

OCTOBER 2025

The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

journey



Small acts



ON THE COVER:

Left to right: Holden Ryan, Lincoln Senne, Christine Yoerger, Ian Stone, and Joey Essman

journey

OCTOBER 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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Twenty years ago, Hurricane Katrina moved up the Gulf Coast, leaving a disaster of unprecedented death and destruction in its wake. Entire neighborhoods flooded, hundreds of people died—many too poor to evacuate—and thousands were left stranded in schools and nursing homes, on rooftops and bridges.

But they were not abandoned. The day after the levees broke, responding to the pleas of leaders and photos seen on the news, hundreds of people hooked up their boats and made their way to New Orleans. In fancy fishing rigs and simple rowboats, regular people made their way to the water. Some had to dodge authorities and others sat in bumper-to-bumper boat-trailer traffic to get close. They had one singular purpose: to help.

They didn't know the people sitting on rooftops and stranded on bridges; they just saw their humanity and their need. These people, now known as the Cajun Navy, stepped in and responded. Writer Rebecca Solnit describes them, "None of those people said, 'I can't rescue them all.' All of them said, 'I can rescue someone, and that is work so meaningful and important I will risk my life and defy the authorities to do it.' And they did."

Sometimes the problems or struggles around us seem so big. We wonder what difference our actions can make. When so many of God's own beloved ones are hungry or without homes, stranded by one challenge or another, we wonder if our jar of peanut butter or donation or afternoon in service matters. It's easy to feel overwhelmed and just do nothing when our world is facing too many devastations to count.

But the Cajun Navy, with their boats and big hearts, didn't let the bigness of the challenge stop them. There was no time or room for apathy or despair, only brave acts of solidarity and love. They trusted that the work was meaningful and worth the risk, even if it was just for one person. And it did make a difference.

Twenty years later, we know this to be true.

Lakeita Williams remembers being pregnant

and stranded with her family, sleeping in the attic and then the roof for three nights. Until a man and a canoe came by. "I had never seen the man in the canoe before, but I can still see his face," said Williams. "He basically saved our lives. We could see helicopters hovering, but no one ever came. Until this man did. It's like he was sent for us. He didn't want anything other than to help us."

She never knew his name and never saw him again. But every day she remembers his act of care.

"A lot was going on," Williams added, "but I can say that people were really there for each other."

Most of us remember that story about a little kid who saw that the crowd around him was hungry. In response, he gave his lunch to a teacher named Jesus, trusting that even a little something could help. That boy might have said, "There's so many people. What difference will my two fish make?" But he didn't. Then Jesus shared that lunch with everyone. They were filled, with so much left over.

Like the Cajun Navy, like that little boy, we can choose to live with a kind of solidarity that risks loving. Our acts have purpose, even if they seem small. We can't save everyone. But that doesn't make it worthless. We can trust that in Jesus' hands our seemingly tiny contributions create all sorts of goodness, maybe even with some left over.



SARA OLSON-SMITH
associate pastor

sorta sacred

Finding the sacred in the everyday

New podcast explores life, community, and unexpected moments of grace

The sacred doesn't always show up where we expect. Sometimes it appears in the chaos of parenting, the quiet of doing dishes, or when we're simply figuring out how to live well together. This is the premise behind *Sorta Sacred*, a biweekly podcast produced at St. Paul that premiered mid-September, inviting listeners into honest, human conversations about where life intersects with something deeper.

Hosted by St. Paul senior pastor Mark Niethammer and communication director Jessica Taylor, podcast episodes explore the messy, beautiful, and sometimes unconventional ways meaning shows up in our world, creating an inclusive environment

"Faith is not a stuffy thing, a buttoned down, Sunday-best, curated event. It is messy, challenging, hard, and funny."

for listeners from all backgrounds and belief systems. They're designed for anyone seeking connection and community.

"Most churches do a livestream of their worship that let's people see what that side of church life is all about. This podcast, however, flips that model. We aren't trying to get people to see what happens

inside this church, we are instead being very deliberate about seeing the impact of faith on the very real parts of life outside the church building," Mark said. "We believe God moves in all aspects of our lives, not just during a formal time of worship. All sides of our life are sacred because God is with us through every part. We want to highlight those everyday moments and re-frame them into something sorta sacred (even if it doesn't look very sacred)."

