

DECEMBER 2023

The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

journey



Hey! Wake up!



ON THE COVER:
Advent and Christmas
details, pages 6-7.

journey

DECEMBER 2023
Volume 11 | Issue 10

EDITOR Jessica Taylor

DESIGNER Lauren Brown

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

CONTACT
Email journey@stpaulqc.org
Phone 563.326.3547

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

Journey (USPS 8314) is
published monthly by St. Paul
Lutheran Church ELCA, 2136
Brady St., Davenport, IA, 52803.
Periodicals Postage Paid at
Davenport, IA.

POSTMASTER
Send address changes to
Journey, 2136 Brady Street,
Davenport, Iowa 52803

There was a time, not too long ago, when the front desk clerk at practically every hotel would ask incoming guests: “Would you like a wake-up call?” I often requested one when traveling for business, more as a backup to my travel alarm than anything else. My favorite recording, which I still have handwritten on a piece of hotel notepad paper from a 2005 visit to Chicago: “This is your SpringHill Suites Marriott wake-up call. Thank you for staying awake and getting out of bed. Have a wonderful day!”

Nowadays, of course, cell phones have taken the place of conventional alarm clocks, providing ringtone options that run the gamut from screaming police sirens to the Mission Impossible theme song. I lean confidently on my cell phone alarm’s dependability, except for one Saturday night a year. That’s in March when clocks flip forward for Daylight Saving Time. I sleep lightly that night, wondering whether my phone will actually advance on its own at 2:00 a.m., panicking that I’ll be late for church. Whatever gremlin decided on Sunday morning at 2:00 a.m. for the time change had no regard for pastors or church workers.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, working-class neighborhoods in England had human alarm clocks. Because the average industrial worker lacked access to a clock, paid “knocker-uppers” or simply “knockers” would knock on doors and windows to get people up. They used innovative tools like peas shot through pipes, or long poles to reach second-story windows to awaken laborers. As urban and rural Britain became increasingly industrialized, time became money. Factory work shifts that began at certain fixed hours were crucial to industrial productivity. Workers who failed to show up on time were fined.

Knockers were not without their detractors. A love/hate relationship developed as some laborers complained of overly loud knocking while others bristled at being passed over altogether and receiving no knock. Still other neighbors, who had nothing to do with factory life, complained of being disturbed by the noise and having their own doors and windows mistakenly struck.

I always think of our brief little season before Christmas – Advent, we call it in the Christian tradition – as functioning like a spiritual alarm clock. Our ushers don’t walk up and down the sanctuary aisles with long sticks, bopping people on the head to keep them from dozing. But the biblical themes and music of the season are designed to rattle our lives out of some of the sleepwalking we fall into. Not being asleep, we should note, doesn’t necessarily mean that we’re fully awake.

“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” often opens Advent worship. When I hear this 16th century hymn, I want to retranslate its lyrics to read, “Wake, Awake, for Life is Flying By,” which happens to be the truth. Advent comes along to knock some sense into us. For all the joy of gift giving this month, and all the thoughtfulness behind the shopping and creating, there’s something more. There are clues we ought to be on the lookout for. That God would choose an infant with skin on to try and get our attention might be the biggest clue of all. That wild commitment of God should tip us off to want to prize relationships (however dull they may seem to us on some days) over objects (however shiny they may seem to us on most days). I think this is the wake-up call of Advent – the priority of December. Set your phone to a time when you’re sure you’ve had enough sleep. Then, come and meet God in worship.



Peter W. Marty

PETER W. MARTY
senior pastor

A Harvest OF GRATITUDE

St. Paul people: Have you pledged?

2023 Offerings

Our offerings are critically important for the financial health of our congregation. Every offering we make adds to the goodness of what we can accomplish. Thanks for making St. Paul a priority in your life.

