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this will be a convenient and helpful way to try a spiritual practice of daily prayer during Lent. This resource will be available near the end of the month. I encourage you to look for it and give it a try.

With prayers for each of you,

Pastor Will



February Bible Study & Meeting

Thursday, February 7, 1:00 p.m.

Devotions: Marge Felderman

Bible Study: Pastor Will

The Bible study, *Meetings with Jesus*, session two in the January/February *Gather* magazine found on page 29.

There will be sewing and quilting in the morning.

2019 Stewardship Challenge

God's Global Barnyard coin bank found at the back of church is to be used for the 2019 Synodical Women's special collection for ELCA World Hunger—Global Farm Challenge. Donations will be collected through June 1.

Kits for LWR

We will be putting together Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits to send to Lutheran World Relief this spring. See the lists for these projects in your Women's Handbook. We welcome any contributions and have applied for a Thrivent Action Team card to help purchase items.

Word has been received that the School Kits we sent last fall have made their way to Guatemala and Honduras.

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, May 4 at Zion Lutheran, Clinton

Daffodil Days

The American Cancer Society is taking orders for these spring flowers now through February 8. They are due to be delivered the first week of March. To order, sign up at the back table or contact Marge Felderman. Checks should be payable to American Cancer Society.

In Sympathy

- ◇ Joseph Kieffer of Bellevue (brother-in-law of Staci Felderman) died January 12.
- ◇ Morris Steve (uncle of Sherry Giesemann) died January 13.
- ◇ Gene Chappell (Bob Cartigny's brother-in-law) died January 20.

Congratulations

- * Lisa Hueneke and William Roth were married October 20, 2018 in Silverthorne, Colorado.
- * Mariah Hueneke is a new junior member of the American Angus Association.
- * Doug and Jackie Clark have a new great-grandson, Wesson Michael Steines, born December 27 to Brian and Ashley Steines.
- * Austin Sanders was named to the fall, 2018 Dean's list at Iowa State University.
- * Brianna Busch and Shonagh Current Giere qualified for State Speech events held February 2.

New Addresses

Kate and Brett Adams
3037 Terry Lane, Eau Claire, WI 54703

Tom and Lisa Harmon
18266 Bellevue-Cascade Road, Zwingle, IA 52079

Bob Cartigny
Carter Road, Dubuque, IA 52001

Tim and Katherine Toops
316 Angela Jean Circle, Peosta, IA 52068

Lutheran Day on the Hill

February 19, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Registration is open through February 12. The morning will include a keynote address from Mikka McCracken from ELCA Hunger, and break out sessions on the three issues that will serve as the focus for conversations with legislators, including 1) Improving Iowa's Medicaid Managed Care System, 2) Investing in a Strong Child Welfare Workforce, and 3) Supporting Refugee Community Services. Check with Pastor Will for details, or you can go on line—joyce.williams@lsiowa.org or communications@seiasynod.org

EWALU Programs

Summer is right around the corner and so is summer camp! **EWALU Camp & Retreat Center** brochures describing the summer programs for 2019 may be found at the back of church. For week-long programs, register by February 28 for \$40 early discount, or by April 1 for \$20 discount shorter programs. There is also a \$15 discount for additional children from the same family after the first one. Please see Pastor Will if you are considering any of the programs.



The Parish Twine

February, 2019

✧ 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've been thinking quite a bit about prayer. I recently read something that called prayer "the pastor's personal and daily meeting with God." That got me thinking about prayer in a different sort of way. Most of us have schedules filled with tasks and events and meetings of all kinds. It's far too easy for me to think about prayer as something that would be nice to fit into my busy schedule, if I can find the time! The idea of a "meeting with God" helps me think differently about my daily schedule. Each day, I have an important appointment with God. I share that in hopes that it might be a helpful idea for some of you, too. A life of prayer doesn't need to be any more difficult or complicated than getting together with neighbors for coffee, or showing up for a meeting at work.

I use a book with scripture readings for each day and prayers of intercession for the church, for the needs of the world, and for my own ministry and needs. This appointment with God gives me a time each day to pray for everyone on our congregations' prayer list as well as others whose needs I know about but who have not asked to be included on the published prayer list.

