

MARCH 2026

The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

# journey



# Love means saying sorry



**ON THE COVER:**  
Anna Villareal

## journey

**MARCH 2026**  
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**EDITOR** Jessica Taylor

**DESIGNER** Lauren Brown

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

**CONTACT**  
Email [journey@stpaulqc.org](mailto:journey@stpaulqc.org)  
Phone 563.326.3547

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

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When I was in high school, my very first job was working at a Papa Murphy's pizza store just down the street from my house. It was a pretty good gig overall. I got to work alongside one of my best friends a couple evenings a week. I ate my fill of free pizza. And it was a prime opportunity to meet lots of interesting people.

Among the people I met was Dave, the store manager. Dave taught me a lot about making pizzas...and some unique approaches to customer service. He was loud, chatty, and never stood still. And, as my supervisor, he was the one I turned to when there were any problems.

Whenever someone would complain that an order wasn't correct or things weren't as expected, Dave always responded to the customer with some version of this line: "Well, that's strange!" If a pizza had the wrong toppings? "Huh. How weird." We got the time wrong and the pizza wasn't ready? "Hmmm, that's odd."

I can't say I ever paid much attention to Dave's responses until one particularly busy summer evening, when a customer returned to the store to let us know we'd put onions on the pizza even though the order specifically asked for no onions. "I'm allergic to onions," the man said. To which Dave responded, "Oh... ok."

He took the pizza back and started making a new one, when the customer replied with, "Isn't there anything else you'd like to say?" Dave stared blankly as I slowly backed toward the storage room.

The man was clearly looking for an apology.

I don't quite remember how the dispute was resolved, but I do know this much: Dave never apologized. He *did* make the man a new pizza—without onions this time. But not in this situation, or any other, did I ever hear Dave utter the words, "I'm sorry."

It's not that we made a remarkable amount of mistakes at that Papa Murphy's. Or that every error needs to result in some deeply sincere apology. But I do find it odd that Dave's response was never to say something as straightforward as, "I'm sorry. I made a mistake."

The reality is most of us could probably use a little more practice at saying the simple words: "I'm sorry." To apologize is to name where we can do better and to admit we aren't, in fact, perfect. But more importantly, it demonstrates to the other person that we're serious about repairing whatever damage has been done.

Whoever first came up with that ridiculous quote, "Love means never having to say you're sorry," must not have had much practice loving others. Maybe the most loving thing one can do is admit when we haven't been at our best... and apologize.

As people of faith, we don't shy away from naming when we've failed or where we want to do better. It's why we sometimes begin our worship with a time of confession and forgiveness. A large part of our faith is cultivating a willingness to admit where we've failed in one way or another, while also challenging ourselves to do better.

The prophet Micah talks about how God requires us to walk humbly. And maybe the first step in humility is to name when we don't get it right.

Refusing to apologize when a pizza order isn't right? Well, that might just result in a slightly disgruntled customer. But an outright unwillingness to see our own sinfulness? Or an inability to express our regret and remorse to God or others? Well, that's a failure of faith.



*Katy Warren*

**KATY WARREN**  
associate pastor

He is not here

HE IS RISEN

These are days central to our faith. We wave palms. We recount Jesus' last meal with his disciples. We travel to the cross where Jesus suffered and died. And we rejoice on Easter: He is risen!

## Palm/Passion Sunday

March 28 | Saturday worship at 5 p.m.

March 29 | Worship at 8, 9, & 11:15 a.m.

With festive palm branches waving, the mood turns somber as we come to terms with the death of Jesus. Sara Olson-Smith preaches all services.

## Maundy Thursday

April 2 | Worship at 12 noon & 7 p.m.

In scripture, liturgy, and song, we mark Jesus' last meal with his disciples. Maddy Tyler preaches. At the 7 p.m. service, fourth graders culminate a period of preparation with Communion.

## Good Friday

April 3 | Worship at 12 noon, 4:30, & 8 p.m.

**12 noon:** A 45-minute contemplative service. Katy Warren preaches.

**3:30 p.m. Pretzel-making:** Craft and eat cross-shaped creations in Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome.

**4:30 p.m. Children's service:** Featuring a reflective children's message; Children's choirs sing.

**8 p.m. Tenebrae service of darkness:** A somber and meditative service of readings and music. The Chorale sings. Katy Warren preaches.

