



The Parish Twine

December, 2017



- St. John's Lutheran Church, St. Donatus, IA
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, La Motte, IA

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

“Hurry! This deal ends soon!!” “Last Chance to Save Big!” I don't know how many emails I've gotten over the past few days with something along those lines, advertising Black Friday and Cyber Monday sales. We are currently in a time of year where the world around us is saying “Hurry up!” “Time is running out! It's almost Christmas!” At Target the other day, I felt like I was going to be trampled by my fellow shoppers trying frantically to get ready for Christmas, or by the army of store employees trying just as frantically to keep the shelves stocked behind them.

The world shouts at us that we need to hurry. In the church, we have time to wait. We have time to stop and take a breath. That is what the season of Advent is all about—waiting. Yes, waiting expectantly, waiting eagerly, waiting hopefully, but still waiting. Christmas *will* come, as it does every year, and however much or little we have prepared for it, the news that day *will* be good. The Son of God, the Eternal Word through whom all things were made, took on human flesh and became one of us, for one purpose and one purpose only: to save us, to redeem all of creation. We will proclaim that and celebrate that, in due time.

In the meantime, we wait. I love the season of Advent because of this waiting, knowing that Christmas will come but that it is not here yet. The blue and purple colors of Advent remind me of the early morning sky, just before dawn. It is a time when you can tell that the sun is going to come, but is not here yet. It is a quiet time, a peaceful time, a hopeful time. An Advent kind of time.

I pray that this Advent you might find moments of quietness, peace, and hope in the midst of a noisy, hectic world.

In Christ,
Pastor Will Layton

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

Our Christmas Worship Services

- at St. John's - 8:30 a.m., Worship/Communion on Sunday, December 24
- 6:00 p.m., Sunday School Program on Sunday, December 24
- 10:00 a.m., Joint Worship/Communion on Christmas Day
- at St. Paul's - 10:00 a.m., Sunday School Program on Sunday, December 24
- 8:00 p.m., Joint Candlelight Worship/Communion on Christmas Eve

A blessed Christmas to each one!

Pastor:

William J. Layton
 (563) 249-6923
pastorwill@stjohnsandstpauls.org

Church Office:

773-2313
stjohnlutheran@netins.net

Marge's Email:

margefelderman@netins.net

Holy Communion:

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays
 of each month
 plus major festivals

Sunday Worship

St. John's—8:30 a.m.
 St. Paul's—10:00 a.m.

Sunday School

St. Paul's—9:30 a.m.
 St. John's—9:30 a.m.

St. John's Council

Dec. 4—6:30 p.m.

Women of ELCA Potluck Luncheon

Dec. 7—12:00 p.m.

German Worship

Sunday, Dec. 10
 2:00 p.m.

Confirmation Class

Tuesdays—6:30 p.m.
 on Dec. 5;
 7:00 p.m., Dec. 12 & 19

Council Notes

Worship Attendance:

| | <u>St. John's</u> | <u>St. Paul's</u> |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Oct. 29 | 52 | 18 |
| Nov. 5 | 67 | 33 |
| Nov. 12 | 39 Thankoffering | 44 fund raiser |
| Nov. 19 | 66 | 23 |
| Nov. 23 | | 22 Thanksgiving |
| Nov. 26 | 58 | 23 |

St. John's & St. Paul's Joint Council Meeting—Nov. 6

Called to order by Chad Walker at 6:30.

Present: Gloria Heacock, Julie Bormann, Bruce Bormann, Chad Uhlenhake, Doug Clark, John Busch, David Schroeder, Chad Walker, Deb Decker, Billi Schroeder, Tracey Hueneke, Judy Hueneke-Kremer, Ruth Hintgten, Marty Bormann, Billi Schroeder, Pastor Will.

Old business :

- Two parsonage windows repaired with one more to do.
- Long distance added to the LaMotte Telephone, which is the church phone.

New business:

- Pastor Will's salary was discussed.
- Set goals for Pastor Will and ask his expectations at the next joint meeting in Feb.
- Pastor report was given

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting—February 5, 2018

St. John's Council Meeting—November 6

Members present: John Busch, Julie Busch, David Schroeder, Deb Decker, Billi Schroeder, Tracey Hueneke, Judy Kremer, Chad Walker, Pastor Will

Meeting called to order by Chad, with a prayer from Pastor Will.

Building and grounds: Caps around steeple are repaired.

