

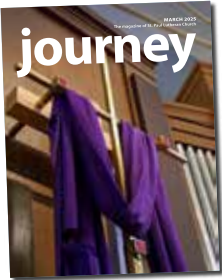
MARCH 2025

The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

# journey



# Shameless living



**ON THE COVER:**  
The Sanctuary cross dressed for the season of Lent.

## journey

**MARCH 2025**  
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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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A recent article in *New York Magazine* interviewed fourteen adults still relying on their families for money. This isn't simply gas money, helping with an unexpected medical bill, or grandparents babysitting grandkids to avoid the cost of an expensive sitter. These adults fall into what we often call the '1%.' This is the psychology PhD whose parents paid out of pocket for her undergraduate and doctoral degrees, and all her living expenses. It's the social worker who lives, rent-free, in her grandmother's *other* Upper West Side apartment. Or the mom whose own parents cover the \$130,000-a-year preschool tuition for two kids. It's an eclectic list of self-identified folks who still rely on mom and dad to support them financially through life.

This isn't a foreign concept for me, either. In my early twenties, I grew tired of living paycheck to paycheck. My finances, my relationships, and my mental health were all going downhill. So, I did the most sensible thing a 24-year-old could do: I moved back in with my parents. Those two years were difficult. Not just for my parents readjusting to their child returning after years away but for my own self-worth. My only marginally better-paying job made me realize that even this wasn't enough to be totally independent. I knew I couldn't do it alone, even though everything I heard, read, and saw told me that was the expectation.

Whatever you or I might think about the privilege or quality of life these folks receive for free from their families, there was a constant theme that surprised me across these stories: shame. As each unfolded, the one common denominator that appeared was the shame and guilt they each felt because of their lack of financial independence. No one was seriously hurting their parent's bank accounts. No one was doing anything ethically or morally wrong. But they just couldn't shake the overwhelming pressure that they needed to pay for life completely on their own, that if they couldn't afford it themselves, then they were somehow less than, less worthy of love or respect.

The Bible has lots to say about money, and very little of it is positive. Jesus especially didn't seem to be a fan. He overturned the money exchanging tables in the Temple. He pronounced woe upon the

rich in his Sermon on the Plain. When asked if it is right to pay taxes to Caesar, Jesus cheekily made it clear that the money was Caesar's anyway. God certainly didn't want any of it. He even gives money a name, "Mammon." Money isn't just an object, it's alive. It distorts our reality,

captures our hearts, and holds our imaginations captive. And it lies. The biggest lie it seems to convince all of us is that, as long as we have money, we can have a happy, full, and joy-filled life all by ourselves. We won't ever need anyone's help or love. Mammon will always be there for us.

God's vision of a happy life, however, doesn't come with the baggage of shame. Where money says, "Do it yourself!" God says, "Let's do it together!" Relying on one another is fundamental to a life of compassion and abundance. And besides that, it just feels better. Our community became a different place when we remodeled a home for women struggling with mental illness. Our own souls have a different sheen because we attended to the children and families at an under-served elementary school for years. None of that would have happened if we just cut a check. There's real, genuine Holy Spirit power when we rely on others instead of ourselves alone. Having money to pay for the essentials is good and necessary. But it's the parts of life with family, friends, neighbors, and God that make what we have all together beautiful. And there's no shame in that.



**MAC MULLINS**  
pastor in residency



# People focused

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) is one of the state's largest nonprofit human services agencies, focused on empowering individuals and communities. LSI is committed to meeting community needs and making a lasting impact, with strong support for the local chapter from organizations like St. Paul.

You've probably driven past the prominently located LSI sign that sits on the corner of 15th Street as you head north on Brady Street, just a handful of blocks south of St. Paul. The green and blue square logo with the letters LSI in black text. In smaller, lighter blue reads: "Lutheran Services in Iowa. People focused • results driven." But what does Lutheran Services in Iowa do and who do they serve?

