



February Bible Study & Meeting
Thursday, February 1 1:00 p.m.

Devotions: Glenda Meyer
Bible Study: Pastor Will

The Bible study, "Prepare the Way of the Lord" (Luke 3:3-17), session two in the January/February *Gather* magazine found on page 30.
 There will be sewing and quilting in the morning.

Correction in Yearbook

Email address: dina.felderman@hotmail.com.

Thank you

We have received a letter of thanks from the University of Iowa Hospital Chaplaincy Program for our Christmas gift to them.

Also, a letter was received thanking us for our Thankoffering contribution to Women of the ELCA.

Looking Ahead: Spring Cluster Gathering, April 28 at First Lutheran, Maquoketa

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**EWALU Programs**

**Summer is right** around the corner and so is summer camp! Camp EWALU will be having early bird registration in February. Please let Julie Busch know if your child will be attending this year so that we may plan for camperships. Call, or text, her at 599-5968 for more info or your interest, so that we can get paperwork together and get a count of how many will be attending this year.

**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, Harold Wiegert, Eldon Wohlers and La Comunidad de Santa Maria at Augustana Lutheran Church, Washington, DC.

**Lutheran Day on the Hill**  
**February 8, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**  
 Training session: Capitol Hill Lutheran Church  
 Advocacy with legislators: Iowa State Capitol  
 Join LSI and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA for **Lutheran Day on the Hill in Des Moines**. This day is essential for giving voice to those who are not heard, for seeking social justice, and for empowering people to exercise their right and responsibility to be part of the legislative process.

**Re:Vitalize**  
**February 24, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**  
**First Lutheran Church - Cedar Rapids, Iowa**  
 Join others from congregations around the South-eastern Iowa Synod for a day of workshops given by real people making a difference in their community. Get ideas. Be inspired. Renew the church.  
 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](mailto:uthe@seiasynod.org).

**Bereavement Support**  
 Hospice of Dubuque will be sponsoring two six-week bereavement support groups. They are open to anyone in the tri-state area who has experienced the loss of a loved one, through death, within the past 12 months. It is suggested that participants wait three months after a loss before attending.  
 One group will meet Monday evenings, 6:00-8:00 p.m., February 26 through April 2. The other group will meet on Tuesday mornings, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, February 27 through April 3. The groups will meet at the Hospice of Dubuque office in the Theisen Education Center, 1670 JFK Road.  
 There is no requirement to have had a previous connection with Hospice of Dubuque. The sessions are meant to be educational and emotionally supportive. Group size is limited and pre-registration is required by February 16. Please contact the hospice office at 563.582.1220 for a registration form. There is no fee at attend, however a contribution to defray the cost of materials is appreciated.



**The Parish Twine**  
**February, 2018**

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



**Pastor:**  
 William J. Layton  
 (563) 249-6923  
[pastorwill@stjohnsandstpauls.org](mailto:pastorwill@stjohnsandstpauls.org)

**Church Office:**  
 773-2313  
[stjohnlutheran@netins.net](mailto:stjohnlutheran@netins.net)

**Marge's Email:**  
[margefelderman@netins.net](mailto: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.

**Women of ELCA Bible Study & Meeting**  
 February 1—1:00 p.m.

**First Communion Class**  
 February 3—1:00 p.m.

**Joint Council**  
 February 5, 6:30 p.m.  
 Followed by St. John's Council

**Ash Wed., Feb. 14**  
 St. Paul's—6:15 p.m.  
 St. John's—7:30 p.m.

**Confirmation Class**  
 Tuesdays, Feb. 6, 20, 27  
 7:00 –8:00 p.m.

**Sewing Day**  
 Wednesday, Feb. 21

**From the Pastor's Desk**

How do Lutherans observe Lent? That has been an open question for Lutherans in different times and places. Should Lutherans participate in fasting during Lent, or "give up something"?

For a long time, many Lutherans made a point of being "not Catholic." There was a time when even using ashes on Ash Wednesday would have been seen as "too Catholic" for some Lutherans. I think the pendulum has swung back the other way a bit, and Lutherans today have a greater interest in many of the historic practices of the church. We will, of course, have ashes on Ash Wednesday, and some Lutherans might choose to observe Lenten fasting, whether that is abstaining from meat on Fridays, or from some other sort of food or practice throughout the 40 days of Lent. That's fine, so long as it is understood rightly. The Augsburg Confession, the founding statement of what Lutherans believe, says quite a bit about this topic, but I think one sentence near the end of Article XXVI gives a good summary: "So, fasting in itself is not rejected. Instead, we reject making it a required service with prescribed days and food, for this confuses consciences."

Do you *have to* fast in some way during Lent? Certainly not! Can it be a useful spiritual practice? Certainly! Lent is a time of preparation, of focusing on the cross, and on what God the Son has done for the world—emptying himself even to the point of death, out of love for the world. For some people, fasting can be a helpful way to focus on that, a spiritual discipline that points us to Christ. But there are other ways to include intentional spiritual practices during Lent.

