

AUGUST 2026

The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

journey



Ordinary moments



ON THE COVER:

Eric and Emery Houy;
Bridget, James, and Charlie
Berger

journey

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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
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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Right now, on the church calendar, we're in Ordinary Time.

If that phrase means nothing to you, you're not alone — it's probably the most misunderstood season in the church year. It doesn't mean "boring." It comes from the word ordinal, as in counted, numbered — the Sundays are literally numbered, one after another, all the way from Pentecost in the spring to Advent in the winter. There's no manger, no empty tomb, no dramatic reversal on the horizon this week. It's the long, unmarked stretch of the year with no big holiday to build toward.

Which sounds unremarkable, until you realize that's also most of the year. And most of life.

That's been on my mind this summer, because this has been a summer of showing up in some very ordinary, very repeated ways. In June, both my parents and Malie's celebrated 50th wedding anniversaries. Fifty years isn't a feeling — nobody stays "in love" for fifty straight years in the movie sense. Fifty years is roughly 18,000 ordinary Tuesdays, and 18,000 small chances to walk toward each other instead of away.

Both of these marriages have been marked by some moments of incredible joy as well as some deep, deep grief — the kind that, statistically, tends to pull marriages apart rather than hold them together. And yet here they are, half a century in, still showing up. Not because every day felt like devotion. Because they kept doing it on the days it didn't.

We've also had a handful of baptisms in worship lately. If you've sat through one, you know there's a moment when the pastor turns to the parents and ask them to make some promises — not sentimental ones, specific ones. Teach this child the Lord's Prayer. Teach them the commandments, the creed. Raise them among God's faithful people.

That last phrase always strikes me, because it isn't really a geographic instruction. It's an assumption baked into the whole liturgy: that God's people aren't confined to this building, or this town, or this decade of a kid's life. Wherever that child ends up, the promise is that faithful people will

be there too, and that these parents will keep showing up long enough to make sure of it.

I used to hear that baptismal promise as a to-do list. Lately, I hear it differently. It's not asking parents to guarantee their kid believes a certain way by a certain

age. It's asking them to keep showing up — in the pew, at the table, in the car on the way to practice — often enough, long enough, that showing up becomes the thing the kid just assumes is normal.

Which is, I think, the whole shape of Ordinary Time. Faith isn't mostly built in the dramatic weeks. It's built in the uncounted, uncelebrated ones — the Tuesdays nobody's writing a hymn about. That's where the marriages that lasted did their real work. The kids being raised in faith right now are being formed there. So am I. So, probably, are you.

God doesn't seem all that interested in how we feel about any of this on a given day. God seems interested in whether we keep showing up. On the Tuesday you don't feel like it. Next to the grief instead of away from it. In the pew, in the car, in the numbered, unremarkable weeks that turn out to be most of the story.

MARK NIETHAMMER
senior pastor



the joys OF serving

Behind every worship service are the people who show up to make it happen.

Saturday evening or Sunday morning, the doors of St. Paul are unlocked and the lights come up one section at a time. Coffee brews. Someone from the tech team tests the slides before anyone else has walked in. Communion is prepared. Bulletins are stacked and squared, moved from the usher station to the tables inside the sanctuary doors. And by those main doors, Mark Levien is already there, smiling and ready, 20 minutes before most people arrive.

When the doors open, someone may be walking through them for the first time. Or maybe it's their 541st visit. Either way, they are met with a warm "good morning" and a bulletin. In the gathering area, donuts and juice are set out for the conversations that happen over a napkin. The pattern repeats each week: people showing up for each other.

Mark ushers at the 8 a.m. service alongside his longtime ushering partner, Barry Anderson. Quiet and steady, the two are reliably there.

"I usher because it gives me the sense

of community that I'm looking for," Mark said.

One Sunday, a regular at the 8 a.m. service took a bulletin from Mark and told him what a pleasure it was to see his smiling face every week.

"It helped me realize that I'm not just handing out bulletins. I'm interacting, and maybe brightening someone's day, with a welcoming smile and a simple hello," Mark said. "Even if things are not going well in my life at any given moment, I might be able to brighten someone else's day just by being a friendly face on Sunday morning. I hope that I can brighten someone's day as much as they brighten mine."

His advice to anyone considering it is simple.

"You're coming to church anyway. You might as well get there a little earlier and mingle with a great group of people in the usher pool and those walking through the



doors," Mark said. "Who knows, maybe it will help brighten your day, too."