St. Paul is proud to support the mission of Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) for many years. LSI is one of Iowa's largest nonprofit human services agencies, "empowering families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual."

St. Paul member Deb Cochuyt is the senior director of philanthropy and church relations for LSI. A big part of her job is educating the community on the services provided by LSI, which is far-reaching, through sharing the stories of their clients.

"LSI doesn't know or ask if our staff or clients are Lutheran. We don't care. We don't serve only Lutherans. We serve all people," Deb said. "We have a really large group of clients here in the Quad Cities. Other than Des Moines, we're the largest base of clients with the largest number of programs served through LSI. Most of the statewide programs are offered right here in the Quad Cities. The programs are located where the need is; so the programs can be fluid to meet the needs of the community in which we serve. A lot of people say, 'I had no idea what Lutheran Services in Iowa did until I needed them.' We've been around so long and offer so much that people don't realize all the services we provide."

Deb said the programming offered is wide-reaching and continues to expand based on need. The strongest programs

available in the Quad Cities include a large early childhood program, therapy services, behavioral health intervention services, and foster care and adoption services. The early childhood program supports around 500 kids in the Quad Cities. Deb says when they service one child, they are serving the entire family. Utilizing the Healthy Families America's (HFA) home-visiting model, LSI's program brings family support workers into the home to help parents raise healthy families.

"What I hear about the most is the impact we have because of the early childhood program. So many of these young moms don't have a support base and we help educate them on how to be a parent. These programs break the cycle of abuse in many households," Deb said. "The parents learn how to care for their babies, how to change diapers, what milestones kids should go through and when. When parenting is too much for them, because we all experience those moments, we teach them how to take a breath, take a break, and handle these normal emotions. The number of success stories I've heard here locally is quite something."

A new edition to the programmatic lineup is a partnership with a detention center in the Quad Cities to help provide the therapy and extra support these youth often need.



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**In 2024, St. Paul gave \$28,000 in support of the mission and programs of LSI.**

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"To my knowledge, the detention center has never had a partnership quite like this one before. So many of the kids in these centers need that type of support. So far, we've found that many of the kids who come to us open up and talk freely because they trust us," Deb said. "The detention centers have noticed a difference in the way these kids behave because someone took the time to talk with them. This program started in Waterloo and has since spread all across the state."

The Mental Health program has also expanded, allowing LSI to provide services in all 99 counties in Iowa thanks to virtual behavioral health opportunities.

"The number of lives we've touched is amazing and you often have no idea until someone tells you their story."

## Lutheran Day on the Hill

*Tuesday, March 11, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Capital Hill Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA*

Lutheran Day on the Hill is LSI's main advocacy event. Held annually, hundreds of participants are invited to gather at a local downtown church to learn about LSI and critical issues children, adults, and families in Iowa are facing. Attendees learn about advocacy efforts before heading to the Iowa State Capitol to engage directly with legislators. Registration is free and open to anyone. Register online at [lsiowa.org/ldh](https://lsiowa.org/ldh).

# march

## HAPPENINGS



### Upcoming spring concerts at St. Paul

Welcome spring with three delightful ensembles performing at St. Paul.

**The QC Wind Ensemble Chamber Concert** features some of the area's finest wind and percussion musicians. They perform at St. Paul on Sunday, March 9, 3 p.m. This ensemble was created to enhance the musical arts of the Quad Cities and surrounding areas.

**The Grinnell Singers** wrap up their Midwest tour at St. Paul on Friday, March 14, 7 p.m. The 50-member student choir from Grinnell College present their program, *The Light is the Same*, showcasing selections from Indian-American composer Reena Esmail's *This Love Between Us*. In addition to the Esmail selections, the Grinnell Singers will present a collection of works contemplating our relationship to the Earth.

**The Augustana College Choir** makes St. Paul their last stop on tour when they perform on Saturday, April 5, 2 p.m. in collaboration with the Moline Concert Choir. Under the direction of Dr. Jon Hurty, this year's program continues the choir's interest in exploring both traditional and new choral music composition. The concert is free and open to the public.

