

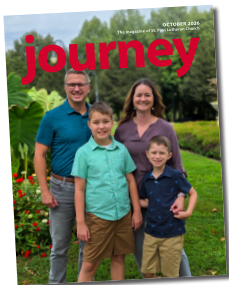
OCTOBER 2026

The magazine of St. Paul Lutheran Church

journey



Multitudes



ON THE COVER:
Eric, Carolyn, Evan,
and Liam Beckman

journey

OCTOBER 2026
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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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In winter of 2019, the brilliant and faithful writer Rachel Held Evans died at the age of 37. Before her death, her family posted photos of her around the ICU room and stacked the books she had written on a table near her bed. Rachel's husband Dan placed a note next to those books for the hospital staff. He wrote: "Rachel is my wife, the mother to my children, and best friend. She is also an accomplished writer. Her generous spirit is an inspiration. Her work impacted thousands. Her life is a gift to us all."

I can't know the motivation of this sign. But I'm guessing that Rachel's husband wanted those nurses and doctors, CNAs and cleaning staff to know that the person in the hospital bed was not just a body in a yellow backless gown. She wasn't simply her diagnosis. She was more than a problem to solve. She was a mother. A best friend. A writer. A gift.

We all could have similar signs posted next to us, though we'd have different descriptors. Each of us is an accumulation of a whole lot of identities and gifts, relationships and achievements, failures and quirks. To quote Walt Whitman, "we contain multitudes."

And yet, too often, we see one another as flat and singular. The writer in the ICU is just a patient. The musician in line at the shelter is a vagrant, yet another unhoused person. The Uber driver with a master's degree in engineering from Afghanistan is only a refugee or more cruelly, an alien. The person in front of me in line at Hy-Vee can be reduced to how they look or speak or what they wear. My neighbor is nothing more than the party represented by the sign on their lawn. He's just old. She's just young.

When we flatten people into just one thing, it becomes easy to dismiss or dehumanize them. Those incomplete stories quickly become false stories, which give us permission to be indifferent at best or malicious at worst. But when we remember the vast library of stories and experiences that every human being contains, we can open ourselves to new empathy and to deeper compassion.

Even more, when we begin to see multitudes in one another, we'll find that we have things in common. We discover places of intersecting interests or experiences. She, too, is a mother. He, too, sings along to the Beatles when he drives. They, too, crave something sweet after dinner. He, too, wants the best for this city.

Most importantly, they, too, are beloved by God. They, too, are made in God's image. They, too, are partners with us in bringing God's big dream of love into reality.

When we are drawn into this shared beautiful complexity of others, we can serve with different compassion and curiosity. The giver and recipient find themselves on a level place, all of us seeking to know and to be known. We no longer try to fix a problem, but instead seek to love another human.

When we live with awe and openness to the full goodness of others, we trust the words of an imagined sign that hangs next to each person. It's a sign that says, "their life is a gift to us all."



SARA OLSON-SMITH
associate pastor

ALL ST. PAUL READS 2026: *Theo of Golden*

"It is another of life's great mysteries that sadness and joy can coexist so compatibly with one another."

These words, spoken by a mysterious older man named Theo, sit at the heart of a quiet, powerful novel that has been capturing readers and inviting them into a story about kindness, connection, and being truly seen. *Theo of Golden* has found its way into the hands of people across the country, passed person to person with enthusiasm. This fall, St. Paul people are invited to discover this book together.

Theo arrives in a small Southern town with little explanation of who he is or why he's there. What follows is a gentle unfolding of generosity and grace. He moves through the community collecting pencil portraits of residents in exchange for listening to their stories. Over coffee and conversation, through art and books, Theo becomes woven into the fabric of the neighborhood. Lives shift. Friendships form. And slowly, the community begins to wonder about this kind stranger and the mysteries he keeps close.

Lisa Powell Williams, retired librarian and event coordinator for this year's All St. Paul Reads, discovered the book through word-of-mouth recommendations from people across different circles of her life.

"This is the kind of book that creates its own buzz as people share it with one another," she said. "When people are moved enough by a novel to handsell it — to enthusiastically recommend it person to person — you know it's a keeper."

But what makes *Theo of Golden* worthy of inviting an entire congregation to experience together? According to Lisa, the an-

swer lies in its spiritual depth.