**Parking:** St. Paul parking lots & side streets, Madison School, Vander Veer Park, and St. Ambrose lots are available.

**Crowds:** The largest crowds are at the 8/9:30 a.m. services on Easter Sunday. Consider worshipping at an alternative service. Overflow will be in the Chapel with a live video feed.



## Easter Sunday

April 5 | Worship at 6, 8, 9:30, & 11:30 a.m.

No Saturday service

With shouts of Alleluia, rumbling timpani, triumphant brass, choirs, and a dynamic ensemble (leading the contemporary service), we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. Holy Communion is included in all services. Childcare offered at 8, 9:30, and 11:30 a.m.

**6 a.m. sunrise:** Begin outside around a fire in the Memorial Garden, with a procession into the Sanctuary. Candlelight transforms the dark early morning hours. Sara Olson-Smith preaches.

**8 & 9:30 a.m. festive services:** Choirs, brass, and organ fanfare mark these services. Sara Olson-Smith preaches at 8 a.m. Mark Niethammer preaches at 9:30 a.m.

**11:30 a.m. contemporary:** The Open Spirit ensemble leads, carrying the message of resurrection joy. Mark Niethammer preaches.

**Sunday learning** for all ages is on break Easter Sunday and will resume on Sunday, April 12, 10:15-11 a.m.

# march

## HAPPENINGS



## Season of Lent for kids & families:

### ► Godly Play Family Learning

This coming fall, children in Pre-K–fifth grade will begin using a new curriculum known as the Godly Play method during Sunday morning learning. Godly Play is a gentle way of telling sacred stories that invite us to listen for God and wonder together—no right or wrong answers, just wondering.

Families are invited to engage in learning exploration together on Sunday, March 15, 10:15–11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Gather to hear The Parable of the Good Shepherd told slowly with simple materials, then wonder together through open questions. Children and adults can respond however feels right—through art, quiet reflection, or conversation.

Godly Play is designed for children but meaningful for all ages. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to participate. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Abbey Cathelyn, [abbey@stpaulqc.org](mailto:abbey@stpaulqc.org).

### ► Palm Parade for Families

Families are invited to join a joyful Palm Parade on Sunday, March 29 at 10:15 a.m.! Gather in Lower Commons to decorate palm branches before parading around the block, waving them high in celebration of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem. It's a wonderful way to mark the beginning of Holy Week together as a church family. In the event of inclement weather, we'll take the parade inside. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Abbey Cathelyn, [abbey@stpaulqc.org](mailto:abbey@stpaulqc.org).

## Lenten Wednesdays continue

Lenten Wednesday gatherings continue through March 25, exploring this year's theme: *Changing Pace*. Discover a more human, faithful way of living through solidarity, silence, sabbath, simplicity, and slowing down.

Breathe deeply mid-workday with contemplative services at 12 noon, or come at 7 p.m. for the beautiful *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy.

Suppers continue from 5:30–6:55 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Gather for catered meals and unhurried connections. Freewill donation suggested (\$10/person or \$30/family).

Pastor Katy Warren leads Lenten Conversations (5:30–6:15 p.m., Lower Commons) on eliminating hurry with practical exercises like digital detoxes and creating margin for God.

## Upcoming March concerts

**The QC Wind Ensemble** performs at St. Paul on Sunday, March 8, 3 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public.

Experience the artistry of the QC Wind Ensemble in a more intimate setting as its chamber groups—ranging from flute and clarinet choirs to brass choirs and mixed quintets. It's a wonderful opportunity to hear the unique colors and textures of smaller wind and brass ensembles.

**Wartburg College Ritterchor and Festeburg** ensembles sing on Saturday, March 14, 7 p.m. This free concert showcases the student-led Festeburg and the tenor/bass Ritterchor, both rooted in Wartburg's German Lutheran tradition of choral singing.

Overnight housing for performers after the concert is needed. If you're interested in hosting a couple of students, visit [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Chris Nelson, [chris@stpaulqc.org](mailto:chris@stpaulqc.org).



## Give Easter flowers to remember loved ones

Easter lilies and spring flowers decorate the front of the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 5. If you would like to donate a plant in memory or in honor of a loved one, please place your order by March 15. The cost is \$20.

