

APRIL 2023

The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

# journey





# Growing together



**ON THE COVER:**  
Rachel Evans

## journey

**APRIL 2023**

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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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### POSTMASTER

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It is that time of year when many of us have planting on the brain. Farmers are watching the weather and tuning up implements, and others are scheming about backyard gardens. Little seedlings grow in happy rows on windowsills like school children. Our family has been working on our garden plans. We've got a map labeled in crayon: "Zinnia Land," "Marigold Alley," and in all caps: "TOMATOES!"

This year we're trying a new, old, thing. We're planting a Three Sisters Garden. The Three Sisters – corn, beans, and squash – have been planted together by Indigenous communities throughout North American for centuries. While most Indigenous communities have been forced off their ancestral land, the wisdom and practices of the Three Sisters have been passed on through generations.

It's a practice of companion planting. The plants grow together, symbiotically, supporting each other like three sisters. The corn shoots up first, providing support. The beans climb up the corn like poles and pull nitrogen from the air to enrich the soil. And the squash's big prickly leaves sprawl to shade the soil and protect the plants from pests.

There is a beautiful reciprocity among those plants, a mutuality that benefits all. I was inspired to plant my own Three Sisters Garden after reading *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a botanist and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. When she writes about the Three Sisters, she names how the plants teach us how to be in community. "Being among the sisters provides a visible manifestation of what a community can become when its members understand and share their gifts."

When the apostle Paul wrote to his community in Corinth, he names how the Holy Spirit gives everyone gifts, talents, abilities. "Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

Some of us are the corn, tall and supporting. Others are the beans, twisting vines to hold the community together. Still others are the pumpkins, reaching out, protective and compassionate. We're all differ-

ent, a huge spectrum of gifts from varied backgrounds.

It is said that when the European colonists first saw the gardens of Indigenous communities, they dismissed them. They were used to straight rows of single crops, not chaotic sprawls of abundant food. And

yet those seemingly messy, companion gardens were generously shared to feed them, through the hard first winters on this continent.

Sometimes being a community with all our beautiful differences feels like a messy garden – but it is our diversity that makes us both abundant and growing. If we only stuck with people just like us, things might be easier, but our view of God would be narrow and our thinking small. But together, we expand our understanding of God and our empathy for others. In our beautiful differences, our harvest of love is abundant, and our lives full of more joy.

This is why we keep showing up to worship together, to study and serve alongside one another, opening ourselves, leaning on one other, being changed by one another. We each bring our whole selves and gifts for the flourishing of the whole.

As Robin Wall Kimmerer wrote, "Alone a bean is just a vine, a squash an oversize leaf. Only when standing together with the corn does a whole emerge which transcends the individual. The gifts of each are more fully expressed when they are nurtured together. In ripe ears and swollen fruit, they counsel us that all of our gifts are multiplied in relationship."

And this is how we, on our own and together, keep growing.



*Sara Olson-Smith*

**SARA OLSON-SMITH**  
associate pastor

# HOLY WEEK & EASTER

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

## Palm/Passion Sunday

April 1 | Saturday worship at 5 p.m.

April 2 | Worship at 8, 9, & 11:15 a.m.

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

## Maundy Thursday

April 6 | Worship at 12 noon & 7 p.m.

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

## Good Friday

April 7 | Worship at 12 noon, 4, & 8 p.m.

**12 noon:** A 45-minute contemplative service. Max Franks preaches.

**3 p.m. Pretzel-making:** Craft and eat cross-shaped creations in Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome.

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

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

**Parking:** Besides St. Paul parking lots & side streets, Madison School, Vander Veer Park, and St. Ambrose lots are available.

**Crowds:** The largest crowds are often at the 8/9:30 a.m. services on Easter Sunday. Consider worshiping at an alternative service. Easter overflow will be in the Chapel with services livestreamed.

**Sunday learning** will not be held on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday. Learning will resume Sunday, April 16, 10:15-11 a.m.

## Easter Sunday

April 9 | Worship at 6, 8, 9:30, & 11:30 a.m.