"*Theo of Golden* is especially meaningful to read and discuss together because it embodies the message of the Gospels. It invites us to reflect on kindness, compassion, community, and the ways we are called to see and care for one another."

The book celebrates themes that feel urgent in our current moment.

In an era when we are often distracted and divided, this book is a unifying reminder of who we are called to be.

LISA POWELL WILLIAMS

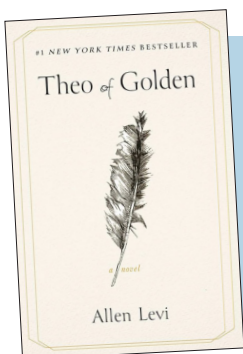
"In an era when we are often distracted and divided, this book is a unifying reminder of who we are called to be. The characters reflect on what happens after meaningful conversation and the experience of being truly seen."

Lisa emphasizes that the book does not shy away from difficulty.

"Kindness is not a Pollyannaish cure-all. It acknowledges another person's reality and accompanies them on life's journey. By making room for suffering, the book presents kindness as something deeper and more meaningful than simply trying to make difficult circumstances disappear."

Anna Villareal, collections coordinator for University of Iowa Health Care, serves as the guest presenter for this year's All St. Paul Reads discussion. Anna brings professional perspective on the transformative power of art.

"Come as you are and discover where you see yourself among these characters and what the story might help you discern about the way you want to be in the world. Anyone is welcome," Lisa said. "I hope people come away with a deeper understanding that each of us has unique gifts to offer in service to others — and that, in offering those gifts, we may discover more about the divine."



All St. Paul Reads

Sunday, Oct. 18, 3-4:30 p.m., Library Commons

The congregation is invited to read and talk about a single book title in the same year. Enjoy desserts and conversation with guest presenter Anna Villareal, collections coordinator for University of Iowa Health Care. Childcare is available upon request. The book is available in the Book Corner. Art by community artists will be featured. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Andrea Spencer, bookcorner@stpaulqc.org.

october

HAPPENINGS



Golden Agers worship planned for Oct. 14

The Golden Agers worship and luncheon is a joy-filled annual tradition at St. Paul for those who are age 75 and older. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m. for worship, music from the staff choir, and lunch. Mark Niethammer 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.

Empty Nesters gather at The Tangled Wood

Whether one child has left or the house feels fully quiet, gather with other parents navigating this evolving independence and figuring out what your role looks like now. On Monday, Oct. 5, 6:30 p.m., meet at The Tangled Wood in Bettendorf for connection, good food, and honest conversation about this season of family life. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Katy Warren, katy@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 Sunday, Oct. 25, 9 a.m.-1 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.

Blessing of the Animals

On the Feast Day of St. Francis, Sunday, Oct. 4, 4 p.m., the sounds of barking, mewing, and cawing join our prayers as we give thanks to God for our pets and all creation. Gather on the lawn with your beloved pets. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. No need to sign up — just show up with your furry, fuzzy or feathered friends. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Holding space for those who grieve

Gather on five Sundays, Oct. 18-Nov. 15, 10:15-11 a.m., for a supportive, compassion-filled series for those who have experienced the recent death of a loved one. Explore the difference between grief and bereavement, offering steadying tools that hold us through the heaviest of days.

Led by Pastor Sara Olson-Smith and Deacon Joel Moore, sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org.

Family Dinner and Parenting Conversations

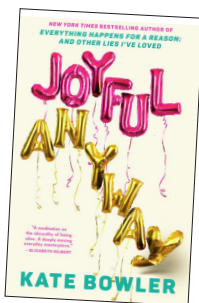
Gather with other families on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at 5 p.m. for family dinner and 5:30 p.m. for parenting conversations, with childcare provided. After sharing a simple meal, parents discuss a parenting topic while kids are cared for by our childcare team. Connect with other parents for support and encouragement while children play!

A freewill donation helps cover the cost of food. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.

Occasional Tuesdays Book Group

Read and discuss Kate Bowler's *Joyful Anyway* on Tuesdays, Oct. 13, 20, & 27, 7-7:45 a.m. in the Library Commons. Kate, a Duke University professor who survived a stage-four cancer diagnosis, goes looking for joy that doesn't depend on life getting easier — not the toxic-positivity kind, but the kind that turns up unexpectedly in ordinary days. With honesty and humor, she makes room for small, extraordinary moments amid grief, boredom, and longing.