### Humble Dwellings helpers

This March, St. Paul is sponsoring a Humble Dwellings apartment and needs extra hands and hearts to turn it into a home. On Sunday, March 30, 2-4:30 p.m., help move furniture and/or prepare and decorate the apartment for its new loving inhabitants. Humble Dwellings transforms lives by providing warm and inviting homes for those in need of stable housing through gently used donations of furniture and household goods. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Katy Warren at [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org).

### Support & Connection for LGBTQ Families

Join others in the safety of a gracious community where shared experience and open conversation cultivate compassion, friendship, and support for everyone involved in the journey of acceptance and love. Meeting on the third Monday of each month, meet on March 17, at 6:30 p.m. Contact: Dawn or Jason Nickles, [dnickles108@gmail.com](mailto:dnickles108@gmail.com).

### Fourth-graders begin Communion prep

Fourth-graders and their parents learn about the sacrament of Holy Communion during a five-session Sunday-morning unit, recalling the promises made at the time of the child's baptism. Communion preparations take place on Sunday mornings, March 9, 23, 30, and April 6, 10:15-11 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Children paint and decorate chalices that will then be displayed on Maundy Thursday, April 17 — when they receive Holy Communion for the first time as a group.

For more information, contact: Maddy Carroll, [maddy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:maddy@stpaulqc.org).





## Cinema and Spirituality

Each month of 2025 on the third Tuesday, come to The Last Picture House in Davenport to screen a film from the book *A Whole Life in Twelve Movies* by Kathleen Norris and Gareth Higgins. On March 18, 6:30 p.m., come watch *Smoke Signals* (1998). The first movie entirely produced by Native Americans is about two young Native American men who go on an adventure together. Afterward, discuss the film's themes of community and storytelling.

\$5 tickets (cash preferred), superb popcorn, comfortable seating, and taking in stories together on the big screen make this a unique community experience. Pick up the book in the St. Paul bookstore. Bring a friend. To help with advance planning, please sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Peter Pettit, [ppettit@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ppettit@stpaulqc.org).

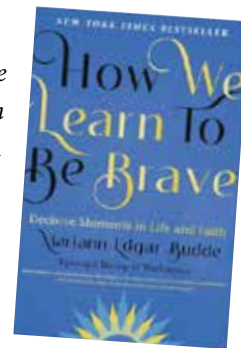


## Sign up now for VBS!

St. Paul kids and youth experience God's love and learn how to live life with God by their side at Vacation Bible School 2025 — Monday, June 16-Friday, June 20, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon. Registration is \$15 per student. Parents, adults, and high school youth are invited to join in the experience by volunteering. Sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Maddy Carroll, [maddy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:maddy@stpaulqc.org).

## Occasional Tuesdays book group

Engage in early morning discussions on *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, on Tuesdays, March 25, and Apr. 1 & 8, 7-7:45 a.m. in the Library Commons. This book explores pivotal moments in life that, when approached with faith and discernment, can inspire us to become our bravest selves. Written by the bishop of the renowned Episcopal Diocese of Washington, D.C., *How We Learn to Be Brave* is available in the Book Corner. Let inspiration from this book and these discussions start your morning off and carry you through the day. To sign up, visit [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact Katy Warren at [katy@stpaulqc.org](mailto:katy@stpaulqc.org).



## National Faith and Climate Action Forum

On Thursday, March 27, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., St. Paul once again livestreams a national faith and climate forum featuring national faith leaders. This presentation includes live lectures reporting on specific activities faith communities are doing to address the problems with our climate.

There are seven topics with time for onsite in-person discussions plus displays by local organizations. Attend some or all of the day. Topics to be discussed include youth involvement, worship ideas, congregational and community initiatives, financial assessments, and more.