No Saturday service

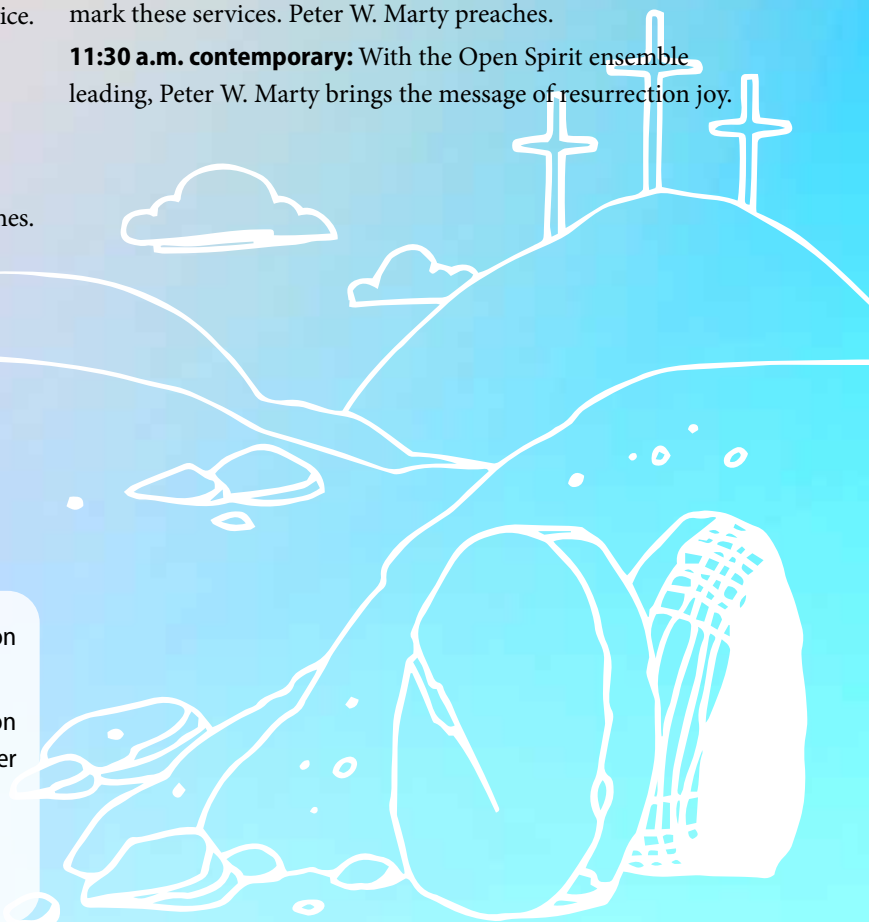
NOTE: New Easter worship times

With shouts of Alleluia, rumbling timpani, triumphant brass, choirs, and a dynamic ensemble (leading the contemporary service) we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Holy Communion is included in all services. Childcare offered at 8, 9:30, and 11:30 a.m.

**6 a.m. sunrise:** Begin outside around a fire in the Memorial Garden, with a procession into the Sanctuary. Candlelight transforms the dark early hours. Sara Olson-Smith preaches.

**8 & 9:30 a.m. festive services:** Choirs, brass, and organ fanfare mark these services. Peter W. Marty preaches.

**11:30 a.m. contemporary:** With the Open Spirit ensemble leading, Peter W. Marty brings the message of resurrection joy.



# april

## HAPPENINGS

### Blessing of the keys: 9th-grade milestone

At St. Paul, faith milestones are special markers along the growing-up journey. Each milestone is grounded in the Bible and nurtures faith in everyday life. Ninth-graders and their parents come together on Sunday, April 23, for conversation about new responsibilities in life, including the ability to drive, 10:15-11:00 a.m., in Fellowship Hall. A blessing is said over car keys. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Liz Franks, [liz@stpaulqc.org](mailto:liz@stpaulqc.org).