The book is available in the Book Corner. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Katy Warren, katy@stpaulqc.org.



Nova Singers concert on Oct. 11

Nova Singers will be in concert on Sunday, Oct. 11, 4 p.m. performing their fall concert *Music of South Africa*. 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.

Parkinson's Support Group

This fall, St. Paul launches a new support group for caregivers and those living with Parkinson's disease. Meeting on the third Thursday of every month, gather on Oct. 15, 1:30 p.m. in the Church House Living Room to find community and know you're not walking this road alone. Led by Steve and Kathy McManigal. Contact: Teresa Keller, teresak@stpaulqc.org.

Coats for Madison Elementary

This quiet ministry helps keep children at Madison Elementary warm so they can learn. Supported by St. Paul's mission giving and generous donors, the need remains strong as families face financial challenges.

Donate gently used coats, socks, gloves, hats, and pants at the St. Paul main office, earmarked for Sue Grove and Madison Elementary. Your gift helps keep local children warm and is part of our ongoing prayer for them.

Listen to the Sorta Sacred podcast

Sorta Sacred explores faith and the sacred moments we encounter in everyday life. This isn't your typical religious show — we dive into the messy and sometimes unconventional ways the divine shows up in our world.

Hosted by senior pastor Mark Niethammer and communications director Jessica Taylor, episodes are released biweekly and feature St. Paul staff and leaders from around the community. Find episodes wherever you listen to podcasts, on the St. Paul website, or at youtube.com/@StPaulQuadCities.



Faith Milestones

Faith milestones are special markers along the growing-up journey. We discover God's presence in seemingly ordinary happenings.

▶ Ninth Grade: Blessing of the keys

Sunday, Oct. 11, 10:15-11 a.m.

Parents and students come together for conversation about new responsibilities in life, including driving. A blessing is said over keys. Contact: Ellie Lindmark, ellie@stpaulqc.org.

▶ Third Grade: Bible Adventures

Sunday, Oct. 18, 10:15-11 a.m.

Students learn together about the written word of God. Each child receives a personal Bible and a blessing from the congregation at 9 a.m. worship. Contact: Abbey Cathelyn, abbey@stpaulqc.org.

▶ Tenth Grade: Share. Save. Spend.

Sunday, Nov. 8, 10:15-11 a.m.

This is a moment to pause and talk about money intentionally. Families begin the conversation about money and examine our hopes and values. Contact: Ellie Lindmark, ellie@stpaulqc.org.

Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups.

Habitat for Humanity build dates happening this fall

Put on a tool belt and help build simple, decent houses through this ecumenical ministry. St. Paul volunteers work alongside families who dream of owning a home — and do the work necessary to make that dream a reality. No previous building experience is necessary. To help, visit stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Pam Garrett, pam@stpaulqc.org.

▶ **Saturday, Oct. 17:** Morning shifts are 8 a.m.-12 noon, afternoon shifts from noon-3:30 p.m. Help is needed to provide lunch as well.

▶ **Saturday, Nov. 21:** Morning shifts are 8 a.m.-12 noon, afternoon shifts from noon-3:30 p.m. Help is needed to provide lunch as well.

Finding his voice

One St. Paul family expands their faith formation through adaptive learning program.

Evan Beckman asks questions now. It's a simple thing, but it means everything to his parents.

When the now sixth grader used to walk into St. Paul on Sunday mornings, he would sit quietly. His family attended worship, but the traditional Sunday morning learning room felt overwhelming. The noise. The pace. The unexpected transitions. Evan would shut down, and the opportunity to learn about faith alongside his peers seemed impossible.

Today, Evan attends Sunday learning faithfully. He talks about the lessons at home. He remembers Bible stories. And yes, he asks questions about what he's learned. The difference is the result of a carefully designed program and space created specifically for children like Evan, where sensory sensitivities are part of the planning, and learning is structured to help every child thrive.

Not one-size-fits-all

When Evan was younger, around kindergarten and first grade, Carolyn and Eric Beckman quickly learned that traditional Sunday faith formation wasn't the right fit for their son.

"We eventually stopped attending the learning hour and just attended the services," Carolyn recalls.