Please register online at [nationalfaithandclimateforum.org](http://nationalfaithandclimateforum.org). The event is free. Invite your friends. Contact: Becky Wiese, [rlawmd@yahoo.com](mailto:rlawmd@yahoo.com).

## coming up in youth ministry

### TBK Bowling Night

Tuesday, March 18, 6-8 p.m.

Students in grades 6-12 meet at TBK for a night of bowling, food, and fun! Students are asked to contribute \$10 to help with costs for bowling shoes and food. Sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups).

### High School Lock In

Friday, April 4, 7 p.m. to Saturday, April 5, 8:30 a.m.

Students in grades 9-12 spend the night at St. Paul! Kids play games, eat some food, play more games, worship, and play more games!

### Youth Mission Trip

July 6-11, St. Louis, MO

Teens deepen connections with each other and God while completing service projects and exploring the city. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups).

### 11th Grade Adventure Trip

July 20-23, Northern WI

This trip for incoming high school seniors prepares teens for leadership in the community and explores their faith stories. Whitewater rafting and a high ropes course adds to the fun. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups).



A graphic featuring a pile of spices like red peppercorns, star anise, and cloves on a dark wooden surface. The words "A WELL SEASONED LIFE" are written in a bold, dark, slightly distressed font across the center of the spice pile.

## SEASON OF LENT 2025

The St. Paul community of faith gathers for worship and meal fellowship on five Lenten Wednesdays, March 12 — April 9.

### Ash Wednesday service on March 5

Christians gather on Ash Wednesday to mark the beginning of the Lenten journey to Easter. Pastor Sara Olson-Smith preaches for these services of Holy Communion.

On this solemn day you'll receive, if you'd like, an ashen cross on the forehead, a powerful reminder of mortality and sin. It's an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness.

► **12 noon:** This 45-minute service is a meditative respite in the work day.

► **7 p.m.:** The evening service includes music by the Chorale and a message for children.

### Confirmation

*Wednesdays, March 12-April 9, 6:30 p.m.*

Teenagers meet onsite in Lower Commons for games, a brief Bible study, small group discussion, and Lenten worship each week.

### Choir rehearsals

*Wednesdays, March 12-April 9, 6 p.m.*

All choirs will rehearse on Wednesdays during Lent. Children's and Youth Choir from 6-6:45 p.m.; Chorale gathers from 6-6:55 p.m.

## Wednesdays in Lent:

### Noontime Worship | 12 noon-12:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Breathe deeply in the midst of your workday for these contemplative noontime gatherings. Half-hour services include music, silence, a pastoral reflection, and Holy Communion centered on the same themes as Wednesday evenings.

### Suppers | 5:30-6:55 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

A hungry throng gathers each Lenten Wednesday for catered meals, planned with busy folks in mind. Just bring your freewill donation to help cover the per-plate cost (\$10/person or \$30/family is suggested). Those inspired to contribute more are welcome to do so (actual food costs are 20-percent higher). This year will feature two new local caterers — Bayside Bistro and Davenport Schools' ProStart Culinary Arts Program. Come try some new meals with great company!

### Adult learning | 5:30-6:15 p.m. in Lower Commons

This year's Lenten adult learning follows the same Lenten Wednesday theme of taste. In *To Everything There Is A Season[ing]*, teaching pastor Peter A. Pettit leads a weekly 45-minute study in Lower Commons, focusing on scripture's references to the flavor of the week (bitter, sour, sweet) and its resonances in our own lives and faith. Contact Peter A. Pettit, [ppettit@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ppettit@stpaulqc.org).

### Evening Worship | 7-7:35 p.m., Sanctuary

The beautiful *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy fills the Sanctuary on Wednesday nights in Lent. *A Well-Seasoned Life* is this year's Lenten theme and explores the attributes of bitter, savory, sweet, sour, and salty. These words describe food but also translate into other descriptors of life. How best do we season our days? Children are encouraged to worship; childcare is also available. You'll be on your way home by 7:35.