Ushering is just one piece of a much bigger worship picture. Welcome hosts, donut servers, worship assistants, choir voices, a tech team running slides and sound, and the volunteers who empty recycling bins all play a part in making worship services flow seamlessly. Each one lives out radical hospitality, letting everyone know they matter and are worth celebrating.

Ways to serve on Sunday mornings:

- ▶ **Donut servers** keep the donut area stocked and talk with whoever stops by. Family friendly! Contact: Matt Spencer, spencer@stpaulqc.org.
- ▶ **Ushers** greet worshipers at the door with a smile and keep an eye on the sanctuary through the service. Kids and adults can usher together, so it's a great way to serve as a family. Contact: Jessica Taylor, jessica@stpaulqc.org.
- ▶ **St. Paul tech team** helps power the technology for worship experiences. Whether you're a seasoned techie or just tech-curious, if you're in high school or older, this might be for you. Contact: Cooper Schou, cooper@stpaulqc.org.

*Most of the roles only require you to come a little early or stay a little late.
Sign up to help when you're able.*

Serve in worship:

Worship assistants help with communion, read Scripture, assist the pastors, and join in special presentations on festival days. No experience needed — just a willingness to serve. A one-time information and training session will be held Wednesday, Aug. 12, 6:30 p.m., or Saturday, Aug. 15, 10:30 a.m. Contact Chris Nelson at chris@stpaulqc.org to learn more, or sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.

august

HAPPENINGS



Fall gathering for women of St. Paul on Aug. 22

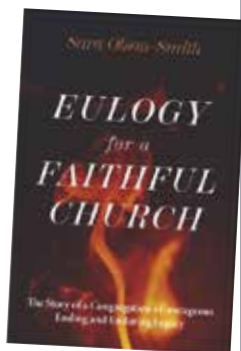
The annual fall gathering for the women of St. Paul is Saturday, Aug. 22, 10 a.m.-12 noon, in the Chapel Commons with registration beginning at 9:30 a.m. Come to connect, grow, and serve together — with old and new friends. Dr. Beth Repp shares her experiences as a life coach. Brunch food and drinks will be served. Childcare is available upon request. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Carol Kerker, carolkerker@gmail.com.

Upcoming WELCA Board Meeting: The fall General Board Meeting meets on Thursday, Aug. 6, 3 p.m. in the St. Paul dining room. All officers, past presidents, presidents of WELCA Circles, and a representative of WELCA ministries are encouraged to attend and report on their group.

Occasional Tuesdays Book Group led by Sara Olson-Smith

On Tuesdays, Aug. 4, 11, 18, & 25, 7-7:45 a.m., Library Commons, read and discuss Sara Olson-Smith's *Eulogy for a Faithful Church: The Story of a Congregation's Courageous Ending and Enduring Legacy*. The book describes the closing of St. Peter Lutheran Church in North Plainfield, New Jersey, on All Saints' Day 2009, and the faithful, sometimes difficult choices its people made along the way. It offers comfort and encouragement for anyone facing similar seasons of ending and new beginning.

The book is available in the Book Corner. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.



Sunday Blood Drive

Summer is a tough season for blood centers, as donations tend to slow down even though hospitals' needs don't. St. Paul hosts a Sunday blood drive on Sunday, Aug. 9, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Your gift this August can help fill that gap for patients in our region.

Blood donation is a simple procedure that takes about 45 minutes to one hour. Enjoy conversation and treats afterwards. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Back-to-school blessing on Sunday, Aug. 23

On Sunday, Aug. 23, St. Paul holds its annual back-to-school blessing. Students of all ages can bring backpacks to worship at 9 and 11:15 a.m. for a special blessing. The blessing happens during the children's message. Children receive a small item to remind them God is with them as they return to school. Sunday morning learning at St. Paul begins again on Sunday, Sept. 13. All ages gather for learning from 10:15-11 a.m.

Humble Dwellings volunteers needed

Help transform an empty living space into a welcoming home for a neighbor in need by arranging gently used furniture and household essentials. Volunteers are needed on Sunday, Aug. 16, 1-3:30 p.m. No special skills are required — just a willingness to serve and make a meaningful difference in our community.

Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.



St. Paul neighborhood cleanup on Aug. 15

The St. Paul corner of the world is a beautiful place. On Saturday, Aug. 15, 10 a.m.-12 noon, gather to pick up trash and debris in the blocks surrounding the campus. It's a great service project for families of all ages. Supplies and snacks are provided. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact Jules Irish, julesi@mchsi.com.

