

I am Built

St. Paul's is blessed with a highly dedicated and talented staff. Every year, our Ministerial Team and our Christian Elementary School teachers get away for two days to study together and strengthen our relationships with others on our team.

This year on the first day of the retreat, we studied the topic *Run Hard, Rest Well*. We were reminded that a Sabbath rest is not something we have to earn or deserve. It is a gift that God wants to give us. The busyness of life is a challenge for us as Christians and as called workers. We were encouraged to lead the way for our congregation by taking time off to rest and recover so that we can be most effective in serving Christ and his people.

On the second day of the retreat, St. Paul's member and Christian Life Coach Emily Krill led us in an *I am Built* workshop. Prior to our time together, each of us completed a *Clifton Strengths Finder* questionnaire. In the workshop, we developed *I am Built* statements that reflect our strengths. These statements help to determine what to say "yes" to and what to say "no" to, a skill that is essential if we are to enjoy the Sabbath rest that we learned about on the first day of the retreat. Also, when we know each other's strengths, we know whom to ask for help from as we carry out ministry assignments.

We invite you to rejoice in the variety of strengths God has brought to your church leadership team.

Pastor Kuehl: I am built to bring practicality, order, and logic to discussions, so that fairness and excellence result in God's kingdom work.

Pastor Bonack: I am built to make each moment count as I invest in the journey of rooting my own identity and the identity of others more deeply into who God created us to be.

Pastor Panitzke: I am built to see patterns in the past and present that lead to new ideas for the future of God's family.

Principal Fitzsimmons: I am built to serve with energy and lead teams and team members to go where God is calling.

Dr. Joel Nelson: I am built in Christ to raise the bar with competence, creativity and care.

Sally Wallner: I am built to understand God's faithfulness and pursuit of people in difficult circumstances, building relationships through compassion, in order to share God's plan with others.

Mike Westendorf: I am built to inspire people to see their personal stories of God's faithfulness, so that, in their encounter and connection with Christ, they would be moved to share Jesus accurately and compassionately with the people they know.

Emily Krill is looking forward to offering *I am Built* workshops in the future for members of the congregation. What a blessing to know the strengths God has given us to serve him!