

JANUARY 2024

The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

# journey





# Don't quote me



**ON THE COVER:**  
Sarah Lammers

## journey

**JANUARY 2024**

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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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If you've read a novel in the past few years, you've probably noticed that punctuation now seems to be optional. There are still periods and capital letters. Writing hasn't completely devolved. But I've recently noticed a trend that eliminates things like question marks, exclamation points, commas, and even indentations. Basic writing rules, like helping us know which character is speaking with "he said," are out the window.

A recent study in the journal *Learning and Instruction* showed a correlation between knowing the rules of punctuation and capitalization and strong reading comprehension skills among grade school children. In short, if a child knows where a comma is supposed to go and how quotation marks work, they'll be a much better reader more quickly. This isn't a huge surprise. Grammar's entire purpose is to make communication easier for us. So why do authors ignore it?

Sally Rooney, an award-winning contemporary Irish writer, prefers this economical style of writing. If you pick up *Normal People*, her most popular work, you won't find a single quotation mark in the entire book where the characters are speaking. At times, it's a frustrating experience. Who exactly is speaking when? What is the emotion between the characters? What am I supposed to be feeling?

Maybe this is exactly the point of writers like Rooney, James Joyce, Cormac McCarthy, or William Faulkner. All of these authors, whom we love to read, abandon our expectations for grammar. Not because the rules don't matter. Perhaps because the rules, if always honored, can end up getting in the way. Again, what am I supposed to be feeling? "You tell me," Rooney would probably say. When you bring writing down to its most basic form, our brains, emotions, and experiences fill in the rest. Our encounter with two main characters in a relationship breaking up is far more potent when the author trusts us to feel and know it on our own. She knows we don't need quotations marks to know when heart is broken.

Learning to fill in what isn't there is a part of life with God, too. We're given many of the building blocks of faith as children: Bible stories, the Lord's Prayer, "Jesus Loves Me." We also know that faith grows beyond those early understandings. We expand our learning as adults for a reason. Part of growing up is figuring out how everything we've been taught helps us navigate the world.

God trusts us to use the faith we've been given. When life confronts us with challenges beyond what a children's song can answer, we don't have to throw our hands up and quit. We don't have to limit our understanding of things to the way we did them twenty, thirty, forty years ago. If all we're given is periods and capital letters, we can fill in the rest to create a life that's filled with imagery, color, and vibrancy.

We've all said spontaneous, heartfelt, from-the-soul prayers before. Even silence can prove to be the loudest prayer of all. We have and know a grammar of faith that God trusts us to use for filling in the blanks.



**MAC MULLINS**  
pastor in residency



# Advent and Christmas

The trees sparkled, the cookies were plentiful, and the togetherness joyful. St. Paul people gathered together in holiday spirit for Christmas.





# january

## HAPPENINGS



### One-year-old, sixth-grade milestones set for January

Faith milestones are special markers along the growing-up journey. Two milestones will be held in January at St. Paul.

**One-year-olds:** Connect and share in the joy and exhaustion of life with a newborn. Learn what it means to form a child's faith. A gathering for parents of children born in 2023 will be Sunday, Jan. 28, 10:15-11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Each child will receive a colorful story Bible and Pastor Sara Olson-Smith will lead a discussion.

**Sixth-graders:** On Sunday, Jan. 7, 10:15-11:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall, gather to talk about creating and maintaining an identity that reflects God in our daily and digital lives. Explore together the responsibilities carried with each username and interaction and share practical tips for navigating decisions that accompany digital independence, and offer helpful suggestions to consider.

To sign up for either milestone, visit [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups).

### **NEW!** Journeys in Contemplation: Men's Spiritual Direction

Meet with other St. Paul men twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays beginning Tuesday, Jan. 9, 6-7 p.m. Guided by the book *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality* by Ronald Rolheiser, facilitators Ken Winter and Todd Byerly will guide the group to explore questions like "What is spirituality and how does spirituality shape my life?"