The family faced a choice familiar to many parents raising children with sensory sensitivities and learning differences: miss out on faith formation altogether, or find another way.

The challenge extended beyond Evan.

"When Evan's younger brother Liam was old enough to start attending Sunday School, we still did not attend the learning hour because there wasn't a good place for Evan to learn. Fortunately, within that year, a team at St. Paul began the process of creating a separate, sensory friendly family-oriented classroom," Carolyn said. "Evan, myself, and Eric have been attending Sunday learning for two years now, and Liam enjoys Sunday learning in the traditional classrooms."

Creating space for inclusion

Ellie Lindmark, the director of youth ministries, explained the vision of the adaptive learning program.



"Having a space for both of our boys to learn, and enjoy to learn, was the only way for our entire family to be able to participate. We love that we can do that now."

"Sunday Learning is amazing. I love it. But it's a lot to take in, it can feel overwhelming. There are a lot of people and a lot of high energy games," Ellie said. "What can we do to provide that type of experience in a low stimulation environment?"

When the church received grant funding for accessibility and neurosupportive environments, staff and volunteers seized the opportunity. They didn't just want to help one child. They wanted to build something sustainable, something that reflected the church's commitment to radical hospitality.

The adaptive learning classroom was born and has slowly begun to take shape and evolve. It's designed differently from traditional Sunday school. Low lighting reduces

sensory overwhelm. Bean bags and cushions replace hard chairs. Fidgets and sensory tools sit within reach. Most importantly, the structure is consistent and predictable. Children always know what comes next.

“The primary things that have helped Evan participate in Sunday learning is a quieter space with a consistent structure to the lesson, and the opportunity to move around or stim (a repeated movement or sound to help manage emotions or sensory input) and utilize some of the fidgets and sensory tools in the classroom,” Carolyn explains. “Having lessons include short videos and picture stories, and a visual schedule to the lesson has really helped him learn as well.”

The teacher makes it happen

St. Paul member Rachael Suddarth leads the adaptive learning class, bringing together her unique background as a speech language pathologist and her years of teaching experience. But beyond her professional credentials, Rachael brings something deeper.

“Her professional background and personal experience truly shows,” Carolyn said. “She has such a great understanding of how to interact and support kids with sensory needs, and how much structure and flexibility plays a part in learning in her classroom.”

That flexibility matters more than many realize. Evan’s sensory needs fluctuate from week to week. Rachael adjusts seamlessly. She remains calm and patient, adapting the lesson if needed. There’s no punishment for movement or stimming. There’s no pressure to perform in a certain way. There’s learning, grounded in respect for how Evan’s brain works.

Each Sunday follows a rhythm: singing with the whole group, then transitioning into the quieter classroom. Rachael reads a Bible story, often multiple times and multiple ways. They pray together. They watch a video that brings the story to life.

“He really loves the video that goes along with the Bible reading and the lesson,” Carolyn said. “He often talks to us about it afterwards.”

Transformation

The changes in Evan crept up quietly. He began asking questions. He could remember the stories. His communication skills were expanding because he had space to do so.

“With delays in reading skills and communication skills, having the opportunity to visually learn at a slower, more structured pace has made such a big difference,” Carolyn reflects.

One of the biggest breakthroughs came when Evan participated in First Communion preparation. For many families, this milestone feels out of reach for children with learning differences. Rachael worked alongside the Beckmans to adapt the traditional classes.

“We feel very blessed that he has this opportunity,” Carolyn said. “Rachael worked with us to adapt the traditional classes to better suit Evan’s learning style.”

Perhaps most importantly, the adaptive learning program allowed the Beckman family to simply be together.

“Having a space for both of our boys to learn, and enjoy to learn, was the only way for our entire family to be able to participate in the learning hour,” Carolyn said. “We love that we can do this now.”

A bigger vision

“Parents of children with special needs and sensory sensitivities know that every day can be different. Even with the prepping, the planning, and all of the supports in place, some days are just tough. Some days church won’t be an option, we ourselves have had many of those days. We have found St. Paul and its community so supportive, and has helped our family find a safe and comforting place for our child.”

But there’s also urgent advocacy in her words.

“Truthfully, more than likely our family wouldn’t have participated in Sunday learning. The opportunity to learn, pray, and sing with peers would have been lost.”

