

JUNE 2025

The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

journey



Landmarks of our lives



ON THE COVER:
Shelly Decker

journey

JUNE 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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POSTMASTER

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This summer marks 14 years since I first moved to the Quad Cities. Moving to a new location is always filled with mixed emotions, a slight sense of overwhelm, and a long to-do list of getting acclimated to your new surroundings. Among other things, you have to figure out things like what grocery store is closest to your house or a trustworthy mechanic to care for your car.

Early on in my time here, I remember asking others for recommendations for good restaurants, quiet coffee shops, or others places I should be sure to visit. And I quickly noticed a trend in responses among people who've lived here for some time. They would often respond with unique directions related to various Quad City landmarks.

Someone might say, "You'll turn right near the old Ryan's restaurant..." or "You know the place downtown that used to be the Peterson Paper building?..." Unfortunately for me, being new to the area, none of those sorts of markers were remotely helpful.

All of us who have been in a place long enough to see progress and change tend to have strong memories of what "used to be." I've called the Quad Cities home for long enough that lately I've caught myself giving similar sorts of directions to others, saying something like, "It's right where the old Schnuck's used to be..." or "You'll turn at the stoplight just after the old Riefe's restaurant..."

When I was headed to an event a few months ago, I had a hard time telling friends where it was located: "It's at The Mark... or the iWireless Center or Vibrant Arena... whatever it's called now." And if, upon reading those words, you knew the exact location I was referring to, then I suppose you might be guilty of the same sort of thinking, too.

It's fascinating to me how so many places are known by what they used to be. It's almost as though our memories of the past supersede the realities of what's in the present. We're human beings, after all. It's easy to let the past interfere with the present (or even the future, for that matter).

And yet, whenever I'm tempted to think of landmarks or locations by how they were previously known, I call to mind a few powerful words from

Psalm 130 — "If you, O Lord, should mark my iniquities, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you."

Can you imagine if God knew each of us only by who we used to be? If, as we prayed, God simply conjured up our past failures or previous struggles,

and nothing else. If God saw us only as the sum of our greatest mistakes or our biggest regrets.

Thank goodness we have a God with a terrible memory. Or, more importantly, we're grateful that God is so willing to forgive us and love us for who we are today. God is more excited to see who we will become, rather than dwell on who we have been. I think that's why God so often chose to change people's names. Abram to Abraham or Jacob to Israel in the book of Genesis. Simon to Peter in the gospels. It wasn't just symbolic. It was God telling each of them that the past is behind them. God was only looking forward. And they should too.

Throughout the ups and downs of our lives, it might be tempting to dwell on where we've fallen short or what might've been. But God prompts us to look at who we are becoming—reminding us that change, transformation, and new life aren't just possible, they're necessary. May we look in the mirror each day seeing ourselves as God sees us: loved and renewed.

KATY WARREN
associate pastor





Navigating New Beginnings

The transition from elementary to middle school is a pivotal moment in a young person's life. After spending years in a familiar environment, stepping into middle school brings new academic challenges, social dynamics, and a growing sense of independence. Recognizing the importance of this shift, St. Paul is launching a new event designed to support students and families during this time of change.

On Sunday, June 8, 12:30 p.m. in the Library Commons, St. Paul hosts *Transitioning to Middle School: Navigating New Beginnings*. This special gathering is open to any student transitioning into middle school or junior high school. For most students, that time means entering sixth grade in the fall, but for a few, this transition happens in seventh grade. Students and their families are invited to a lunchtime gathering for a chance to connect with peers, share experiences, and receive guidance from trusted leaders. Director of children's ministries Maddy Carroll and Youth director Ellie Lindmark lead this intentional time together, offering insight and encouragement for the transitional aspects of this time of great change both in school and at church. Families can sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.

