

SEPTEMBER 2023  
The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

# journey





# Collecting behavior



**ON THE COVER:**  
The Marbach family

## journey

**SEPTEMBER 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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People in this world collect interesting things. Some household collections accumulate by accident, like dust under the bed or that stack of old magazines we're too lazy to recycle. But plenty of other things collected in life are the result of intentional selection, care, and value that we place on objects.

Exactly why people collect things makes for complicated psychology. Different motivations inspire us to devote time, money, and energy to creating and maintaining collections. Collecting behavior can bolster mental happiness and brain health by growing a collector's knowledge of a particular world. Conversely, it can lead to real anguish in being unable to part with material possessions and, in severe cases, a hoarding disorder.

There are people in this world who collect those small stickers that producers stick to banana bunches on supermarket racks. Did you know that? There are even global meetings that gather banana label enthusiasts. Becky Martz maintains an online collection of more than 21,000 different banana labels she's collected from around the world.

Jean-Francois Vernetti, from Switzerland, has a collection of more than 11,000 Do Not Disturb signs from hotel room doors he's gathered from visiting hotels around the world. It's not clear if he stole these signs or faithfully asked for them at the front desk.

Then, there's Steve Silberberg who has been collecting air sickness bags since the early '80s. His virtual museum has more than 3,000 different bag designs on display. You'll be glad to know he collects only unused bags.

The inspiration for this thinking about collecting behavior stems from a comment I overheard at a recent funeral visitation at church. The widow said to one of her friends in a pleasant moment, "What I like about today is that we're all collecting memories." I suddenly began to think of all the times I've stood alone in a funeral visitation line, inevitably listening in on nearby conversations. Everybody seems to be collecting and trading memories in these instances. It's part therapeutic, for reasons of grief, and part gratitude, for what they know they get to assemble in their own lives.

It occurs to me that, when situated in a con-

gregation, we collect other valuable things besides just memories. We collect helpful ideas on how to navigate specific challenges in life. To share a health affliction or a parenting conundrum can mean the instant gathering up of a trove of ideas from others' experiences. Medical options, physician recommendations, parenting tricks, coping strategies, community resources – they can all land on the table of one's aloneness.

When in a community of faith, we collect inspiration from others. Or we ought to. I watch the faces of worshipers when a children's choir sings, and it's a sight of pure delight. I'm awed when I see a person take the initiative to bring a meal to the home of somebody enduring a rough stretch. People who take their involvement in a faith community seriously discover that their problems are not unique and their pains are not the world's worst. They receive inspiration and perspective from the journey of others.

Almost by definition, belonging to a congregation allows us to collect biblical insights that deepen the soul. Talk of religion on the street is cheap. Anybody can chatter about believing in God. But when we immerse ourselves in a communal reading of scripture every week, something special begins to accumulate within us. Our relationship with God strengthens and our knowledge of scripture becomes more than superficial.

This is but a short list of treasures we collect from each other in a congregation. It's your turn to add substantially to it.

**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.



## choirs

Come and sing. Rehearsals begin Sept. 6.

### Alleluia Choir | Ages 4-K

Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m., Room 206

Director: Sara Harless

### Jubilate Choir | Grades 1-3

Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m., Room 203

Director: Katie Casey

### Cantate Choir | Grades 4-6

Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m., Room 009

Director: Margaret Thompson

### Youth Choir | Grades 7-12

Wednesdays, 6-6:45 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: Brian Schou

## Fall Start-up Weekend

Saturday, Sept. 9 & Sunday, Sept. 10

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. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, & Dec. 2, 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. 22, 4 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.
- **QC Symphony Orchestra Holiday Brass Concert:** Sunday, Dec. 10, 3 p.m.
- **Big River Brass Band Holiday Concert:** Sunday, Dec. 17, 3 p.m.

## special dates

- **All Saints Weekend | Nov. 4 & 5**  
Give thanks for the saints of God.
- **Joy Weekend | Nov. 11 & 12**  
We lift up our ministries and pledge for 2024.
- **Thanksgiving Eve | Nov. 22, 7 p.m.**  
Come for worship steeped in gratitude.
- **Choral Advent | Dec. 3, 9 a.m.**  
All choirs come together.
- **Blue Christmas | Dec. 19, 6 p.m.**  
This quiet service offers hope and comfort.
- **Christmas Eve | Dec. 24, 12, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 p.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.