Scan the QR code or pay online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups).



Forms are also available in the church office. Contact: MacKenzie Griffin, [mackenzie@stpaulqc.org](mailto:mackenzie@stpaulqc.org).

## Youth Spring Break Fun Night

Come for an awesome night of jumping, flipping, flying, and sliding at the Fun Station in Elldridge! Students meet at the Fun Station on Tuesday, March 17, 6-8 p.m. Cost is \$15. Grip socks are included. Bring your own money for food. Sign up online at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Ellie Lindmark, [ellie@stpaulqc.org](mailto:ellie@stpaulqc.org).

## Cinema and Spirituality

Discover how film can deepen your understanding of faith and the church calendar. Guided by Abby Olcese's *Films for All Seasons*, watch and discuss movies that explore themes of waiting, celebration, sacrifice, and resurrection.

On March 17, 6:30 p.m., at The Last Picture House in Davenport (325 E. 2nd St.) watch *The Mission* (1986). Starring Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons, a Jesuit priest and a former slave trader work to protect a South American indigenous community from colonial forces.

Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). \$5 tickets (cash preferred). Contact: Tim Suddarth, [timsuddarth@yahoo.com](mailto:timsuddarth@yahoo.com).

## coming up in adult learning

### ▶ March 1: Music for the Lenten Journey

*Chris Nelson, director of music ministries and organist, St. Paul*

As the church turns from Epiphany's light toward Lent's reflective path, the music of worship shifts with it. Together, explore the musical character of the Lenten season.

### ▶ March 8: Finding faith, and even joy, in times of sadness

*Steve Pressly, funeral director, Wheelen-Pressly funeral home and crematory*

Serving families as a funeral director for nearly 50 years, Steve Pressly experienced the sadness, humor, and even joy in the families he assisted. Steve shares his insight in how faith has sustained him during his career.

### ▶ March 15: *Sorta Sacred Asks The Pastors*

*Mark Niethammer, Jessica Taylor, Sara Olson-Smith, Katy Warren*

Join the *Sorta Sacred* podcast for a live audience recording. Mark and guests, pastors Katy and Sara, tackle your biggest (and smallest) questions about faith, life, and everything in between, moderated by Jessica Taylor.

### ▶ March 22: Understanding addiction and recovery

*Jenny Halupnik, director of engagement, One Eighty*

Nearly half of Americans have struggled with or have a family member or friend who has struggled with addiction. Jenny offers a look at addiction and how One Eighty's whole-person recovery approach helps rebuild lives.

### ▶ March 29: Curating art in the hospital setting

*Anna Villareal, Collections coordinator, UI Health Care*

Explore the University of Iowa Health Care's extensive art collection, designed to create aesthetic, contemplative, entertaining, and visual thinking experiences for patients and staff. *See more about Anna on pages 8 & 9.*

## Register for Vacation Bible School & 678 Week

Kids and youth experience God's love while learning to become agents of restoration in their communities and the world at Vacation Bible School: Operation Restoration. From Monday, June 15-Friday, June 19, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon, kids uncover practical ways to put their faith into action every day. Registration is \$15 per student. Spots are limited. The deadline to register is June 1. 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: Abbey Cathelyn, [abbey@stpaulqc.org](mailto:abbey@stpaulqc.org).



# The gift of presence

In this season of Lent, as we're called to slow down, to change our pace and reconnect with what matters most, two St. Paul people have found something profound: the ministry of presence. Jan Muhs walks hospital corridors offering prayer cards and listening ears. Martha Bakeris brings communion into living rooms where homebound members long for connection. They aren't experts or counselors. They're simply people willing to show up, to sit with others in their moments of vulnerability, and to carry the church's love beyond the building's walls.

## Honoring Nancy

Jan Muhs knows what it's like to sit in hospital rooms. For years, she accompanied her sister-in-law Nancy through the long journey of cancer treatment—from the initial diagnosis when Nancy was in her late fifties through chemotherapy sessions, hospital visits, and finally to the end.

"I took her a few times when she had the infusion," Jan remembers. "Just sitting there in the room, we'd chat or she'd doze off."



Jan Muhs

Those quiet hours taught Jan something important.

"Just seeing people sitting there in the hospital, so many people are sitting there alone."

