

### Table of Contents

**Page 2**

Worship Service  
Information

**Page 3**

Sermon Archives  
July Worship  
Meet Our New Clergy!  
Volunteer Opportunities

**Page 4**

Adult Classes and  
Opportunities

Bring A Friend  
Waffle Breakfast!

**Page 5**

Youth Ministries

**Page 6**

Children  
and Family  
Opportunities

**Page 7**

Summer Sunday  
Faith Education  
Directory Picture Sign-Up  
Ice Cream Social

**Page 8**

Music Ministry at  
Saint Paul  
Chancel Chat  
Celebrating Pride Month

**Page 9**

Joys and Concerns  
Van Drivers Needed  
Mission Produce Table

### Pastor's Thoughts

On May 29th, I found myself at our annual regional gathering of United Methodists of our Great Plains Annual Conference. It was our first gathering after the disaster of the global General Conference in February where the so-called Traditional Plan was adopted. The elephant was in the room at our gathering in Topeka. It was soon clear that the leadership of Annual Conference schedule wanted to carry on with business as usual. We gathered for opening worship on Wednesday. On Thursday, we began in clergy and laity sessions then we came together for opening remarks, delegate voting, and perfunctory reports. Business as usual meant we were not talking about the large, gray mass who had taken up the empty chair on the stage next to the bishop. I felt my spirit sink; tears filled my eyes and spilt out as when General Conference passed their mean-spirited, punitive plan. Business as usual meant more pain for those harmed already.

Surely, we could all see the elephant of the Traditional Plan sitting silent waiting to be called upon. Our petitions of resistance were not slated on the agenda; they floated around the room like balloons silently bouncing aloft from one delegate to the other; we needed to talk. The great beast began pacing the conference floor on Saturday morning. Conference was scheduled to end at noon on Saturday, and by 10:30, we still had not talked about or taken any action in this historic moment of our UMC.

Finally, the pleas from the floor were heard. Three petitions were presented in quick order. The rules were established: two speeches for; two speeches against; two minute time limit for each. Eight minutes of our three day conference, plus a few moments of questions, amendments and points of order, each ended with passage of amendments against the outcome of General Conference 2019. Each petition affirmed resistance against and disapproval of the Traditional Plan. Each passed by 60% in favor of a United Methodist Church that will welcome all and honor our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters. At the last, there is hope.

Great Plains Annual Conference is one of most U.S. annual conference to pass legislation encouraging resistance against the homophobic, discriminatory rules in our UMC Book of Discipline. Conversations are happening around the country as leaders are looking for a new way forward. Plans and petitions for General Conference 2020 are due September 15. By then, we will have some ideas as to possible paths. In the meantime, we continue to listen to one another, hope, pray and "resist evil, injustice and oppression" according to our baptismal vows.

Peace,





## Worship services at Saint Paul

### Sunday Worship

In the Sanctuary at 8:45 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

### Saturday Worship

In the Chapel at 6:00 p.m.

### Watch Worship at Saint Paul

On Spectrum channel 1302

On Kinetic channel 13

Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.

Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday at 11:00 a.m.

### Radio Ministry

Sundays, 11:30 a.m.

The Saint Paul Hour

1240 AM/103.3 FM (KFOR)

Visit our website

[www.SaintPaulUMC.org](http://www.SaintPaulUMC.org)

## Electronic Newsletter

In an effort to reduce paper and the postage fees, please email

[communications@saintpaulumc.org](mailto:communications@saintpaulumc.org) if you are able to receive this newsletter electronically.

## Worship Service Time Change

### Sunday mornings

8:45 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Faith Education Hour

10:45 a.m. Worship

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## Saint Paul Podcast Information

As we expand our video and communications ministry at Saint Paul, we are considering launching a regular, spiritual podcast to supplement our Sunday messages.

As we explore these options we'd love your feedback! Please email Brent Comstock if you have a favorite podcast, and what makes you listen to that podcast on a regular basis. Email: [communications@saintpaulumc.org](mailto:communications@saintpaulumc.org).

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## SP Live!

We are excited to announce SP Live: Live streaming of our Sunday worship gathering online! SP Live will generally feature the entire 10:45 a.m. worship service in real-time. For those of you traveling, homebound, or unable to join us on Sunday's for other reasons, this is a great opportunity to participate in the worship experience -- at the same time as your other Saint Paul community members! Visit the "Worship" page on our website to view the Livestream, as well as to download access to past worship gatherings.