Pledging for 2024

The St. Paul expectation is that every member make a financial pledge commitment – a faith promise of what they believe they can give to support the ministry of the congregation. Please make every effort to turn in your pledge card and envelope for 2024. Extra cards are available at church.



Or, save time by making your pledge electronically at stpaulqc.org/pledge or by scanning the QR code. Online pledges are completely confidential.

Year-end giving

By mid-December, you should receive a statement of your giving through November 30. To be credited to 2023 giving statements, all offerings must be received in the offering baskets, or in the lock box in the receptionist desk area of the main office by Sunday, Dec. 31, or postmarked/initiated online by Dec. 31. Any gifts received after these dates will be included on 2024 giving statements.

Gratitude

Thank you for your gifts of gratitude to St. Paul all year long. The Christ-centered mission and ministries of St. Paul depend entirely on the giving and pledges of every single household. Our pledged giving for 2024 will make possible St. Paul's expanding mission character, staffing, and ministry vision. Thank you for your generosity.

Have a question about pledging or stewardship? Contact Marcia Robertson, giving ministry coordinator, 563-326-3547 ext. 218, marcia@stpaulqc.org.

Growing older

After each one of my five children was born, I prayed that God would at least let me live until they were adults. I'm 88 years old, my oldest child is retired, and I'm blessed to have great-grandchildren. Did God answer that prayer or what?! We're grateful to be surrounded by all kinds of family.

I've been a Christian all my life. I was baptized at St. Paul when I was just three months old and later married (more than 70 years ago) here. We used to pile all the kids in the car for Sunday church services and there was always so much happening. People have misconceptions about growing older. Life has a way of being so busy when you're younger that you're not always as aware of the blessings surrounding you but, nowadays, I can go sit on the deck at 3 a.m. and watch the sunrise. You're able to really pause and appreciate what a beautiful world we live in. You have time during the day when you're much more conscious of God, that time you didn't always have when you were raising your children or working. I enjoyed those busy stages of life and now I'm grateful for the peace that comes with growing older." — Mary Graham



december

HAPPENINGS

Advent by Candlelight for Women of the ELCA

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. All women of St. Paul are welcome to attend and bring guests. Child-care is available upon request. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups or at the Info Center. Contact: Linda Kern, lindak12@hotmail.com.

Upcoming events for young adults

The St. Paul young adult ministry is for those in their 20s and 30s looking for ways to connect and build relationships at church. Come to an upcoming event:

Cookie Exchange & Board Game Night | Thursday, Dec. 14, 6-8 p.m., gather at St. Paul for a festive Christmas celebration and plenty of board games. Please bring a batch of cookies to share and exchange.

New Year Catch Up & Holiday Decompressing | Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6-8 p.m., meet at Twin Span Brewing to take a collective breath after the bustle of the holidays.

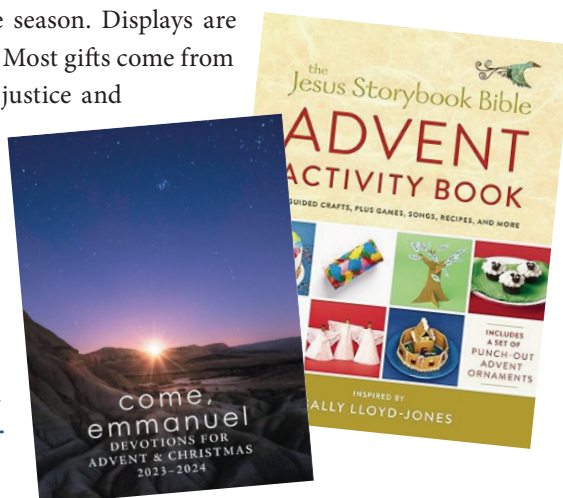
Camp Shalom Retreat | Feb 16-18, take a weekend away from the busyness of life to build a sense of community as young adults.

RSVP to: Mac Mullins, mac@stpaulqc.org, or Max Franks, max@stpaulqc.org.