When Nancy died on what was her wedding anniversary, having lived long enough to see her sons graduate high school, get married, and meet four grandchildren, Jan carried that observation with her. She noticed an announcement in Connections seeking hospital befrienders.

"It's a way to honor Nancy," she said simply.

Now, twice a month—sometimes more if there's a need—Jan walks into hospital rooms carrying prayer cards and an openness to whatever the moment requires. Her introduction is straightforward: 'Hi, I'm Jan. I'm from St. Paul Lutheran Church. I've got these prayer cards for you. Everyone at St. Paul is thinking of you, caring for you, praying for you. Have a good recovery.' And then she reads the room.

"You let the patient take the lead," she explains. "Sometimes you have ones who are talkative. Other times there are people who want no part of it. You can just tell by the vibe in the room."

She might stay for five minutes or forty-five, depending on what the person needs. One woman, whose husband had recently died, talked with Jan for nearly an hour. "This has been so enjoyable," the woman told her. "You youngsters are just so good to talk to."

The work has taught Jan about the power of being fully present.

"It's the connection. I'd rather talk to someone in person for that human connection. We need to learn how to talk to people. We can show empathy to them," Jan said. "It makes me feel good. You come away with the thought that maybe you made their day."

She's learned that often the most helpful thing she can do is simply listen, creating space for someone to say what's on their heart. Sometimes Jan visits people she already knows from church, seeing familiar faces in unfamiliar circumstances.

"You see people at church, and you may not know their first name," she said. "And then you get to sit and have a conversation. You really get to know them so much better."

The hospital befriender ministry has deepened her connections within the congregation while honoring the sister-in-law who taught her so much.

"When you're in the hospital, it can be a scary time no matter what," Jan said, "and you can give someone a feeling of happiness for a little bit." Or as she puts it another way: "A ray of hope."

## Church in the living room

For Martha Bakeris, bringing communion to homebound members means showing up at someone's front door four times a year with a small kit and a fa-

# “Church isn’t just Sunday mornings in the building. Church is people, and, in this case, church comes to you.”

miliar liturgy. But what happens in those living rooms is anything but routine.

“It’s more intimate,” Martha explains, comparing home communion to receiving it in the sanctuary. “There’s a connection. One-on-one through the whole miniature service. Looking someone in the eye when you’re doing the reading. It’s more personal.”

What she appreciates most is the opportunity to develop ongoing relationships.

“I’m going to someone’s home and it’s usually the same people each time, so you develop a connection and you become friendly,” she said. “Home communion creates space for relationships to deepen over time.”

A typical visit begins with connection. Martha arrives, greets the person, and spends time catching up before beginning the liturgy.

“You’re in their home environment, so it’s easy to generate a conversation with that person,” she notes. “They might talk about family photos on the wall, a favorite chair, or what’s been happening in their lives.”

Then Martha sets up wherever works best—a coffee table, bedside stand, a kitchen counter—and leads them through the familiar words of the communion liturgy.

The gratitude she encounters is palpable. Right now, Martha visits one couple regularly, and their daughter waits at the door, opening it before Martha can knock.

“When I left, the daughter said, ‘When will you be back?’ For homebound members who can’t physically attend Sunday services, these quarterly visits are so important,” Martha said. “It’s often the highlight of their week.”

What makes the ministry meaningful is how it tangibly connects isolated members to the broader church community. Martha brings along the latest Connections and or copy of the *Journey* magazine, and recipients get excited about staying connected to congregational life.

Even the liturgy itself reinforces belonging.

“The way the service is written in the packet reminds everyone they are part of the St. Paul community. You’re in our hearts,” Martha said. “Church isn’t just Sunday mornings in the building. Church is people, and, in this case, church comes to you.”

For Martha, the experience has also transformed her own relationship with communion.

“When I’m doing it, I feel very blessed and very reverent,” she said. “I want to be careful to do it well and do it right because it’s important to them and it’s important to all of us.”

In a culture that moves quickly and often leaves behind those who can’t keep pace, Martha’s quarterly visits send a different message.

“You’ve got a relationship,” she said. “We’re not as digitalized. They’re homebound. They don’t get to see that many people. It’s very rewarding for both of us to be face-to-face.”