- **Mar. 12 | Savory:** Mac Mullins preaches    ► **Apr. 2 | Sour:** Sara Olson-Smith preaches
- **Mar. 19 | Sweet:** Maddy Tyler preaches    ► **Apr. 9 | Salty:** Katy Warren preaches
- **Mar. 26 | Bitter:** Mark Niethammer

## Devotional book: *Life Renewed*

*Life Renewed: Devotions for Lent 2025* provides daily devotions for each day from Ash Wednesday to Easter. The devotions begin with evocative images and brief scripture readings drawn from traditional Easter Vigil texts. The writers then bring their diverse voices and pastoral wisdom to the texts with quotations to ponder, reflections, and prayers.

This accessible and colorful format makes it easy to incorporate a simple Christian observance into your Lenten journey. The pocket-sized book is available in the Book Corner for \$3, large print for \$5.

The St. Paul Book Corner also carries many other books, devotionals, and resources for your Lenten practices.



## Special offerings: World Hunger

By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) World Hunger organization meets basic needs and recognizes the universal human right to food. But ending hunger is about more than food. Long-term sustainable change can be accomplished by connecting people with education, health care, and sources of income.

All midweek Lenten offerings at St. Paul are given to fight hunger. St. Paul aims again to exceed \$20,000. If you would like to make an additional Lenten offering toward this cause, please earmark your check memo line with “Lent — World Hunger.”



## Wednesday Lenten supper helpers needed

Lenten suppers begin on March 12! There is nothing quite like sitting around a table and sharing a meal in community with others. And these Lenten gatherings simply could not happen without St. Paul people. Would you consider sharing your hospitality on an upcoming Lenten Wednesday? Needed are volunteers for:

- ▶ Red Apron Hospitality crew (all ages welcome!)
- ▶ Green Apron clean-up team
- ▶ Dessert-bringers for each week

Sign up for one or more weeks at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Jessica Taylor, [jessica@stpaulqc.org](mailto:jessica@stpaulqc.org).



## Holy Week and Easter

### PALM/PASSION SUNDAY

April 13 | 8, 9, & 11:15 a.m.

Saturday worship at 5:00 p.m.

With festive palm branches waving, the mood turns somber as we realize that Jesus goes on to die.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 17 | 12 noon & 7 p.m.

In scripture, liturgy, and song, we mark Jesus' last meal with his disciples. Fourth-graders culminate a period of preparation with Communion at the evening service.

### GOOD FRIDAY

April 18 | 12 noon, 4:30, & 8 p.m.

The church gathers to remember the suffering and death of Jesus. **Good Friday pretzels:** Beginning at 3:30 p.m., children are invited to Fellowship Hall for a family-friendly event.

### EASTER SUNDAY

April 20 | 6, 8, 9:30, & 11:30 a.m.

No Saturday worship

With shouts of alleluia, we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.



# Looking toward a cool future

In late January, St. Paul saw the replacement of the 30-year-old A/C chiller unit that cools most of the building except for the sanctuary and newer offices. It took years of preparation, discussion, and planning, and the project is now nearing completion.

Dramatic heat fluctuations during the summer months made for unpredictable days around the church as St. Paul's three-decade-old chiller struggled to keep up. Regular maintenance was needed to keep the chiller running. Finally, it was time to plan for the installation of a new system. The project was brought before the finance committee and congregational council. Bids with contractors were reviewed and supplies were ordered. Now, in just a few short months, the chiller will be ready to be turned on.

The largest part of the project took place in late January when the old chiller unit was lifted out of the west side of the building by a large crane and the new chiller system was brought in and installed. Church council vice president Matt Lee is an engineer with John Deere.

"A chiller is like an average outdoor

A/C unit you'd have at home. The chiller provides cool water to the air handling units which then distributes cool air throughout the building. It's a heat exchange system that takes hot water and turns it into cool water," Matt said. "Part of this project was also replacing the large condenser in the basement, cooling tower, as well as pumps and piping. These are all essential pieces for cooling the air and moving it where it needs to go throughout the building."