## earth care

### Make It Yours Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, Nov. 4, 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, [cmjlml@q.com](mailto:cmjlml@q.com).



## mental health

### NAMI Walk

Saturday, Sept. 16, 9:30 a.m.,

The Bend XPO, 922 Mississippi Parkway, East Moline, IL

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).

### Mental Health Awareness

Fourth 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.

### 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 St. Paul's onsite social worker/counselor. Her services are available to both the St. Paul and Madison Elementary communities, at no cost. 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.



# food

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

Thursday, Oct. 19 & Wednesday, Nov. 29, various times

People assemble meals at St. Paul and serve those meals 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. 22, 7 p.m.

Stock a paper bag with nonperishable food and personal care items and bring it to worship Nov. 22-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 5-6. Help sort the donations on Sunday, Nov. 27, 12 noon. Contact: Jessica Taylor, [jessica@stpaulqc.org](mailto:jessica@stpaulqc.org).



# madison market

The Madison Market school food pantry has served families in this central Davenport neighborhood for nearly nine years. Madison Market is always shifting, changing, and growing but remains deeply connected and present for families in many ways. Twice a month, adults and children rely heavily on the Market to provide much-needed food by River Bend Food Bank while St. Paul supplies protein items like eggs, chicken, and beef to ensure families a well-balanced diet. But much more than the food is the connection, trust, and friendship built between the volunteers and these families.

"We would be nothing without the volunteers. We simply couldn't do this pantry without them. They never miss a beat," said neighborhood school partnership coordinator Dana Welser. "In those nearly nine years, Madison Market has only missed one pantry. Come rain or shine, through snowstorms and a pandemic, the dedicated volunteers provide for these families. When the whole world closed, Madison Market stayed open!"

Over the years, the Market has increased the number of families served by 100. Due to changes in food availability and family need, Madison Market continues to be a drive-up pantry, allowing the market to serve up to 150 families.

## **Sharing garden bounty**

Madison Market families love home-grown garden produce donated by those whose harvest needs to be shared! If you find yourself with an abundance of produce, Madison Market will be accepting produce donations for the upcoming pantries on Sept. 12 and Sept. 26. Contact Dana Welser in advance for more information at [dana@stpaulqc.org](mailto:dana@stpaulqc.org).

**"I've made more friends through my work at Madison Market than I ever have anywhere else." — CHRIS MCGLYNN**

**"Madison Market is a great way to get to know St. Paul, both through working alongside others and meeting those we serve." — PEGGY WRZESINSKI**



# 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 by Candlelight:** On Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6-8 p.m., begin your Advent experience by singing Christmas carols in community with the women of WELCA. Individual tables will be set in holiday attire with special desserts featured at each table. Rides to and from church can be requested for those who do not wish to drive in the evening. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups) or at the Info Center. All women of St. Paul are welcome to attend and bring guests.

### 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).

### 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.

### Faith, Health, and Wholeness Coffee Chats

*First and third Tuesdays, 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. Contact: Dave and Dortha DeWit, [dorthamdw@aol.com](mailto:dorthamdw@aol.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).

## 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 Max Franks, [max@stpaulqc.org](mailto:max@stpaulqc.org).

► **Fall mixer:** On Friday, 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 food. This event is free and open to members and guests. Please RSVP to Max Franks, [max@stpaulqc.org](mailto:max@stpaulqc.org).





# togetherness

## Blessing of the Animals

*Sunday, Oct. 1, 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. 11, 10:30 a.m., Chapel*

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

## Quilters

*Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21, and Dec. 19, 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).

## Small group ministry

Connect with others who share similar interests, hobbies, and life experiences through an emerging small group ministry. Pastor Max Franks and a team of leaders will launch this new ministry designed to build, deepen, and grow community and relationships here at St. Paul. Groups will form around particular interests, topics, and life stages. Open to anyone. Interested in learning more? Contact Max Franks, [max@stpaulqc.org](mailto:max@stpaulqc.org).

