with other women to discover the work of the Holy Spirit throughout scripture and in your own life. Through conversation and intentional study, we'll connect more deeply with God, with each other, and with ourselves. Child-care available upon request. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, [sara@stpaulqc.org](mailto:sara@stpaulqc.org).

### Guys Coffee Group

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

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

### Men's Bible study

*First and third Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m., starting Sept. 7*

Gather together for a time of fellowship, and study. Meet in the 129 House on the St. Paul campus, corner of Lombard and Main Streets. Contact: Jeff Keller, 309-737-9817, [jeff.keller1964@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.keller1964@gmail.com).

## Sign up online

Looking for a way to plug into St. Paul? Sign up for one of the many upcoming opportunities this fall. Scan the QR code with your phone's camera to visit the St. Paul sign ups page.



## young adults

Life as a young adult can be both exciting and overwhelming, navigating things like first jobs, new homes, making friends, and building community.

The young adult ministry is designed to give those in their 20s and 30s fun social events and meaningful service opportunities here at St. Paul and around the Quad Cities. To get connected, contact Megan Eide, [megan@stpaulqc.org](mailto:megan@stpaulqc.org).

► **Fall mixer:** On Thursday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m., kick-off the fall start of Young Adults Ministries on the North Lawn with a bonfire, lawn games, and Buffalo Wild Wings. This event is free and open to members and guests. Please RSVP to [megan@stpaulqc.org](mailto:megan@stpaulqc.org).







## togetherness

### Blessing of the Animals

*Sunday, Oct. 2, 1 p.m., North Lawn*

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

### Golden Agers luncheon

*Wednesday, Oct. 12, 10:30 a.m., Chapel*

St. Paul senior adults, 75 years and older, come together each October for the Golden Agers worship and luncheon. RSVP by calling Jennifer Garvey at 563-326-3547. Contact: Teresa Keller, [teresak@stpaulqc.org](mailto:teresak@stpaulqc.org).

### Faith, Health, and Wholeness Coffee Chats

*First and third Tuesdays of the month, 10:30 a.m., Luther Loft*

Bring a beverage of your choice and settle into a conversation on faith, health, and wholeness. No need to sign up, just come! Each month features a different subject. September: The Importance of Friendship, October: Understanding Gender Diversity and the Gender Spectrum. Contact: Dave and Dortha DeWit, [dorthamdw@aol.com](mailto:dorthamdw@aol.com).

## support & care

### Adult Children of Alcoholics

*Wednesdays, 6 p.m., Zoom*

This is a group for people who grew up in dysfunctional homes of any type (mental illness, alcoholic, verbally abusive, etc.). We learn together and support each other, using a spiritual approach. Contact: Dick Jensen, [rrjen-sen65@gmail.com](mailto:rrjen-sen65@gmail.com).

### Dementia Caregivers Group

*2nd and 4th Tuesdays, Sept. 27-Dec. 13, 2-3 p.m., Church House Living Room*

Caring for someone with dementia can be overwhelming. All who walk this journey are welcomed to gather this fall beginning Sept. 27. These six sessions will provide an opportunity to share ideas, gather resources, learn how to support loved ones and be a support to one another. 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).

### Social Spectrum: A Peer Group for ASD Caregivers

*Second Sunday of the month, 4:30-6 p.m., starting Sept. 11*

*Church House Living Room*

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. This group meets once a month in the Church House Living Room. Childcare provided upon request. For more information including a schedule of meetings, contact Pastor Megan Eide at [megan@stpaulqc.org](mailto:megan@stpaulqc.org).

### Stroke Support Group

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

Stroke survivors and their families come together in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and support to assist in recovery. Contact: Karen Caldwell, [kcl254@aol.com](mailto:kcl254@aol.com).