Spirituality is a popular concept but often misunderstood. This is a place for men to explore their spiritual journeys in a safe environment without expectations or judgment; a chance to walk through daily life as a compassionate and caring community. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups) or contact Ken Winter, [kjwinter25@gmail.com](mailto:kjwinter25@gmail.com).

### Youth choir alumni ring in the New Year

Welcome the new year at St. Paul with a beloved annual event. All former Youth Choir singers are invited to join the current Youth Choir for worship on Sunday, Jan. 7. Gather to rehearse a favorite anthem, "Who Is the Lamb?," at 8:30 a.m. in the Chapel. The choir sings during the 9 a.m. service. Questions? Contact Dan Pepper, [pepper@stpaulqc.org](mailto:pepper@stpaulqc.org).

### Come sing in the choir!

At St. Paul, voices soar gracefully in praise. All have a place in one of St. Paul's five choirs from four-year-olds to adults.

Rehearsals for kids and youth begin again in the new year on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 6 p.m. The Chorale's first rehearsal in the new year is Jan. 10, 6-7:30 p.m. There's a place for you! Questions? Contact Chris Nelson, [chris@stpaulqc.org](mailto:chris@stpaulqc.org).

### Dementia Caregivers Group begins Jan. 16

Caring for someone with dementia can be overwhelming. Beginning on Jan. 16, gather on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 2 p.m. in the Church House Living Room. Both new and returning members are welcome.

This is an 8-session opportunity to share ideas, learn how to support loved ones, and be a support to one another. Contact: Angie Vaaler, 563-326-3547 ext. 312.



## Luther College's Nordic Choir in concert at St. Paul

The Luther College Nordic Choir will perform at St. Paul on Saturday, Jan. 27, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Tickets will be \$20 for adults and \$10 for students.

The Nordic Choir has performed around the world and throughout the United States at well-known concert halls, such as Lincoln Center in New York and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1946, the choir enjoys national and international acclaim as a premier collegiate choral ensemble in the United States. Nordic Choir is directed by Dr. Andrew Last, director of choral activities at Luther College since 2017.

Interested in hosting a couple of students overnight after the concert? Learn more and sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Chris Nelson, [chris@stpaulqc.org](mailto:chris@stpaulqc.org).

## Annual meeting set for Feb. 4

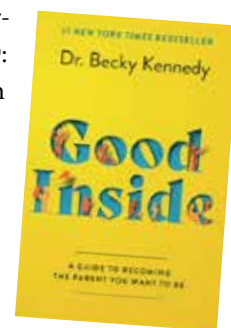
The St. Paul annual meeting will be held on Sunday, Feb. 4, at 10:10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

This meeting includes items of important business such as approving the 2024 budget and review of 2023 financials and annual report. Pastor Peter Marty will also present a report and church leadership candidates to be considered will be voted on.

## Parenting Book Conversations: *Good Inside*

Gather with other families for food, fellowship, and conversation on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning Jan. 9: 5 p.m. dinner, 5:30-6:30 p.m. conversation for grown-ups with kids in childcare.

Explore the book *Good Inside: A Guide to Becoming the Parent You Want to Be* by Dr. Becky Kennedy. *Good Inside* is a practical guide to raising resilient, emotionally healthy kids and a supportive resource for overwhelmed parents who need more compassion and less stress. Sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, [sara@stpaulqc.org](mailto:sara@stpaulqc.org).



## All St. Paul Reads: *This Other Eden*

*This Other Eden* by Paul Harding is the 2024 All St. Paul Reads book. All St. Paul Reads is encouragement for everyone in the congregation to read and talk about a single book title in the same year. In 2024, this dessert and discussion event will take place on Sunday, Feb. 25, 3-4:30 p.m. Childcare will be available.

Inspired by historical events, the book tells the story of Apple Island, off the coast of the United States, where castaways have landed and built a home. Paul Harding brings to life an unforgettable cast of characters who struggle to preserve human dignity in the face of intolerance and injustice.