Moms of Teens: Food and fellowship

Connect with other moms navigating life with teens in grades 6-12 on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 6:30 p.m. in Library Commons. Bring a salad or dessert and enjoy good food and community. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Rachael Suddarth, rachael.suddarth@gmail.com.

Celebrate with Karibu Market!

Join the celebration Tuesday, Aug. 11, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Library Commons. All who have packed bags, driven deliveries, or supported Karibu Market in any way during its first year are invited to gather for refreshments, conversation, and celebration. Karibu Market is a partnership between St. Paul and Tapestry Farms delivering culturally appropriate groceries to refugee families. What began with monthly deliveries has grown to reach 40 families from Syria, Afghanistan, Haiti, and Nicaragua every second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Contact: Allison Winter, allison@stpaulqc.org.

Confirmation gets going

7th Grade Registration: Students entering seventh grade this fall are encouraged to sign up now for St. Paul's confirmation ministry. Meeting on Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8 p.m., September through April, confirmation is key to shaping the faith of middle school students.

Teenagers and parents are asked to attend a family orientation session in August before confirmation begins next month. Families can sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. For more information, contact Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

9th Grade Faith Story Workshop: Faith stories are the culmination of confirmation at St. Paul. This fall, ninth-graders share brief presentations describing how they see God at work in the world and in their lives. A workshop on Wednesday, Aug. 19, 6-8 p.m. helps students reflect on their time in confirmation and prepare their story.

Three-year-old Milestone

Families with three-year-olds are invited to celebrate a special Sunday School faith milestone on Sunday, Aug. 30, from 10:15-11 a.m. As children take this exciting step into Sunday morning learning, they'll connect with other families and receive a Frolic Preschool Bible to encourage faith at home. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Abbey Cathelyn, abbey@stpaulqc.org.

Help kids grow in faith as a learning leader

We delight in every opportunity to strengthen our relationship with God over a lifetime — and helping kids discover a life of faith is one of the most joyful ways to do it. Join the St. Paul Sunday-morning learning team. No special skills required, just a love for helping kids grow in their faith:

- ▶ **Storytellers:** Present Bible stories so children can encounter God.
- ▶ **Greeters:** Welcome children and families into learning.
- ▶ **Helpers:** Support storytellers by keeping the environment organized and encouraging creative responses that honor children's ideas.
- ▶ **Substitutes:** Fill in during illness, vacation, or other absences.

Guidance, tools, and training provided at an orientation on Sunday, Aug. 30, 11 a.m.-12 noon. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Abbey Cathelyn, abbey@stpaulqc.org.

Cinema and Spirituality

Gather at The Last Picture House to watch films and discuss how they reflect our faith.

On Aug. 18, 6:30 p.m., watch the 2018 documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* Experience the story of children's TV host, Fred Rogers, best known as the host of *Mister Roger's Neighborhood*. \$5 tickets (cash preferred). Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Tim Suddarth, timsuddarth@yahoo.com.



On the water

One St. Paul family finds fun, friends, and family on the Rock River through the Backwater Gamblers water ski show.

Bridget Berger grew up in Westosha, Wis., where she did gymnastics and 4-H and developed an athlete's sense of balance and body awareness that she didn't yet know how useful it would be. She studied industrial engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, then earned an MBA from the University of Iowa. She moved to the Quad Cities for a job with John Deere and has been with the company more than 21 years, now working as a program manager.

She knew how to water ski from summers on the river with friends, getting up on two skis and figuring the rest out. But she'd never skied with a team until 2009, when she saw the Backwater Gamblers advertised and went to check out a show.

"You go see a show and you think: how do I get involved?" she said. "And then

you're in."

The Backwater Gamblers are a volunteer water ski show team based on the Rock River in Rock Island, Illinois. Every Sunday and Wednesday evening from Memorial Day through Labor Day, they put on a free, one-hour show for anyone who wants to watch. It's part competition, part theater, part community. Every year brings a new theme, new choreography, new props, and new members working their way into the lineup. This summer's production, 'Backwater Beach,' features lifeguard skiers, a bully causing trouble, and a running joke about priorities that, per the official rules, you have to come to a show to hear in full.

The team has been doing this since 1980 — more than 45 years without missing a summer.

"Want to learn to jump? Come to jump

practice. Interested in barefooting? There's a practice for that too. The culture is one of patient, multigenerational teaching — older skiers passing skills to newer ones, who eventually pass them along to the generation after that," Bridget said. "You can count on a lot of people to teach you. Usually, kids don't want to learn sports from their parents. But here, I'll teach the next generation, and that generation teaches my boys. We just pass it around."