### Veterans' Gathering

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

### Walking the Grief Journey

*Sundays, Oct. 23-Nov. 20, 10:15-11 a.m., Church House Living Room*

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



# ADULTS

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

## faith exploration

### Heart.Soul.Mind.

*Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 7, 12 noon-1 p.m., on Zoom*

*Thursdays, beginning Sept. 8, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall*

This fall, “the art of biblical interpretation” means art – literally. Painting, manuscript illumination, illustration, etching, stamp design, and more have been vehicles for interpreting scripture through the centuries. Focusing on various stories, artists, and media, we will learn from art historians, Bible scholars, and theologians about the Bible as modulated through visual media. A source book of articles will guide our study, but is not required. *The Art of Biblical Interpretation: Visual Portrayals of Scriptural Narratives* is available in the Book Corner. Contact: Peter Pettit, [ppettit@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ppettit@stpaulqc.org).

### Faith BasiX

*Sept. 27, Oct. 18, Nov. 22, Dec. 20, 7 p.m., Luther Loft*

The basics of the Christian faith, St. Paul style, for anyone — really, anyone! The monthly, year-long series from Sept.-April will be an exploration of worship in its patterns and variety. No background needed; all questions welcome! Contact: Peter Pettit, [ppettit@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ppettit@stpaulqc.org).

### Centering Prayer

*Thursdays, 6 p.m., Zoom*

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

### CC Conversations

*First Thursday of the month, starting Sept. 1, 6-7:15 p.m.*

CC Conversations is a first-Thursday-of-the-month opportunity to discuss religion, culture, and social and spiritual issues of the day using articles and news from *The Christian Century* magazine as a springboard for conversation. Think critically and faithfully about contemporary issues impacts our faith. Pastor Peter Marty facilitates discussion. Contact: Peter Marty, [peter@stpaulqc.org](mailto:peter@stpaulqc.org).

### Theology Pub

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

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

### Summer Learning Recap

Summer learning focused on *American Dreams and Gospel Promises* — exploring biblical and religious themes of four different images of America. All four sessions are available via video on YouTube or podcast on the St. Paul channels (St. Paul Podcasts) at many podcast outlets – Buzzsprout, Spotify, Apple Podcast, Google Podcast, etc. For more information contact Peter Pettit, [ppettit@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ppettit@stpaulqc.org).



# book lovers

## Faithful Readers

*Thursdays, Sept. 8 and Oct. 13, 7 p.m., Luther Loft*

At the first fall meeting of this literature discussion group conversation will focus on *The Professor's House* by Willa Cather. The October meeting will be *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf. All books are available in the Book Corner. Contact: Katie Hanson, [katiehanson@augustana.edu](mailto:katiehanson@augustana.edu) or Dave Crowe, [davidcrowe@augustana.edu](mailto:davidcrowe@augustana.edu).

## A night with C. S. Lewis

*Adult learning, Sept. 18 & 25, 10:15 a.m.*

*Adler Theater performance, Oct. 16, 2 p.m.*

C. S. Lewis called himself "the most reluctant convert" to Christianity. Once converted, he shared his faith 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*, on Sunday mornings Sept. 18 & 25. Adler tickets will be discounted to \$27.50 per person for the St. Paul group. Sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups) by Sept. 5. Contact: Peter Pettit, [ppettit@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ppettit@stpaulqc.org).

## The St. Paul Church Library

*Open whenever the church building is open*

A wealth of up-to-date, stimulating, interesting resources awaits your curiosity and invites your exploration. The self-help check-out system is easy to navigate — just fill out the card and drop it in the box on the counter. Every book that is in stock in the Book Corner is also on the shelf in the library. Come and see!



## working together

### Blood Donor Day

*Wednesday, Oct. 26, 1:30-6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

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

### KnitWits

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

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

### Prayer Chain

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

### Quilters

*Sept. 21, Oct. 17, Nov. 15, and Dec. 21, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

This devoted group of caring quilters, beginners and experts alike, gather monthly to sew, tie, cut, and piece together beautiful works of art that are donated to those in need. They also welcome those who would like to cut squares or sew quilt tops at home. Contact: Belinda Holbrook, [belinda@holbrook.fm](mailto:belinda@holbrook.fm) or Karin Hanson, 563-528-2064, [tkmax2502@gmail.com](mailto:tkmax2502@gmail.com).