Faith formation isn’t just about the individual child. It’s about building a congregation that knows how to welcome every kind of learner. It’s about young people feeling that they belong, that they matter, that their way of experiencing the world is not a barrier to faith but part of how God made them.

ADAPTIVE LEARNING:

A specialized Sunday school class designed specifically for individuals with sensory sensitivities and their families. Led by St. Ambrose professor Rachael Suddarth, this inclusive learning environment features a modified schedule and thoughtfully adapted space where learners of all abilities can comfortably explore their faith formation together.

Held every Sunday, this multigenerational class welcomes anyone who’d like to join, learning side-by-side and creating meaningful opportunities for parents and caregivers to actively participate in their children’s spiritual growth while building community with other families who understand the unique needs of sensory-sensitive learners. Contact: Ellie Lindmark, ellie@stpaulqc.org.

Breaking the *silence*

by Steve Kalber, St. Paul counselor

Psst. Can I share something in confidence with you? Off the record? Just between you and me... Privately... Not for publication?

All right, here it is. I think confidentiality is overrated. Sometimes dangerous even.

Have you ever wondered why we are so concerned about having privacy in our lives? What is it about our world that seems so unsafe? What might cause us to think that if others knew something about us, we would be compromised? Or in trouble? Why do we feel safer being lesser known or understood?

Admittedly, there are real dangers in the world. People might take our money if they knew our Personal Identification Number (PIN). Insurance companies might not insure us if they knew we had cancer. Employers might not hire us if they knew we were being treated for schizophrenia.

Feeling safe is a basic human instinct, but sometimes the threats we fear may not be real or truly harmful. It might help to ask ourselves: 'So what if people know I have anxiety?' 'What's the big



Steve Kalber

deal if others know my thoughts don't always make sense?' 'Why is it a problem if someone is aware that I struggle with addiction?' 'Where is the shame in having relationship difficulties?' 'What's the harm if others know that sometimes I don't like myself?'

Are we really in danger when people come to know us more completely?

The discomfort we feel may stem from the fact that others might think less of us and feeling "less" in our highly competitive culture can wreak havoc on our self-esteem. Anxiety, faulty thinking, substance use, relationship instability, and self-esteem weakness are all mental health manifestations that most people experience throughout their lives.

These conditions can be hard to understand because they are experienced and revealed differently in each of us. They can cre-



“Part of St. Paul’s commitment to mental health involves our intentional commitment to programming and community involvement. This month is no exception.” — STEVE KALBER

ate anxiety and discomfort in others when they show themselves in odd and unpredictable ways. Thus, confidentiality becomes the response to this discomfort. In not talking about mental illness, however, we perpetuate the stigma.

This cycle of stigma is harmful because it unfairly characterizes mental illness, compromises relationships, and places limitations on growth and fulfillment. It becomes doubly harmful when those who are the object of mental health stigma internalize these distorted beliefs and spiral down into an identity of shame. The damage caused by mental health stigma in the world (and within ourselves) is an urgent concern — an existential issue. What can be done?

Amazingly, we as people of St. Paul are already at work in promoting mental health and dismantling stigma. Faith communities like this one have significant mental health benefits. Professor Tyler VanderWeel of Harvard University has authored many studies explaining how involvement in a religious community has beneficial effects on depression, suicide, divorce, and even mortality. So, when someone asks us what we do to stay healthy, we cite our medical care, our exercise, our nutrition and confidently assert “I’m engaged in a wonderful faith community!” St. Paul core values all have intrinsic psychological benefits. I like to think of it as St. Paul Therapy.

Everywhere we turn, within and beyond our community, there are lingering signs of mental illness reproach. There are those who remain hesitant to share their emotional vulnerabilities for fear of disapproval. There are those who become anxious when they hear emotional distress. There are some who say "I'm fine" when they're not. There are many who avoid persons whose behaviors or appearances seem unusual. There are many who pass by the 2025 Main St. or 2205 Carey Ave. houses but hesitate to stop and say hello because of confidentiality. There are public policies which infer that persons with invisible mental conditions need to just work harder. There are persons who feel so alienated and defective that they contemplate or complete suicide.