"The main objective of this purposeful time is to help kids feel confident as they transition into middle school—equipped not only with the skills they need, but also with the comfort of familiar faces beside them," Maddy Carroll said. "One of the things that makes St. Paul special is the lifelong bond students build from kindergarten through high school and beyond. They experience milestones and transitions like this one together, creating a strong, rooted community. It's worth coming just to see how we can help kids thrive through every stage of their journey and help ease any nerves about the changes ahead. Hopefully, kids will walk into this next chapter knowing they're not alone, and that they have a supportive community walking with them."

This event is part of St. Paul's broader commitment to walking alongside young people throughout their growing-up journeys. Through this "678" ministry—designed specifically for students in grades 6, 7, and 8—St. Paul provides a faith-centered community where youth can explore identity, build lasting memories, grow in faith and in community, and experience transformation.

Opportunities for students in grades 6, 7, and 8 include this month's 678 Week as part of the summer fun experience, 678 Sunday gatherings during the school year, and monthly 678 nights full of games, fun, togetherness, and worship.

"Programs like 678 were huge for me during my middle school years. I looked forward to those times together so much. They gave me a space to be silly, to play games, and to build friendships rooted in faith—friendships outside of school centered around deeper conversations," youth director Ellie Lindmark said. "As an 11-year-old, 678 helped me discover what I liked and helped form who I was becoming. That kind of impact sticks with you. Now, I'm excited to have the opportunity to walk alongside this new group of kids. This will be the first group I get to see grow all the way from sixth grade through high school. Watching them step into middle school and eventually graduate—it's going to be such a joy to grow together, to laugh, to learn, and to see how God shapes each of their stories."

Middle school can be complicated, but no one has to navigate it alone. With intentional support and a welcoming community, St. Paul ensures that every young person knows they are valued, loved, and always have a place to belong.

Mark your calendar:

Navigating new beginnings

On Sunday, June 8, 12:30 p.m., Library Commons, students entering sixth grade in the fall and their families gather for support and connect with peers during this transitional period as they prepare to enter middle school. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.

june

HAPPENINGS



St. Paul Golf Outing on June 8

On Sunday, June 8, get ready for a fun-filled time on the putting greens with St. Paul and the Tee Time Golfers at Palmer Hills Forge's 18-hole putting course. 1:30 p.m. registration, 2 p.m. shotgun start. You don't have to be a golfer to have a blast at this event. A putting golf course is a smaller version of a traditional golf course that focuses solely on putting, when the ball is closest to the hole. Think mini golf without windmills or water hazards. Anyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

A gathering at the Palmer Hills pavilion takes place after with refreshments and drinks. Tickets are \$20 for adults or \$10 for kids age 12 and under. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Duane Haas, dhaas.dh@gmail.com.

Stories with the Book Corner

Storytime with the Book Corner and friends returns this summer! Each Tuesday at 11 a.m., beginning July 1, a staff member or volunteer selects and reads a preschool-aged story from the Book Corner to kids. Kids then have playtime together with fun toys while parents connect. Each week's story is available by podcast later in the week. Open to anyone. Invite your friends! Contact: Andrea Spencer, bookcorner@stpaulqc.org.

Chill out with the new St. Paul chiller!

After years of planning and months of installation, the St. Paul chiller will be turned on for the first time in the coming weeks! On Sunday, June 8, 9-11 a.m., take a tour of the new chiller with operations director Miles Thompson and building manager Matt Spencer. Learn how the chiller works, where the chiller is located in the St. Paul building, and marvel at the new hardware. Then head outside near the chiller tower for some chilled desserts and water activities for kids. No need to sign up, just show up! Contact: Miles Thompson, miles@stpaulqc.org.

All St. Paul Reads 2025: *Foster*

Foster by Claire Keegan is the 2025 All St. Paul Reads book. All St. Paul Reads is encouragement for the congregation to read and talk about a single book title in the same year. This annual event has moved to the fall for 2025 and will take place on Sunday, Sept. 28, 3-4:30 p.m. Enjoy desserts and conversation with a guest presenter focused on foster care. Childcare will be available. *Foster* is a quick summer read about a young girl's summer spent with a foster family in Ireland. The book is available for \$15.50 in the St. Paul Book Corner. Contact: Andrea Spencer, bookcorner@stpaulqc.org.