### Racial Awareness Team

*Third Tuesdays of the month, 7 p.m., starting Sept. 20*

When there is a deep commitment to help shape a world where all people are treated as God's beloved, prejudice and hate can be transformed into love and respect. St. Paul's Racial Awareness Team exists to expand awareness of our world, love our surrounding community, deepen empathy, advocate for change, celebrate justice, delight in diversity, and partner with neighbors in our city. Anyone is welcome. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, [sara@stpaulqc.org](mailto:sara@stpaulqc.org).

# SUNDAY LEARNING

On Sunday mornings, you'll find a variety of presenters and topics for adult classes, 10:15-11 a.m. Meet up with God's word, riveting ideas, and interesting people. No need to register in advance. Grab your cup of coffee and settle in.

## Chapel

### Sept. 11: C. S. Lewis and *The Great Divorce*

*Prof. David Crowe, Augustana College*

C. S. Lewis had a genius for putting challenging religious ideas into delightful, engaging stories. Prof. Crowe will help us explore the questions about Heaven and Hell that Lewis addresses in his book, *The Great Divorce*. The book is available in the Book Corner.

### Sept. 18: Our Neighbors, Our Friends

*Ann McGlynn, Executive Director, Tapestry Farms*  
*Clare Tobin, Assistant Director, GAHC*

The German-American Heritage Center in Davenport paired with Tapestry Farms over the summer in an exhibition that aims to highlight the many connections between the present immigrant and refugee experience in the community and the German immigrant population of the past. The forum will highlight insights from the exhibition, which is open for free on Sept. 18, before it closes and ends its run at 4 p.m.

### Sept. 25: C. S. Lewis and *The Great Divorce*

*Prof. David Crowe, Augustana College*

This is not a re-run! Prof. Crowe will continue to lead us into the world of Lewis' reflections on Heaven and Hell through the traveling companions of the brief, witty novel. Either session, and both, will offer background to the Adler Theater's presentation of "A Night with C. S. Lewis" on Sunday afternoon, October 16, for which St. Paul folks have half-price tickets available. Sign up for the Adler online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups) by Sept. 5.



### Oct. 2: NEST Café

*Laura Evans Mahn, Founder*

The vision of NEST is "to create a welcoming, healthy, and economically strong community by providing real, locally-sourced food (when available) on a pay-what-you-can basis. Situated in central Rock Island, NEST – Nourishing Everyone Sustainably Together – is the emerging fulfillment of Laura's idea that eating well together could strengthen bodies and the community. Alight for a few minutes to check out the NEST!

### Oct. 9: A Welcoming Community in Practice

*Jerry Schroeder, Community Educator*

The desire and effort to be a welcoming community sometimes run up against the challenges of real life. Encountering people with dementia can be disorienting for anyone, as our usual social skills fall short of making the connections we would like. A veteran educator in dealing with people with dementia, Jerry Schroeder will offer insights and tips on honing our welcome posture towards all people.

### Oct. 16 – St. Paul Resident Pastor

*Pastor Max Franks and Beth Laureijs*

Come get to know Pastor Max better as he settles into his two-year stint as a resident pastor at St. Paul. There's a great back story to set up the growth and joy that lies ahead for him and the congregation!



## Oct. 23: Meet the Bishop

*Bishop Amy Current, Southeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA*

Bishop Current was elected during the COVID season and is making her way around the synod to meet as many congregations as she can. She is as curious about St. Paul as you may be about her; come join the conversation.

## Oct. 30: Coming soon!



Watch upcoming *Connections* for details on adult learning for this date.

## Nov. 6: Davenport Public Library Diversity Audit

*Lexie Reiling, St. Paul member and DPL staff*

What's available to the wider Davenport community through the public library? Does the collection of library resources reflect the interests and needs of the community? Lexie Reiling was the lead staff person on the audit project in 2021 and will present its background, methodology, and results.