## Sermon Archives

Did you know you can access archives of all Saint Paul 10:45 a.m. worship services on our website? Download a transcript of the latest sermon, or watch the entire gathering online. Visit our website, [saintpaulumc.org](http://saintpaulumc.org), and click "Worship Archives" under the Worship tab. We encourage you to share these with friends and family members who aren't able to join us on Sundays!



Worship at Saint Paul: April 14, 2019

## Meet Our New Clergy!



**Jed Linder** | Associate Pastor

Jed Linder was born and raised in Lincoln, Nebraska. He attended college in Dallas, TX, has worked in Hollywood, CA, obtained his Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary, and recently graduated from Duke Divinity School with an advanced Masters degree in Theology. **View Jed's full bio on our website at [saintpaulumc.org](http://saintpaulumc.org).**



**Rev. Lyn Seiser** | Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry

Rev. Lyn Seiser is a lifelong United Methodist, growing up in Wisconsin, schooling in Illinois, and attending seminary in Colorado. Lyn is married to Rev. Darin Bentzinger of the PCUSA and they have 3 grown children. Lyn has a Master of Counseling Higher Education, a Master of Divinity, and is ready to use both as a Campus Minister. **View Lyn's full bio on our website at [saintpaulumc.org](http://saintpaulumc.org).**

## July Worship

Worship in July continues the 8 Points from Center for Progressive Christianity

### July 7

- Scripture: Philippians 2: 12-13
- Faith Questions (Welcome our new clergy)

### July 14

- Scripture: Luke 4:18-19
- Jesus' Mission Statement

### July 21

- Scripture: Genesis 1:1
- Ruah Elohim

### July 28

- Scripture: John 16:12-13, Ephesians 4:15-16
- Life-Long Learning

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

[saintpaulumc.org/volunteer](http://saintpaulumc.org/volunteer)

Sign up to share your time and talents. You can make a difference!

# Adult Classes and Opportunities

## The Non-Fiction Book Group

Tuesday, July 9

7:00 p.m. in room 155

Dying of Whiteness  
By Jonathan Metz



## Turn the Page Book Group

July 8 (note change of date) at Indigo Books (note change of location) at 7:00 p.m.

The book for discussion is Spoken Into Being: Divine Encounters through Story, by Michael Williams. Copies of the book are available in the church library. Books purchased will be 15% off. Snacks, desserts, and drinks will be available for purchase. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

August 5 in room 145 at 7:00 p.m.

We will meet to discuss This Blessed Earth - the 2019 One Book One Nebraska selection by Ted Genoways and led by Ann Cerveney.

## Sunday Morning Classes

Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m.

**Knit into Mindfulness**, downstairs parlor, led by Nancy Flader.

**A study of Thomas Merton**, in room 145, led by Steve Flader.

**The In-Between Project**, in room 155, led by Alan Ebner.

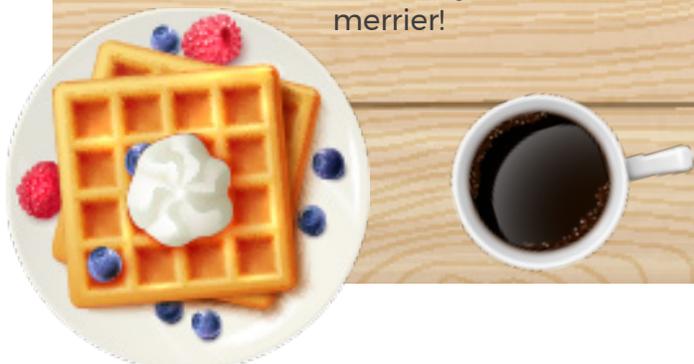
**Progressive Christianity**, in Paine Parlor, led by Jane Florence.

## Bring A Friend Waffle Breakfast!

August 11 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Saint Paul members are encouraged to bring a friend with them to either service and enjoy a waffle breakfast featuring The Waffle Man during the faith education hour!

Stay tuned on social media and email to share/forward the invitation to friends in the Lincoln community. The more the merrier!



## Let's Go to the Movies

Monday, July 29

5:30 p.m.