Maybe, rather than giving up some *thing*, like a kind of food, it is worthwhile to give up some time. Lent might be a time to spend a few extra hours in prayer and meditation, or in reading scripture. Or maybe you'll want to take that time and give it up for the sake of others, volunteering at a local shelter, or feeding ministry, or Habitat for Humanity project, or children's literacy program—there are so many needs in our community, and there are ways for *anyone* to volunteer and help others, regardless of age or ability (if you would like suggestions or help connecting to volunteer opportunities, please talk to me). Or, maybe you want to give your time to a particular issue, advocating for justice on behalf of others. Maybe you will choose to set aside a portion of your income for a particular organization or cause. There are so many possibilities; I encourage you to think about what might be a useful spiritual practice for you during Lent. Just as we each are given different spiritual gifts from God, we each practice our spirituality in different ways.

So, again, how do Lutherans observe Lent? The short answer might be "with Christian freedom." Because we have been set free in Jesus Christ, we are free to do acts of love, in service to God and to one another.

In Christ,  
*Pr. Will Layton*

*Ash Wednesday Worship—February 14, 6:15 p.m. at St. Paul's; 7:30 p.m. at St. John's*  
*Midweek Lenten Services will be February 21 and March 7 & 21 at St. Paul's;*  
*February 28 and March 14 at St. John's.*

**Lenten Soup Suppers** are to be held at 6:00 p.m. before each of St. John's midweek services—February 28 and March 14, by the Youth Group to help fund their participation in the Youth Gathering.

## Council Notes

### Worship Attendance:

|         | St. John's            | St. Paul's |
|---------|-----------------------|------------|
| Dec. 31 | Church cancelled—cold |            |
| Jan. 7  | 75                    | 26         |
| Jan. 14 | 61                    | 26         |
| Jan. 21 | 46                    | 38         |

### St. Paul's Budget Meeting—December 28, 2017:

Present were Richard Bradley, Marty Bormann, Bruce Bormann, Julie Bormann, Gloria Heacock, Ruth Hingtgen, Chad Uhlenhake, Doug Clark, and Pastor Will Layton.

Meeting was called to order by President Marty Bormann at 6:42 p.m. at Pastor's Office. Pastor Will opened with a prayer.

Julie Bormann read the October 8, 2017 Council Meeting secretary's report.

2017 treasurer's report—Ruth stated that she needed authorization to pay the benevolence and what amount she should pay. Motion carried to pay \$1,000 benevolence.

2018 Church budget changes—Travel was changed from \$1,200 to \$1,000, Pension was \$7,500 changed to \$7,000, and Worship and Local Expenses was changed from \$2,100 to \$2,000. Pastor Will Layton discussed giving more for benevolence.

### Old business:

- Discussed Marty Bormann taking down cedar tree.
- Marty Bormann and Doug Clark might work on roping the windows in the near future.

### New business:

- \$5,000 was anonymously donated as seed money to help build a bathroom for the church. It was deposited into the church general fund account. The donor wanted the check to clear in the 2017 calendar year. Discussion was made about the size and placement of the bathroom and if we wanted an addition or a free standing building. Also, if the size would be just a bathroom or an additional meeting room or a possible space for Pastor Will to work in. Also discussed the cost of adding sewer and water to the church and other additional expenses what would occur with having a bathroom addition. Pastor Will Layton discussed the possibility of having an emergency food pantry included in the addition and the possibility of getting a grant for that. Richard Bradley stated that the east wall (alter wall) is not in very good shape. Gloria Heacock stated there is a pauper cemetery located somewhere on the church property, so we needed to take that into consideration.
- Motion carried that Pastor Will Layton, Bruce Bormann and Chad Uhlenhake get a bid for an addition and Doug Clark will check into the cost of sewer and water connection. We will call a congregational meeting when we have our bids.

- Mark Felderman was nominated for church council.
- Joint service in the park is tentatively scheduled for August 19, 2018.
- Church breakfast in the park is tentatively scheduled for June 10, 2018. We will have worship on Saturday, June 9, at 7:30 p.m.
- Church cleaning date will be set at the annual meeting.
- On Sunday, June 3, 2018 our church worship time will switch to 8:30 am.
- Bible school dates and Fall fundraiser date and organization will be discussed at the annual meeting. on Sunday, January 21, after worship.
- Pastor Will Layton wondered about sending letters to members about the annual meeting date. Marty Bormann suggested the possibility of having mailboxes in the back of church. Chad Uhlenhake wanted to know how many members do we have that don't attend on a regular bases. Our total confirmed membership count is 48. Pastor Will Layton, Gloria Heacock, and Marge Felderman are going to work on making an updated current membership list.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

### St. John's Council Meeting—January 8, 2018:

Present were John Busch, Julie Busch, David Schroeder, Deb Decker, Tracey Hueneke, Chad Walker, Peggy Post, Pastor Will.