Book Corner shines for Advent

Our bookstore glows with the season. Displays are freshened with gift-giving in mind. Most gifts come from organizations committed to global justice and fair trade. Come and see! You'll find Advent calendars and devotional booklets for all ages.

In addition to Sunday mornings, the Book Corner has expanded its hours for the season to include Wednesdays, 5:30-7 p.m., and Saturdays, 4:30-6 p.m. Contact: Andrea Spencer, book-corner@stpaulqc.org.



Christmas poinsettias to decorate Sanctuary

Christmas poinsettias will decorate the front of the Sanctuary as Christmas approaches. If you would like to donate a plant in memory or in honor of a loved one, orders may be placed in the church office or by mail no later than Sunday, Dec. 3. The cost for each plant is \$10. Forms are available at the Info Center. Please complete the form and drop it with payment attached in the lock box marked by a poinsettia across from the receptionist's desk. Contact: Laura Scott, laura@stpaulqc.org.

2024 giving envelopes available mid-December

For those who have used envelopes in the past, the 2024 envelopes are expected to be available beginning mid- to late-December in the Elevator Commons. Please stop by and pick up your personalized box. Questions? Contact Laura Scott, laura@stpaulqc.org.

Faith BasiX on Dec. 19

The basics of the Christian faith, St. Paul style, for anyone — really, anyone! Explore some of the keywords that float around the Christian life in this once-a-month-series. 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. The next meeting will be Dec. 19, 7-8 p.m. in the Luther Loft. No background needed; all questions welcome! Contact: Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.



Social worker/counselor services available

If you find yourself feeling overwhelmed, holiday-fatigued, or just need a listening ear, reach out to our staff counselor/social worker, Angie Vaaler, LMSW. Her services are free of charge to the St. Paul and Madison School communities.

Angie is available for telehealth appointments over both audio and video and is available for in-person counseling services. Contact Angie at 563-326-3547, ext. 312.

Faith, Health, and Wholeness Coffee Chats

Grab a refreshing drink and settle into a conversation on faith, health, and wholeness on the first and third Tuesday of the month, 10:30 a.m., in the Chapel. December's date will be Dec. 5 (no meeting on Dec. 19), with the topic *Ways To Keep The Holidays Fresh and Meaningful*. No need to sign up, just come! Contact: Dave and Dortha DeWit, dorthamdw@aol.com.

Little Bird & Jesus podcast

Tune in to the St. Paul children's podcast, *Little Bird & Jesus*, to hear Pastor Sara Olson-Smith and others share little bird stories just for kids...or kids at heart. Take a journey through the Bible with the little bird who was a witness to Jesus and his life. Through her lens, we get a glimpse into the life, work, and love of Jesus. New episodes premiere every Monday. Listen to the journey of Little Bird wherever you find podcasts, on the St. Paul website at stpaulqc.org/children, and social media.



CC Conversations on Thursday, Dec. 7

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 at the next gathering on Thursday, Dec. 7, 6-7:15 p.m. in Library Commons. Click on the church calendar date for specific readings. Pastor Peter Marty facilitates discussion. Contact: Peter Marty, peter@stpaulqc.org.

Access the St. Paul online membership photo directory

Access to the online membership photo directory is now available. Fill out the online opt-in form using the QR code or via stpaulqc.org/signups. Once the opt-in form is received, a St. Paul staff member will be notified, and you will receive an account activation email in 1-3 days. Questions? Email info@stpaulqc.org to speak with a member of the directory development team.



Upcoming concerts: Tidings of comfort & joy

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

► QCSO Holiday Brass Concert | Sunday, Dec. 10, 3 p.m.

Ring in the holiday season with the Quad City Symphony Orchestra brass and percussion sections and organist Chris Nelson. The concert will include uplifting selections of classical and holiday favorites. Tickets are available online at qcsso.org.

► A Nova Christmas | Friday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.