The theme music was composed and played by Brian Schou, leader of the Open Spirit Ensemble. Brian leaned into the name of the podcast to inspire him.

"As soon as I heard the title of the podcast was 'Sorta Sacred' I knew I wanted an element of sacred music, but not let it be the most obvious part. Combining a pop music chord progression with the melody of a traditional hymn immediately seemed like the way to accomplish that," Brian said. "I changed the time signature, altered the pitch center, and added elements of electronica and 70s funk for a quirkier, more energetic sound."

Each episode features conversations with St. Paul staff members, community leaders, and special guests with discussions ranging from practical topics like parenting and relationships to more philosophical questions about finding purpose and meaning in an increasingly complex world.

Episodes are designed to feel like in-



New episodes are released biweekly and are available wherever podcasts are found, including the St. Paul website and social media: @sortasacredpod

timate discussions among friends rather than formal presentations, encouraging listeners to engage with complex topics in a relaxed environment.

"Nothing would make me happier than knowing that people can relate to what we're talking about. My hope is to highlight the presence of God in life and if we can help people identify what that looks like for them, then we have succeeded," Mark said. "Faith is not a stuffy thing, a buttoned down, Sunday-best, curated event. It is messy, challenging, hard, and funny."

The sacred, it turns out, is more accessible than we think—and that's exactly what makes the journey so meaningful.

ST. PAUL PODCAST OFFERINGS



Worship Podcast
New episodes released every Thursday
stpaulqc.org/worship



Little Bird & Jesus
New episodes released on Mondays
stpaulqc.org/children



Sorta Sacred
New episodes released biweekly
stpaulqc.org/media

october

HAPPENINGS



Faith in motion: Join the NAMI Walk

Lace up your sneakers and join the St. Paul crew who walk each year to encourage understanding, reduce stigma, and support programs for people affected by mental illness. This year's walk is Saturday, Oct. 4, 9:30 a.m., The Bend XPO, 922 Mississippi Parkway, East Moline, IL. Registration is free; everyone gets a T-shirt. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Blessing of the Animals

On the Feast Day of St. Francis, Sunday, Oct. 5, 4 p.m., gather with the beloved creatures of St. Paul and their owners. The sounds of barking, mewing, cawing, and snuffling will join our prayers as we give thanks to God for our pets and all that God has made.

We'll gather on the lawn, some on lawn chairs or picnic blankets, others on leashes or in cages. No need to sign up, just show up with your furry, fuzzy, feathered friends. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Faith BasiX: The Life of Faith begins Oct. 5

The language of faith often sounds like theological propositions and philosophical fine print. Behind that language lies the reality of faith: a relationship that God creates with people as a foundation for all of life. Designed for people with no background and lots of questions, this series meets Sundays, Oct. 5-Nov. 9, 10:15-11 a.m. in Luther Loft to unpack and translate the jargon while illuminating the life that is the church's treasury of faith. Led by Peter Pettit and Duane Larson. Contact: Peter Pettit, ppettit@stpaulqc.org.

Give the gift of life on Blood Donor Day

Volunteer to help others battling serious injury and illness at the fall Blood Donor Day on Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2-6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Blood donation is simple with conversation and treats afterward. Donations are utilized by the health care facilities in the region that receive blood from ImpactLife.

Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Walking the Grief Journey begins Oct. 26

Gather on five Sundays, Oct. 26-Nov. 23, 10:15-11 a.m., for a supportive, compassion-filled series for those who have experienced the recent loss of a loved one. Explore anger, depression, fears, acceptance, and new strength for a hopeful future. Meet in the Church House Living Room. Led by Pastor Sara Olson-Smith and Joel Moore, deacon and registered nurse. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Men's Spiritual Journey

Guided by the book *From Wild Man to Wise Man* by Richard Rohr, facilitator Ken Winter guides the group to explore and reflect on male spirituality. 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. In October, meet on Tuesdays, Oct. 14 and 28, 6:30 p.m., in the Church House Living Room. Contact Ken Winter, kjwinter25@gmail.com.



Golden Agers worship planned for Oct. 8

The Golden Agers worship and luncheon is a joy-filled annual tradition at St. Paul. For those who are age 75 and older, this year's Golden Agers event is Wednesday, Oct. 8, beginning at 10:30 a.m. Mark your calendars for worship, music from the staff choir, and lunch. Peter Pettit preaches. With a bit of entertainment and great conversation, it's a beautiful day of fellowship.