*This Other Eden* is available for purchase for \$14 in the St. Paul Book Corner. Please RSVP at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Andrea Spencer, [bookcorner@stpaulqc.org](mailto:bookcorner@stpaulqc.org).

## coming up in adult learning

### Jan. 7: The Case of the Christian Murder Mystery

David Crowe, Augustana College

Perhaps the original Christian murder mystery surrounds the death of Christ. More recently, Christian murder mysteries in modern style have become a "thing" in the literary world. Who writes them? What do they have to do with faith?

### Jan. 14: Spiritual Journaling

Katie Hanson, Augustana College

Recent studies suggest there are many health benefits related to intentional, focused reflection. Learn how to journal meaningfully and why you may want to consider adding this practice to your life in 2024.

### Jan. 21: Pope Francis and the Roman Catholic Church

Dr. Francis Agnoli, Diocese of Davenport

Pope Francis has been leading the Roman Catholic Church for more than ten years. What has become clear about his leadership and what has it meant for the church? What might be the lasting legacies of his pontificate?

### Jan. 28: Islam and the Qur'an

Imam Bachir Djehiche, Islamic Center of the Quad Cities

Key elements of Muslim life and faith will be presented based on Qur'anic teaching, along with discussion of the tradition of recitation and how it continues today.



# Focused on others

**Lifelong member Sarah Lammers credits the St. Paul youth program for many positives in her life – a close mentor, deep friendships, a sense of independence, a broadened worldview, among others. And it's just those kinds of things that Sarah wants to help bring to other young people at St. Paul.**

## Seeing and feeling seen

Sarah, a second-grade teacher at Cody Elementary School in Pleasant Valley, wears many hats and fills many roles that make St. Paul a fun and fulfilling place for kids in all phases of life. A typical Sunday at St. Paul may start with Sarah preparing the classroom and gently guiding and encouraging the Pre-K and Kindergarten class during the learning hour. After attending the 11:15 a.m. Open Spirit service, Sarah will take a little time to herself before returning that evening for Sunday Night Live with the high schoolers. From the youngest kiddos to those about to leave for college and beyond, Sarah plays a large role in the lives of St. Paul kids.

"I know how important it is to feel seen as a young person so I work hard to make kids of all ages feel seen and connect with them. I learn a lot from them, too. The high schoolers I work with in youth group and the littles I work with on Sunday mornings and at Cody Elementary all have

a unique and insightful view of the world. It's valuable to connect with them," Sarah said. "Working with the high schoolers and learning about their struggles and challenges makes me think back to my time at that age and the support I needed then and how I can give them that support now."

In 2022, when the St. Paul youth program was in transition, Sarah, along with Jamie Carroll, stepped in to help carry the youth program through a trying time.

"I had been a little hesitant to come back to church as an adult but looking back, the youth needed me as much as I needed the youth during that time. I knew I was meant to be here at St. Paul at this particular moment. It was impactful to have this outlet when I was in high school and I wanted to make sure the kids, who were going through a lot of change at that point, knew they were supported. Our goal that summer was to have fun. That's what the kids needed. We needed to meet, to be at church together, to listen and play games. The biggest takeaway both from my time

entering the youth program and coming back as an adult is to show up even when you're uncomfortable."

## Life-changing experiences

Sarah's time with St. Paul youth was formative in her teens. She exudes energy and excitement when reflecting on mission trips, the ELCA youth gathering, and the way these experiences broadened her worldview.

"It's so important, as a young person, to have experiences that show you how the world really is. Mission trips give you a new perspective on the world around you. You see people who live a different life than you and see different parts of the world. You leave these experiences having an appreciation for the life you have and that's something that doesn't come as easily when you're young. For one week, you're doing things for other people. These trips are special for many reasons. There is also something especially unique about the bonds created during mission trips, both with the





I know how important it is to feel seen as a young person so I work hard to make kids of all ages feel seen and connect with them.

kids and the adults. That bond becomes so strong when you're working alongside someone to help others."