New business:

- Snow removal—Jason Hueneke will be able to do weekends with Pastor Will helping during the week. Price is still to be decided.
- Audit committee: Katie Steines, Linda Hueneke and Eric Pitts
- Up for reelection for 2018 ballot: President; Secretary (will be a three-year term for one term and then back to a two-year term—motion passed); Education; Worship; Financial Secretary.
- Budget was worked on and completed for 2018

Closed with the Lord's prayer

Prayer Concerns

Valita Bradley, Esther Groth, Ivan and Janice Keil, Brian Kirby, Cody Kirby, Lorraine Knief, Rhonda Kueter, Grace Nemmers, Marilyn Ruggenberg, Eldon Schroeder, Jr., Denise Sullivan, Diane Wallace, Adele Wetter, Eldon Wohlers.

Hospitalized in November

Valita Bradley

Our Sympathy

- Jacqueline (Jackie) Fuller of Maquoketa (relative of the Carlton Busch family) died November 20.
- Margaret Gill of Maquoketa (mother of Brian Gill) passed away November 20.

Congratulations

- ◇ Brett Shaw (Jennifer Hueneke Shaw's husband) was elected to the Dubuque City Council on November 7.
- ◇ Rachel Hefel took gold, second place overall, Dairy Cattle Handlers' Activity at the National FFA Convention & Expo held recently in Indianapolis.
- ◇ Shonagh Current Giere was selected for the Junior All-State Orchestra which performed recently in Ames.

Confirmation Class

The first three Tuesdays in December—6:30 p.m. on the 5th; 7:00 p.m. on the 12th and 19th.

Sunday School Programs

St. Paul's—Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 24, 10:00 a.m., to take the place of regular worship service, with refreshments and fellowship to follow the program. Practices will be Saturday, December 16, 1:00-3:00 p.m., and Saturday, December 23, 10:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m. (with a pizza party included).

St. John's—Christmas Program with communion will be December 24 at 6:00 p.m. Please plan to attend! Practices will be: Sundays, December 3, 10, 17, 9:30-11:00 a.m., and Saturday, December 23, at 9:00 a.m. We will not hold practice on Sunday, Christmas Eve day. Parents, please make sure your children are in attendance for a very important December 10 practice. Updates and any cancelations will be posted on the church Facebook page if weather prevents practice. Julie's phone: 563-599-5968.

New, or gently used books, will be accepted in a special offering during the Christmas program. A Thrivent Action Team card was awarded to buy additional books for area children to promote literacy.

There will be no regular Sunday School classes at either church on December 24 and 31.

Christmas Party

Thursday, December 7, 12:00 noon

Everyone is welcome to come to our Women of the ELCA annual Christmas potluck. Please bring a dish to share and 2-3 dozen cookies to be shared and to pack for those unable to attend or shut-ins. A gift to exchange is optional.

Luncheon & Tables: Janice Felderman, Ruth Tietjen, Donna Busch, Sharon Bullock, Julie Bormann

Program: Valita Bradley, Jackie Clark

Bible Study: Pastor Will

Gifts & Decorate Tree: Deb Decker, Joy Hueneke

Cookie Packing: Betty Schroeder, Peggy Post

Year Books

Your new yearbook for 2018 should be out soon. Please read through it thoroughly and note the many changes and any jobs you might be assigned. Any questions, please see one of the officers: President—Betty Schroeder; Vice President—Jean Hueneke; Secretary—Peggy Post; Treasurer—Glenda Meyer; Education—Jackie Clark; Stewardship—Adela Giesemann.

Bakeless Bakesale Results

The amount received this year was \$2,138. Many thanks to all who contributed so generously.

Thankoffering

Thank you to all who contributed on our special Thankoffering Sunday, November 12, or during the following weeks. Let us continue to express thankfulness by feeding your thankoffering box each day to be brought to next year's Thankoffering service.

New Addresses

Loreen Schoop
Sunrise Villa
308 N. 12th Street
Bellevue, IA 52031

Josh & Ryan Feller
1204 Jefferson Avenue
Bellevue, IA 52031

Alyssa Busch
51915 Hwy. 64
Miles, IA 52064

Amanda Hueneke
1371 Tomahawk Drive
Dubuque, IA 52003

Please let us know of any new addresses or phone numbers in order to keep our records up to date.

Baby Items Needed

A family in Maquoketa is in need of items for a newborn. Kendall Neth was born in September and is still in the NICU at Iowa City. He currently weighs 5 pounds and will come home once his breathing improves. We are asking for donations of newborn diapers, wipes, books, toys, etc. Katherine Toops and Julie Busch are collecting money and will buy supplies for the family.