VBS Volunteers still needed for June 16-20

An enthusiastic team of service-minded adults and high schoolers bring Vacation Bible School (VBS) to life each year. Interested in being part of the fun? Whether you love teaching, crafting, organizing, or simply lending a hand, there's a role for everyone and your service makes a big difference. VBS runs Monday, June 16-Friday, June 20, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact Maddy Carroll, maddy@stpaulqc.org.

Conversations of faith and culture

On June 5, 6:30 p.m., gather with Pastor Mark for a discussion of select articles from the *Christian Century* magazine and other similar publications and blogs. Articles will be available in the library two weeks prior to each gathering. Meet in the Library Commons. Contact Mark Niethammer, mark@stpaulqc.org.



Fall mission trip planned to rural Appalachia

St. Paul volunteers regularly travel to rural central Appalachia to make homes safer, warmer, and drier for families who do not have many resources.

Volunteers stay in centers of the Appalachia Service Project, an organization that works throughout the region to build relationships and repair homes. This fall 2025 trip is Oct. 4-11, led by Pastor Maddy Tyler. The trip cost is \$380 with an initial non-refundable deposit of \$50. Spots are limited.

To sign up for the trip, visit stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Maddy Tyler, 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 June 17, 6:30 p.m., watch *Malcolm X* (1992). Come watch the film about the controversial black activist and discuss the movie's themes of vocation and stepping into your own shoes.

\$5 tickets (cash preferred). 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. Contact: Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.

Welcome Tom Taylor, campus supervisor

St. Paul member Tom Taylor grew up working outside and looks forward to returning to the sunshine.

"Some of my most rewarding work has been outside. I'm more deeply connected to my spirituality when I'm in nature," Tom said. "The grounds of St. Paul exemplify radical hospitality, providing a place where people feel welcome before they even walk in the front doors."

As the campus supervisor, Tom maintains the grounds and connects with the many volunteer groups who keep the campus looking its best.

"I look forward to maintaining the reverence and beauty that people appreciate about St. Paul and collaborating with volunteer groups. These volunteers take pride and ownership in their work. That's a recipe for a great experience all around."

Tom is married to St. Paul director of communication Jessica Taylor and the two are parents to 11-year-old Avery.



SUMMER for YOUTH

This is the place for off-the-charts fun, faith, and friendship. Mark your calendars for these upcoming summer events!

☀ High School Summer Social | Sundays starting June 8

Twice a month, meet on the North Lawn from 6:30-8:30 p.m. for fun activities, super-sized games, deep devotional content, engaging conversation, and campfire worship. (June 8 & 22, July 13 & 27, Aug. 10)

☀ St. Louis Mission Trip | July 6-11

A team of St. Paul youth and adult leaders travel to St. Louis to learn and serve in the city.

☀ Adventure Trip for High School Juniors | July 20-23

Students are invited to attend an adventure trip, preparing them for leadership in our community and exploring their faith stories. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.

☀ Adventureland Trip | Thursday, July 31, 8 am-8 pm

For students in grades 6-12, take a day trip to Adventureland for some summer fun. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.

☀ Middle School Waterpark Day | Tuesday, Aug. 12, 12:30 pm

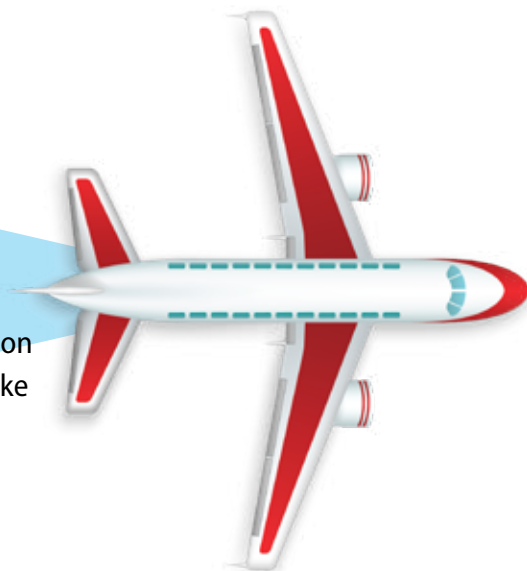
Wear a swimsuit, bring a towel, and be sure to pack sunscreen for an afternoon of fun in the water at The Landing in Bettendorf. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Connect with St. Paul Youth on social media

Follow all the fun of St. Paul youth ministry on Facebook at facebook.com/stpaulyouthqc or on Instagram @stpaulyouthqc.