## *Slowing down, showing up*

As we move through this Lenten season, Jan and Martha offer a powerful reminder: sometimes the most sacred thing we can do is slow down enough to be present with another person. No expertise required. No perfect words needed. Just a willingness to show up, to listen, to carry the church’s love to people who need to know they haven’t been forgotten.

“I hope someone would do it for me,” Jan said.

It’s a simple statement that captures the heart of these caring communities: treating others the way we hope to be treated, walking alongside each other through both valleys and mountaintops, being the church for one another.



Martha Bakeris

## *Be part of a Caring Community*

**Hospital Befrienders and Care Companions** walk alongside church members through difficult seasons, offering friendship, presence, and prayer. No counseling experience required—just a willingness to listen and care.

**Home Communion** volunteers visit homebound members in care facilities and private homes four times per year, bringing the sacrament and the warmth of congregational connection.

Contact Sara Olson-Smith, [sara@stpaulqc.org](mailto:sara@stpaulqc.org), to learn more. You can start anytime throughout the year.

# ART THAT *heals*

St. Paul member Anna Villareal has built a career placing art where people need it most—and she's bringing that work home to share with the St. Paul community later this month.

Anna grew up moving. Wisconsin. North Carolina. Different cities, different schools, the particular disorientation of being the new kid more than once. But wherever the Mullen family landed, there were museums—and museums, Anna discovered early, were always the same.

“My parents were so good at taking us to museums on vacation,” Anna said. “When you walk into a museum, you're learning so much that's new and unknown, but there are rules and regulations to museums. They were reliable in a very physical way. They were comfortable.”

That comfort became a calling. Anna studied anthropology and history at Iowa State University, eventually earning a graduate degree in historical and museum studies from Eastern Illinois University in 2013.

Not quite the museum atmosphere she thought she'd find herself in, Anna is now the collections coordinator for University of Iowa (UI) Health Care. In her role, Anna oversees a permanent art collection of more than 7,000 pieces spread across the

“Thoughtfulness is at the forefront...We are passionate about connecting people with art.”

ANNA VILLAREAL

corridors, waiting rooms, clinics and specialized units of one of the largest academic medical centers in the country.

Project Art, the program that makes the collection possible, is approaching its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, making it one of the oldest hospital art programs in the nation. The program began with a simple vision—that art could humanize the hospital experience—and grew into a model recognized as one of the best examples of a hospital art collection in the country.

A typical day is harder to define than you might expect. Some mornings, Anna is cataloguing acquisitions in the department's collections database. One of her goals is to make the entire collection publicly accessible online, so bed-bound patients, or people who have never set foot in the hospital, can explore it from anywhere.

Other days look entirely different. She's one of a three person team responsible for all of the art in the hospital. Today, she may dust cases or whip out her handy paint pens to touch up frames dinged by cart traffic in the corridors. Her small team recently spent a week installing original and poster art across two previously unused floors of the Stead Family Children's Hospital, opening soon as an expansion of the neonatal intensive care unit.

The collection operates under a state law that sets aside a portion of public con-

struction budgets for art whenever a public space is built or renovated, meaning it grows organically alongside the hospital itself. Every addition is considered carefully—because every piece, once placed, becomes part of someone's experience.

“Thoughtfulness is at the forefront. Project Art is umbrellaed under the office of the patient experience. It helps us keep that perspective in everything we do. Everyone is so passionate about connecting people with art. It's a personal pride for us that it shows in our work,” Anna said. “We talk a lot about maintaining the diversity of the artwork and collection. Every patient, staff member and family member comes at the art from a different perspective. The wide range meets the needs. That's why it's called a working collection.”

UI Health Care serves patients from all 99 Iowa counties and beyond. For many, a trip to Iowa City means a long drive, a full day, sometimes weeks or months of treatment. The art becomes part of the rhythm of those visits.

One of Anna's favorite pieces is *Where The Lantern Light Leads*, a collage by artist Angie Pickman. At first glance, it reads as a whimsical cut-paper scene—animals on a journey, rendered in warm, storybook detail. Look closer and you realize the paper is made from maps. Maps of Iowa.

“It's a piece you can notice something





"Where The Lantern Light Leads," Collage | Angie Pickman

different about every time you pass it. People notice the maps—can I find I-80? Can I find Cedar Rapids? Aesthetically, it's great to look at, but there are also these intentional layers for repeat visiting, contemplation, and storytelling."