Items we have already: diaper bag, crib, car seat, high chair, stroller, clothes, bedding, mattress.

December Birthdays

- Dec. 2 — Mckenna Martens
- Dec. 5 — Travis Hingtgen
- Dec. 8 — Jody McPhail
- Dec. 9 — Amanda Hueneke
Mark Hueneke
- Dec. 10 — Shirley Busch
- Dec. 11 — Judy Michels
- Dec. 12 — Linda Hueneke
- Dec. 13 — Rosalyn Bormann
Pyper Kettmann
- Dec. 14 — Judy Hueneke-Kremer
Addison Willimack
- Dec. 15 — Jennifer (Hueneke) Shaw
- Dec. 16 — Jeremy Berendes
- Dec. 19 — Brenda Hueneke
- Dec. 20 — Brianna Busch
Lorraine Knief
Kate Sainci
Kris Swift
- Dec. 21 — Katie (Felderman) Adams
- Dec. 22 — Mark Felderman
Kelly Voss
- Dec. 23 — Sara Hankemeier
- Dec. 24 — David Felderman
- Dec. 27 — Addysen Felderman
- Dec. 28 — Elijah Leary
Archer Pitts
- Dec. 29 — Gloria Heacock
Jason Hueneke
- Dec. 30 — Carlton Busch
Hailey Feller
Sue Hilborn

Anniversaries

- Dec. 18 — Bob & Carol Blum
- Dec. 29 — Gerald & Donna Millwright
Chad & Jody Uhlenhake

Please let us know of any errors or omissions.



If you wish to have the Altar Committee purchase a plant for you to share in decorating at St. John's, please sign the sheet at the back of church or let Peggy Post know by December 17. You may pay Peggy @ \$8.00 a plant. Be sure to indicate if yours is in honor or in memory of someone

St. Nick Day

St. Donatus Luxembourg Heritage Society will sponsor a cookie walk, candy sale, and visit with St. Nicholas on Sunday, December 3, 9:00-11:30a.m., upstairs in Kalmes' Restaurant. For more information, call 773-2480 or 872-3378.

German Worship Service

2:00 p.m., Sunday, December 10

All are invited to come to St. John's for a Christmas/Advent service with historic German/American liturgy and traditional German hymns. Sebastian Ziegler, German student at Wartburg Seminary, will be our guest preacher. Authentic German refreshments will be served following worship. Our Women of ELCA will have a bake sale

Thrivent Action Teams

We acknowledge with thanksgiving the Thrivent-sponsored events in which our parish participated in 2017. \$250 each was granted as seed money—for St. Paul's, their Fundraiser for LaMotte Fire and Rescue; at St. John's, several Lutheran World Relief projects: School Kits for School Kids, batting for quilts, layette & health kit items; And Sew It Begins—Year 3; soup supper for Women of ELCA; projection & speaker system for Clover Ridge Senior Center. Coming in December: German Worship service & bake sale; book offering during Sunday School program.

Let us know if you have an idea for more action teams. Each Thrivent member is allowed to apply for two per year.

That's My Pan

Thank you for supporting our "That's My Pan" fundraiser for our youth. We appreciate your support, and hope you have enjoyed the beautiful quality of these personalized gifts this holiday season.

Fundraiser at St. Paul's

Again we are so pleased and thankful for the generous community support of the September fundraiser. A check of the proceeds was presented to LaMotte Fire & Rescue at our November 12 worship service.

Offering envelopes at St. John's

If you would like offering envelopes, there are some remaining boxes on the back table near the bulletins. If you want envelopes and they are gone, please let Julie Busch know and she will get you a box for 2018. We had just over-ordered last year and want to use up the remaining boxes before we order new, but it can definitely be done for those who prefer to use them if those boxes are gone.

End of year contributions

If you are planning to make an end of the year contribution to St. John's, please make sure you do so on or before December 25th so that it can be recorded as a 2017 contribution for your statement of giving. Anything received after the 31st will be considered a 2018 contribution. For any questions, get in touch with financial treasurer, Julie Busch.

Advent Devotions

Lutheran Indian Ministries is no longer sending devotional booklets to each church. If you are interested in a copy of these devotions, you may go to LutheranIndianMinistries.org/devotions or talk to Pastor Will.

Advent devotions are also available from ELCA World Hunger at ELCA.org/Hunger/Resources under the "Seasonal" tab.