The St. Paul building utilizes a water-cooled system, with water being cooled by the chiller. The unique part of this system is that only one system, either heating or cooling, can run at any one time. As the seasons change, St. Paul must be very thoughtful before switching from heat to cool.

"St. Paul is going to save money in the long run," Matt said. "A new, more efficiently functioning chiller system will

When the weather warms and the time comes to turn on the new chiller system, St. Paul will host an open house to tour the system and celebrate this cool new unit! Stay tuned; more details to be announced in the coming months!

require less maintenance costs. We should have a stable, operable system for the long term. It's peace of mind."

At nearly \$500,000, the cost of the project looks like a big number, but this new system should last as long as the previous chiller while being the most affordable option. This system is not only the most visually appealing but also delivers the quietest performance.

"Extreme fluctuations in temperature put stress on a building. If temperatures can't be regulated inside, expansion and



**MAR 2022**

A new chiller project was first discussed with Pastor Peter Marty and St. Paul staff.



**JAN 2023**

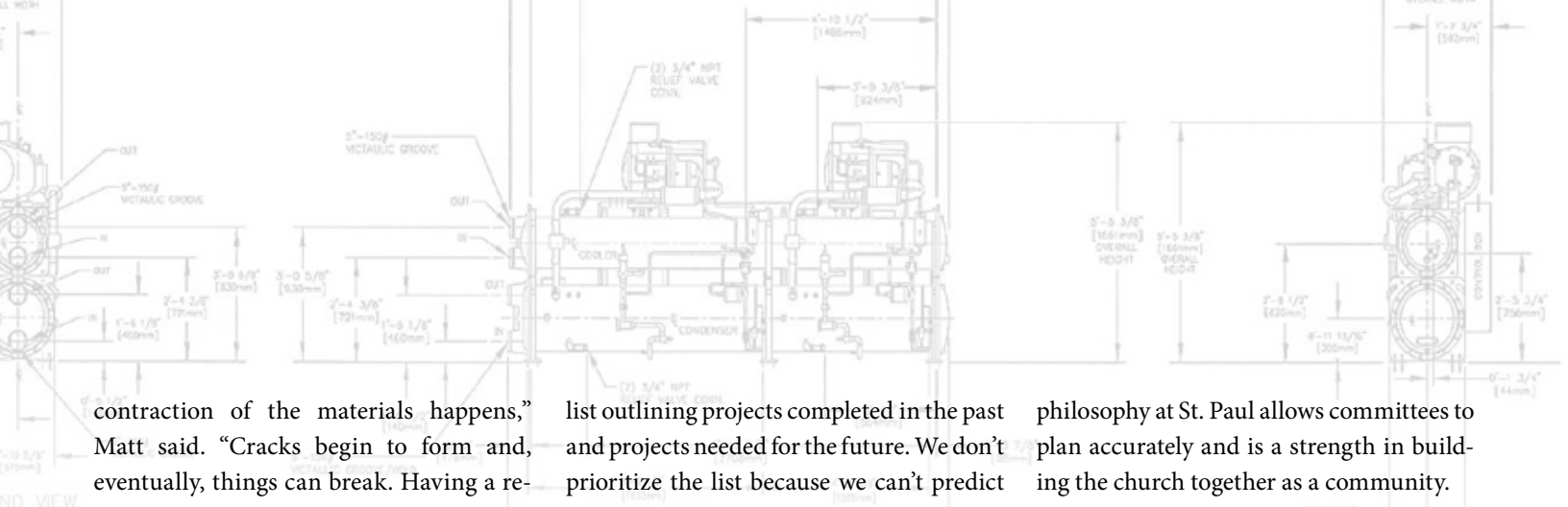
After more issues with the current system, the project was brought to the Congregational Council.