### Young adults events focus on theme of well-being

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. In April, explore aspects of a holistic, well-balanced, and healthy life. Come be a part of this personal and communal journey into self-care and communal support:

**Hike and picnic at Scott County Park**, Saturday April 15, 11-1:30 p.m., Enjoy a leisurely hike at Scott County Park followed by a grill out on-site. Carpool with us from St. Paul or meet us there. We'll provide the hot dogs and buns, bring your own beverage and a side dish or dessert to share. Furry friends also welcome!

**Escape Room**, Thursday, April 27, 7-8 p.m., Back by popular demand, get ready to think on your feet and maybe even sweat a bit as we rush to break free from another escape room! For this round we will meet at the Harrison Street Escape Room. Cost is \$10 and spots are limited.

Contact Megan Eide, [megan@stpaulqc.org](mailto:megan@stpaulqc.org), or Max Franks, [max@stpaulqc.org](mailto:max@stpaulqc.org).

### Coffee Chats to meet on April 4 & 18

Bring a beverage of your choice and settle into a conversation on faith, health, and wholeness. This group meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month, 10:30 a.m.. No need to sign up, just come!

In April, guest presenter Elaine Olson will talk about various aspects of spirituality and spiritual practices. On April 4, the topic will be discovering your spiritual type, and on April 18, write haiku as a spiritual discipline. Contact: Dave and Dortha DeWit, [dorthamdw@aol.com](mailto:dorthamdw@aol.com).



### Come and sing: 'Hallelujah Chorus'

On Sunday, April 16, the 9 a.m. service will include a magnificent expression of Easter faith: *The Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *The Messiah*.

Singers of all types and descriptions (middle school age and older) are invited to sing. Come rehearse with choir director Nathan Windt on that day, April 16 at 8:30 a.m. in the Music Room. Contact: Chris Nelson, [chris@stpaulqc.org](mailto:chris@stpaulqc.org).

### Support for veterans

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



## St. Paul to host three April concerts

Welcome spring by coming to hear three delightful and warm ensembles perform at St. Paul.

**The Nova Singers** will perform *A Voice of Her Own* on Sunday, April 23, 4 p.m. at St. Paul. Tickets will be available at the door or online at [novasingers.com](http://novasingers.com). Nova Singers is a 20-voice ensemble with a nation-wide reputation for expressiveness, virtuosity, and innovative programming.

**The Augustana College Choir** will wrap up their spring Midwest tour with a home concert at St. Paul on Saturday, April 15, 2 p.m. Conducted by Jon Hurty, the 52-voice ensemble will sing a selection of traditional and contemporary choral works. A freewill offering will be taken at the concert.

**The Texas Boys Choir** will make a stop at St. Paul on Friday, April 28, 7 p.m. The Texas Boys Choir, based out of Dallas, TX has earned its reputation as one of the best boys choirs in the world instilling a love of artistic expression and a desire to succeed in young men, grades 3-12.

Contact: Chris Nelson, [chris@stpaulqc.org](mailto:chris@stpaulqc.org).



## Youth mission trip planned for Kansas City

This year's summer mission trip will take teens to Kansas City, July 10-15. Youth will complete a number of service projects in the surrounding area and explore the city, its culture, and enjoy activities Kansas City has to offer! The student cost is \$250 and spots are limited. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/sign-ups](http://stpaulqc.org/sign-ups). Contact: Liz Franks, [liz@stpaulqc.org](mailto:liz@stpaulqc.org)

## Project 15:12 at St. Paul

On Friday, April 14, 7 p.m., Project 15:12 will host a conversation with Jen Hatmaker and Tyler Merritt at St. Paul. It will be an evening filled with laughter and love as these two amazing authors share their insight on loving others.

Project 15:12 was started to help families who experience some sort of life transition and need a little help to get to the other side. Their focus is on helping individuals and families who don't qualify for any other government subsidies and fall into a gap in services. This is a ticketed event. For more information, visit [www.project1512.com](http://www.project1512.com).

## CELEBRATING THE EARTH



### Growing food, in community

In partnership with Tapestry Farms, a nonprofit urban farm system that invests in refugees, land on the St. Paul campus provides a place of nourishment, care, and joy this coming growing season.