Part of St. Paul's commitment to mental health involves our intentional commitment to programming and community involvement. This month is no exception. We can look ahead to October with feelings of hope and gratitude for all of the meaningful events and activities in this community that sustain our awareness and improve our understanding. Moving forward, new seasonal themes compete for our attention, yet mental health stigma will remain an insidious problem.

Let us not relapse into the false comfort of privacy. By opening ourselves to others and showing that we are curious, concerned, and comfortable hearing their stories perhaps we can fight the irrational shame associated with mental illness. By challenging our personal comfort within our zone of confidentiality, we open ourselves to deeper understanding.

Steve serves as St. Paul's counselor, working with St. Paul and neighborhood families. He is available to supplement the counseling services of St. Paul pastors. His free counseling assists those who may be going through a difficult transition, struggling in relationships, experiencing depression or anxiety, working through some trauma, or in need of a listening ear. Steve is available for appointments, both in-person and through telehealth (via video).

Steve is a graduate of Penn State University with a bachelor's in English, Victoria College graduate in nursing, and holds a master's of science in nursing. He worked as a nurse in behavioral health for much of his career, before becoming a professor in the nursing program at St. Ambrose University.

Get connected

NAMI Walks

Saturday, Oct. 10, 9:30 a.m.,

Veterans Memorial Park 1645 23rd St, Bettendorf, IA

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. Registration is free; everyone gets a T-shirt. Sign up at stpaulqc.org/signups. Contact: Pam Garrett, pam@stpaulqc.org.

Friends and Family of Suicide Loss Support Group

First Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Library Conference Room

A space of healing for anyone grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide. This gathering provides a place to find understanding, comfort, and hope alongside others with similar experiences. Simply show up — no sign up required. Contact: Deb and Joe James, joedeb1984@gmail.com.

The Gray Matters Collective

The Gray Matters Collective of the Quad Cities seeks to empower people to become mental health advocates and to save lives. Through education, community engagement, and fostering mental health awareness, the Collective is working to create a world without suicide. Learn more about the organization at thegraymatterscollective.com.

► Adult Learning on Oct. 11

Haley DeGreve, Founder and CEO, Gray Matters Collective

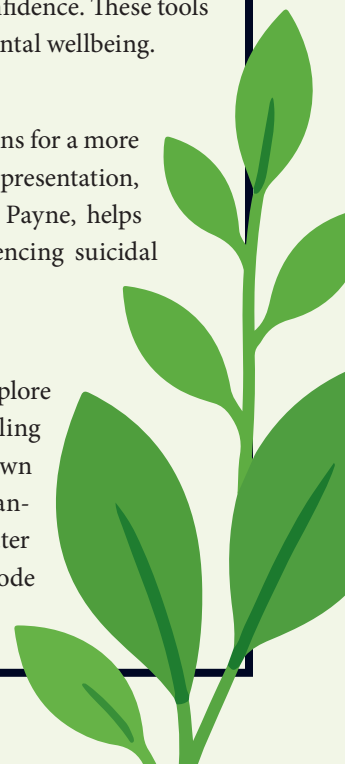
When we encounter someone struggling with mental illness, we often don't know what to do or say. Haley teaches practical skills to recognize mental health needs and respond with confidence. These tools help support others and advocate for our own mental wellbeing.

In the Chapel.

Later in the month, Gray Matters Collective returns for a more detailed and experiential evening session. The presentation, facilitated by St. Paul members Joe and Cherie Payne, helps participants to be present with persons experiencing suicidal concerns.

► The Gray Matters Collective on Sorta Sacred

Hosts Mark Niethammer and Jessica Taylor explore what it means to show up for someone struggling with mental health. The conversation breaks down myths around mental illness, addresses suicide language, and provides practical tools for being a better ally. First episode premiered Sept. 25. Second episode arrives Oct. 9.



new members



Melissa Connell works as an underwriter with Illinois Casualty Company. She enjoys gardening, reading, and walking. Melissa is married to Craig Johnson, has a son Kellen, and joins St. Paul with her parents (listed below).



Sara & Jared DeGeeter have three children – Charlie, Hendrix, and Rocky. Jared works as a Davenport firefighter while Sara manages the homefront. They were drawn to St. Paul because it's welcoming to all.