**AUG 2023**

Engineer Brian Hodgin of Shive Hattery was brought on to design a new chiller system to replace the old one.





contraction of the materials happens,” Matt said. “Cracks begin to form and, eventually, things can break. Having a reliable system creates a more stable inside environment and reduces excess moisture and heat, preserving the longevity of the inside of the building.”

The finance committee also played a large part in making the project happen. Martha Bakeris serves on the St. Paul finance committee. Before retiring, Martha worked at MidAmerican Energy for 20 years and as a banker with First Midwest Bank for 15 years.

When large projects, like the replacement of a chiller unit, come up, the committee looks to the Capital Improvement Fund, different from the fund that supports daily ministry activities, to plan for this type of substantial cost.

“St. Paul has a capital improvement

list outlining projects completed in the past and projects needed for the future. We don’t prioritize the list because we can’t predict if another project will take precedence,” Martha said. “The discussion of the chiller has been on the finance committee agenda since early 2023. We knew it would need replacing and began to prepare for that cost. St. Paul has a Capital Improvement Fund with dollars specifically set aside for these types of projects. St. Paul staff and committees steward their funds thoughtfully. When we plan the budget for the following year, we typically have a carryover amount, meaning we didn’t spend as much money in the previous year as we budgeted for. A portion of that carryover amount always goes to capital improvement so we’re constantly reinvesting dollars back into those funds for future projects.”

Bakarlis said the pledging and giving

philosophy at St. Paul allows committees to plan accurately and is a strength in building the church together as a community.

“One of the beauties of St. Paul is that we do not constantly ask the congregation for money. The pledging system St. Paul has established is unique compared to other church systems, and we forget how special it is. In other places, money is often asked for from the pulpit. I come to church to get healed, experience joy, and find strength, not to be asked for money every week,” Martha said. “When I joined the finance committee, I noticed the orientation manual had a page on stewardship and giving practices. The line that stood out to me was ‘Fundraising is not part of our general giving philosophy.’ It’s a different mindset. We rely on the pledges of St. Paul people and every person’s pledge makes this church what it is. We do this together.”



**NOV 2023**

The equipment bid for new parts went to Carrier Mechanical. The estimated order delivery time was 33 weeks.



**MAY 2024**

Modern Piping was selected to complete the installation. They coordinated with crane and concrete contractors.



**JAN 2025**

The new unit was installed and the old one removed by cutting a large hole in the church’s foundation.

# Learning for adults

A new learning opportunity kicks off in the Luther Loft in March on Sundays, 10:15-11 a.m. St. Paul people take us on a tour of some interesting places around the world. No passport necessary!

## In the Luther Loft: Global Perspectives

Mark Twain wrote that "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness" (*Innocents Abroad*). Though we cannot all travel, those who do can help bring us global perspectives. On Sundays in March, 10:15-11 a.m., several St. Paul people feature their travels to relatively remote places in this series.

## In the Chapel: Guest Presenters

### ► March 2: Government in Lutheran Theology and Ethics

*Peter A. Pettit, teaching pastor*

What impact has the modern world had on Lutheran theology regarding government?

### ► March 9: Human Bondage and Godly Grace

*David Crowe, Augustana College*

Explore Paul's teachings about Christian freedom.

### ► March 16: Real Talk about Artificial Intelligence

*Forrest Stonedahl, Augustana College*

Explore and debate the potential benefits and risks of AI for society.

### ► March 23: "Dear Philemon..."

*David Crowe, Augustana College*

Learn about Paul's letter to a slaveholder that became part of the New Testament.

### ► March 30: Center for Judaism & Jewish Studies

*Prof. Wolff, center director, Augustana College*

What is the Center for Judaism and Jewish Studies? What does it do?



## Retirement blessings to Marcia Robertson

Last month, St. Paul bid farewell and thank you to Marcia Roberston, giving ministry coordinator, who is retiring after 12 years with the church. Since 2012, Marcia has led passion-filled stewardship initiatives. Everything from pottery, giant globes, and expressions of joy have graced the gathering area during stewardship with the assistance of Marcia.