Please RSVP or sign up to volunteer by calling Jennifer Garvey at 563-326-3547, or sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Occasional Tuesdays Book Group

Gather for discussion centered around Gregory Boyles' *Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times* on Tuesdays, Oct. 7, 14, & 21, 7-7:45 a.m. in the Library Commons. The book describes Boyle's vision for building loving communities based on two principles: everyone is unshakably good and we all belong to each other. Discuss his call to cherish and nurture the connections that are all around us and live with radical kindness. The book is available in the Book Corner. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.



Ms. Chris celebrates 25 years!

For 25 years, Chris Hoenig has been an integral part of the joyful village that is St. Paul Preschool, bringing her creative, enthusiastic, and fun-loving energy to help create a Christian environment where children can grow and flourish. We are deeply grateful for Chris' unwavering commitment to nurturing young minds and hearts in faith.



Third Grade milestone on Oct. 12

On Sunday, Oct. 12, 10:15-11 a.m., third-graders and the adults who accompany them learn together about the written word of God. Each child will receive a personal Bible and a blessing from the congregation during the 9 a.m. worship. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Abbey Cathelyn, abbey@stpaulqc.org.

Nova Singers concert on Oct. 19

Nova Singers will be in concert on Sunday, Oct. 19, 4 p.m. performing their fall concert entitled *In Our Voices*. Led by conductor Laura Lane, Nova Singers is a 20-voice ensemble with a national reputation for expressiveness and innovative programming. Tickets are available online at novasingers.com or at the door.



Neighborhood Fall Cleanup

The St. Paul corner of the world is a beautiful place. On Saturday, Nov. 1, 10 a.m.-12 noon, St. Paul people gather to pick up trash and debris in the blocks surrounding the campus. It's called the *Make It Yours* Neighborhood Cleanup. A great service project for all ages! Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Jules Irish, julesi@mchsi.com.

Package food for refugees

St. Paul and Tapestry Farms operate a hands-on ministry that meets an increasingly urgent need: delivering fresh produce and essential care items to refugee families navigating difficult transitions and challenging circumstances.

Volunteers are needed to help load and deliver produce and essentials boxes to families on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Interested in helping? Contact Allison Winter, allison@stpaulqc.org.

Building *faith* through mentorship

Confirmation at St. Paul combines interactive learning with pastors, Bible exploration, small-group discussions, worship, and a retreat opportunity. Three times a month on Wednesday evenings during the school year, seventh and eighth-graders gather for this intentional time together. At the center of this transformative ministry are confirmation sponsors: caring mentors who guide small groups of students through two years of faith exploration, creating spaces for honest questions, personal struggles, and spiritual growth.

Myrna Miller

Myrna's path to becoming a confirmation sponsor began with family. When her granddaughter approached confirmation age, Myrna was drawn to sponsorship by her background as a fifth and sixth-grade teacher and her desire to work with young people again in retirement.

"It opened up a whole new world for me," Myrna said of her sponsorship experience, which has included mentoring her granddaughter, two great-nieces, and her grandson. "Small-group sessions that follow large-group lessons are intimate gatherings where real relationships form and students feel safe to explore deep questions about faith and life. It's important for these students to hear from their peers that they're not alone. Other kids are having those same frustrations and challenges."

Myrna describes moments that give her "goosebumps," particularly during retreats when students are asked simply, "Where do you see God?" The program's creative approach includes finding God in nature during hikes, in artwork, even in dessert—emphasizing that the sacred appears in relationships and interactions throughout daily life.

"These experiences with the kids help me feel God around me all the time," Myrna said. "I'm more likely to pray. It's enriched my faith and I see God everywhere. I find joy in my faith."



Anthony Bielski

Anthony's journey to confirmation sponsorship was immediate and enthusiastic. When asked to serve, he jumped at the opportunity.

Now, wrapping up his time as a sponsor, Anthony brings a unique perspective shaped by his role as a building trades teacher at North Scott High School, where he teaches electrical, plumbing, carpentry, roofing, and concrete courses. His daily work with teenagers gives him insight into the pressures today's young people face.