St. Paul director of children's ministries and fellow lifelong St. Paul member Maddy Carroll and Sarah became close friends in high school and continue to be friends today. In fact, Maddy was one of the people who encouraged Sarah to make her way back to the youth group.

"St. Paul has been a big part of my life during transitions. It's not always something I've initiated myself but I always find my way back. In high school, my dad encouraged me to get involved. Then when I graduated from college and moved back home, I didn't have much of a support structure outside of my family. That's a challenging transition time for most people. Maddy and I reconnected and she, along with others, encouraged me to get back into it."

During Sarah's time in the program, while attending mission trips and SNL, she learned to lean on other people and find positive mentors in her life. Sarah and

St. Paul youth volunteer Stacy Hornbuckle shared a special connection that continues to grow.

Says Stacy: "Sharing wonderful things about Sarah Lammers is easy. I met Sarah in early high school when she was in youth group with my daughter. Sarah has always been family-oriented but it's been special to see her become the independent person she is. She used to be shy but her shyness has grown into womanly grace," Stacy beamed about Sarah. "One thing that has not changed is that Sarah has always been outwardly focused, always focused on helping and supporting others. That makes her the perfect person to work with kids."

As Sarah looks forward to the future with plans of travel, she continues to keep her eyes focused forward and on others.

"The mentorship and the support the youth program provided continues to resonate and is something I want to pay forward to others; To be that support and that listening ear for our youth."

## upcoming trips for youth

### Summer Mission Trip

*Madison, WI | June 24-27, 2024*

Teens are immersed in one of the most neighborly cities in the country. Students build strong relationships with peers and leaders, deepen their faith through service, and make lasting memories!

### ELCA Youth Gathering

*New Orleans, LA | July 15-21, 2024*

This week-long experience comes once every few years and is a national event. An informational meeting about the upcoming ELCA Youth Gathering takes place on Sunday, Jan. 28, 6 p.m. in the Library Commons.

### Junior Adventure Trip

*Northern WI | July 28-31, 2024*

This adventurous trip celebrates the milestone of completing 11th grade and prepares these incoming seniors for leadership in our community and exploring their faith stories. Students embark on adventures including white water rafting and high ropes to push them out of their comfort zone and try new things!

Trip sign ups are online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](https://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact Liz Franks for questions or details on any upcoming youth events or activities, [liz@stpaulqc.org](mailto:liz@stpaulqc.org).



# Living life in community



**St. Paul people connect and find deep friendships and shared experiences in smaller group setting.**

Faith, Health, and Wholeness Coffee Chats (formerly Coffee Chats) started in 2020 during the pandemic to foster community and emotional and spiritual health. Originally spearheaded by St. Paul staff, members Dave and Dortha DeWit stepped in to take over the group in May of 2021, making it a truly congregationally led and autonomous small group.

The group has grown exponentially since its first days and topics discussed are wide-reaching. Held on the first and third Tuesday of the month, each gathering centers around a different topic. Self-esteem, nature therapy, favorite memories and traditions, chronic pain and illness, the importance of play, and gender diversity are just a few of the 34 topics discussed this year alone. Steve Kalber is an active member of the group. Having facilitated Tuesday conversations in the past, Steve will lead the January session on 'stigma.'

"Stigma is so pervasive and destructive to relationships. This is an important topic to try to understand. Stigma is the tendency to make negative judgments based on appearance, behaviors, and other traits," Steve said. "And

these judgments are nearly always inaccurate or distorted views based on our own flaws and interpretations. It's particularly harmful because groups we tend to stigmatize often accept the labels they are given and take on that identity for themselves. We lose out on knowing people we could learn a lot from."

Both Steve and Dortha credit the members of the group for their honesty, open-mindedness, and willingness to learn and embrace each other.