Location: TBD

Movie: Toy Story 4

# Youth Ministries

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## ROAR! Vacation Bible Camp Re-cap Video

From June 2-6, Saint Paul UMC children joined together on a roaring adventure at Vacation Bible Camp!

At ROAR! We discovered that even though life gets wild, God is good.

Check out the video on our website at [saintpaulumc.org](http://saintpaulumc.org).



**ROAR Vacation Bible Camp Re-cap Video**



## Saint Paul Scholarships

**Deadline for 2019 applications is July 17.**

Saint Paul UMC awards scholarships to a young member of Saint Paul UMC of Lincoln, Nebraska who plans or is currently attending a two or four year college, a community college, or course of study leading to professional licensure or certification. The purpose of the scholarship is to recognize persons who have been involved in Saint Paul UMC and support their higher education endeavors. The amount and number of scholarships awarded will be determined each year in accordance with the funds available. To find out more about eligibility requirements and the application process, please contact the church office. Deadline for 2019 applications is July 17.



**Mitch Connelly** | Director of Youth Ministries

Register for Youth Ministry events on the weekly connect card, on the Church Center App, or by emailing Mitch Connelly at [mconnelly@saintpaulumc.org](mailto:mconnelly@saintpaulumc.org).

# Children and Family Opportunities

## Kids for Christ Volunteer Needs

**9:45 a.m. in room 226**

Looking for a way to make a difference? Consider volunteering this Fall with Kids for Christ! Our education hour starts at 9:45 a.m. in room 226. Positions include teacher rotations for Preschool, K-2nd grade and 3rd -5th grade. Rewarded with giggles, laughter and high-fives!

We're going to have a great year! Curriculum and supplies are provided!

If you are willing to volunteer your time, contact Cathy Link at [clink@saintpaulumc.org](mailto:clink@saintpaulumc.org).



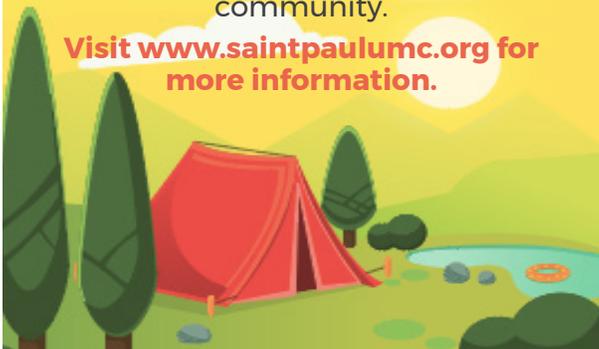
## Impact Camp

**July 24-26**

**9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Impact Camp is a summer day camp opportunity for students in post 3rd-7th grades. The 3 day camp will run July 24-26 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Before and after care is available. The focus of this Summer Day Camp is leadership development, team building and serving others in our community.

Visit [www.saintpaulumc.org](http://www.saintpaulumc.org) for more information.



**Cathy Link**

Director of Children and Family Ministries

Register for these events on the weekly connect card, on the Church Center App, or by emailing Cathy Link at [clink@saintpaulumc.org](mailto:clink@saintpaulumc.org).

## Summer Sunday Faith Education

### Knit into Mindfulness

**From 9:45 a.m. - 10:35 a.m. in the downstairs parlor**

Get out your needles, hooks and yarn or borrow ours. Learn to knit or crochet, work on current projects, bring problem projects, or start something new. Come find a supportive community, a calm and welcoming space, time to focus on needle arts in the downstairs parlor, and a place to just breathe. Beginner, moderate, expert all are welcome.

### Thomas Merton Study

**From 9:45 a.m. - 10:35 a.m. in room 143**

A six-week (or more) journey with Rev. Steve Flader. Merton was a man of contradictions.

- A wild and crazy libertine in New York City becomes a Trappist monk.
- A New York Times bestselling author at age 33 whose book is still in print.
- The author of over 50 books in his lifetime yet “silenced” by his abbot.
- A Christian who has a “lovers quarrel” with his church and society.

Come along for a wild ride through the world of Thomas Merton.

### The In-Between Project

**From 9:45 a.m. - 10:35 a.m. in room 157**

The In-Between Project is about exploring the in-between spaces in our lives both physical and spiritual that we take for granted which help give shape and meaning to our faith and the world around us. We will employ literature, scripture, buildings, paths, practices, food, music, and the arts to help us in our exploration differentiating between shapes and symbols, what we see and what we want to see. Led by Alan Ebner.