"These kids are in middle school when they begin confirmation, dealing with hormones, puberty, and changes in themselves, changes in technology, violence, and political division, all while having to figure out who they are, why they are here, and what they want to be when they grow up," Anthony said. "They're under a ton of internal and external pressure, so when they come together every week to discuss and pray and laugh, these young adults can grow knowing they are not alone because of God and the sponsors and peers they meet along the way."

Anthony was surprised by how profoundly the students' final faith stories affected him. Some days during the confirmation process, he wondered if the lessons were connecting. Then came the presentations.

"It was so awesome watching and seeing them grow," Anthony said. "I teared up during every faith story. They were amazing! I'm so proud of them."

Christine Yoerger

Christine's journey to confirmation sponsorship happened remarkably quickly. Just two days after joining St. Paul, church staff reached out based on her work as a paraprofessional with special needs students at the junior high level.

Christine's motivation stems from her own positive confirmation experience, where she was part of an eclectic group she likens to *The Breakfast Club*—athletes, theater kids, brains, and nerds who became lifelong friends under the guidance of loving adult leaders. Now in her sixth year and third group of confirmands, she hopes to provide similar positive experiences for today's students.

Her sponsorship has been deeply healing. Growing up in a household where faith was used as discipline, Christine struggled for years with feelings of unworthiness and distance from God.

"I was told God would discard me when I made mistakes, creating barriers that were really hard to overcome," Christine said. "St. Paul's confirmation program emphasizes a different message: 'You are a child of God, wholly and dearly loved. Jesus loves you and so do I.' Confirmation has been a healing experience for me as I've learned about the depths of God's love for us along with the kids."

Each group brings its own personality—some bond over sports, others through sarcasm and teasing, while her current group loves games. The diversity keeps her engaged and reminds her that faith formation looks different for every young person.



Confirmation Faith Story

Faith stories are the culmination of two years of confirmation at St. Paul. Ninth graders share brief presentations describing how they see God at work in the world and in their lives.

In September, as ninth graders sat with their families, ready to take to the podium to share their faith stories, Katy Warren began with this advice, "This is not your final faith story. You will continue to grow, re-evaluate, shift, and change in challenging and beautiful ways. We hear your faith story as it is today."

For her faith story, Lyla Williams wrote a poem. She is a freshman at Pleasant Valley High School.

Service.

by Lyla Williams

*Paper programs,
light as breath,
whisper one over another.*

*Across the room,
Another volunteer looks me in the eye,
nothing is said,
yet all is spoken.*

*A pen clicks,
an unremarkable sound,
and yet it seals a promise in ink.*

*The unremarkable tape,
tearing in a slanted way,
Yet tells me to try again.*

*A single splinter lodges in my finger,
a reminder that service is rarely smooth.*

*The syllables that spill from my mouth,
Thanking those who dedicate so much time
to good.*

*My finger taps a light switch,
The room goes dark but small noises echo,
My heart knows,
the sounds will always be impatiently waiting.*

*My mind reverts back to various faces,
The faces that lit up,
As well as the eyes that creased in sorrow.*

*Generously,
mimicking the actions of God,
Reflecting compassion onto others,
It is truly what I am meant to do.*

*Amid the course of moments as quiet as a pin,
Interactions as significant as a single grain
of sand,
Connection sprouts within me,
The sincere feeling in my heart awakens,
Clear are my thoughts.*

*It wasn't ever about a number,
It was never about credit,
It was about the moments,
The faces,
The memories.*

*The shaking of steady fingers warms my blood,
Feeds my soul.*

*Moments and connections sprout from service,
Tiny, a mustard seed of change,
The presence of generosity and compassion is
unlocked,
As is of God.*

Welcome Tony Runkle

GIVING MINISTRY COORDINATOR

St. Paul is excited to welcome Tony Runkle as the new giving ministry coordinator. With a warm smile and an infectious energy for community building, Tony brings a unique blend of educational leadership, compassionate heart, and genuine love for connecting people that makes him perfectly suited for this vital role. He begins his time at St. Paul this month.

A heart for community, a passion for service

Tony's journey to St. Paul began far from the world of ministry coordination. Growing up as a farm kid in Minnesota, he initially planned to follow in his father's footsteps as a farmer and mechanic. However, a semester at Wartburg College changed everything.

What started as a science major evolved when he discovered his passion for mentoring and helping others succeed.

"At Wartburg, I got involved with the tutoring and mentoring program, helping students who were struggling academically," Tony said. "That experience got my educational mind going."