The Nova Singers' Christmas concert is an annual tradition at St. Paul. Our sanctuary will bloom with songs of the season, thanks to this nationally-known vocal ensemble. Tickets available at novasingers.com and at the door.

► Big River Brass Band Holiday Concert | Sunday, Dec. 17, 3 p.m.

Join the Big River Brass Band for an afternoon of your favorite holiday classics, featuring organist Chris Nelson. The concert is free (donations accepted).

► Choirs for Christmas | Dec. 21-25, various times

Choirs and ensembles from all across the Quad Cities filmed in the St. Paul Sanctuary for a KWQC program called *Choirs for Christmas* to air the week of Christmas.

Advent

Our Advent journey begins the weekend of Dec. 2 & 3. Week by week, we'll prepare our hearts for Christ's birth with melodies that crescendo in hope and expectancy, and with candles that pierce the darkness.



Choral Advent Worship | Sunday, Dec. 3

Let the glories of song and an impressive intergenerational gathering of St. Paul choirs at the 9 a.m. worship service carry you into the beauty of the Advent season. From preschool choristers to adults, Choral Advent Sunday is a joyful tradition for preparing the way for Jesus' birth and a magnificent day to invite others into our church home.



Blue Christmas Worship | Tuesday, Dec. 19

This quiet service of longing and hope is designed for anyone who doesn't feel like celebrating. During the holidays, grief, illness, depression, and loneliness can be magnified. The Blue Christmas service, Tuesday, Dec. 19, 6 p.m., acknowledges pain and longing, while offering hope and comfort for the broken-hearted. In the darkness of December, anticipate Jesus, the light of the world.

Advent for kids & youth

Children's Christmas Pageant

Angels, shepherds, sheep, and some bright shining stars will gather at the manger on Sunday, Dec. 17, 10:15 a.m. The Christmas Pageant blends the voices and sweet anticipation of the children of St. Paul, age four to grade six.

The congregation is warmly invited to gather in Fellowship Hall for this annual delight. Contact: Maddy Carroll, maddy@stpaulqc.org.

Youth Advent Events

Shopping for Empowering Abilities: On Sunday, Dec. 3, 6:30 p.m., high schoolers gather at Target to shop for Christmas gifts for residents of Empowering Abilities (formerly Handicapped Development Center). Bring \$5-\$10 to share if able. Students will gather at church afterwards to wrap gifts and worship through music, camp style.

Gingerbread House Building: High school youth gather on Sunday, Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m. to create Bible-story gingerbread houses. Bring candy to share and a spirit for friendly competition.

Christmas Party & Caroling: On Sunday, Dec. 17, high schoolers meet at church at 4:30 p.m. for a party and white elephant gift exchange. From 5:30-8 p.m. students in grades 6-12 will join them for pizza, followed by an evening of Christmas caroling around the community. Contact: Liz Franks, liz@stpaulqc.org.



Christmas Eve

Come celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, Sunday, Dec. 24.



12 p.m. | Holy Communion & Carols

All the glory of Christmas Eve at noontime. Scripture and hymns tell the story of this holy night. *Pastor Sara Olson-Smith preaching.*

2 p.m. | Holy Communion & Carols

All the glory of Christmas Eve in an early-afternoon option. Scripture and hymns tell the story of this holy night. *Pastor Sara Olson-Smith preaching.*

4 p.m. | A Children's Christmas Eve

A service focused toward children, with traditional carols and a lively children's message. Children and youth choirs sing. Kids are invited to play a short Christmas piece on the piano as part of the pre-service music. If interested, sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.

6 p.m. | Holy Communion with Open Spirit

The Open Spirit ensemble leads Christmas singing with a contemporary flair. *Pastor Peter Marty preaching.*

8 p.m. | A Service of Lessons & Carols

Music by the Chorale with candlelight. *Pastor Peter Marty preaching.*

10 p.m. | Candlelight Holy Communion

The evening concludes with *Silent Night* with strings, in a darkened Sanctuary lit with worshipers' candles. *Pastor Peter Marty preaching.*

No Sunday morning services on Christmas Eve.