Above & beyond

For nearly 40 years, St. Paul member Shelly Decker has lived much of her life above the clouds —serving as a corporate flight attendant with a passion for excellence, a heart for mentoring, and a gift for the little things that make a big difference.



From Port Byron to Paris

Born and raised in Port Byron, Ill., Shelly's journey to the skies wasn't initially part of the plan.

"I thought about becoming an accountant, but I wasn't sure what I really wanted to do. College wasn't for me," Shelly said. "My sister, a teacher-turned-flight-attendant, nudged me toward aviation. She talked me into going to an interview. I was terrified of flying; why would I want to be a flight attendant? Once I get in the air, I'm so focused on the job, I don't even think about it. Flying has become as normal to me as getting in a car is to most people."

Shelly began in commercial aviation, like many in the industry. But a friend introduced her to corporate aviation where she served many large companies. Shelly worked for Caterpillar out of Peoria for 13 years and now works contractually for businesses, organizations, and individuals. She's held a number of leadership positions including flight attendant supervisor in charge of hiring and training, cabin safety manager, and other roles.

"Corporate aviation was the best-kept secret I ever discovered," she said. "After the events of Sept. 11, 2001, I took a leave of absence from the airlines. A few years later, I chose to stay on the corporate side and I never looked back. Corporate flying gave me the chance to really connect with people and provide something exceptional."

Train for the Unexpected

The training for a flight attendant is rigorous. Corporate flight attendants are trained in everything from culinary arts to emergency medical response.

"We go through MedAire training every year. There is a training center in Savannah, Ga. and we spend a week training down there. The training entails smoke cabin drills, fire training, and life raft drills. It's intense. Years ago one of the flight attendants suggested we train to become emergency medical technicians (EMTs) along with the other training we complete. When you become a flight attendant, your safety focus becomes laser focused."

She's also completed the Ritz-Carlton Leadership Center's Customer Experience and the Disney Institute's service training programs to learn how to provide extraordinary experiences.

"One of the best pieces of knowledge someone shared with me was 'everyone has a budget.' Even the Ritz has a budget," she said. "But you can still provide world-class service. It's about anticipating needs, knowing preferences, and adding those special touches. I would love to attend butler school. You never stop learning."

Shelly's culinary training includes proper plating and reheating techniques, and sometimes cooking meals from scratch—especially when finding catering





in foreign countries provides challenges.

“In this type of position, you have to be resourceful. Portion sizes vary around the world. Ingredients are different. You make it work.”

Shelly credits much of her success to the mentors who guided her early in her career.

“I’ve had phenomenal mentors. I’ve made a lot of friends. The world can feel really small. You never know when you’ll run into a familiar face halfway across the world. I’ve been doing this long enough now to be a mentor myself. I’m an open book. I get to share the knowledge and the wisdom I’ve learned with others.”

She’s trained and onboarded dozens of flight attendants, including her niece—her first official mentee.

“It’s like having a bunch of kids. I get texts and calls all the time asking if I know a good caterer in Paris or have a recommendation. We’re a tight-knit community.”

A Special Touch

What sets Shelly apart is her attention to detail and her love for going above and beyond.

“On Father’s Day, I’ll bring in cookies shaped like ties. If someone is bringing their dog, I’ll make sure to have dog treats onboard. Often, we’re traveling on holidays, birthdays, special events, and we’re away from our families so those special

touches make a big difference. I’ve designed personalized menus to make trips memorable. Watermark Corners helped me craft a three-dimensional fly-fishing rod incorporated into a menu for a group on a fly-fishing trip. It’s about creating moments. If I don’t know how to do something, I find someone who does. There’s always that next level. Just give them the pickle.”