Daily prayer doesn't have to involve anything as fancy as my system, though. Martin Luther gives a simple form of daily morning and evening prayer in the *Small Catechism*:

The Morning Blessing

In the morning, as soon as you get out of bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say: "God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen."

Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you wish, you may in addition recite this little prayer as well: "I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected me through the night from all harm and danger. I ask that you would also protect me today from sin and all evil, so that my life and actions may please you. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen."

After singing a hymn perhaps (for example, one on the Ten Commandments) or whatever else may serve your devotion, you are to go to your work joyfully.

The Evening Blessing

In the evening, when you go to bed, you are to make the sign of the holy cross and say:

"God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit watch over me. Amen."

Then, kneeling or standing, say the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. If you wish, you may in addition recite this little prayer as well: "I give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected me today. I ask you to forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously to protect me tonight. Into your hands I commend myself: my body, my soul, and all that is mine. Let your holy angel be with me, so that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen."

Then you are to go to sleep quickly and cheerfully.

During our daily meetings with God, we can also pray for each other in our congregations. Currently I am preparing a prayer guide for St. Paul's and St. John's that we can all use for daily devotions during the 40 days of Lent, which will include praying for all members of these congregations, as well as other needs of the church, community, and world. I hope

Council Notes

Worship Attendance:

	St. John's	St. Paul's
Dec. 30	33	15
Jan. 6	48	25
Jan. 13	41	11
Jan. 20	31	28
Jan. 27	46	No service due to weather

St. Paul's Budget Meeting—December 17, 2018:

- Secretary and treasure reports were accepted.
- Talked about a Sabbatical fund being established.
- Marty Bormann talked about Steve Ehlinger getting a building permit for the addition.
- Insurance for the new building was discussed.
- Discussed Pastor Will having office hours in LaMotte after the addition is added. Also, having wiring from the telephone company to the new addition.
- Budget was proposed and accepted.
- Terms up this year for council are Julie Bormann, Gloria Heacock, Ruth Hingtgen and Bruce Bormann.
- Suggested dates for the following were brought up:
 - Joint service in the park: August 18, 2019, 10:30 worship time
 - Church breakfast - June 9, 2019 with a Saturday night service June 8th at 7:30 p.m.
 - June 2, 2019 church service time will go back to 10 a.m.
 - Fall fundraiser date - September 28, 2019
- Suggestions will be asked for on where to give money to for 2019 fundraiser.

St. John's Council Meeting—January 7, 2019:

The meeting was called to order by Mark at 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Judy Hueneke-Kremer, John Busch, Mark Hueneke, Pastor Will, Tracey Hueneke, Billi Schroeder, David Schroeder, Deb Decker, Vanessa Hueneke

Reports:

- Secretary's report was corrected (Pastor Gunnar was from Iceland not New Zealand as stated).
- Treasurer: BSB Sabbatical \$1,620 MIF\$
- Memorial treasurer: \$7,955.76

Pastor's report was given and reviewed.:

- Cemetery recommended amendments to cemetery plots regarding cost and purchasing (proposed amendments: C13.07.04.E93 & amendment C13.07.04.C93). Motion was made and seconded to have council vote by show of hands for amendments. Motion passed unanimously.
- Bequest were received from the estates of Mary Giesemann, Eldon Wohlers and Adele Wetter.
- Donation from Wayne Kohlenberg was received and thank you will be sent to him.
- Parish agreement was discussed.
- Constitution update was discussed. Will be tabled until the March meeting.

Old Business: Furnace is being worked on.

New Business: Housing allowance for Pastor Will and Hannah. For church record purposes for 2019, Pastor Will and Hannah have elected an annual deduction of \$4,000.00 for furnishing allowance. A minister who is provided a parsonage for living quarters is allowed by the IRS to deduct a furnishing allowance. Some of the allowable deduction include renter's insurance, telephone, cable TV, furniture furnishing, decorator items, yard equipment, lawn care, landscaping, minor purchases to maintain such as paper products, light bulbs, etc. Motion made, seconded and carried.