Come and help prepare garden beds on Saturday, April 15, 10 a.m.-12 noon, at the garden site, 2005 Main Street. Wear clothes and shoes that can get dirty, and bring gloves and any garden tools you would like. No need to sign up. Contact: Ann McGlynn, [ann@tapestryfarms.org](mailto:ann@tapestryfarms.org), 563-370-0004.

### Grounds care at Madison Elementary

A diminishing school budget means little landscaping for the school. Madison Elementary needs volunteers to prune, plant, weed, and pick up litter. Everyone walking onto this campus deserves to know that they will be cared for, just as the school grounds are. Students and staff delight in the relationships built with St. Paul people. Make a difference in the lives of kids, some of whom face tough challenges. Willing to help? Contact: Dana Welser, [dana@stpaulqc.org](mailto:dana@stpaulqc.org).

### Earth-minded volunteers

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

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

**The litter picker-uppers** walk the St. Paul property, picking up the trash that accumulates. Interested in learning more? Contact: Jules Irish, [julesi@mchsi.com](mailto:julesi@mchsi.com).

# SMALL STEPS BIG IMPACT

Longtime St. Paul member Rachel Evans has always had a passion for recycling but just last year, she took on the role of communications coordinator for the Waste Commission of Scott County.

**R**achel is a graduate of Valparaiso University where she obtained her undergraduate degree in biology. She says it was recycling at home that influenced how she thinks about caring for the planet.

"I've always had a passion for recycling thanks to my parents who helped us recycle as kids. More recently I've thought more about how can I lessen my trash too," Rachel said. "I've done that by purchasing reusable items such as washable napkins. Leading a more environmentally conscious life can be accomplished slowly through small, thoughtful ways of minimizing your impact. It's not all-or-nothing, all at once. You can make small changes as you go. Through my current position with the Waste Commission, I see the landfill and see that we need to be cautious about our waste."

Rachel's role as the communications coordinator is to educate and inform Scott County residents on how to dispose of their waste safely and properly and make others aware of the programs the Waste Commission offers through facility tours, presentations, and online communication. She brings a fun spin to the communication role. In February, she caught many people's attention through

punny Waste Commission valentines posts on social media.

Originally founded in 1972, the Waste Commission of Scott County, has come a long way in those 50 years. Moving from



dumps to sanitary landfills, sorting recycling yourself to putting all of your recyclables in one bin, and expanded programming including grant and outreach programs.

The Scott Area Landfill, the Scott Area Recycling Center, the household hazardous materials facility, and the electronic waste division are the four facilities that make up the Waste Commission.

"The electronic recovery center offers a lot of ways to get more life out of older products. The electronics are taken apart and divided. Any piece that could be reused is sold. We find interesting vintage pieces and laptops that are in great condition. Often these items will be sold at the Habitat ReStore."

On your neighborhood's recycling date, the trucks pull up, the arm scoops up the blue bin, and slowly empties the contents into the truck but what happens once that recycling leaves your curb?

"The recycling trucks come to the commission where everything collected from the blue bins gets weighed and then dumped on the floor. Through a series of machines and people, the Waste Commission sorts all of the various recyclable items into their own commodities like milk cartons, paper, aluminum cans, etc. The individual materials are bailed together and the bails are sold to companies all over with much of the recycled items staying in the Midwest."

**Leading a more environmentally conscious life can be accomplished slowly through small, thoughtful ways of minimizing your impact.**

RACHEL EVANS

While the commission works to recycle as much as possible, some items, mostly plastics, are notoriously difficult to recycle.

"Nationwide, soda/water bottles and milk/detergent are the most recycled plastics. The challenge for us regarding plastics is mainly "wishcycling". Wishcycling is putting non-recyclable items in your recycling cart in the "hopes" the items will end up being recycled. Common items in this category include plastic bags, hoses or hangers, straws and utensils, and styro-foam," Rachel said. "I'm personally working on reducing my use of non-recyclable plastics by packing reusable utensils for lunch, opting for paper or reusable bags when shopping, using mesh produce bags, and using beeswax wrap instead of plastic wrap."