She is equally passionate about the department's Art and Illness series—a rotating exhibition featuring artists who live with chronic health conditions. The first featured Dylan Mortimer, a cystic fibrosis patient whose glitter-based work depicts the branching bronchial tubes of the lungs as a tree.

"What really spoke to me is that so many patients relate to and are inspired by it," Anna said. "The artist came for the opening and met with the cystic fibrosis team and shared with these students how his experience has changed as the field of medicine has changed."

Then there are the moments of pure, unexpected delight—a beaded sculpture made from found objects, ceramic dinosaurs that look like balloon animals, neon pieces glowing in a corridor.

"I love the fun responses I see when people don't know I'm there and someone encounters an unexpected artwork," Anna said. "It's just as meaningful as the direct

commentary from patients about how the art has provided respite."

Away from work, Anna and her husband Nick—nurse supervisor for the Outpatient Neurology Clinic at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics—are raising daughter Charlotte, who turned four in February. Charlotte is, by her mother's account, an observer, a library devotee, and an enthusiastic outdoor adventurer. The family's Saturday tradition is the Iowa City Public Library, where Charlotte has recently discovered the CD collection.

On many Sundays, the Villarreals make a different kind of trip—45 minutes on I-80 to St. Paul, where Anna grew up, was baptized, and where she and Nick were married in 2015. They joined the congregation in 2023, after Charlotte was born, and haven't looked back.

"We had great church options in Iowa City, but it was tough knowing the community St. Paul had created and not being part of that," Anna said. "The mission-driven work was so hard to find when you'd experienced it most of your life."

Her parents, Ron and Karin Mullen, are fixtures at St. Paul. Ron, recent president of the church council, sings in the choir and is reliably found around the

building doing whatever needs doing, especially painting. Karin is a steady presence in the Book Corner and a regular communion assistant. For Anna, watching them give back in retirement is its own kind of grace.

"As an adult child, I have so much joy watching my parents do what they love in service of others. They find it so fulfilling. It's why we struggled to find a church home before we came back to St. Paul," she said. "Going to church wasn't just that we were going through the motions. This is part of our identity as a family. This is how we serve. It is such a rooting experience, to have that guarantee of community coming together to make a difference."



Anna presents *Curating Art in the Hospital Setting* on Sunday, March 29, 10:15 a.m. in the Chapel as part of St. Paul's adult learning series. Learn more about Project Art online at [uihc.org/project-art](http://uihc.org/project-art)

# new members



**Tom & Paula Arends** are passionate about community service. They come to St. Paul through friends. Tom works as an auto mechanics instructor and Paula is the remote director at Unmudl.



**Terry & Debi Devine** are retired—Terry from LyondellBasell and Debi from Pleasant Valley Schools. They like to travel and spend time with family. They are parents of St. Paul members Kayla and Ben Reller.



**Dick & Ginny Duewel** are retired educators. They take an interest in playing bridge, golf, and visiting grandchildren. The welcoming community, mission of the church, and music is what drew them to St. Paul.



**Alec & Mariah Jensen** are parents to Clinton and Holland. Alec is a project executive at Russell Construction. Mariah is an English Learner (EL) teacher at McKinley Elementary. They spend their free time listening to live music and traveling. What attracted them to St. Paul? The community and children's programming.



**Jordan Knoll & Ryan Yoho** were drawn to St. Paul by the welcoming community. Jordan is a kindergarten teacher with the Bettendorf School District. Ryan is self-employed doing exterior lighting and cleaning and has a daughter, Addy. They take an interest in board games and fishing. Jordan is the niece of St. Paul members Stacy and Todd Hornbuckle.



**Ben & Heather Lueder** have two girls—Lottie and Hadley. Ben is a custom applicator with River Valley Co-op. Heather works at United Healthcare in Medicare reworking. They enjoy reading, theater, music, and crafting with the kids. They're excited to plug into family ministries at St. Paul.



**Lauren & Kayla Lybbert** are parents to Graham. Lauren is a chiropractor at Haven Chiropractic. Kayla works as a contract specialist at the Rock Island Arsenal. They like to spend time with friends and family and are passionate about volunteering, health, and sports. They find St. Paul to be a welcoming place.