Linda & Jim Connell are retired – Linda from the postal service as postmaster and Jim as a bailiff at the Scott County Sheriff's office. They spend their free time traveling and with family. They enjoy the Open Spirit worship at St. Paul.



Candy Greer is a safe patient handling coordinator with MercyOne Genesis. She has three adult children and likes to garden. The community and sharing faith with others is what attracted her to St. Paul.



Karen Gorsline & Lori Cooper enjoy the music at St. Paul and find it to be a friendly place. Lori is employed as a personal banker with Wells Fargo. Karen is retired and is a part-time paraeducator at Pleasant Valley.



Brandi Hansen works as an order entry specialist with Renewal By Andersen. She takes an interest in baking, reading, and walking her dog. The small groups and opportunities to serve are what brought her to St. Paul.



Leah Jarvis is retired and spends her free time gardening, thrifting, and with her family. She is joining St. Paul with her daughter, Carrie Schmidt and family (listed below).

Rob & Carrie Schmidt were attracted to St. Paul by the ELCA affiliation and the feeling of community. Carrie works as a mental health nurse practitioner with Community Health Care. Rob is a delivery driver with UPS.



Laura Powell is a retired teacher and was active in the Army National Guard. She is married to Marc and has five young adult children. Laura loves to read, thrift, and care for her family. She comes to St. Paul through friends.



Brian Rechterman lives in Muscatine and works as a dishwasher at a local restaurant. In his free time, he likes to care for and show rabbits at the fair. He joins St. Paul with his mom, Lynne (listed on pg. 11).



Lynne Rechterman is a retired teacher who is passionate about healing and divorce care for kids. She enjoys helping her son Brian (*listed on pg. 10*) with his rabbits.



Brenda & Steve Sorensen have three adult children and like to read and camp. Steve works as a physician with Genesis. Brenda is a clerk at the Eldridge library. The opportunities to serve are what drew them to St. Paul.



Julie & Bret Sparbel both work for the Army joint munitions command – Bret as a program manager and Julie as a safety and health manager. The community and service opportunities are what attracted them to St. Paul.



Gary & Brenda Stoeffen are both retired – Gary from Modern Woodman and Brenda from the Rock Island Arsenal. They enjoy golf, puzzles, and spending time with family. Brenda's son, Bret and his wife Julie, also joined St. Paul (*listed above*).

New to St. Paul life? St. Paul Membership Inquiry Classes are offered monthly, with childcare provided on advance request. Upcoming classes include Saturday, October 24, 9-11 a.m. or Tuesday, December 8, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Sign up online at stpaulqc.org/signups or contact Sara Olson-Smith, sara@stpaulqc.org, 563-326-3547.

Council Notes

September brought significant growth to St. Paul's program year, with the return of choirs, learning opportunities, confirmation, and new gatherings. Strong participation demonstrated meaningful community engagement throughout shared ministries and programs.

Allison Winter concludes her four years of service in the church office at the end of September. Council expressed deep gratitude for Allison's valued contributions throughout her tenure. Tony Runkle, giving ministry coordinator, assumes the financial responsibilities of this role. Rachel Wollett takes on membership database management and data oversight responsibilities.

The associate pastor call committee continues meeting regularly to explore candidates and consider potential partnerships.

Children's and family ministries implemented a flexible volunteer model for Sunday morning learning leaders. Those who wish to help but cannot commit to weekly involvement may now participate as their schedules allow, supporting the congregation's educational mission.

The tower project nears completion with final flashing work and repairs addressing leakage in church office areas. St. Paul received a donated van, with the current vehicle being contributed to Tapestry Farms for their ministry work.

WORSHIP at St. Paul

► October 3 & 4

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

5pm/9am: Sarah Yotter

8/11:15am: Sara Olson-Smith

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► October 10 & 11

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

5pm & 9/11:15am:

Katy Warren

8am: Justin Marquis

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► October 17 & 18

Season after Pentecost

Preaching:

5pm & 8/9am:

Sara Olson-Smith

11:15am: Sarah Yotter

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► October 24 & 25

Reformation Weekend

Preaching:

All services: Mark Niethammer

Liturgical tradition:

5pm/8 & 9am

Contemporary Open Spirit:

11:15am

► Oct. 31 & Nov. 1

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. 25, 5-7 P.M.

Gather at St. Paul for community, pizza, 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.