Next meeting is February 4,2019 with joint meeting with St. Paul's at 6:30 p.m., followed by St. John's council meeting.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer

St. Paul's Annual Meeting—January 20, 2019:

The meeting was called to order by President Marty Bormann at 9:20 a.m.

Pastor Will Layton opened with a brief devotion.

All reports in the Annual Report were approved.

Old Business:

Bathroom addition - Bruce Bormann discussed finding information about insuring the addition and that our contractor has insurance. Discussed where the doors inside would be and that the stud walls are up. Steve Ehlinger might be able to find a door to match. Will cost around \$1,000 to have the flooring sanded and varnished. Steve is trying to find custom millwork for the windows to match the existing. Pastor Will stated that he would like to have some office hours at St. Paul's one day a week when the addition is done.

Lynn Sanders spoke about the easement and details yet to be done to finish the land sale with Mike Clasen.

- New Business:
- The 2019 Proposed Budget was approved.
 - Nominations for four council seats were: Bruce Bormann, Doug Clark, Gloria Heacock, Ruth Hingtgen, and Bob Molid. Mark Felderman's name was taken off ballot at this time. Julie Bormann stated that she also wanted her name taken off the ballot. Bruce Bormann, Doug Clark, Gloria Heacock and Ruth Hingtgen were elected.
 - Pastor Will Layton spoke about the Synod Assembly on May 10-11, 2019. Ruth Hingtgen told of the positive experience she had at last year's Synod Assembly.
 - Anita Heacock accepted. Nomination as Sunday School Superintendent for this year.
 - The following dates were set for 2019:
 - Church Cleaning - Will set when construction is done.

- Church breakfast in the park - June 9, 2019, with Saturday service on June 8 at 7:30 p.m.
- Joint Service - August 18, 2019, at 10:30 a.m.
- Worship hours - 10:00 a.m. beginning June 2.
- Bible School - T.B.D.
- Fall Fundraiser - September 28, 2019
- Doug Clark is going to try to reserve the LaMotte park for the three dates needed.
- Lynn Sanders passed out options of beneficiaries for the Fall Festival money. Discussed different beneficiaries and then a paper ballot vote was taken. Zwingle Recreation Association will be this year's beneficiary.
- Nominations for Church Council President were: Marty Bormann and Chad Uhlenhake. Chad Uhlenhake declined the nomination. Marty Bormann is Council President.
- Lynn Sanders thanked Doug Clark for mowing the lawn.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

St. John's Annual Meeting—January 27, 2018:

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Hueneke at 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Will opened with devotions.

The secretary's and treasurer's report and the budget were all approved as written in the Annual Report.

Sami Pitts volunteered for the Sunday School Treasurer position. Motion carried to accept her into that position.

Old business: Steeple repair work is still ongoing and reviewed.

New business:

- Talked about starting a committee for the 100th Anniversary of the church building. Any ideas or people interested, please let the council know.
- Talked about possibly repairing the inside church walls and ceiling and replacing carpet before the celebration.
- Election Results:
 - Vice President - David Schroeder
 - Treasurer - Julie Busch
 - Memorial Treasurer - Deb Decker
 - Building and Grounds - Tom Decker
 - Worship and Music - Brianna Busch
 - Education - Dianne Strickler
 - Nominating Committee:, Jason Hueneke, Brenda Hueneke ,Glenda Myer, Richard Busch

Synod Assembly Delegates 2018: David and Betty Schroeder

Mark gave huge thank-you to out-going officers and welcomed the newly elected.

Closed with the Lord's prayer

The annual meeting of the Cemetery Association—January 27, 2018:

Meeting was led by president Bill Giesemann.

Reports in Annual Report were approved as printed.

Gary Knief was re-elected to the board.

Prayer Concerns

Shirley Busch, Adam Cain, Reese Felderman, Tom Harmon, Steve Jaeger, Lorraine Knief, Joan Koos, Mckayla Martens, Eric Mohr, Rev. Duane Priebe, Abraham Saraka, Diane Wallace, Rita Wiegert.

Hospitalized in January

Shirley Busch
Mckayla Martens
Rita Wiegert

February Birthdays

- Feb. 1 — Janice Felderman
Jack Pitts
- 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.