**Mike Meloy** (*not pictured*) is an attorney with Meloy Law. He's married to Lisa and has three adult children. Mike likes to spend his free time swimming and exercising. He comes to St. Paul through his family, who are active around St. Paul.

## Explore St. Paul life in membership inquiries

Are you ready to more fully make St. Paul your church home? If you're discovering the goodness of this congregation, spring may be the time to prioritize a Membership Inquiry Class. Upcoming classes include Saturday, March 28, 9-11 a.m., and Wednesday, April 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Childcare for membership classes is happily provided. Sign up at [stpaulqc.org/signups](http://stpaulqc.org/signups). Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, [sara@stpaulqc.org](mailto:sara@stpaulqc.org).

## Council Notes

Council elected its executive committee for the year. Mike Koepp serves as president, Matt Lee continues as vice president, Ron Mullen steps into the secretary role, and Dorrie Murphy serves as treasurer.

Offices in the 129 House, formerly home to St. Paul's pastoral residency program, is now licensed to three nonprofit organizations: Empower Tanzania, Camp Shalom (a Christian outdoor ministry center founded by St. Paul), and Humble Dwellings. A modest fee helps offset utilities and building costs. St. Paul counselor Steve Kalber remains at the house.

Pastoral intern Sarah Yotter joined the St. Paul staff in February. An internship committee was established to provide support, feedback, and regular touchpoints with Sarah as she grows personally and professionally. Council expressed

gratitude to Larry Keller for his recent work cleaning, organizing, and maintaining the St. Paul archives.

Operations director Miles Thompson has resigned, with his final day in mid-March. The associate pastor call committee continues its thoughtful search for a pastor focused on mission support alongside regular pastoral care.

Sanctuary tower replacement is scheduled to follow Easter services in April. The project addresses water leakage into the sanctuary.

Council affirmed Jon Enslin and Susan Frueh to the Personnel Committee. Jon serves as director of development at Augustana College; Susan brings human relations experience from Oscar Mayer/Kraft Heinz. Gratitude goes to Ken Kerker and Amy Lovig for their dedicated service on the Personnel Committee.



## Congregational Council 2026

The council, with its newly elected members. Meet (left to right) Vida Luth, Matt Lee (vice president), Dorrie Murphy (treasurer), Ron Mullen (secretary), Deb Kretschmer, Lynn Lorber, Doug Reiling; Scott Bernick (not pictured), and Mike Koepp (president, not pictured).

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

# Operations director

St. Paul is seeking a motivated and organized operations director to join the staff. This role provides administrative leadership across a range of key areas, including contracts, employment, and buildings and grounds projects. The operations director also guides operational details that support staff effectiveness and strengthen congregational efforts.

For more information, please contact Mark Niethammer [mark@stpaulqc.org](mailto:mark@stpaulqc.org).