No services on Christmas Day.

Holy Communion is served at the 12, 2, 6, and 10 p.m. services on Christmas Eve.

Childcare: The nursing moms' room will be open with toys and childcare supplies. Childcare staff have the day off. Children are always welcome in worship.

Christmas Eve parking: In addition to St. Paul lots & side streets, Madison School lots across Brady Street are available. Observe extra care when crossing Brady Street.

Open to being a Christmas greeter?

Welcoming people into the warmth of St. Paul on Christmas Eve is a joyous experience. Would you be willing to spread some Christmas joy for about 30 to 45 minutes of your time before a particular worship service? Please contact Jennifer Garvey, 563-326-3547, jennifer@stpaulqc.org.



St. Paul bids farewell to Becky Harper

Becky's quiet, behind-the-scenes presence as administrative assistant has kept many elements of St. Paul moving smoothly for more than 20 years.

Becky and her husband, Brad, started attending St. Paul in 1999 and were immediately taken with the people. When St. Paul was looking to fill an administrative assistant position in 2003, Becky didn't think twice about her answer.

Prior to her time at St. Paul, Becky spent 13 years with Iowa Illinois Gas and Electric (now MidAmerican Energy). In the communications office she had a starring role as Louie the Lightning Bug and Pilot the Gas Safety Dog, attending parades and educating kids. When Becky's daycare provider retired, she decided to leave her career and take over the daycare.

"I ran a daycare out of my house for more than a year. I had nine kids ranging from just five months old to seven or eight years old. So, it was an easy decision when Peter called me," Becky laughed.

Throughout the past 20 years, nearly every piece of paper congregants touch for worship, weddings, and funerals has come from Becky's desk. It takes attention to detail and organization to produce all those

pieces that are vitally important to St. Paul events. For those who don't know Becky Harper well, she's often the office prankster. Her sense of humor and fun antics inspire joy around the office.

So what's next for Becky? As she eagerly awaits the arrival of a second grandchild (due any day!), she looks forward to having more time with her family. Becky visibly lights up when talking about her children, her preschool-aged grandson, her excitement over the new grandbaby, and the close relationship she shares with Brad's mother, one that started even before the two were dating.

"I'm looking forward to spending more time with my son and grandkids in Virginia Beach. Brad and I have aging parents. My mother-in-law is one of my best friends. We met at my dad's church and wrote the monthly newsletter together. Through that, we became good friends. I can't wait to spend more time with her. I will miss the people here at St. Paul. The diversity of personalities, the fun we have together. But we still plan to be around; we're not going anywhere any time soon."



St. Paul is looking to fill Becky's role as administrative assistant. See pg. 11 for details.

Christmas love from the St. Paul staff



Pictured: (top left to right) Peter Pettit, Max Franks, Kathy Becker, Jennifer Garvey, Becky Harper, Matt Spencer, Katy Warren, Miles Thompson, Peter Marty (middle left to right) Mac Mullins, Chris Nelson, Maddy Carroll, Andrea Spencer, Teresa Keller, Liz Franks, Dana Welser (bottom left to right) Jim Akright, Karen Strusz, Allison Winter, Jessica Taylor, Marcia Robertson, Sara Olson-Smith, Linda

Allebach, Laura Scott, Lauren Brown **Not Pictured:** Paul Caldwell, Angie Vaaler, Brian Schou, Nathan Windt, Dan Pepper, Katie Casey, Sara Harless, Margaret Thompson, Brittany Guy, Todd Byerly, Terry Ousley, Harris Schneekloth, Terry Haru, Joe Wollett, and Dana Taylor.

A WAKE OF kindness

St. Paul member, Deb James, reflects on her career as a mental health counselor and how she uses the gifts God gave her to help others.