## Nov. 13: Children's and Young Adult Literature and Learning

*Prof. Katie Hanson & Prof. Berni Carmack, Augustana College, Ms. Stephanie Maxwell, 6th Grade Literature Teacher*

When children and young adults read fiction, they collect the building blocks of imagination and the scaffolding of a worldview. There are many important social and developmental benefits to reading stories. These educators lead an exploration of the ways in which the youngest generations engage with and perceive their world.

## Nov. 20: The Gospel of Mark

*Peter A. Pettit, teaching pastor*

The church year that will begin on Nov. 27 with the First Sunday in Advent will bring lessons from throughout Mark's gospel (as well as from John, since Mark is so short!). What themes and patterns might we notice and what dynamics will be shaping the stories and teachings we will encounter? Week-by-week they may be more difficult to discern; this overview aims to draw them out and give us orientation.

## Nov. 27: Cornflakes for God

*Peter W. Marty, senior pastor*

From lamb soup to cornflakes, believers have made a practice of connecting faith and food for centuries. They cook up delectable feasts to celebrate life and engage in fasting to fight moral weakness. They've eaten strange fruits and rich bread; avoided wine and ingested Jello. Explore the commingled history of food and faith in a delectable way.

## Dec. 4: St. Paul's Madison School Partnership

*Karen Kline-Jerome, Susan Marty, Dana Welser, Kit Whan*

The Madison Market is one of the most visible activities of the congregation, both from the inside and out in the community. Yet, it is only one part of the Madison School Partnership, which includes mentoring, property care, teacher support, and more. The Partnership leadership team will bring us up to date on all of it.

## Dec. 11: The story of the Jenny Lind Chapel

*Kai Swanson, Augustana College*

When Lars Paul Esbjörn finally made it to Andover, Ill., he knew he had a fight on his hands. But when it came to saving Swedish immigrant souls from the self-proclaimed prophet Erik Jansson, Esbjörn never would've imagined finding an ally in the greatest global celebrity of the day, the "Swedish Nightingale" Jenny Lind. Follow the path from Bishop Hill to Andover, Jenny Lind, Augustana College and today's ELCA, as Kai Swanson, a former member of the Jenny Lind Chapel Committee, (and inveterate sucker for a good story) serves as our guide.

## Bible study resources

Multiple opportunities for Bible study open up at St. Paul throughout every year. It is still "the cradle of Christ, the Word of God," and worth a visit whenever we can get to it.

- **Women of the ELCA Bible Study:** Regular monthly meetings include Bible study drawn from the *Gather* magazine. The fall 2022 series is *Jesus and Nature: Teachers of Faith* by Pastor Sara Olson-Smith. (see pg. 6)
- **Women's Bible Study with Pastor Sara:** On the second Monday of the month, discover the work of the Holy Spirit throughout scripture and in your own life. (see pg. 6)
- **Men's Bible Study:** On the first and third Wednesdays of the month, gather for fellowship and study in the 129 House. (see pg. 6)
- **Heart.Soul.Mind:** The fall season will focus on *The Art of Biblical Interpretation*, exploring varied visual media and the ways in which biblical stories and teachings are represented and expressed. (see pg. 8)

## The Bible for Worship

*Weekly on YouTube, linked in the Thursday eNews*

Get your weekly "fix" of Bible study with this brief video introduction to the passage that (usually) guides the upcoming Sunday sermon. The segments are on the "Bible for Worship" playlist in the St. Paul Quad Cities YouTube channel. Contact: Peter A. Pettit, [ppettit@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ppettit@stpaulqc.org).

# KIDS & FAMILIES

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



## sunday mornings

### Learning for kids

*Sunday mornings, 10:15-11 a.m. starting Sept. 11*

On Sept. 11, Sunday morning learning begins for the school year. Look for friendly St. Paul faces on that day to guide you.

Registration and weekly check-in will take place in Lower Commons for K-5th grade, in preschool classrooms for PreK, and 6th-8th grade will meet in the youth room on the Lower Level. Contact: Maddy Carroll, [maddy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:maddy@stpaulqc.org).