Tony's professional background is a testament to his commitment to nurturing others. After earning degrees in both science and education, he spent years teaching junior high and high school science.

But it was his involvement in Iowa's innovative teacher leadership program that truly revealed his calling. Tony pioneered mentoring programs that supported struggling students and new teachers alike.

"Teaching and mentoring followed me wherever I went," Tony said.

This passion led him to serve as an elementary principal, where he loved every moment of leading a community of nearly 100 staff members.

His dedication to young people extended beyond the classroom as a Fellowship of Christian Athletes leader and head coach for girls' cross country and track. Even in athletics, Tony's focus remained on building character and community rather than just winning competitions.

Finding home at St. Paul

Tony is married to his wife Beth, and has two sons, Boone (16) and Tate (13). Their journey to St. Paul began during the



uncertain times of COVID-19. The family was "church hopping," seeking a place where their family could truly belong.

"From the first service we attended, the vibe and belief system of the community—of who belongs here, which is everyone—it felt right immediately," Tony said. "St. Paul is about the people."

After meeting friends and experiencing the genuine acceptance that defines St. Paul, the Runkle family knew they had found their spiritual home.

When Tony saw the giving ministry coordinator position, he felt drawn to it immediately. His skill set—comfortable picking up the phone, having meaningful conversations, meeting with people, and managing budgets—seemed tailor-made for the role. But more than technical skills, Tony brings something invaluable: a genu-



ine desire to walk alongside people.

"I'm a pretty sentimental, emotional guy," Tony said. "I care deeply about family, relationships, people in general. I've always felt the call to be there for people."

This nurturing heart now finds expression in helping the St. Paul community understand and engage with the mission of generous giving.

Looking forward together

Tony is particularly excited about the team aspect of his new role.

"You don't realize how much you miss working on a good team when you first retire," he said. "Good colleagues who I can be professional with, think things through, grow together, and have friendships with, that's what I'm looking forward to as a member of the St. Paul staff."

His vision for the giving ministry ex-

tends beyond the walls of St. Paul.

"There are so many places this church touches with our giving," Tony said. "I want to champion them, really get on the forefront of all the things this church does. This is why we give, and we give generously."

When he's not at church, you'll find Tony with a book in hand (he's read the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy "probably 20 times"), planning outdoor family adventures, or casting a line as an avid fisherman.

As Tony steps into this important role, his message is clear:

"It's a 'we.' We do great things together, as a team. As a community," Tony said. "St. Paul thrives because this community truly understands our strength lies in unity and our shared commitment to making a difference both inside and outside these walls. When we come together as one team, incredible things happen."



St. Paul thrives because this community truly understands our strength lies in unity.

St. Paul Staffing Updates

Associate Pastor Call Committee

The call committee is up and running, bringing energy and deep commitment to this important work. This team represents diverse perspectives within the congregation and brings the prayerful discernment needed for this significant decision.

Their work has already begun as they provided thoughtful feedback on the ministry site profile that guides the search process through the ELCA. The anticipated timeline for this call process is approximately one year, reflecting the deliberate care being taken to find the right fit for St. Paul's unique culture and mission.



Meet (left to right): Ann Budde, Ron Mullen (council president participating as an ex officio member), Peggy Wrzesinski, Joel Moore, Amy Paustian, Jason Mahn, and Madison Castleberry (not pictured).



Pastoral Residency Update

This month, pastoral resident Maddy Tyler hits the mid-way mark in her residency.

"St. Paul is changing me in ways I hadn't anticipated. I feel more inspired to grow in my faith and in my pastoral presence because of God, and you."

Maddy continues to grow her skills in church management, preaching, and teaching. She is part of the confirmation team, leads the Appalachian Mission Trip this month, and is active with the Young Adult Ministry team.



Farewell to Peter Pettit

After six years at St. Paul, Peter Pettit concludes his ministry in November. Peter and his wife Lynn will relocate to Southern California to reconnect with cherished friends and pursue new professional opportunities.

Peter will continue his interfaith work, including participation in an ongoing translation project and exploring teaching opportunities. His commitment to building bridges between faith communities has been a hallmark of his ministry. Look for a farewell feature on Peter's ministry in the November edition of *Journey* magazine.

new members



Mick & Amanda Anderson enjoy walking their dog, and are passionate about Iowa State and Notre Dame sports. Mick works as a software engineer with Modern Woodmen. Amanda is a mechanical engineer with Lyondell Basell. Mick's parents, Larry and Mary Beth Anderson, also belong to St. Paul.



