



The Parish Twine

April, 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,

Last year, when the April Parish Twine came out, it was already Easter. This year, we still have a few weeks left in Lent. Have you ever wondered why Easter is on a different day each year?

Early in the history of the church, Christians decided that Easter would be celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. Because of that, we can end up celebrating Easter anywhere between March 22nd and April 25th. That might seem like an overly complicated way to set a date for something, but it comes from a Christian interpretation of the way the Jewish people set the date of Passover (although it doesn't always coincide exactly with Jewish Passover, for reasons that are too complicated to get into in a brief article). You might also be aware that not all Christians celebrate Easter on the same date every year. Members of the Orthodox Church use an older version of the calendar that we use. While the western church, and eventually most of the world, adopted our modern calendar starting in the 16th century, the Orthodox have a strong tendency to stick to old ways, and that includes using an older version of the calendar. Because some years the equinox according to both their reckoning and ours happens before the same full moon, sometimes Easter falls on the same date for both traditions. This year, though, our Orthodox sisters and brothers will celebrate Easter a week later than we will, on April 28th. If you wanted, you could visit St. Elias Church in Dubuque that Sunday and celebrate Easter two weeks in a row!

Although we might not all celebrate Easter on the same day, the wonderful good news that we celebrate is exactly the same: that Jesus is risen from the dead, and because of that fact we know that even death no longer has power over us. We who have been joined in baptism to Jesus' death are joined to Jesus' resurrection. That is a promise from God, and it is worth celebrating! Our Easter celebrations will begin with the Easter Vigil at St. John's. As I mentioned last year, this follows the ancient idea of considering a new day to beginning at sunset, rather than midnight—the same reason that we begin our Christmas celebrations at Christmas Eve. The Easter Vigil is one of the most ancient and solemn services of the church year. Although the Vigil service became less common among recent generations, many churches have begun to revive this ancient service with its powerful imagery of light triumphing over darkness and death giving way to life. For the third year in a row, the Easter Vigil will also include the sacrament of Holy Baptism, as McKayla Martens will be welcomed into the church and joined to Christ in her baptism that evening. I hope you will join us in celebrating Christ's resurrection at the Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 20th at 7:30 p.m. at St. John's and Easter Sunday at 8:30 a.m. at St. Paul's or 10:00 a.m. at St. John's. You can find the full schedule of Holy Week and Easter Services elsewhere in this newsletter. Each of those services plays a unique role in telling the story of salvation. I can't wait to worship together with all of you!

In Christ,
Pastor Will Layton

Pastor Will is to be away April 5-7 for continuing education.

Pastor:

William J. Layton
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Holy Communion:

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

Sunday Worship

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

Sunday School

St. Paul's—9:30 a.m.
St. John's—9:00 a.m.
(with Adult Fellowship)

Council Meeting

St. John's— April 8

Women of ELCA Bible Study & Mtg.

April 4—1:00 p.m.

Sewing Day April 17

Cleaning Day (St. John's) Saturday, April 27

Holy Week & Easter See schedule on page 2

Council Notes

Worship Attendance:

	<u>St. John's</u>	<u>St. Paul's</u>
Mar. 3	49	28
Mar. 6	29	30 Ash Wednesday
Mar. 10	39	20
Mar. 13	30 Midweek	
Mar. 17	38	23
Mar. 20		26 Midweek
Mar. 24	42	23
Mar. 27	53 Midweek	

St. John's Council Mtg.—March 4, 6:30 p.m.:

Members present: Vanessa Hueneke, David Schroeder, Pastor Will, Julie Busch, Brianna Busch, Tom Decker, Dianne Strickler.

Meeting called to order by David Schroeder at 6:30 with devotions from Pastor Will.

Secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurer: Sabbatical \$1,620 .

Memorial Treasurer:

Motion made to accept reports.

Pastor's report was handed out and reviewed.

Education: Dianne suggested having adult gathering before church for fellowship starting at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 7 thru Mother's day. Council agreed.