For anyone who wants to have a positive impact but isn't sure where to begin, there are many resources available online.

"I read and follow podcasts. There are many low-waste resources out there," Rachel said. "I read books about different ways to reduce waste and chose a few to get started that make sense for my life. Anything from using a reusable item, composting, and buying second-hand. *101 Ways to Go Zero Waste* by Kathryn Kellog is my favorite book. It's a list of ways to reduce waste, categorized by room. It helps to identify practices that may work for your household and make sense for your life. There are easy practices for anyone to get started."

## THE RECYCLING JOURNEY

Where some of your recyclables go after being processed at the Scott Area Recycling Center



Mixed paper and cardboard go to Valparaiso, IN to be made into cardboard for USPS and Amazon

Aluminum cans go to Berea, KY to make more beverage cans

Plastics go to Dundee, MI where they are ground into pellets and eventually made into non-food grade bottles like Tide and Mr. Clean

Tires go to Des Moines or Minneapolis to be ground into chips for fuel, drainage material, playground mulch, or AstroTurf fields. Others get ground up onsite to be used in landfill processes.

## CELEBRATING EARTH DAY AT ST. PAUL AND BEYOND

### WELCA Spring Gathering

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Quad Cities Resources**

*Saturday, April 22, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Chapel*

WELCA Co-chair Linda Allebach is organizing the event alongside other WELCA members. The objective of the spring gathering is for members of WELCA to connect with each other and inform and arm attendees with resources of earth-conscious organizations in the Quad Cities. In her selection of presenters, Linda has carefully gathered organizations that accept pre-loved items and give them away to others in need instead of selling them.

"The focus is to help people rethink their possessions. To know what you have, use what you have, love what you have, and give away what you don't need to local organizations. I want attendees to see that you don't need all these items to live a happy and fulfilling life and the joy these items may bring to others."

The gathering is open to all St. Paul women and their guests. The morning will include refreshments, presentations, and fellowship. Sign up at the Info Center or at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups).

### Participate in a neighborhood cleanup

**Spring cleaning the St. Paul neighborhood**

*Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m.-12 noon*

Three times a year volunteers don bright vests, grab buckets and litter picker-uppers, and take to the streets surrounding St. Paul. The *Make it Yours Neighborhood Cleanup* has been beautifying the neighborhood for more than 10 years.

Jules Irish has been coordinating the cleanups since 2015. She said it's a great event for everyone to participate in.

"Anyone who can walk and hold a bucket or grabber can participate," Jules said. "We love to have families. It's a great experience that teaches children to care for our environment at a young age."

The immense impact litter has on our environment makes these cleanup events vital.

"Taking care of our environment is doing God's work. When you litter, that garbage gets ground down, makes its way into the drains, and eventually ends up in our rivers and oceans. Those pieces of litter start adding up in our water systems, creating a whole chain of events."

*See page 5 for more information about earth care at St. Paul and ways to get involved.*



# The road to Easter

Lively discussion. A shared meal. Confirmation. Choir practice. Worship.  
We gather on Lenten Wednesdays around the theme Feathers of Faith,  
soaring into the Easter season with lessons, activities, and stories inspired  
by birds of the Bible.









# Welcome Andrea Spencer

## BOOK CORNER MANAGER

While Andrea has been a St. Paul member her entire life, she is beginning a new chapter as the Book Corner Manager. She began her role on March 6. Stop in to say hello and get to know Andrea.

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

Both my husband Jonathan and I are Quad City natives. We currently live in Eldridge with our joyful 22-month-old daughter Abigail. I grew up in Bettendorf and graduated from Scott Community College with an Associate's Degree in liberal arts.

### What makes you, you?

Community with my family and friends. Right now I am embracing and loving this season of motherhood and enjoying spending quality time with my family. My husband and I are regulars at our friend's local gym where we train. I am an avid coffee drinker and enjoy connecting with friends over a cup. I love to cook and bring my friends and family together over a meal.