Judy Benson is a retired teacher. She stays busy with her puppy Daisy, crocheting, and gardening. What attracted her to St. Paul? The music, messages, and friendliness and acceptance of the congregation.



Shawna Corby is retired from QCR Holdings and spends her free time volunteering. She is passionate about music, and helping those who are food insecure. St. Paul's music and openness is what drew her to St. Paul.



Quentin & Sandy Fleming are passionate about faith growth and racial justice. After a lifetime in ministry as a Lutheran pastor, Quentin now spends his free time reading and gardening. Sandy cheers for her Houston Astros and enjoys reading.



Erich & Kim Matteson are parents to Ava and Josie. This couple both work at John Deere – Erich (*not pictured*) in IT and Kim in human resources. The inclusivity is what brought them to St. Paul. Erich plays in the Open Spirit Ensemble!



Daniel Nelson is a department manager with Kraft Heinz in Muscatine. He takes an interest in cycling, traveling, and coming up with new cocktail creations. He hopes to establish a foundation in a community of faith and good people at St. Paul.



Joe & Cherie Payne were attracted to St. Paul by the "The welcoming atmosphere and openness!" Joe works as a marketing manager with IMEG while Cherie is retired from clerical work at Modern Woodmen.



Chris & Melanie Scheer are parents to Ezra. Chris is a facilities lead at Vibrant Credit Union. He enjoys home projects, wood working, and sports. The location and inclusiveness is what brought him to St. Paul.



Kelly Smith has two daughters, Abbie and Alex. Kelly works as a contract administrator with Eaton. She is married to Mike and enjoys reading, gardening, and attending the kids activities. She is the daughter of St. Paul's visitation chaplain, Teresa (and Larry) Keller.



Candee & Steven Smith are retired and are passionate about feeding people, sewing, and quilting. The opportunities for volunteering and messages during worship are what brought them to St. Paul.



Rick Sweet is retired from the mining division of Caterpillar and takes an interest in reading, geology, and golf. He's married to Karin and is passionate about food and housing shortages. He enjoys the holiday services at St. Paul.



Tom & Kathy Wagner come to St. Paul through friends. Tom is retired from Republic Companies as chief operating officer and likes reading and sports. Kathy works in a quilt shop and also enjoys reading.

Council Notes

The joy of togetherness has filled St. Paul since fall startup. Choirs raise their voices in praise, children and youth connect and grow in their faith, and adults explore various faith formation opportunities. The sanctuary continues to fill with St. Paul members on weekends as they return to worshipping together, while the building bustles throughout the week with learning, volunteer and fellowship activities.

Sunday morning learning for children is off to a great start with classrooms pleasantly filled with eager young learners. Director of children's and family ministries Abbey Cathelyn hit the ground running during startup activities and has already seen great success in her new role.

A new policy is now in place to better care for St. Paul daycare children, members and staff. The main office door now remains locked at all times. This decision, made under advisement

from St. Paul's public safety partners, reflects growing awareness of best practices for safety in public spaces. Visitors are welcomed by front desk staff, who unlock the door remotely. Though the door may be locked, the spirit of radical hospitality remains wide open—every person is still greeted with warmth, care and belonging.

Construction updates at St. Paul continue progressing. Sanctuary tower repairs are expected to be completed in spring. Air conditioning unit installations are on track to be finished before cold winter weather arrives.

The generosity of St. Paul people makes it possible for the church to participate in many ministries both inside and outside the church walls, including 21% of ministry giving directed to community outreach. This faithful giving impacts every aspect of ministry and mission at St. Paul.

WORSHIP at St. Paul

► October 4 & 5

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Sara Olson-Smith

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► October 11 & 12

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Katy Warren

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► October 18 & 19

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Mark Niethammer

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► October 25 & 26

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Maddy Tyler

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► November 1 & 2

Season after Pentecost

All Saints Weekend

Preaching:

5pm/9am: Sara Olson-Smith

8/11:15am: Katy Warren

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803

TRUNK or TREAT

SUNDAY, OCT. 26, 5-7 P.M.

Gather at St. Paul for community, treating, and a parking lot dance party! It's fun for the whole family. Scan the QR code, or sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.