## Get your picture taken!

In preparation for the release of the on-line photo directory, come get your photo taken at church the weekend of Sept. 16-17 or Oct. 21-22. Contact: Lauren Brown, [laur@stpaulqc.org](mailto:laur@stpaulqc.org).



# 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, [rrjensen65@gmail.com](mailto:rrjensen65@gmail.com).

## Blood Donor Day

*Wednesday, Oct. 25, 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).

## Dementia Caregivers Group

*1st and 3rd Tuesdays, starting Sept. 19, 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 to share ideas, gather resources, support one another, and learn how to nurture one's own needs while supporting a loved one. Angie Vaaler will facilitate. Contact: Angie Vaaler, 563-326-3547 ext. 312.

## 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).

## 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).

## Walking the Grief Journey

*Sundays, Oct. 15-Nov. 12, 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 constantly seek 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. 6, 12 noon-1 p.m., on Zoom*

*Thursdays, beginning Sept. 7, 9:30-10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall*

*Saturdays, beginning Sept. 9, 11 a.m.-12 noon, Dining Room*

**Interesting Things in Small Packages:** They are the shortest books in the Bible, but that doesn't mean they are short on meaning or value. From the "scrolls" of biblical Israel to some of the "minor" prophets and those "little letters" toward the end of the New Testament, what do the briefest expressions of the written Word of God have to say to us today? Each week we will explore another of these little gems. Contact: Peter Pettit, [ppettit@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ppettit@stpaulqc.org).

### Faith BasiX

*Sept. 26, Oct. 14, Nov. 28, Dec. 19, 7 p.m., Luther Loft*

**Life Questions in Church Words:** The basics of the Christian faith, St. Paul style, for anyone — really, anyone! Explore some of the keywords that float around the Christian life. How do they relate to the lives we live every day? Faith. Grace. Forgiveness. Salvation. Devotion. Worship. And we'll add to the list as we go. 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. 7, 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 impacting 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., The Loft at Boozie's Bar & Grill  
114 W. 3rd Street, Davenport*

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).

### 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 Pettit, [ppettit@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ppettit@stpaulqc.org).

### Congregational Forum on Senior Pastor Search

*Sunday, Oct. 8, 10:15-11 a.m.*

The search committee for St. Paul's next senior pastor will listen carefully to discussion and questions in this wide-open forum for thinking about the future of the congregation and the leadership that will best serve it through our next senior pastor. A few from the congregation's leadership team will facilitate.





**"We find parenting in community is vitally important. We are surrounded by people we can depend on as parents and our children have a safe community to grow with."** — LEE MARBACH

## book lovers

### Faithful Readers

*Thursdays, Sept. 14 and Oct. 12, 7 p.m.,  
Luther Loft*

At the first fall meeting of this literature discussion group conversation will focus on *Deep River* by Shusaku Endo. The October meeting will be *Eventide* 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).

### Occasional Tuesdays Book Group

*Tuesdays, Oct. 3, 10, & 17, 7-7:45 a.m.,  
Library Commons*

In *Nine Essential Things I've Learned About Life*, author Harold Kushner distills his experiences as a twenty-first-century rabbi into nine essential takeaways. Offering readers a lifetime's worth of spiritual food for thought, pragmatic advice, and strength for trying times, he gives fresh, vital insight into belief, conscience, mercy, and more. The book is available in the Book Corner. Sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Katy Warren, [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@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 should be on the shelf in the library.

## 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. Search the "St. Paul Dad's Group" on Facebook, or contact Hans Schnekloth, [hpschnekloth@gmail.com](mailto:hpschnekloth@gmail.com), or Lee Marbach, [lmarch@stpaulqc.org](mailto:lmarch@stpaulqc.org).

### 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).

### Hunt, Gather, Parent book discussion

*2nd Tuesdays of the Month (Sept.-Dec.)*

*5 p.m. family dinner, 5:30 p.m. book discussion, childcare available*

Join in food, fellowship, and conversation with parents through the lens of the book *Hunt, Parent, Gather: What Ancient Cultures Can Teach Us About the Lost Art of Raising Happy, Helpful Little Humans*. Inspired by conversations with parents around the world author, Michaela Doucette shares tried and true methods of raising kind and confident children. Sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, [sara@stpaulqc.org](mailto:sara@stpaulqc.org).