### Progressive Christianity

**From 9:45 a.m. - 10:35 a.m. in Paine Parlor**

What is “progressive Christianity”? Are you one? Maybe you are and you don’t know it. This class will be a discussion led by Rev. Florence that follows the summer sermon topics. Join in the conversation and meet others on the journey.

## Saint Paul Church Directory Picture Sign-Up



**August 27-30**  
**2:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**  
**(plan on 30-45 minutes)**

**Saint Paul UMC**  
**1144 M St Lincoln, NE**

Our church family album just won't be the same without you! Sign up to be included in our church directory and receive your complimentary 8x10 portrait, a FREE Family Directory, and Mobile Directory.

**How do I register for an appointment?**

**Online sign up dates: July 13-14**  
**Visit: [www.saintpaulumc.org](http://www.saintpaulumc.org)**

**In-person sign-up dates: July 27-28, August 3-4, 10-11**

For assistance, contact  
Patty Bohart at (402) 429-8147  
or Brent Comstock at  
[communications@saintpaulumc.org](mailto:communications@saintpaulumc.org)

**No purchase required!**



## Ice Cream Social

**July 14 at 3:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center**

Sponsored by Staff Parish Relations Committee to meet and greet our new pastors.



## Music Ministry at Saint Paul

Our church is blessed with a rich music ministry spanning decades of tradition and success. From our chancel choir to children's music opportunities to contemporary worship, we have music opportunities for all. Please visit [saintpaul.churchcenter.com](http://saintpaul.churchcenter.com) to explore our music ministry opportunities.



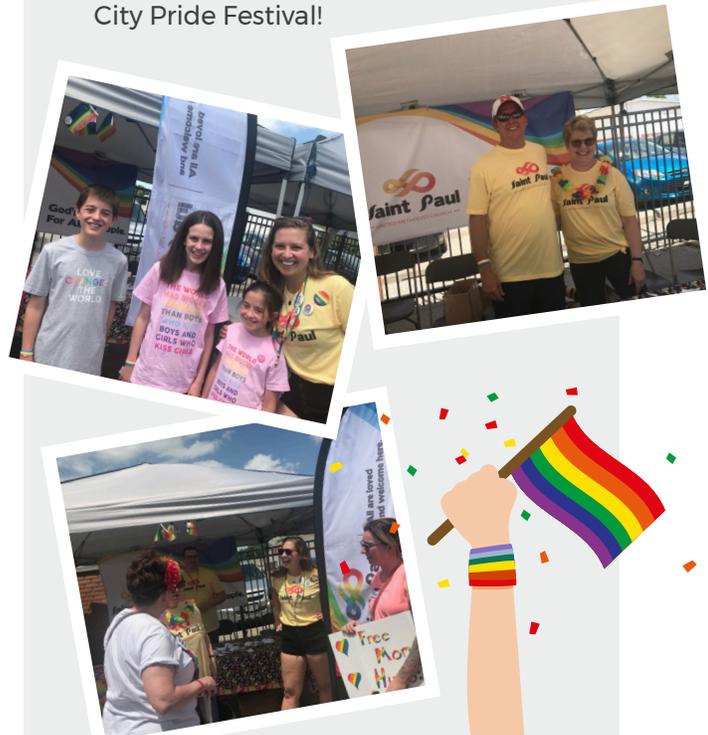
## Chancel Chat

June is busting out all over and so is music at Saint Paul. Those of you who read my monthly newsletter know that I frequently go to my former teacher and mentor Robert Shaw for inspiration. Here are some Shawisms to ponder. "In a time when religious and political institutions have denied themselves or lost the capacity to motivate people to mankind's advancement, the arts remain the greatest heritage and stimulus to an advancement of the human species, to further generations of evolution." "It is the nature of music, unlike painting and most of the literature, that its final creation is not its original creation. Music needs to be heard. In this sense the composer literally must leave his work to be finished by others. Namely us." Every Sunday, the Chancel Choir and I endeavor to "finish" what the composer has scored. That is the essence of the creative process. The degree to which we are successful in finishing the composer's work is the degree to which we are successful communicators with you sitting in the pews each Sunday. I believe this is true no matter if the choir or a soloist is communicating. July will feature both vocal and instrumental soloists. I hope you can join us in church August 11 when the Chancel Choir will return for a mid-summer busting out all over service. Jane Florence has declared this service to be "bring a friend" service. So I am hopeful you will see familiar faces in the choir but some new faces as well. Enjoy!

