



The Parish Twine

January, 2018



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,

I can hardly believe it's been half a year of our ministry together! It seems like the past six months have flown by, and I give thanks to God that I get to be the pastor at St. Paul's and St. John's. Six months in, I think I'm doing pretty well getting my bearings, but I am also still learning things. If there's anything you think I should know, or if you have any feedback about anything related to the life of the church, feel free to talk to me directly, or pass the information along through a member of either church council.

Our worship in January begins with the festival of the Baptism of our Lord, when we will hear the story of Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan River. At St. John's, we'll get to celebrate that day in a very special way with the baptism of Gracelin Althoff. Martin Luther writes in the *Small Catechism* that "Baptism is not simply plain water. Instead, it is water used according to God's command and connected with God's word." In this water, connected with God's Word, we have the promise of Jesus Christ, the promise of God's gift of life. It is common in many Christian churches, including Lutheran ones, to baptize infants and small children, because this is a gift of God and a promise of God that comes to us without preconditions, without our having to or being able to do anything to deserve it—it is simply, purely, a free gift. Luther goes on to write that, "[Baptism] signifies that the old person in us with all sins and evil desires is to be drowned and die through daily sorrow for sin and through repentance, and on the other hand that daily a new person is to come forth and rise up to live before God in righteousness and purity forever." Every single day, for us as baptized Christians, there is an opportunity to start over, to live as new people in Jesus Christ. Some denominations talk about being "born again" Christians. The way Lutherans see the world, we get to be "born again" every single day!

I pray that you all may know God's gift of new life as we start this new year, and that that knowledge might strengthen you in living out the Christian life.

In Christ,
Pr. Will Layton

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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.

Women of ELCA Meeting & Bible Study

Thursday, Jan. 4
1:00 p.m.

St. John's Council

Monday, Jan. 8
7:00 p.m.

Confirmation Class

Tuesdays
7:00-8:00 p.m.

Annual Meetings

St. Paul's, January 21
St. John's, January 28
Followed by
Cemetery Assoc. Mtg.

Annual Meetings

Following worship at both churches:

St. Paul's—Sunday, January 21.

St. John's—Sunday, January 28.

Cemetery Association annual meeting will be held immediately following St. John's annual meeting.

Council Notes

Worship Attendance:

	<u>St. John's</u>	<u>St. Paul's</u>
Dec. 3	42	20
Dec. 10	58	31
Dec. 10	49 (German Service)	
Dec. 17	53	24
Dec. 24	54	60 (SS Program)
Dec. 24	99 (SS Program)	26 (Joint Worship)
Dec. 25	47 (Joint worship)	

St. John's Council meeting—December 4:

Present: Julie Busch, John Busch, David Schroeder, Deb Decker, Billi Schroeder, Tracey Hueneke, Chad Walker, Pastor Will

Meeting was called to order by Chad Walker with devotions by Pastor Will.

Secretary's report was handed out. Minutes of the November meeting was amended with the corrected positions up for election in January—Education and Worship each has an additional year to serve.

Treasurer gave report, with references in Mission Plus to Hail insurance, sabbatical, and Bellevue State Bank.

Memorial Treasurer report was given.

Building & Grounds Report: New mailbox was installed and door going to steeple is done.

Old Business:

Motion carried to send \$2,250 to SEIA Synod.

New Business:

- Date of annual meeting was set for January 28, 2018.
- Honorarium was set for Sebastian Ziegler for the German Service.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

St. John's Nominating Committee

Laurie Hueneke Martens, Mark Hueneke, Tom Decker, and Richard Busch are seeking to fill the ballot: President, Council Secretary, Financial Secretary, EW-ALU Representative, Synod Assembly Delegates for 2018, Nominating Committee (need at least 6 names)

Prayer Concerns

Valita Bradley, Barb Browning, Reese Felderman, Esther Groth, Ivan and Janice Keil, Brian Kirby, Cody Kirby, Lorraine Knief, Rhonda Kueter, Joe Marshall, Thomas Moeller, Grace Nemmers, Abraham Saraka, Eldon Schroeder, Jr., Denise Sullivan, Diane Wallace, Adele Wetter, Eldon Wohlers.

Hospitalized in December

Bob Cartigny

Sympathy

We have received word that Barbara Etting of Arizona and formerly of this area died December 18.

Rally for Reese Felderman

3-year-old Rees is the daughter of Chris and Jennifer Felderman, and granddaughter of Darel & Jeanette Felderman. She has a twin sister, Quinn, and a younger sister, Claire. Doctors have presented a diagnosis of JMML, a rare form of leukemia. They await a study being done in Seattle and pray for a miracle and that it's just not true. If this diagnosis is correct, a bone marrow transplant will be needed.

A donor drive will be held at Horizon Hall on Thursday, January 4, 3:00-6:00 p.m., for testing to become a registered bone marrow donor. This test consists of a simple cheek swab. If you are not able to get to the donor drive and still want to help, please email karicarter5@yahoo.com, and she will provide you the info you need.