### Parents of Teens

*Sundays, Oct. 8, Nov. 19, & Dec. 10, 10:15-11 a.m., Luther Loft*

Parents of kids entering grades 6-12 are invited to gather once a month for camaraderie, community building, and support as we parent teenagers. Questions? Contact Rachael Suddarth at [rachael.suddarth@gmail.com](mailto:rachael.suddarth@gmail.com) or Julia Marbach at [julia.marbach@gmail.com](mailto:julia.marbach@gmail.com).



# 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.

## Sept. 10: Global Gathering of Lutherans

*Peter A. Pettit, teaching pastor*

Why will representatives of 77 million Lutherans in 99 countries and 149 church bodies gather for a week in Krakow, Poland., beginning Wednesday, Sept. 13? What will they be doing? What might it mean for St. Paul Lutheran Church and for us as part of a Lutheran church body in America? How could you follow what happens? Come to this forum and find out!

## Sept. 17: What in the Hell is Heaven?

*Peter W. Marty, senior pastor*

Lutheran Christians don't find Jesus uttering, or the Bible saying, that getting to heaven is the number one goal of life. So, what is heaven? What can we say helpfully about it? Where do our imaginings about heaven excite and where do they get us into trouble?

## Sept. 24: Meet the newest St. Paul Resident Pastor

*Mac Mullins, resident pastor*

Two pastors at St. Paul are "in residency," modeling a program not unlike those for physicians post-medical school. For two years, Pastor Mac Mullins will serve the congregation and its ministry as a way of honing the many gifts and skills that the church has already recognized by ordaining him. Who is he? What is his background? What are his hopes and aspirations for this residency? Those are some of the questions he will address; bring your own questions to get to know Mac a little better.

## Oct. 1: Davenport Schools in 2023-2024

*Karen Kline-Jerome and Kent Paustian, school board members*

St. Paul's partnership with Madison Elementary School connects our congregation to our most local school district in a significant way. How is the Davenport school district doing? What issues does it face? How can St. Paul members best be engaged to support the schools as much as possible?

## Oct. 8: Lutheran Hispanic Ministry in the Quad Cities

*Pastor Jose Pilar Alvarez Cabrera*

Every Sunday afternoon there is Lutheran worship in Spanish in the Quad Cities. At Trinity Lutheran in Moline and at St. Mark Lutheran in Davenport, Pastor Jose Pilar Alvarez Cabrera leads services for the Hispanic or Latinx community. What does the Hispanic "flavor" of the Lutheran tradition look and sound like? Whom does it attract? What are the plans for this outreach ministry of the ELCA?

## Oct. 15: Christian Contemplative and Spiritual Practices

*Max Franks, resident pastor*

Many Christians, people from other religious backgrounds, and even those with no religious context regularly engage in disciplines like yoga and meditation for inner health and well-being. The Christian tradition offers a long, rich heritage of contemplative, spiritual, meditative practices. The principles parallel those in eastern traditions and are grounded in a Christian theology and understandings.



## Oct. 22: St. Paul App and Online Photo Directory

Jessica Taylor and Miles Thompson, St. Paul staff

The big roll-out of new technology to support ministry and community at St. Paul is nearly complete. Two key people who have led the project and will continue to manage the St. Paul mobile app and online congregational directory will offer insights, tips, and an overview of how St. Paul folks can use these resources most effectively.

## Oct. 29: Martin Luther, hymn writer

Chris Nelson, director of music ministries and organist

Music is one of the most powerful influences in human experience. Tunes and lyrics from our early years ring in our heads and stir emotions for decades. Hymns we sing shape how we think about God and life and creation and community. Martin Luther knew the power of music and wrote hymns to shape the hearts, faith, and community in his church. The first four of his hymns appeared in 1523. How do they still shape us 500 years later?

## Nov. 5: Faith, Death, and Saints

Lori Erickson, Episcopal deacon and travel writer

All Saints' Day (Nov. 1 each year) is the Christian church's celebration of the lives of those who have died and are remembered in faith. Lori Erickson is an Episcopal deacon and travel writer who combines pastoral perspectives with passages and pilgrimages. When her brother died unexpectedly, she went on a journey into the world that surrounds death. *Near the Exit: Travels with the Not-So-Grim Reaper* is the book that resulted and she brings its insight to St. Paul on this All Saints' Sunday.