## WORSHIP at St. Paul

### Wednesday, March 4

**Worship:** 12 noon & 7pm

**Simplicity:** Mark Niethammer

### March 7 & 8

*Third Sunday of Lent*

**Preaching:**

All services: Sara Olson-Smith

**Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

**Contemporary Open Spirit:**

11:15am

### Wednesday, March 11

**Worship:** 12 noon & 7pm

**Silence:** Katy Warren

### March 14 & 15

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*

**Preaching:**

All services: Mark Niethammer

**Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

**Contemporary Open Spirit:**

11:15am

### Wednesday, March 18

**Worship:** 12 noon & 7pm

**Slowing Down:** Sarah Yotter

### March 21 & 22

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

**Preaching:**

All services: Katy Warren

**Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

**Contemporary Open Spirit:**

11:15am

### Wednesday, March 25

**Worship:** 12 noon & 7pm

**Solidarity:** Maddy Tyler

### March 28 & 29

*Palm/Passion Sunday*

**Preaching:**

All services: Sara Olson-Smith

**Liturgical tradition:**

5pm/8 & 9am

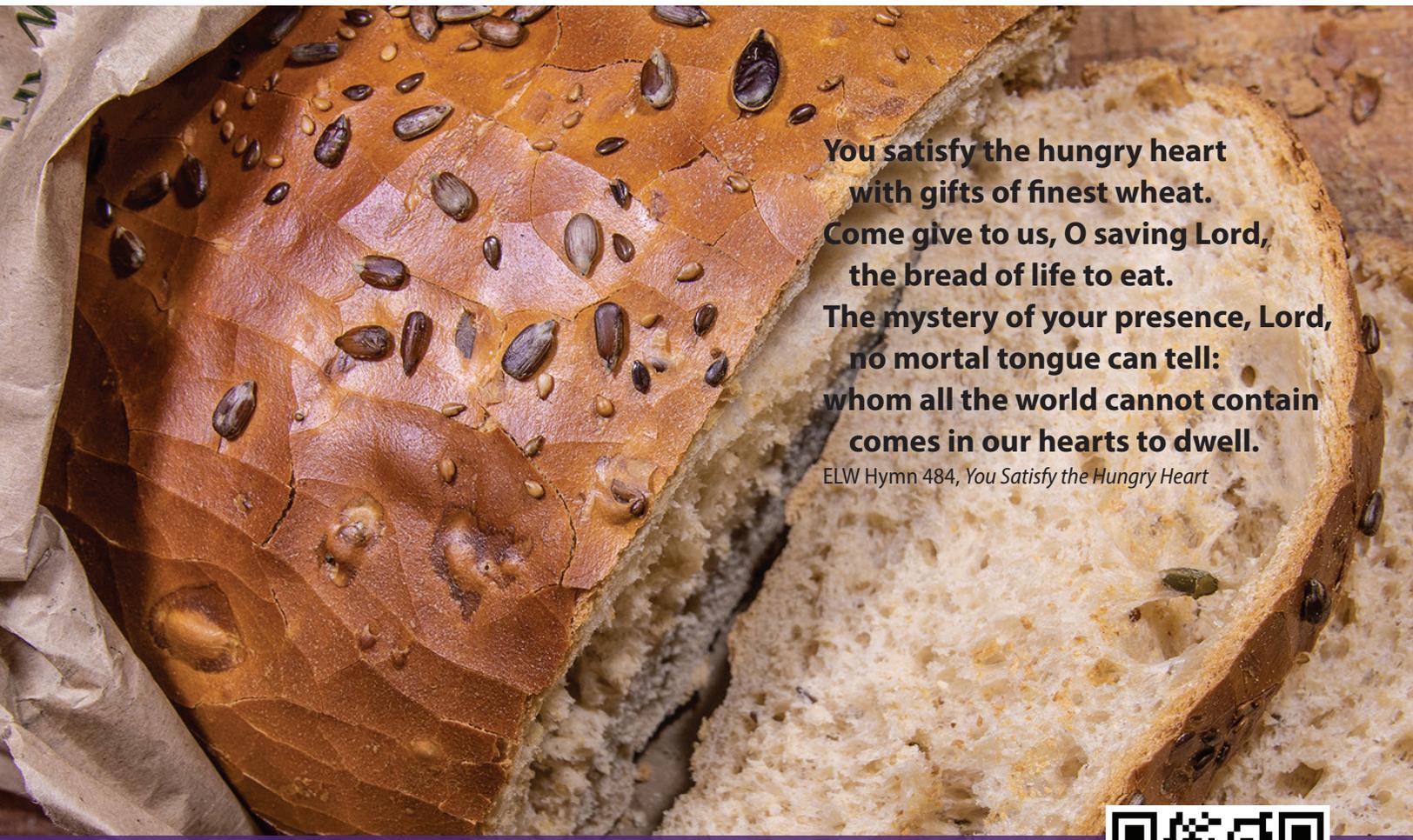
**Contemporary Open Spirit:**

11:15am



**ST. PAUL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street  
Davenport, IA 52803



**You satisfy the hungry heart  
with gifts of finest wheat.  
Come give to us, O saving Lord,  
the bread of life to eat.  
The mystery of your presence, Lord,  
no mortal tongue can tell:  
whom all the world cannot contain  
comes in our hearts to dwell.**

*ELW Hymn 484, You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

**The ELCA World Hunger Appeal** responds to our neighbors all around the world with relief, development, education, and advocacy. All midweek Lenten offerings at St. Paul support Christ's call to open our hearts with compassion for the world's most vulnerable people. To make a Lenten offering, scan the QR code to give online.