Shelly references *Give Them The Pickle*, a customer service philosophy that emphasizes an exceptional level of client care in which an extra touch, attention to detail, and a little effort and creativity can add a lot to an experience.

“Everyone has a budget. But it doesn’t cost anything to be kind, to learn someone’s name, remember their favorite drink, or create a personalized experience.”

Shelly’s philosophy is simple: quiet, uncommon service.

“Often, the people flying with us are working and are very busy. Refill the drink without asking. Clear the plate without interrupting. Know who you’re working with and what they need before they ask.”

Home Life and Balance

Despite a career that’s taken her to countries around the world—from riding elephants in Bali to planning for an upcoming two-week trip to Paris and Naples—Shelly’s favorite place to travel is home.

“Every Sunday night, we meet my par-

ents at Frank’s Pizza in Silvis. My parents are getting older, and I’m gone a lot, so that time is sacred.”

She and her husband Dan, who will celebrate 25 years of marriage this June, have built a life of balance and ritual.

“We love sports. We have our Friday and Saturday date nights. The secret to a long marriage? My job,” she jokes. “We get time apart, and we really value the time we have together. Our dogs, Rex and Charlie, learned to FaceTime so I can see them when I’m gone. They’ll bring their chew toys up to the camera for me to see.”

Shelly’s husband Dan owns his own septic business. Shelly said he holds down the fort at home while she’s gone and she couldn’t do the work she does without his partnership and support. The flexibility of Dan’s schedule allows him to travel to meet Shelly, tend to the 10 acres of property they own, and participate in the hobbies he loves like biking RAGBRAI and running the Bix.

For Shelly, she sees herself continuing to fly for many more years.

“I’ll probably never retire,” she said. “I have a friend in her late 70s who’s still flying. I love what I do. No two days are alike. Everything is always changing. Flexibility is huge. I’m very blessed. Thank goodness I didn’t stick with accounting.”

LEADING WITH Faith

St. Paul and Camp Shalom have long been intertwined with camp starting out of St. Paul as an outdoor ministry center in the 1970s. More than 50 years later, Camp Shalom continues to attract kids and families, both as campers and as camp staff. This summer alone, eight St. Paul young people are helping to lead the camp experience and make it a memorable, faith-filled summer for others. St. Paul members Ellie Holdorf and Shelby Juehring are among those leaders.

Ellie Holdorf

CAMP COUNSELOR

For recent West High School graduate Ellie Holdorf, summer has always meant more than sunshine and sports—it's meant Camp Shalom. From her earliest days at Family Camp to her upcoming role as a counselor, Ellie's camp experience has been a defining part of her life.

Ellie is navigating gracefully through lots of changes this summer. She's walking the stage at graduation from Davenport West High School, preparing for college at Iowa State University, and taking on the new job of camp counselor at Camp Shalom.

Ellie has been active in St. Paul youth ministries, attending youth group known as Sunday Night Live (SNL) nearly every weekend and participating in mission trips. Both youth group and camp have taught Ellie a lot about helping other people and giving back, and that's exactly what Ellie is doing this summer.

"I don't think I'd have the same faith now if it wasn't for Camp Shalom. It's a good escape in the summer especially when you're young and figuring out what faith is and what it might look like as you grow," Ellie said. "Camp Shalom helped me figure out who I am and what I want to do. I want to be the kind of counselor that helps kids feel safe, have fun, and grow in their faith."

That spirit of fun and connection is what inspired Ellie to become a counselor this summer. After talking with St. Paul youth director and former camp employee Ellie Lindmark, she realized it was the perfect opportunity.

"This position at Camp Shalom is perfect. I couldn't think of anything I'd rather be doing this summer. I've always looked up to the counselors I've had. They were incredibly kind, even if they weren't your counselor. I want to be that person for someone else," Ellie said. "I know this will be a difficult job that challenges me a lot and helps me grow my faith by helping others. I'm nervous and excited for what this summer holds."