"There is such a level of trust in this group. We're able to explore important topics like stigma because we're open to being more vulnerable, more reflective, and more self-aware with no judgments. That creates deeper connections quickly," Steve said. "That's truly the value of these smaller

groups."

"A lot of what we end up doing in this group is bringing topics to light and raising awareness. You can't cover a lot of these topics in depth in the hour we have together, but you can start moving in the right direction," group facilitator Dortha DeWit added. "What makes this group so worthwhile is that we're all life-long learners with an openness to growth. We know we're safe there. We circle in and embrace each other and it's no longer an activity that's just confined to a group once a month. It's become friendships. There are lots of connections that grew organically."



Dortha DeWit

The relationships built and the friendships formed have become so strong that members often meet for coffee and connect outside of the St. Paul building on the weeks the group does not meet.

"We, as people, need a way to connect. That was the hardest thing when we came to St. Paul from a small church. It takes a while to feel like you have a personal connection," Dortha said. "That's where small group opportunities like this are great. You have that personal connection and get to know others over shared interests or life experiences."

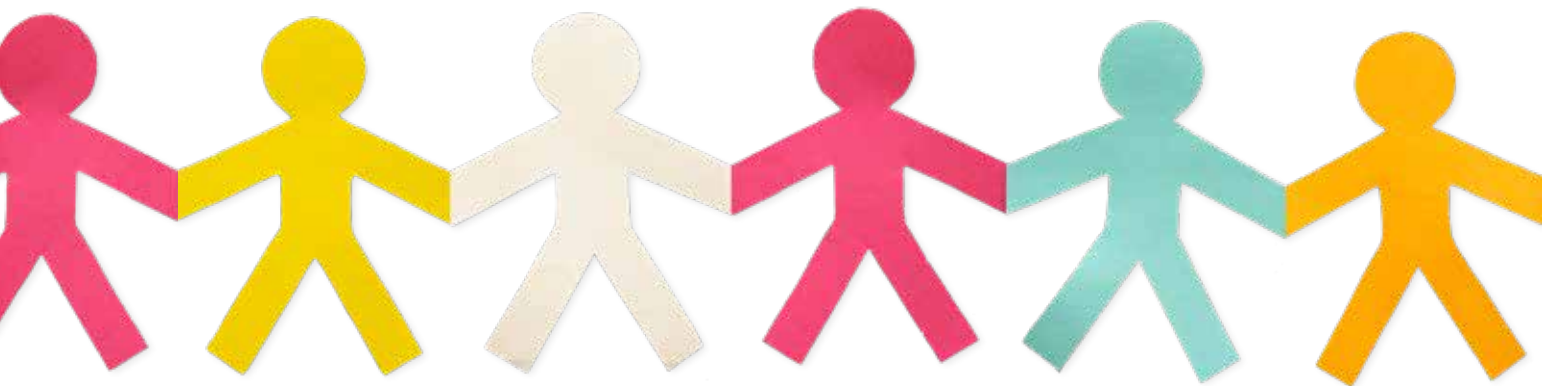
Steve serves on the leadership and planning group coordinating the new St. Paul Life Groups Ministry (*see more to the right*) and comments on the vital need for personal connection.

"Coffee Chats is a great example of what the Life Group ministry is looking to do. More and more we need those small group connections. Each small group needs to have their own autonomy in how the group is run and what happens each week. That's key to a truly congregationally led church. Church isn't just Saturday and Sunday services, it's also become Tuesday mornings for us in the group."



Steve Kalber





## New Life Group ministry launches at St. Paul

Connection. Curiosity. Community. Friendship. Exploration. These are just a few of the areas St. Paul Life Groups will foster. The Life Group ministry is an opportunity to create personal connections and build, deepen, and grow community with others who share similar interests and activities, are in similar life stages, and more. Pastor Max Franks and a team of dedicated leaders launch the new ministry this month.