Old Business: Discussion on electronic giving. Hope to have more information at next meeting.

New Business: Updated on continuing repairs for the church building.

Next meeting April 1, 2019.

Closed with the Lord's prayer.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 18:

6:15 p.m. Worship/Communion at St. John's

7:30 p.m. Worship/Communion at St. Paul's

Good Friday, April 19:

Joint Service at St. Paul's at 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, April 20:

Joint Easter Vigil Service at St. John's at 7:30 p.m.

(Baptism family reserved basement 5:00-7:30 p.m.)

Easter Sunday, April 21: (No Sunday School)

8:30 a.m. Worship/Communion at St. Paul's

9:00 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship at St. John's

10:00 a.m. Worship/Communion at St. John's

Church Cleaning at St. John's

If Saturday, April 27, doesn't fit into your schedule, please feel free to come before that and leave a note as to what you cleaned.

Note: Please remove any cemetery decorations you wish to keep by April 13.

Coffee at St. John's

Come join us for some pre-service fellowship! Starting April 7 and each Sunday through May 12, we will have coffee and cookies at 9:00 a.m. before worship at St. John's. It will be a time to see/meet each other, discuss our week and faith as we enjoy some coffee/tea and sweets. Sign up at the back of church to help host.

Transfers Out

We bid farewell and Godspeed to Tim, Katherine, Erika, Daniel, and Michael Toops, who have moved to Peosta and are transferring their membership to Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Asbury. We thank God for their time spent in our congregation, and we thank them for their years of faithful participation and service at St. John's. We pray for God's blessing in their new home and their new church community.

Prayer Concerns

Judy Ambrosy, Shirley Busch, Adam Cain, Reese Felderman, Tom Harmon, Joy Hueneke, Jaeger Family, Lorraine Knief, Joan Koos, Rev. Duane Priebe, Abraham Saraka, Shirley Schroeder, Diane Wallace, Rita Wiegert.

Hospitalized in March

Joy Hueneke Shirley Schroeder Chad Uhlenhake

Our Sympathy

- Roland Petesch, father-in-law of Gloria Petesch, died March 1.
- Pat Kettmann's grandmother, Shirley Deutmeyer of Dubuque, died March 11.

Easter Lilies

There is a sheet on the back table at St. John's to sign if you wish to share a plant to beautify the sanctuary this Easter. Indicate if yours is in memory or in honor of someone. Note, also, if you are bringing your own rather than having the Altar Committee purchase one for you.

St. John's Sunday School

Mother's Day Sunday, May 12--Sunday School will participate in the church service. We will practice the Sunday prior during Sunday School, so anyone who plans to participate in the Mother's Day service, please attend.

Last day of Sunday School will be the Sunday AFTER Mother's Day, May 19.

Save the Date and Spread the Word: St. John's Vacation Bible School will be all day Saturday, June 29, with VBS kids participating in the church service on Sunday, June 30. More details to follow.

Women of the ELCA

April Bible Study & Meeting
Thursday, April 4, 1:00 p.m.

Devotions: Jackie Clark

Bible Study: Pastor Will

The Bible study is "Seeing the Risen Christ" found on p. 25 in the April *Gather* magazine. If you don't have *Gather*, you may pick up one at the back of church.

We will need to be electing a delegate for the Synodical Gathering June 21-22 in Keokuk. Let us know if you are interested in being a delegate or going along.

Please come to help with packing of LWR kits and layettes in the morning.

Spring Cluster Gathering

"Safety in Church and Homes"

Saturday, May 4, at Zion Lutheran, Clinton

Registration & Coffee, 8:30-9:00 a.m.

Gathering, 9:00 a.m. - Lunch, 12:00 noon

Fee: including lunch, \$6.50

Reservations are due by April 29.

Bible study: led by Pastor Mark (Psalm 121:7-8)

Program: Retired Fulton, IL, police chief, Jim Rhodes

Offering cause: Information and Referral (They oversee the local food pantries and help people with all kinds of needs such as fuel for heating their homes, medicine, gas for travel and whatever else is needed.)