Before she heads to Iowa State University to study biology, possibly on the path to becoming a physical therapist or physician's assistant, Ellie will spend her summer helping campers grow in their faith, just as she did. Her favorite Bible verse, Hebrews 11:1, guides her: "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

"I love that Hebrews verse because it's a great reminder of what faith is. Even when you can't see it, you've got to believe," Ellie said. "That's really important to remember throughout life."



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**Camp Shalom
helped me
figure out
who I am and
what I want
to do.**

ELLIE HOLDORF

Shelby Juehring

MINI-CAMP COORDINATOR AND COUNSELOR

For Shelby Juehring, Camp Shalom isn't just a summer job it's a place to learn more about herself and grow. A Pleasant Valley High School graduate and Iowa State University student, Shelby first experienced camp in a similar way to Ellie Holdorf— through Family Camp. Since then, she's climbed the camp ladder from camper to assistant counselor to this year's role as Minis Coordinator and counselor, guiding second and third graders through, what is often, their first taste of camp life.

Shelby brings her love for kids, the outdoors, and her faith into every corner of camp.

"What don't I love about camp? Some of my fondest childhood memories are from Camp Shalom. You're not only connecting with God and others, but you learn a lot about yourself. It changes you in unexpected ways," Shelby said. "Each week, you feel more connected to God, to others, and to yourself. Everyone on staff at Camp Shalom is a little unique, and it can be difficult to find a community of people so open and authentic."

Her journey hasn't always been easy.

"I was one of those anxious campers who didn't want to be away from my parents. Now I get to help kids through that same fear and watch them grow," Shelby said. "Kids will often come to camp in tears, not wanting to be away from home, but they usually leave with tears in their eyes because they don't want to leave."

Shelby's confirmation verse, Luke 10:27, is her compass: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." That message of love and connection is something she lives out daily.

"You don't realize how connected you'll feel to these campers," she says. "You start off as strangers, and by the end, you truly care about them. We all have enough love for ourselves; we've got to share it with others. That's even easier to practice at camp. I met one of my best friends at camp. We didn't know each other at all before that summer. She isn't from the area so there's no way we would have met otherwise. A lot of special things happen at camp."

Whether she's leading worship, playing games, or just being a listening ear, Shelby's heart for service shines.

"Bugs aside, I think everything about camp is perfect," Shelby said.



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**You start off
as strangers,
and by the end,
you truly care
about them.**

SHELBY JUEHRING

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Congratulations to St. Paul member Tom Bley as he retired from Camp Shalom this past March. Tom was the Executive Director and part-time bus driver at Camp Shalom for more than a decade.

Family Camp AT CAMP SHALOM

As Ellie and Shelby prepare for a summer of service, they're looking forward to Family Camp. Running the weekends of June 20–22 and July 18–20, Family Camp offers a weekend of worship, games, canoeing, crafts, and connection for all ages.

Whether it's roasting marshmallows, hiking the Maquoketa Caves, or simply enjoying a quiet moment by the river, Family Camp is a reminder of what makes Camp Shalom so special: community, faith, and the joy of being together.

To learn more or register, visit campshalomia.org.



new members



David & Susan Busch are retired – David as a swim pool manager and swim coach and Susan from Royal Neighbors. They spend their free time caring for their grandkids and were attracted by St. Paul's openness to all people.



Ron & Miriam Busch (Ron not pictured) recently moved to the Quad Cities to be closer to family, including David and Susan Busch, listed above. Ron is a retired inspector with Ford Motor Co. Miriam was a bookkeeper with the Kankakee YMCA. Worship style is what drew them to St. Paul.



Alex & Madeline Craig are parents to Sophia. Alex works as a dentist with Gene-seo Family Dental. Madeline is a lecturer at St. Ambrose University. They are an active family that enjoy spending time outdoors. The values and welcoming environment are what brought them to St. Paul.



John & Angela Crouse are parents to Jett. John is employed at Palmer College as an assistant professor. Angela is in instruction and design management with Macmillan Learning. They like to cook and play pickleball. They find St. Paul to be welcoming and inclusive to all.