Marcia quietly works behind the scenes from October through January planning and executing a meticulously and thoughtfully organized schedule for the upcoming stewardship season. She comes with a unique set of skills where creativity and organization thrive together. It's her keen organizational skills, attention to detail, creative flourish, and love for St. Paul to grow a spirit of extravagant generosity that has helped St. Paul thrive these past 12 years.

"I'm in awe and have so much gratitude to St. Paul people for making the choice every year to support these ministries. This ex-

travagant generosity allows St. Paul to confidently plan its ministries for the coming year," Marcia said. "As a community, we can always look forward to what's next, being proactive rather than reactive. I loved my time at St. Paul because of the people."

Marcia isn't going anywhere. She'll still be in church on Sundays and is a member of the Book Corner team, helping to bring All St. Paul Reads to the congregation each year and carefully identifying books to put on the shelves. She said this extra retirement time gives her a chance to read and catch up on time with family, especially grandchildren.





## Council Notes

In January, Council affirmed the 2025 executive committee roles for the congregation council. Ron Mullen serves as president, Matt Lee as vice president, Ann Bush as secretary, and Jenny Gosse continues her term as treasurer. The February meeting opened with a welcome to Mike Koepp, Lynn Lorber, and Dorrie Murphy as they join council for their three-year terms. The mission outreach volunteer team met in February to discuss potential community partners to meet with, create a plan for the meetings, and identify which individuals would attend these meetings. The goal of the community meetings is to identify the needs of the community and what the next mission outreach project for St. Paul may be.

Council unanimously appointed two new positions to the Personnel Committee. Tami By-

ram Mahl and Haley Wikoff join the committee to serve three-year terms. Tami is an attorney at the Rock Island Arsenal. Haley Wikoff teaches counseling at Western Illinois University. Council appointed Terry Ousley and David Crockett to the finance committee. Terry is retired from his career as vice president of customer service for MidAmerican Energy. David is retired from Edward Jones where he served as a financial advisor. Council appointed Kirk Anderson to the investment committee. Kirk is the CFO for Augustana College.

Gratitude was expressed for the many people who served in leadership roles through 2024 and keep current committee members in your prayers this year. Council reviewed the 2025 Annual Meeting. A 2025 budget of \$3,099,020 and eleven leadership positions were approved.



## Congregational Council 2025

The council, with its newly elected members. Meet (back, left to right) Jenny Gosse (treasurer), Ron Mullen (president), Matt Lee (vice president), Mike Koepp; (front, left to right) Dorrie Murphy, Ann Bush (secretary), Lynn Lorber, Deb Kretschmer, and Pat Baldwin (not pictured).

## The St. Paul Worship Podcast

Couldn't make it to worship this past weekend? Check out the weekly St. Paul worship podcast featuring elements of Sunday worship and a reflection and prayer from a St. Paul pastor. Look for the podcast on Thursdays in eNews or on the St. Paul website at [stpaulqc.org/worship](http://stpaulqc.org/worship).



## WORSHIP at St. Paul

### ► March 1 & 2

*Transfiguration of our Lord*

#### **Preaching:**

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

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

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

11:15am

### ► March 8 & 9

*First Sunday of Lent*

#### **Preaching:**

5pm/9 am: Mark Niethammer  
8/11:15 am: Sara Olson-Smith

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

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

11:15am

### ► March 15 & 16

*Second Sunday of Lent*

#### **Preaching:**

All services: Katy Warren

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

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

11:15am

### ► March 22 & 23

*Third Sunday of Lent*

#### **Preaching:**

All services: Mac Mullins

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

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

11:15am

### ► March 29 & 30

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

#### **Preaching:**

5pm/11:15 am: Maddy Tyler  
8/9 am: Sara Olson-Smith

#### **Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

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

11:15am





ST. PAUL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA 52803

# Ash

## WEDNESDAY

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**MARCH 5**  
**WORSHIP AT 12 & 7 P.M.**