### Special Sundays | 10:15-11 a.m.

- **Family Advent Learning:** On the first Sunday in Advent, Nov. 27, an Advent lesson, carols, and a family craft activity will turn our focus toward the wonder of Jesus' birth. Meet in Fellowship Hall.
- **Christmas Program:** Plans are underway to celebrate the joy and wonder of the Christmas story through the eyes of children. Stay tuned.

### Childcare

Staffed childcare for infants through preschool age is available every Sunday morning. Children are always welcome in worship, but the childcare service helps families who need assistance during the worship hour and at other times. Parents can stay in touch with childcare workers via text. The newly renovated space includes age-appropriate toys and games. Check it out!

### Nursing Moms' Room

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

## parenting

### Dads' Group

*Monthly gatherings*

This is a gathering of dads hoping to strengthen some connections in the QCA. The group gathers for food and beverages, games, discussions, and other opportunities. Connect by searching the "St. Paul Dad's Group" on Facebook, or contact: Sean Harless, [sharless57@gmail.com](mailto:sharless57@gmail.com).

### Mom's Night Out

*Monthly gatherings*

Gather with other moms for a monthly night out. Activities range from dinners to yoga in the park, and escape rooms to backyard gatherings. Email Chelsea Clark to be put on the Mom's Night Out email list at [chelseamclark12@gmail.com](mailto:chelseamclark12@gmail.com).

### Mom's Morning

*2nd & 4th Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m.,*

*Church House Living Room*

Friendships form when mothers of young children get together. Moms' Morning is a gathering that celebrates parenthood with laughter, prayer, and mutual support. In our time together, we will study the Bible, explore parenting topics, and sometimes just hang out and drink coffee. Childcare is provided. Contact: Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, [sara@stpaulqc.org](mailto:sara@stpaulqc.org).





# milestones

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

## Third Grade: Explore the Bible

*Sunday, Nov. 6, 10:15-11 a.m.*

Students and the adults who accompany them learn together about the written word of God. Each child will receive a personal Bible and a blessing from the congregation at 9 a.m. worship. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Maddy Carroll, [maddy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:maddy@stpaulqc.org).

## Tenth Grade: Share. Save. Spend.

*Sunday, Nov. 13, 10:15-11 a.m.*

This is a moment to pause and talk about money intentionally. Families will begin the conversation about money and examine our hopes and values. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Katy Warren, [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org).



**The family programming at St. Paul is warm and welcoming to all different types of families. We always know that when our kids are here, they are surrounded by their faith community, and this community loves them!"**

— BILL & JENNIFERY KOLWEY

# family fun

## Trunk or Treat

*Sunday, Oct. 30, 5-7 p.m., South Parking Lot*

It's the annual orange-and-black frivolity for the whole family at St. Paul. Gather for a short worship service, treating, and a parking lot dance party! Costumes are encouraged. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Maddy Carroll, [maddy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:maddy@stpaulqc.org).



# preschool

St. Paul Preschool is a loving community for children, ages 2-4. The church's classrooms fill with light and life on Monday through Friday mornings, 8:45-11:45 a.m., September through May. With a highly educated staff leading the way, this little village for preschoolers is solidly constructed in Christ's love. Children find a home in classrooms:

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

If interested, check availability by contacting Karen Strusz, [karenstrusz@stpaulqc.org](mailto:karenstrusz@stpaulqc.org).



# YOUTH

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

## middle school

### 678 Daybreak

*Sundays, 10:15-11a.m., Youth Room*

Sunday gatherings are offered each week for students in grades 6-8. Kids will develop a devotional pattern of asking questions, reading the Bible, and wondering and sharing about God. Most seventh- and eighth-graders also serve as acolytes during worship, or sing in the Youth Choir. Contact: Katy Warren, [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org).

### Confirmation

*First three Wednesdays of the month, beginning Sept. 7, 6:30-8 p.m.*

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

**The fall confirmation retreat** for seventh-graders will be September 16-17, and for eighth-graders on Sept. 30 & Oct. 1. Both retreats take place at church and around the QCA.