A theme that runs through Deb James' life is stepping in to fill a need. Deb and her husband Joe, both retired mental health therapists, tend to leave a trail of gentle kindness wherever they go.

Often attending the 9 a.m. service and helping to usher, sometimes you'll see Deb and Joe at 11:15 a.m. when they know the usher crew is short that day. And Deb has embodied that selfless way since she was little.

"I appreciate the opportunity to serve. I got that when I was a child and witnessing all the ways my parents served and helped others. That's always been important to me," Deb said. "We'd go to Salvation Army sites in Chicago (where Deb grew up). My mom would donate clothes or have something from Sunday School to share. When I was young and not able to help yet, they gave me Salvation Army literature to read. It was so special to me. I would read the missionary and service stories. If you asked when I was young what I wanted to be, I would say a social worker or a missionary."

Deb would go on to pursue a double major in Social Work and Spanish at Augustana College, returning to school to receive her graduate degree in Mental Health Counseling through Western IL University. For more than 37 years, Deb worked in a demanding career with the Department of Correctional Services serving as the only mental health therapist. Her role touched nearly every person with mental health needs who came through the corrections system. When she retired in 2021, she packed up her office, only to unpack it the next day at a new job where she knew her talents were needed. Now, she serves clients

two long days each week as a mental health counselor with Compassion Counseling.

"With each day I try to use the skills, the knowledge, all the gifts God has given me. I'm mindful of that. It grounds me. I'm extremely focused on helping and serving others. With my career, I feel like my knowledge and my skills are put to the test there."

Both Deb and Joe are passionate about helping people. They facilitate the Friends and Family of Suicide Support group, help with the NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Walk, are members of the Mental Health Awareness Team, serve on the ushering crew, and are the first to deliver meals or kind notes to those in need.

Long days and helping others can take a lot out of you and Deb knows that part of her own wellness is finding the balance in life.

"If there are days I'm struggling to feel like I'm my best for clients, I take a step back and look at my own wellness. To be your best, you have to make yourself a priority. I've always tried to keep that at the forefront. Getting enough sleep, running, swimming, playing with the dog, reading. We make time for church and my morning and evening prayers. On my worst days, when everything goes wrong, my faith grounds me. Nothing can take that from you. My faith journey, that's paramount. When I need strength or guidance, I pray to God to give me the stamina to get through the day."

On Compassion Counseling's website, Deb's favorite quote is "As you move through life, leave a wake of kindness" by Margarit Hale. And that's exactly what Deb leaves behind everywhere she goes.



"On my worst days, when everything goes wrong, my faith grounds me. Nothing can take that from you."

DEB JAMES

new members



Gordon Anderson is retired from quality assurance at Alcoa. He spends his free time playing in euchre tournaments, golfing, and traveling. He comes to St. Paul through friends, and he has a lifelong affection for Durant, IA.

Maureen & Rick Basala (*not pictured*) both work in the Sherrard school district – Maureen as a teacher and Rick as the Junior High School principal. They like to travel and spend time with friends and family. They find the welcoming spirit of St. Paul to be refreshing.



Michael & Melanie Burns have three kids — Paul, Tessa, and Noah. Michael is active duty in the US Army at the Rock Island Arsenal. Melanie is a physician associate. This family enjoys music, the outdoors, and bowling. You might see Melanie singing in the Open Spirit ensemble. What attracted them to St. Paul? “The service, diversity, and inclusion.”



Bill Burzlaff is a retired budget analyst. He takes an interest in gardening and music. He likes that St. Paul is an ELCA congregation.



Mike & Carrie Franzman are parents to Avery, Gabe, and Claire. Mike works as a periodontist. Carrie is a secretary in the health office at Bettendorf High School. They stay busy with their kids' activities including baseball and soccer. Mike often plays guitar with the Open Spirit Ensemble.