## Nov. 12: Faithful in Little, Faithful in Much

Sara Olson-Smith, associate pastor

Before coming to St. Paul, Pastor Sara served a congregation in New Jersey that ended its ministry, sold the building, and gave everything away. Pastor Sara is working on a book about the faithful courage of that community. Learn more of their story, and how they might inspire our own deeper generosity, understanding of being church, and the support we give to others facing similar situations.

## Nov. 19: Native Nations and Spirituality



Watch upcoming *Connections* for more information on adult learning for this date.

## Nov. 26: Coming to Worship: The Gospel of Mark

Peter A. Pettit, teaching pastor

Each Sunday, one or two Bible passages are read and form the basis of the preaching, hymns, prayers, children's message, and music of the service. Beginning in December, the gospel passages we will read for the next year will be predominantly from the Gospel of Mark. What are Mark's themes? What can we expect? What should we be listening for? How might we use this year to learn more about Mark and be blessed by that gospel's perspectives?

## Dec. 3: God's Will and Free Will

Mac Mullins, resident pastor

In the Lord's Prayer we ask of God, "your will be done," and the broad sweep of Scripture seems to indicate that God's will is the greatest power and will have the last word in creation's history. What, then, of human free will? Is it an illusion that we think we are making decisions for ourselves? If we have free will, can we overcome God's will? These questions have exercised human inquiry for millennia. How do Christians handle them? Where can we turn for some answers?

## Dec. 10: Martin Luther's "That Jesus Christ Was Born a Jew" (1523)

Peter A. Pettit, teaching pastor

Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther saw serious meaning in the fact that Jesus was born of a Jewish mother, into a Jewish family, with Jewish heritage. How might Luther's thoughts about Jesus the Jew inform our waiting and watching this year, and our relationship to our Jewish neighbors?



# 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. 10*

On Sept. 10, 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 PreK-5th grade, Contact: Maddy Carroll, [maddy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:maddy@stpaulqc.org).

- **Family-learning Sunday school class (forthcoming):** Led by St. Ambrose professor Dr. Rachael Suddarth, this class will feature a modified schedule and sensory-friendly room that can allow students of all abilities to grow in their faith. This is a multi-generational opportunity for adults to stay with their child(ren) and take an active role in Sunday school.

### Childcare

Staffed childcare for infants through kindergarteners 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 freshly 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.

## family fun

### Trunk or Treat

*Sunday, Oct. 29, 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/sign-ups](https://stpaulqc.org/sign-ups). Contact: Maddy Carroll, [maddy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:maddy@stpaulqc.org).

### Christmas Pageant

*Sunday, Dec. 17, 10:15 a.m.*

Calling all stars, angels, shepherds, and sheep! Children will delight in sharing the story of Jesus' birth through the singing of traditional Christmas carols and speaking parts. Auditions will take place on Nov. 5, during the learning hour. Rehearsals will be Wednesdays, Nov. 29, Dec. 6 & 13, at 5:30 p.m. Contact: Maddy Carroll, [maddy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:maddy@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 Info Center.

### Third Grade: Explore the Bible

*Sunday, Oct. 15, 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](https://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Maddy Carroll, [maddy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:maddy@stpaulqc.org).

### Tenth Grade: Share. Save. Spend.

*Sunday, Nov. 12, 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](https://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Liz Franks, [liz@stpaulqc.org](mailto:liz@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 professional 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 in learning more, contact preschool director Karen Strusz, [karenstrusz@stpaulqc.org](mailto:karenstrusz@stpaulqc.org), or visit the preschool website at [stpaul-qcpreschool.org](https://stpaul-qcpreschool.org).

“Sunday School is important because it is often the first place kids learn who they are, outside of their families, in a safe environment. Seeing each other every week for years makes church more accessible. There aren't a bunch of strangers when I show up at church, there are the people who I know and know me.”

— RACHAEL SUDDARTH



# 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, 10:15-11 a.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: Liz Franks, [liz@stpaulqc.org](mailto:liz@stpaulqc.org).