By 2014, she was head coach of the Rising Gamblers, the Backwater Gamblers junior team. The kids she coached back then are now in their twenties — and now they're the ones doing the teaching.

The Berger boys find their footing

Charlie and James have been on the water practically since birth. Charlie, now 11, started young enough that his earliest ski memories involve an older skier guiding him between their own skis, holding him steady until he found his balance.

"Once you're up on the skis, it's kind of scary," Charlie admits. "But when you do it more and more, at some point you want to go out on the lake all the time. Then it becomes more fun and you can get involved in shows and acting."

Both boys are in the show this season. In 'Backwater Beach,' they ski as lifeguards — part of an act that mixes stunts with comedy. Charlie, who cheerfully admits he likes making people laugh, has discovered a new role this year: helping with the skit itself, not just the skiing. It's a different kind of per-





forming, and he's learning how to inhabit it.

Between the two brothers, there is an obvious and enthusiastic rivalry. They are, by their own description, always trying to one-up each other.

"We mostly try to show each other up," James said.

Charlie nods. "Yeah. Mostly that."

Bringing in Eric and Emery

The Berger family has been sharing their love of the water with their newest family members. Bridget's boyfriend and St. Paul member Eric Houy, head coach for the Quad City Hockey Association and maintenance manager at J&J Snack Foods, has been stepping into the Backwater Gamblers world alongside his nine-year-old daughter, Emery. The families have been blending — and the ski team, it turns out, is a pretty good place to do that.

"It's been really exciting to jump in with them and be part of their world," Eric said. "As a newer member, I'm starting out as a utility guy — helping out as needed. I've been around the water, I've skied, I've driven a boat. I'm learning how the team works."

Emery has been learning to ski too, catching up with the boys with the kind of determination that impresses even seasoned Gamblers.

"The whole team has been very encouraging of us coming together as a family," Eric said. "The ski team is a really good support group."

On a typical Monday evening, the whole crew is down at the river site. There's an hour of free ski time — anyone can jump

in and go. Then Bridget heads to ballet line practice, where skiers work their synchronized routines. Meanwhile, Eric handles behind-the-scenes work: pulling in ropes, getting them wrapped up, keeping track of kids who have found crawfish and snakes in the sand near the shore.

"A lot of people refer to it as the ski team family," Bridget said. "Charlie had to write down his family for school and he included members of the ski team as cousins. Ski team family is family."

Access for all

The commitment the Backwater Gamblers ask of their members is real. Practices run three days a week, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. The show runs twice weekly through the summer. In January, the team begins indoor practices twice a month — learning dances, building pyramids, putting together the script for the new season's production. When the weather allows in April or May, they hit the water.

The team also runs its Access to Waves program twice each summer, giving people with a wide range of differing abilities the experience of being on the water. Skiers with one leg, in wheelchairs, sight impairment — participants are fitted with adaptive equipment and sent out onto the Rock River with Gamblers beside them.

The Backwater Gamblers perform free water ski shows every Sunday and Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. on the Rock River in Rock Island, Ill. Learn more at backwatergamblers.com.

A WATER SKI GLOSSARY

Swivel skiing: Skiers rotate 360 degrees on their skis while being towed, often in synchronized formations — think ballet on water.

Barefoot skiing: Exactly what it sounds like: no skis, just bare feet on the water's surface. Adults barefoot at around 40 mph.

Pyramid: Skiers form a human tower behind a moving boat. The Backwater Gamblers have built four-person-high pyramids and have towed as many as 48 skiers behind a single boat.

Kicker jump: A ramp on the water that launches skiers into the air. Adult skiers hit the jump at around 32 mph.

Wake jump: Skiers use the natural wake created by the boat as a small ramp to catch air — a popular first step before kicker jumps.

Long line barefoot: Barefooting on a 50-foot rope rather than the shorter boom attached to the side of the boat — a more advanced skill that builds toward open-water barefooting.

Hope anchors the soul

The Guerin family has spent years serving alongside Russ and Jeannine Johnson, and their family, at Hope at the Brick House — and one gaga ball pit later, the connection runs deeper than ever.

On a Friday night on the west end of Davenport, a building that once housed a bar and, before that, one of the city's roughest corners, fills with the smell of macaroni and cheese, the thud of a rubber ball against plywood walls, and the sound of kids calling out whose turn it is next. It's a Friday night block party!