Julie LaBarre is a retired cable splicer and repair tech. She enjoys quilting, volunteering, and knitting. She's passionate about veteran support and the Humane Society. She recently moved from Wisconsin, and comes to St. Paul through friends.



Lynne Lundberg is an English/Language Arts teacher at Pleasant Valley High School. She likes to travel, read, garden, and cook. She's passionate about food security and education – and loves the St. Paul bookstore. She has two adult daughters.



Connie Maloney is retired from metal sales. She enjoys volunteering and gardening. She's passionate about helping people. She has one young adult daughter.



Chris & Jennifer Meyer enjoy the outdoors with their dog, Nico, board games, and are learning how to play pickleball. Chris is an engineer with RTM Engineering Consultants. Jennifer works at Kimberly Crest Vet Hospital as a veterinarian. The welcoming and service-oriented community is what drew them to St. Paul.



Mac Mullins serves as a pastor in residency here at St. Paul. Originally from Charlotte, North Carolina, Pastor Mac enjoys a good book, hiking, cooking, the Chicago Cubs – and people!



Ben & Kayla Reller have three kids — Lucy, Macy, and Riley. This couple are both teachers in the Davenport Community School District. They like to spend time with family and friends, golf, and read. The support given back to the community is what attracted them to St. Paul.



Rebecca & Greg Yerington are parents to Carter (16), along with two young adult children. Rebecca is an elementary school teacher in the Pleasant Valley School District and is passionate about volunteering and mental health advocacy. Greg is an engineer with American Power System and cares about music and the food bank.

New to St. Paul life?

St. Paul Membership Inquiry Classes are offered monthly, with childcare provided on advance request. Pick a class that matches your schedule:

- ▶ Thursday, Dec. 14, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
- ▶ Saturday, Jan. 20, 9-11 a.m.

Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups or contact Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org, 563-326-3547 ext. 248.

A word from St. Paul's treasurer:

At St. Paul, we strive to show God's love in our lives and our communities. We work to share it every day and, as a church, that happens thanks to the continued support of everyone in the congregation. Our \$3.0 million budget this year, which drives all that we do, from mission outreach to our wonderful staff, is only possible because of your generosity. We are grateful for your faithful giving as we work to finish our year in the positive. My personal thanks to you, the people of St. Paul, for your continued commitment to this place and for every year-end gift. — *Jeff Bass*

Employment opportunity: Administrative assistant

St. Paul Lutheran Church is seeking qualified candidates for an administrative assistant. The work week for the position (part- or full-time, with respective benefits) is negotiable. The administrative assistant is responsible for producing all weekly worship bulletins and documents, tracking ministry activities and records, communicating with member households planning funerals, weddings, and baptisms, and assisting with main floor staff in a daily way for project support.

You can view a full job posting at stpaulqc.org/employment. Interested individuals may direct their letter of interest and resume (or questions) to search team chair, Becky Schmidt, at AdminAssistant@stpaulqc.org. Applications will be reviewed as they arrive, and the position will be filled as soon as the ideal candidate has been identified.

WORSHIP at St. Paul

▶ December 2 & 3

First Sunday of Advent
Choral Advent, 9 a.m. worship

Preaching:

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

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

▶ December 9 & 10

Second Sunday of Advent

Preaching:

5pm/11:15am: Peter W. Marty
8 & 9am: Max Franks

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

▶ December 16 & 17

Third Sunday of Advent

Preaching:

5pm & 8am: Mac Mullins
9 & 11:15am: Katy Warren

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

▶ December 23 (Sat.)

Fourth Saturday of Advent

Preaching:

5pm: Max Franks

▶ December 24 (Sun.)

Christmas Eve

See page 7 for details

▶ December 30 & 31

Second Sunday after Christmas

Preaching:

All services: Mac Mullins

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803



Christmas Eve

COME & WORSHIP

12~2~4~6~8~10 PM