### Faith Stories

*Sundays, Sept. 18-Oct. 16, 10:15-11 a.m., Fellowship Hall*

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



## high school

### Sunday mornings

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

### Sunday Night Live (SNL)

*Sundays, 7-8:30 p.m., starting Sept. 11, Youth Room*

Grab a booth or a spot on "the carpet monster" for Sunday Night Live (SNL). SNL is a strong framework for high school youth, a fun place to get recharged before school on Monday morning. Jump into super-sized life experiences. SNL has something for everyone. Small groups meet beforehand, on- and off-site. Contact: Katy Warren, [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org).



### Connect with St. Paul Youth on Instagram

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



## Council Notes

"It's a good time to be St. Paul," one church council member noted during its August meeting. Appreciation was expressed for the many who help St. Paul thrive.

In a major decision, Council approved a bid for the tear-off and replacement of all 15 zones of the church's flat roofs. Old and cracked surfaces have created frustrating moisture leaks inside. The 90-foot-high roof of the sanctuary tower will receive a new metal-seamed topping. The Capital Improvement Fund will cover the entirety of the

project's expenses. Work is to begin in October.

Council also approved a memorial committee request for \$6,000 to purchase new furnishings for the recently renovated childcare room. Plans are also underway to replace the 20-year-old playground on the north lawn. Council affirmed a preschool proposal to undertake this project early next summer using funds from a COVID-relief preschool grant received from the state of Iowa. Council also approved the hiring of Liz Franks (see below) who began her work on August 23.

### YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE:

## Liz Franks named youth coordinator

Liz Franks, spouse of our newest pastoral resident Max Franks, has just been named by the church council to be St. Paul's full-time youth coordinator. She will walk alongside high school students in their faith and life journeys. Liz's leadership skills will deepen and strengthen the faith, friendships, and leadership gifts of high school students who end up gathering at St. Paul from all over the Quad Cities.

"Some of my greatest passions include serving people, creating art, and traveling. I love to spend time with people from all walks of life and hear their stories," Liz said. "As a former teacher and social worker, my passion to serve others has been the cornerstone of my career leading up to joining the staff at St. Paul."

"Liz brings a unique combination of talents to the St. Paul youth ministry. From her high school teaching and social service background to her deep faith formation since childhood, we are fortunate," noted search committee chair, Patty Herzberg. "Her enthusiasm and passion for connecting with youth and their families will bring so much meaning to our program. The timing couldn't be better as we head into a busy autumn. We're excited that this opportunity to pair her gifts with our needs presented itself."

While Liz will lead our youth ministry in a full-time capacity for the next couple of years, the search committee for a permanent youth director remains in place. When a permanent director is identified, he or she will work alongside Liz, adding yet more depth to our ministry with youth.



## WORSHIP at St. Paul

### ► September 3 & 4

*Season after Pentecost*

#### **Preaching:**

All services: Megan Eide

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

#### **Contemporary Open Spirit:**

11:15am

### ► September 10 & 11

*Season after Pentecost*

#### **Preaching:**

5pm/8 & 11:15 am:

Sara Olson-Smith

9 am: Peter W. Marty

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

#### **Contemporary Open Spirit:**

11:15am

### ► September 17 & 18

*Season after Pentecost*

#### **Preaching:**

5pm/9 am: Peter W. Marty

8 & 11:15 am: Katy Warren

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

#### **Contemporary Open Spirit:**

11:15am

### ► September 24 & 25

*Season after Pentecost*

#### **Preaching:**

5pm/8 am: Max Franks

8/11:15 am: Sara Olson-Smith

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

#### **Contemporary Open Spirit:**

11:15am



**ST. PAUL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA 52803



# *Fall* **STARTUP WEEKEND**

**Starting Sept. 11 | Learning for all: 10:15-11 a.m.**

## **KIDS**

Children age 3-grade 5, will explore their faith through interactive activities, creative art projects, and engaging music.

## **YOUTH**

Grades 6-8 meet in the youth room for friends, faith, and fun. A strong team is stepping up to keep ministry moving for grades 6-12.

## **ADULTS**

We're people who cherish a spirit of lifelong learning. Each Sunday, find your way to the Chapel. A full calendar of opportunities are on pg. 10.