This is Hope at the Brick House. And one Friday a month, you'll find Jason and Chelsea Guerin there, along with their daughter, Delaney, a first grader who has grown up thinking of this as simply part of life.

"We help serve, bring dinner, and wash dishes one Friday a month," Chelsea said.

It sounds like a small commitment. For the Guerin family, it has become something closer to a second home.

How it started

The Guerin family didn't stumble into Hope at the Brick House on their own. They followed the Johnsons.

Russell and Jeannine Johnson, along with their son Ryan, his wife Kelly and their kids, have been serving at the Brick House for years. Kelly works there. The Johnsons brought the Guerin family into the fold, and the connection

between the two families goes back further than the volunteering itself.

Chelsea grew up serving meals at St. Joseph's and at the Salvation Army with her own parents, St. Paul members Bob and Renee Wade, and extended family, an experience she credits with shaping how she sees people.

"That was a rough population, and I remember learning how not to be judg-

mental," she said.

Jason's background is in special education. The two met at the University of Northern Iowa, moved back to the Quad Cities, and started a family of their own, eventually finding their way to St. Paul.

They started serving before Delaney was born, paused briefly when she arrived early, and returned once she was two or three years old. Now Friday nights are simply part of the family's rhythm.

"We wanted Delaney to have these experiences and connect in the community, to see that not every kid grows up the same way we did," Jason said. "We probably get more out of the Brick House than we give."

What a Friday looks like

Meals happen every day at the Brick House, with a different group cooking each night. On the Guerin family's Friday, someone brings the main dish and the Guerin family rounds out the meal, careful to provide access to important foods.

"I feel like kids need those fresh fruits and vegetables, the things on the healthy side that they may not always have access to," Chelsea said.

The evening starts with a prayer, then dinner for kids and the adults who come with them. Games and activities follow. Afterward, Ryan and Jason wash, dry, and put away the dishes while the kids get a little playtime before chairs and tables come down for whoever is mopping that night.

"Some of the summer helpers who used to be in the program are now volunteers," Chelsea said, describing a cycle Joyce Klopp, Brick House director, sees over and over. "Many of the staff and volunteers at Hope at the Brick House came through the program themselves as kids."

For Delaney, it's not an obligation.

"She likes going to the Brick House," Chelsea said. "She's included in helping and loves playing with the kids."

Jason added that watching Delaney grow up alongside the other children who come to the Brick House, some older, some the same age, has become one of his favorite parts of the week.

"We've gotten to watch these kids grow up."





The gaga ball pit

This summer, Jason saw a way to improve outdoor time for the kids and quickly made it happen. His creation is a gaga ball pit, an octagonal wooden arena for a fast-paced, low-to-the-ground version of dodgeball that Joyce had been wanting for months.

"Jason showed up and said he wanted to build a gaga ball pit for us," Joyce said. "I was in the process of purchasing one, so I applied for a grant to have the money for materials. He said, 'I've been thinking about this and I want to do that.' That's how it got started."

Jason, or as Chelsea refers to him, "a handyman who is great with a two-by-ten," researched pit designs online, and he and Joyce each took photos and measurements of the space to plan the build. A crew of helpers showed up, fresh from CPR training that ended early with a few extra hours to spare. It rained on and off throughout, but by the end of the day, the loose screws were in and the pit was ready to play.

"It would have taken me a few days to complete on my own," Jason said. "With everyone's help, it was ready to play in three hours."

The pit has already taken on a life beyond the game itself.

"I was able to go over one day, and they were doing a prayer circle using the gaga pit," Chelsea said. "They're using it for worship and mission as well as physical activity."

Jason expects the structure to last decades.

A ministry of long standing

Hope at the Brick House traces back to the 1980s, when the building was purchased by Youth for Christ. Joyce was on staff at the time and remembers reading the Bible's creation story to kids on the property after one of the children pulled flowers from a barrel out front.

"They said, 'You pulled God's flowers, not Ms. Joyce's,'"

Joyce recalled. "That was the beginning of the educational piece of it, because the kids connected with the stories and started asking for the next one."

The building later became an alternative school and a maternity home. It became Hope at the Brick House in 2015. Joyce has lived there for more than three decades and describes the ministry simply:

"It's God's place and God's ministry, and I just happen to live here."