### What is a life group?

A life group is different than a Bible Study and contains no strict parameters. Life Groups serve as a way to connect people whose paths may not otherwise cross at church and share a desire to deepen their connections and sense of community at St. Paul. Shared group prayer, an impulse for service, and a commitment to the group are highly encouraged but each group decides what works best for them. The groups have a dedicated facilitator or two to help coordinate group gatherings and provide communication to group members. Open to anyone.

### Get Connected

Interested in participating? A life group form is now available at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups) or in the St. Paul app. If a particular group you may be interested in is not listed, please specify as these groups are formed around your interests. There is also a space to mark if you are interested in facilitating a life group. Contact: Max Franks, [max@stpaulqc.org](mailto:max@stpaulqc.org).

## Ongoing opportunities

St. Paul has a variety of ways to connect with others this winter season.

### Faith, Health, & Wellness Coffee Chats

*First and third Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.*

Gather for discussion on faith, health, and wholeness. In January, come talk about facing the new year and a discussion on stigma. Contact: Dave and Dortha DeWit, [dorthamdw@aol.com](mailto:dorthamdw@aol.com).

### Young adults | Monthly gatherings

St. Paul young adult ministries are geared for those in their 20s and 30s interested in connecting and building relationships through church. On Jan. 9, meet at Twin Span Brewing for a New Year Catch Up. Contact: Mac Mullins, [mac@stpaulqc.org](mailto:mac@stpaulqc.org), or Max Franks, [max@stpaulqc.org](mailto:max@stpaulqc.org).

### Theology Pub | Third Thursday of the month, 6 p.m., Boozie's Bar & Grill

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).

### Guys Coffee Group | Second and fourth Mondays, 10 a.m.

Grab a cup of coffee and settle in to connect with fellow St. Paul men. Contact: Dave McPherson, [davemcph@msn.com](mailto:davemcph@msn.com).

### Moms' Morning | Second and fourth Thursdays, 9-10:30 a.m.

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).

### Racial Awareness Team | Third Tuesdays, 7 p.m.

Expand awareness of our world, 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).

# new members



**Nancy Peal Baldwin** enjoys spending time with her family and has one young adult son. A paralegal with Bozeman, Neighbour, Patton and Noe, LLP, she cares about faith and family. She recently married St. Paul member, Pat Baldwin.



**Ben & Karly Driscoll** are parents to Grace, Ryan, Samuel, Marian, and Love. Ben is an administrator in the Davenport Community School District. Karly works in case management with Family Resources and is the director of Project 15:12. They stay busy with the family and are passionate about social justice issues. They were attracted to St. Paul by the welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.



**Darren & Pam Garrett** were drawn to St. Paul by the large congregation and variety of people. A regional marketing manager for Xerox, Darren enjoys comics, playing guitar, and hatchet restoration. Pam works with Ruhl and Ruhl Realty as a licensed real estate assistant and office manager. She enjoys running, crafting, and fitness.



**Kate & Kelsey Moran** have two kids — Henry and Harper. Kelsey is a radiologist with Advanced Radiology while Kate manages the home front. They enjoy tennis, art, and traveling, and care about helping other people. The warm welcome and friends are what drew them to St. Paul.



**Andy & Kerri Peterson** are parents to Ethan and Caleb. Andy is a pharmacist with DivvyDOSE. Kerri works in accounting for American Mutual Insurance. The whole family is involved with a variety of musical ensembles around the Quad Cities. When not making music, they like to golf, watch Hawkeye sports, and support the Davenport Central marching band. The kids programming and friends are what brought them to St. Paul.



**Brian & Rebecca Snyder** have two kids — Ethan and Lydia. Brian is self-employed and a retired police sergeant. Rebecca is a kindergarten teacher in the Davenport Community School District. They enjoy spending time with family and friends, and are committed to the service and care of the bigger community, especially children. They are making St. Paul their church community because of family and friends in the congregation.