### Confirmation

*First three Wednesdays of the month, beginning Sept. 6, 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. To sign up, or for more information, contact Katy Warren, [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org).

**The fall confirmation retreat** for seventh-graders will be September 15-16, and for eighth-graders on November 3-4. Both retreats take place at church and around the QCA.

### 678 Night

*Wednesdays, Sept. 27 & Nov. 29, 6:30-8 p.m.*

High-energy games + togetherness + great Bible studies + camp-fire-style worship = 678. This group for those in grades 6, 7, and 8 meets periodically throughout the year. Watch for 678 announcements. Contact: Liz Franks, [liz@stpaulqc.org](mailto:liz@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. 10, 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: Liz Franks, [liz@stpaulqc.org](mailto:liz@stpaulqc.org).

### Faith Stories

*Sundays, Sept. 17-Oct. 1, 10:15-11 a.m., Fellowship Hall*

Faith stories are the culmination of confirmation at St. Paul. This fall, for three 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: Liz Franks, [liz@stpaulqc.org](mailto:liz@stpaulqc.org).





## Council Notes

An eventful August meeting covered a lot of territory. News of Pastor Mac Mullins' arrival to begin his two-year residency was received with joy. Updates were provided on the new north lawn playground, the ongoing search for a permanent youth director, early engineering design work for replacing our 30-year-old building's cooling system, and the Sunday School room renovation projects on the lower level. Council also reviewed the ministry site profile that will be posted on the ELCA website for candidates interested in our pastoral search. (See below for call committee news.)

The affordable housing team, last convened before the pandemic in 2019, will reassemble to create a plan proposal for the council to consider for providing safe and affordable housing for

some members of the community. Pastor Katy will gather the group and welcome new interested persons in it.

Council affirmed the Memorial Committee's recommendation to provide up to \$10,000 of funding to update furniture and classroom tools for our youngest children on the education wing's lower-level.

With regret, the council accepted the resignation of Beth Laureijs as program administrator for the pastoral residency program. Pastor Marty expressed deep gratitude for her five years of excellent service. She looks forward to being able to spend more time with her husband and adult children at a distance.

## Call committee established

In preparation for Peter Marty's retirement next summer, the names of some 50 St. Paul people were considered for service on the call committee for our next senior pastor. President Patty Herzberg noted the high quality and amazing array of skills and perspectives of these individuals who submitted their own interest or whose name was suggested by others. In the end, the Executive Committee and Church Council had the difficult task of whittling the list down to just eight individuals.

Council finalized their appointment at its recent meeting. Council president Patty Herzberg will serve as an ex officio member of the committee. (Watch for the October Journey for more details on these individuals and the process ahead.) Call committee members include: Cathy Anderson, Jennie Barnds, Dave Crowe, Sara Harless, Jason Nickles, Amy Lovig, Mike Pettis, and Hans Schnekloth.

## House purchase completed

The congregation affirmed the church council's recommendation to purchase the property at 2001 Main Street to become a part of the St. Paul campus. This property will include a redevelopment of the land to expand the community garden, church signage, and other project possibilities.



## The St. Paul app is here!

The St. Paul app is a mobile-optimized extension of the current website so you can stay connected. Access the calendar, manage your online giving, connect with small groups, sign up for your favorite events, listen to the podcast, and so much more. Download the St. Paul app today by scanning the QR code, texting "APP" to (833) 223-4745, or search "St. Paul QC" in the Apple App Store for iPhones or Google Play for Androids.



## WORSHIP at St. Paul

### ► September 2 & 3

Season after Pentecost

#### Preaching:

All services: Max Franks

#### Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

#### Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

### ► September 9 & 10

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 16 & 17

Season after Pentecost

#### Preaching:

5pm/8 am: Mac Mullins

9/11:15 am: Sara Olson-Smith

#### Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

#### Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

### ► September 23 & 24

Season after Pentecost

#### Preaching:

5pm/9 am: Max Franks

8/11:15 am: Peter W. Marty

#### Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

#### Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

### ► Sept. 30 & Oct. 1

Season after Pentecost

#### Preaching:

5pm/11:15 am:

Sara Olson-Smith

8/9 am: Mac Mullins

#### 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. 10 | Learning for all: 10:15-11 a.m.