Bill Wyman  
Director of Music

## Celebrating Pride Month

Thanks to Brady and Kayle Tolle, Debbie and Steve Hennings, and Sara and Hannah Hotovy for meeting some new friends and extending God's Love through Saint Paul at Star City Pride Festival!



## Joys and Concerns

### Sympathy to the friends and family of:

- Jane Whitmer, sister-in-law of Mae Whitmer transitioned to new life on May 20, 2019.
- Robert Sorensen, father of Bill Sorensen transitioned to new life on June 4, 2019.
- Lauren Hewitt, sister of Vicki Patterson transitioned to new life on June 11, 2019.
- Dale Quick transitioned to new life on June 13, 2019.

### Celebrations:

- Natalie Cooper and Camden Lundgren were married on June 1, 2019.
- Ashley Smith and Randall Wagner were married on June 15, 2019.

**Please let the church office know of deaths and births that we may share in your joys and concerns.**

# CHURCH VAN DRIVERS NEEDED!

Please consider serving your church in this unique way. Contact the church office at (402) 477-6951.



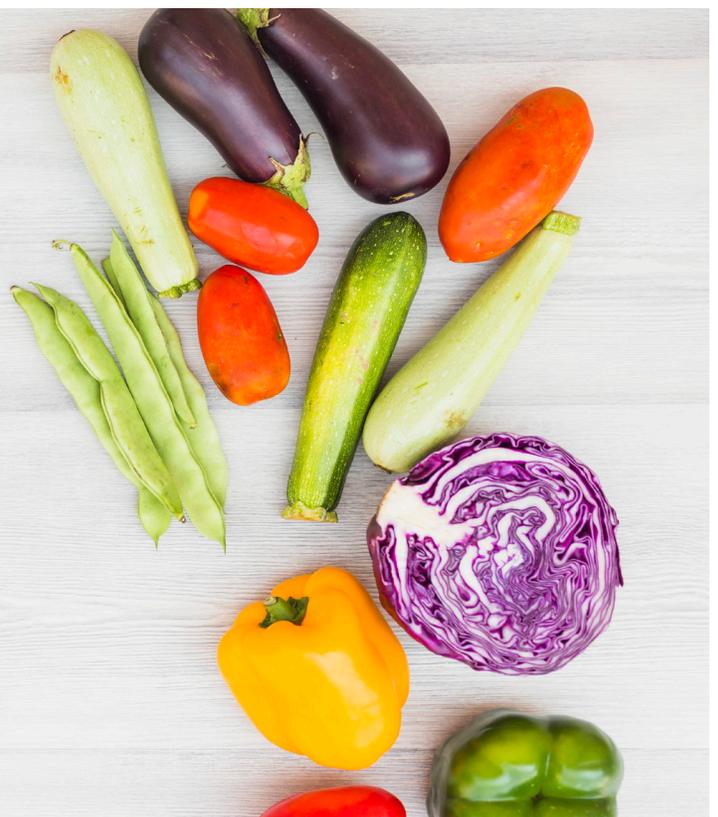
## Mission Produce Table

### Beginning Sunday, July 7

The Mission Produce Table will be up and running as of Sunday, July 7! You are invited to bring extra produce or flowers from your garden to the table in the Bevins Family Life Center any Sunday morning. If you are in need of produce, you may take what you can use from the table and leave a donation. All proceeds from mission produce help to fund Saint Paul mission projects in our own community and worldwide.

**Thank you for considering how you might be a part of this healthy ministry!**

Sponsored by the Mission, Justice, and Caring Team





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1144 M Street Lincoln, Nebraska  
68508-2123  
Telephone: (402) 477-6951  
[www.saintpaulumc.org](http://www.saintpaulumc.org)

RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED



## Summer Sermon Series

June 9 - July 28

# JESUS

**Jewish Mystic • Wisdom Teacher • One With God And All**

Progressive Christianity reclaims ancient  
teaching of the Wisdom Tradition of Jesus.