You can also visit these websites:
www.caringbridge.org/visit/reesesfight
www.bethematch.org

New Address

Chris and Jennifer Felderman
 530 Willow Road
 Winnetka, IL 60093

Thank You

- ⇒ To all who helped decorate our sanctuaries for the Christmas season. The sharing of poinsettias and all other contributions are much appreciated.
- ⇒ To everyone who contributed to the Baby Items fund for the Maquoketa family of Kendall Neth. Money collected was used to purchase a case of diapers and a case of baby wipes.
- ⇒ for all of the generous gifts we received from so many of you during Christmas. We're amazed by and truly grateful for your generosity. The freezer at the parsonage is going to be well-stocked for quite a while! —Pr. Will and Hannah
- ⇒ St. John's Sunday School received a \$100 memorial in the name of Thomas Michels.

Confirmation Class

No class on January 2, but we will meet all other Tuesdays in January, 7:00-8:00 p.m., at St. John's.

First Call "Walking Together" Meeting

Monday, January 8, 6:00 p.m.—Call Committee chairs and Council presidents meet with Erika Uthe at St. John's. St. John's Council will meet at 7:00 p.m.

Women of the ELCA

January Bible Study & Meeting

Thursday, January 4, 1:00 p.m.

Devotions: Joy Hueneke

Bible Study: Pastor Will

The Bible study, "Washing hands with distant hearts," Mark 7:1-8, (session one of *Multiple meanings*) begins on p. 20 of the January/February issue of *Gather* magazine. Quarterly meeting will follow.

There will be sewing and quilting in the morning.

2018 Yearbooks

Each woman should have a copy. Please read it over carefully and let us know of any errors or omissions. Be sure to look over the budget, as it will need to be accepted at our January meeting.

Officers for 2018

President: Betty Schroeder

Vice President: Jean Hueneke

Secretary: Peggy Post

Treasurer: Glenda Meyer

Education Coordinator (Growth): Jackie Clark

Stewardship Coordinator (Action): Adela Giesemann

Come Join the Fun

On the third Wednesday of each month about 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., we come together for service and fellowship, stitching on a quilt or tying together quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Everyone is welcome—just bring a sack lunch if you will be here during the noon hour.

2017 Thankofferings

Given this year for the support of ministries of Women of the ELCA was \$375.54.

Thank you

Notes or letters of thanks have been received from Bellevue Bread Basket, Luther Manor, Lutheran Services of Iowa (including Bremwood), Camp Courageous, and Albrecht Acres for monetary donations our Women of ELCA sent this Christmas season.

Looking Ahead:

- ⇒ World Day of Prayer, March 2
- ⇒ Spring Cleaning at St. John's, April 21
- ⇒ Spring Cluster Gathering, April 28
First Lutheran, Maquoketa
- ⇒ Synodical Gathering, June 22-23
Windsor Heights, Des Moines

Our Library

Have you checked out any of our books lately? If you have suggestions for new books in our library, please let Jackie Clark know.

Welcome Home

Adam Busch has returned home and will have completed his enlistment with the U.S. Marine Corps this month. Thank you, Adam, for your service.

January Birthdays

- Jan. 1 — Kristi Kettmann
- Jan. 4 — Donna J. Busch
Sabrina Schumacher
- Jan. 8 — Julie Busch
- Jan. 10 — Claire Schroeder
- Jan. 11 — Lucas Busch
Barb Hueneke
- Jan. 14 — Scout Kasik
- Jan. 15 — Marcus Rodgers Clasen
- Jan. 16 — Megan Bishop
Becky Harjehausen
- Jan. 18 — Nathan Till
- Jan. 19 — Sami Pitts
- Jan. 21 — Ruth Giesemann
- Jan. 24 — Teagan Hueneke
Eric Pitts
- Jan. 25 — Gerald Millwright
- Jan. 27 — Dianne Strickler
Jessica Willimack
- Jan. 29 — Joshua Gill
Richard Hueneke
- Jan. 31 — Aidan Busch
Carol Deppe
Marvin Goetz
Betty Schroeder
Katie Schumacher

Anniversaries

- Jan. 1 — Tom and Lisa Harmon
- Jan. 3 — Chad and Meghan Kohlenberg
- Jan. 4 — Jane and Andrew Stroup
- Jan. 8 — Dan and Gretchen Knief
- Jan. 12 — Mark and Tracey Hueneke
- Jan. 23 — Lynn and Julie Sanders
- Jan. 24 — Jim and Ginny Denman
Kevin and Sue Knief
- Jan. 31 — Carlton and Shirley Busch

We learned of an error in last month's listings—Dec. 29th is Chad Uhlenhake's birthday, not Chad and Jody's anniversary. Please let us know of any other errors or omissions.

EWALU

Early bird registration for camp EWALU will be here soon! If your child is interested in attending summer camp at EWALU in 2018, please see Julie Busch for more information. Dates and fliers will be available shortly. Text or call Julie @ 563/599-5968 for more info.

Lutheran Day on the Hill

Thursday, February 8

9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Training session: Capitol Hill Lutheran Church

Advocacy with legislators: Iowa State Capitol

This free event, sponsored by LSI and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA, is open to anyone who wants to learn more about citizen advocacy.

Re:Vitalize

Join others from congregations around the Southeastern Iowa Synod for a day of workshops given by real people making a difference in their community. Get ideas. Be inspired. Renew the church.

February 24, 2018

9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m

First Lutheran Church - Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Cost: is \$25 per person, with discounts for groups of four or more from the same congregation.

For more information contact Rev. Erika Uthe, uthe@seiasynod.org.



Wishing you a blessed 2018