## Warm monthly options to explore membership

Greet the new year with a warm welcome for exploring St. Paul life. Come discover the goodness of this congregation and our mission to the world. Upcoming membership inquiry classes include Saturday, January 20, 9-11 a.m. or Thursday, February 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Pastors Peter Marty and Sara Olson-Smith lead these one-session introductions to St. Paul life, and the faith expressions that inspire it all. Sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups).







**Eve Swanson** is an operating room nurse with Genesis. She spends her free time reading and walking. Her daughter's family lives in Iowa City. She is passionate about reading programs for kids and helping those with housing insecurity. What attracted her to St. Paul? "Joy in the place!"



**Beth Williams** is mom to Lyla and Olivia. Beth works as a substitute teacher in the Pleasant Valley School District and a reading tutor. She cares a lot about literacy and educational equity and diversity. The people and inclusive instincts of St. Paul attracted her.

## Council Notes

Council met on a warm December evening right before Christmas. Council president Patty Herzberg praised St. Paul for being a forward-thinking congregation, noting the physical, mental, and spiritual wellbeing of St. Paul that makes it a strong and healthy congregation.

December saw many concerts and community members entering the doors. The Quad City Symphony Orchestra, Nova Singers, and the Big River Brass Band filled the Sanctuary.

Council voted to affirm the endowment committee recommendation to designate \$10,000 for 2024 scholarships for preschool students and a music resource teacher.

The Personnel Committee concluded its search for a new administrative assistant. Mackenzie Griffin will fill this role beginning mid-January. Watch for her welcome in the February edition of the *Journey* magazine. Becky Harper, who has served in this post for the last 20 years,

retires at the end of January.

The Affordable Housing Ministry team's initiative to expand our affordable housing footprint received enthusiastic approval by the council and now moves on to a congregational meeting. A special congregational meeting to vote on the acquisition of a central Davenport house will be held on Sunday, Jan. 7.

Council reviewed the nominating committee's recommended slate for filling the 2024 openings on various elected committees of the congregation. These recommendations will be voted on at the Feb. 4 annual meeting.

Immense gratitude was expressed to giving ministry coordinator Marcia Robertson for her work on this year's congregational pledging effort. As she and the council and finance committee await the last of every household's pledge commitment to come in, thanks were shared for everyone who has pledged for 2024.

## Pastoral search update

The Senior Pastor Call Committee has been meeting faithfully since we kicked off a few months ago, as we actively seek candidates to fill the role of Pastor Peter Marty who is planning his retirement for Summer 2024.

The Committee recently met with a representative of the Southeastern Iowa (SEIA) Synod bishop's office. Part of the role of the SEIA is to support St. Paul's search for our next senior pastor.

The Call Committee is reviewing each pastoral inquiry that comes our way, and we're open to any questions you have throughout the call process. Please feel free to contact Amy Lovig, Call Committee chair @ StPaulQCCallCommittee@gmail.com. Most importantly, please continue to hold this call process in prayer throughout the journey ahead.

## WORSHIP at St. Paul

### ► January 6 & 7

*Baptism of our Lord*

#### **Preaching:**

5pm/8 am: Max Franks

9 & 11:15 am: Peter W. Marty

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

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

11:15am

### ► January 13 & 14

*Second Sunday after Epiphany*

#### **Preaching:**

5pm/8 & 9 am: Katy Warren

11:15 am: Mac Mullins

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

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

11:15am

### ► January 20 & 21

*Third Sunday after Epiphany*

#### **Preaching:**

All services: Peter W. Marty

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

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

11:15am

### ► January 27 & 28

*Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

#### **Preaching:**

5pm/8 am: Katy Warren

9 & 11:15 am:

Sara Olson-Smith

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

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

11:15am



**ST. PAUL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA 52803



Light of the world,  
we bow before You  
in awe and adoration.  
Bless us and our simple faith  
seeking understanding.  
Epiphany means manifestation,  
lifting the veil, revelation.  
Reveal to us then  
what we need to know  
to love You, and keep Your word  
with fidelity and truth,  
courage and hope,  
this day and always. Amen.

MIRIAM THERESE WINTER