### What are you looking forward to?

After having had the incredible opportunity of growing up at St. Paul and witnessing the growth and impact it has on our community, I am excited to be a part of the mission in a new way. I look forward to connecting with members and partnering with staff and volunteers to continue the success of the Book Corner.

### What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about people and connecting with others. Hospitality and making everyone feel welcome excites me.

### You've been at St. Paul your whole life. Tell us a little about your background here and a few favorite memories.

Growing up at St. Paul was such a beautiful experience. I loved singing in the choir, leading Sun Dance, volunteering at Vacation Bible School, and working in the nursery on Sunday mornings. What's most memorable are all the connections I've made, and it's a joy that I get to continue building those connections, now with my own daughter.



*“Hospitality and making everyone feel welcome excites me.”*





## Council Notes

At its March 16 meeting, the church council took the opportunity to review its recent leadership retreat with the mission board of the congregation and the church staff. This retreat, which takes place annually in March on the St. Ambrose campus, received enthusiastic responses.

The council received updates on a range of ministries including all of the midweek Lenten activities that have drawn a lot of people into the church for worship, learning, and meals. Additionally, news was shared of four upcoming concerts in the next six weeks that will allow acclaimed choirs from as close as Augustana College and as far away as Texas to utilize the St. Paul sanctuary.

Plans were solidified for the congregational vote on March 26 to call McIver "Mac" Mullins

as our next pastoral resident. Mac is a graduate of DePaul University in Chicago, and currently completing his theological training at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. Additional information on Pastor Mac will be in the May issue of the Journey. He is planning to make a late April visit to the Quad Cities to look for housing. His start date is currently planned for late August.

The council approved a finance committee recommendation to have staff begin the process working with a company to build a St. Paul mobile app that will allow for new methods of online giving and a user-friendly online directory allowing members to connect easily and efficiently with one another. Full rollout of the app is expected this autumn.



## Congregational Council 2023

The council, with its newly elected members. Meet (back, left to right) Patty Herzberg (president), Jeff Bass (treasurer), Jenny Gosse, Adrian Blackwell, Craig Hellyer (secretary), Scott Dickman (vice president); (front, left to right) Lynne Kearns, Ann Bush, and Pat Baldwin.

## Hospitalization Information Update

With changing hospital personnel and tightening confidentiality regulations, the church often does not receive information when a member is admitted to area hospitals.

*Please*, take the initiative to contact the church with hospitalizations, deaths, births, and any other change of personal circumstance or condition, concerns with extended family matters, or job shifts.

If a person is admitted into the hospital through the emergency department, the church is *never* notified, regardless of St. Paul being listed on the admittance paperwork. Please make the call, so that our pastoral team can extend the care and support of the faith community. Contact: Becky Harper, [becky@stpaulqc.org](mailto:becky@stpaulqc.org), 563-326-3547 ext. 211.

## WORSHIP at St. Paul

### ► April 1 & 2

*Palm/Passion Sunday*

#### **Preaching:**

5pm/9 am: Sara Olson-Smith  
8 & 11:15 am: Peter W. Marty

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

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

11:15am

### ► April 6, Maundy Thursday

**See page 3 for details**

### ► April 7, Good Friday

**See page 3 for details**

### ► April 9

*Easter Sunday*

**See page 3 for details**

### ► April 15 & 16

*Second Sunday of Easter*

#### **Preaching:**

5pm/9 am: Megan Eide  
8 & 11:15 am: Max Franks

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

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

11:15am

### ► April 22 & 23

*Third Sunday of Easter*

#### **Preaching:**

All services: Peter W. Marty

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

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

11:15am

### ► April 29 & 30

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*

#### **Preaching:**

5pm/9 am: Sara Olson-Smith  
8 & 11:15 am: Max Franks

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

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

11:15am



**ST. PAUL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA 52803



**June 12-16, 2023**

At St. Paul VBS, young heros learn to work together and share their gifts as they answer God's call to bring peace and build each other up in this world.

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



### **Vacation Bible School**

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



### **678 Experience**

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



### **Volunteer**

There's a job to fit your gifts,  
8 a.m.-12 noon

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