Will Earnest is a junior at West High School and works at Taco Bell. He writes for the school newspaper and enjoys lifting weights when he's not working or at school. What attracted him to St. Paul was worship and the youth program.



Dave & Jill Kull enjoy hiking and visiting their three adult children. Dave is an engineer with Watersmith Engineering. Jill works as a nutrition educator with Iowa State University Outreach and Extension.



Kevin & Melinda Miller have two daughters — Sadie and Ainsley. Kevin is employed as the wine and spirits manager at Hy-Vee. Melinda works in sales with General Mills. As a family, they like to garden, play games, and spend time in the kitchen. What brought them to St. Paul? "Endless opportunities to grow in our faith as a family."

Membership Inquiry this summer

Membership Inquiry Class is the place to bring your inquisitive spirit about St. Paul life and ministries, worship, community action — and the faith that motivates everything St. Paul does. Come to a Membership Inquiry Class on **Saturday, June 14, 9-11 a.m.** or **Tuesday, July 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.** and explore the St. Paul community.

You'll connect with others who are new to life here. Come tour the building, survey the ministry landscape, and glimpse God's grace. Childcare is available on request. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups, or contact Pastor Sara at sara@stpaulqc.org.



Samfraol Mulugeda (Sam) is a data analyst with Fidlar Technologies. He enjoys spending time with family and playing soccer. His fiancé, Katie Mahl, is a member of St. Paul.



Maryanne Winder is a retired assistant manager at Storage Mart. She takes an interest in music, reading, and knitting. She comes to St. Paul through family.



Taylor & Cody Ward are parents to Brynn. This couple both work at John Deere – Taylor in supply management and Cody in engineering. They like spending time outdoors and golfing. The opportunities to get involved, worship, and welcoming atmosphere are what brought them to St. Paul.

Council Notes

Council met in May as rhythms began to switch into summertime mode.

St. Paul committees (Memorial, Personnel, etc.), along with the support of Council members, have been working to update policy and procedure manuals for various committees. These manuals act as living documents, growing, and evolving alongside St. Paul.

Council's light strategic planning for St. Paul continues with identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT). This intentional and thoughtful time to analyze strategic growth areas is ongoing as Council identifies new and innovative ways to evolve St. Paul.

The children's and family ministries planning team meets regularly to design, refresh, and implement new curriculum for Sunday morning learning and general children's and family ministry plans. A focus on a pairing of faith formation, biblical literacy, and connec-

tion/community building has been identified and a timeline for the rollout is forthcoming. The mission outreach ministry team continues to identify potential partnership opportunities including a partnership with Garfield Elementary School in Davenport for a pilot program and identifying ways to provide fresh produce to Tapestry Farms families.

In April, Council affirmed the Memorial Committee's recommendation to approve a \$9,830 request to purchase new hardware and software to support growth and foster community in new and innovative ways through a digital ministry expansion. The weekly worship podcast, the Bible for Worship, and the Little Bird and Jesus podcasts continue to engage listeners, grow in audience engagement, and bring in new listeners. The purchase of podcasting equipment and hardware upgrades will make it possible to expand this growing ministry.

WORSHIP at St. Paul

► June 7 & 8

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Sara Olson-Smith

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► June 14 & 15

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

5pm/9am: Katy Warren

8/11:15am: Mac Mullins

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► June 21 & 22

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Mark Niethammer

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► June 28 & 29

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

5pm/11:15am: Mac Mullins

8/9am: Mark Niethammer

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803



HABITAT *FOR* **HUMANITY**

Upcoming Dates:

- ▶ **Saturday, June 14**
- ▶ **Saturday, July 12**
- ▶ **Saturday, Aug. 2**

Put on a tool belt and help build alongside families who dream of owning a home. No previous building experience is necessary. The morning shift is 8 a.m.-12 noon, the afternoon shift from 12 noon-4 p.m. Lunch is provided; helpers needed to provide lunch as well. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.