Today, Hope at the Brick House offers an afterschool program, a summer program, homework help, meals, and neighborhood block parties in the summer, all built around a mission of giving hope to individuals and families through spiritual, educational and community-based support. Field trips to the pool, parks, churches, and other places around town requires the help of many. A small staff, Joyce as the only full-time employee, along with seasonal and part-time helpers, works alongside 25 to 30 volunteers on a typical week.

St. Paul has supported that work for years and provided \$12,000 in mission outreach to Hope at the Brick House in 2025.

For the Guerins, the partnership is personal, built one Friday at a time.

"We couldn't do what we do without volunteers like Jason and Chelsea," Joyce said. "That's the heart of who we are."

Get involved

Hope at the Brick House welcomes volunteers of all kinds, from meal prep and serving to homework help and reading with kids after school. The ministry also accepts donations of napkins, plates, and plastic silverware, always in short supply. Learn more at hopeatthebrickhouse.org.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Nearly 50 St. Paul youth and adults showed up by serving in Omaha in July. They supported the work at Open Door Mission and MICA House, institutions providing shelter and resources to kids and families, spent an afternoon with seniors at Azria Health senior living facility. The group helped with Keep Omaha Beautiful and visited the American Muslim Institute and Temple Israel through the TriFaith Initiative, learning about Islam and Judaism. Days included fun trips to the zoo, an adventure course, and a waterpark.



Council Notes

St. Paul council met on a warm summer evening, with ministry moving at its usual summer pace while looking ahead to fall. Staff are deep into planning the fall program year, and council commended their work as St. Paul people prepare for start up week, which begins Sunday, Sept. 13. Council and staff also continue mission planning for the 2027 calendar year, with several pieces still coming together in the months ahead.

Chris Nelson is spending his six-week study leave working on an Advent organ devotional project. Maddy Tyler completed her time as pas-

toral resident this month, and a new seminary intern arrives in mid-August for a unique internship spanning three and a half years of their seminary study. Look for more details in the September issue of Journey and other St. Paul publications.

New siding on the sanctuary tower is complete, though the project continues as crews address ongoing leaks. Operations director Dave Farr and Todd Byerly are overseeing the work, which remains under budget, with preapproved funds covering the continuing costs.



Summer music opportunities

Summer allows for a different rhythm at St. Paul, a time for musicians of a variety of abilities to shine! Musicians are needed for upcoming summer music opportunities. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact Chris Nelson, chris@stpaulqc.org.

► Treble Choir

Rehearsal: Aug. 2, 10:15 a.m.
Sing in worship on Aug. 9, 9 a.m.

► Brass Choir

Rehearsal: Based on availability
Play in worship on Aug. 16, 9 a.m.

► Intergenerational Choir

Rehearsal: Aug. 16, 10:15 a.m.
Sing in worship on Aug. 23, 9 a.m.

► Tenor/Bass Choir

Rehearsal: Aug. 23, 10:15 a.m.
Sing in worship on Aug. 30, 9 a.m.

Wednesday Night Kick-Off at St. Paul

Kick off a new season of togetherness with food, fellowship, and fun for all ages Wednesday, Sept. 9, 5-6:30 p.m. at St. Paul. No need to cook, skip the drive-thru, and share a meal together instead. Afterward, kids and adult choir members head off to sing, confirmation, and everyone else settles in to connect and relax. You don't need to be in choir or have kids in tow to join in — this evening is simply good, unhurried time together as a community.

A goodwill donation supports the meal. Starting in October, gather again on the first Wednesday of the month: Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, and April 7. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups.

WORSHIP at St. Paul

► August 1 & 2

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Sara Olson-Smith

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► August 8 & 9

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Mark Niethammer

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► August 15 & 16

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Sara Olson-Smith

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► August 22 & 23

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Sarah Yotter

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► August 29 & 30

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

All services: Mark Niethammer

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am



ST. PAUL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

2136 Brady Street
Davenport, IA 52803



Back-to-school Ingathering | Aug. 22 & 23

Fill a bag with nonperishable food items, diapers/wipes, and feminine hygiene products, and bring it to church for St. Paul's annual back-to-school ingathering. The items go to the Friendly House Food Pantry in Davenport. What's needed? Soups, canned meat (chicken & tuna), cereal, peanut butter, jelly, and paper products. You can also write a check to St. Paul with "Food Pantry" in the memo line.

Help sort food on Sunday, Aug. 23 from 9 a.m.-12 noon. Stop by and help when you can for as long as you are able. It's a great service project for all ages! Questions? Contact Jessica Taylor, jessica@stpaulqc.org.