Building and Grounds presented a bill for church repair of \$6,056.

### Old Business:

- German Service had good reviews from all that attended
- Weather cancellation discussed and tabled until Joint Council Meeting.
- Christmas Service for 2018 was discussed and tabled for November meeting.

### New Business:

- Thank you card was read from Marge Felderman.
- Youth Gathering fundraiser dates are set—soup suppers, February 28 and March 14; talent show, April 21; brat stand at Bender's, weekend of May 4-5.

### St. John's Council—special meeting January 14, 2018, after worship:

Present—Chad Walker, Julie Busch, John Busch, Judy Kremer, Deb Decker, David Schroeder, Billi Schroeder, Peggy Post, Tracey Hueneke, Pastor Will. Motion carried to accept into membership the Greg and Kay Althoff family.

## St. Paul's Annual Meeting January 21, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President Marty Bormann at 11:03 a.m. Pastor Will Layton opened with a prayer.

Old Business: Marty Bormann is still planning on taking down the cedar tree.

### New Business:

- Discussed proposal of adding a bathroom to the church. An anonymous donor donated \$5,000 to the project. Chad Uhlenhake spoke on contacts he has made so far. Doug Clark stated that the sewer would cost \$26/month. Bruce Bormann spoke on who he had contacted so far about the project. Lynn Sanders suggested giving the money from the Fall fundraiser to the bathroom project. Chad Uhlenhake moved to hold a congregational meeting on March 11, 2018 to discuss bathroom bids and ideas. Motion passed.
- Nominations for the four council seats—Mark Felderman's name was taken off the ballot, because he had not been asked if he would accept the nomination. Gerald Millwright and Lynn Sanders were nominated. On the ballot for Church Council were Chad Uhlenhake, Richard Bradley, Doug Clark, Marty Bormann, Lynn Sanders, and Gerald Millwright. Elected were Chad Uhlenhake, Richard Bradley, Marty Bormann, and Lynn Sanders.
- Pastor Will Layton spoke about the Synod Assembly on May 18-19. Ruth Hingtgen stated that she was interested in being a delegate.
- Anita Heacock accepted the role of Sunday School Superintendent for 2018.

The following dates were set:

- Church cleaning date - July 21, 2018
- Church breakfast in the park - June 10, 2018
- Joint service in the park - August 19, 2018
- Worship hours - 8:30 a.m. beginning June 3
- Bible School - July 12-15, 2018
- Fall Fundraiser - September 29, 2018

Lynn Sanders suggested that possibly next year, whichever church is having their Annual Congregational Meeting, should have the later church time that day.

Nominations for Church Council President were—Lynn Sanders (declined), Gloria Heacock, Marty Bormann. Paper ballot vote was taken, and Marty Bormann was elected as President of the Council.

Pastor Will Layton is going to check into Constitutional Amendments on how the Council President is elected.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m. with praying the Lord's prayer.

## Confirmation Class

Meetings will be each Thursday in February (with the exception of the 13<sup>th</sup>), 7:00.-8:00 p.m.

## In Sympathy

- ◇ Manny Roth (father of Lisa Hueneke's fiancé Will) passed away January 10.
- ◇ James Daigle, father of Vanessa Hueneke, died January 18 in Louisiana.
- ◇ Ardis (Felderman) Gaylor died January 22 in Waverly. Ardis grew up near St. Donatus as a member of St. John's.
- ◇ Joe Marshall (father-in-law of Doug Clark, Jr.) died January 23.

## Hospitalized in January

Adele Wetter  
David Felderman  
Harold Wiegert

## February Birthdays

Feb. 1 — Janice Felderman  
Jack Pitts  
Feb. 5 — Zachary Hueneke  
Feb. 6 — Nicholas Hueneke  
Feb. 7 — Bobbie Schumacher  
Feb. 13 — Katie Steines  
Cortlyn Kasik  
Feb. 14 — Brandon Busch  
Heath Felderman  
Feb. 17 — Ernie Felderman  
Feb. 19 — Marge Felderman  
Feb. 22 — Bob Cartigny  
Feb. 23 — Bruce Bormann  
Terry Hingtgen  
Emilee Keller  
Olivia Till  
Feb. 25 — Autumn Berendes  
Jason Haynes  
Derek Hueneke  
Gary Knief  
Feb. 26 — Tim Toops  
Feb. 28 — Ryan Busch  
Zachery Michels  
Daniel Toops

## Anniversaries

Feb. 2 — Katie and Brett Adams  
Feb. 3 — Richard and Elaine Hueneke  
Feb. 4 — David and Betty Schroeder  
Feb. 8 — Tom and Glenda Meyer

*Please let us know of any errors or omissions in our listings.*