Love gift: Cleaning and personal care items for LSI
(We will have a box at the back of church for any items you wish to donate.)

Equal Exchange Products—Items available to purchase
Handicap accessible Sign language interpreter

Synodical Gathering

"Love Our Neighbors"

First Lutheran Church

1101 Blondeau Street

Keokuk, Iowa

June 21 & 22

Registration fee is \$60 for both days; \$35 for Friday or Saturday only. Registration form with more info at the back of church

Thankofferings

Let us remember to express our thanks for the many blessings we experience each day. We do have available Thankoffering boxes, or you may use any container of your choice as a reminder to show your gratitude. Ingathering of these offerings is scheduled for November 10.

April Birthdays

- Apr. 3 — Lorelei Walker
- Apr. 4 — Jody Uhlenhake
- Apr. 6 — Richard Bradley
Olivia Carter
- Apr. 7 — Levi Keller
- Apr. 8 — Rhonda Hefel
- Apr. 9 — Isabelle Tietjen
- Apr. 10 — Quinn and Reese Felderman
- Apr. 11 — April Berendes
Laurie Hueneker Martens
Angel Keller
- Apr. 14 — Ruth Tietjen
- Apr. 16 — Chris Felderman
- Apr. 17 — Anthony Schiffman
- Apr. 18 — Daryl Hankemeier
- Apr. 19 — Rachel Hefel
Micaela Marks
Troy Tietjen
- Apr. 21 — Rene Keller
- Apr. 24 — Susan Knief
- Apr. 25 — Claire Felderman
- Apr. 26 — Hannah Simpson
- Apr. 29 — Troy Hingtgen
Benjamin Schick

Anniversaries

- Apr. 7 — Dale and Mary Reeg

Omitted in the March birthdays was Kate Tietjen on the 26th. Please let us know of any other errors or omissions.

Special Birthday

We invite you to share in honoring Richard Bradley as he embraces 90 years. Please send him a birthday greeting, share a memory or shared experience with him. Richard's mailing address is 4756 Lambe Road, Zwingle, IA 52079.

We want to know . . . Please let us know of any graduations (where and when) or other special events or celebrations important to your family so we can spread the news! Be sure to also inform us of any change of address or phone number for our records.



SE Iowa Synod Assembly

May 11-12

Hope Church, Des Moines

Bellevue American Legion Fish Fry

Friday, April 12, 4:30-7:00 p.m. , at the Legion Hall

Adults, \$10; ages 12 & under, \$5; preschoolers, free.

LaMotte Fire & Rescue Omelet Breakfast

Sunday, April 14, serving 7:30-12:00 noon.

at LaMotte Fire Station

Adults, \$7.00; ages 5-12, \$3.00; preschoolers, free.

Explosion Trinity Lutheran, Burlington

Please pray for Trinity Lutheran Church in Burlington. There was an explosion in the building on Saturday, March 16. Though initially, it appears the most serious damage is in the boiler room and the office area directly above, the full extent of the damage is still being assessed. Pray with thanksgiving that no one was injured and no one was in the building at the time. Pray for the people of Trinity and Pastor Ryan Cosgrove as they continue to assess the situation and the damage.

Bereavement Support Group

It will be open to anyone in the tri-state area who has experienced the loss of a loved one, through death, within the past twelve months. It is suggested that participants wait at least three months after a loss before attending.

The group will meet on Tuesday evenings, 6:00–8:00 p.m., beginning April 16 through May 21, 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 both educational and emotionally supportive. To ensure you receive the greatest benefit from this group, attendance at each session is strongly encouraged. Group size is limited so pre-registration is required by April 9. Please contact the hospice office at (563) 582-1220 for a registration form. Though there is no fee for the group, a contribution to defray the cost of materials would be appreciated.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to the Iowa Department of Human Services, 8,558 Iowa children were found to be abused in 2017. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety, and stability services, as well as mental and behavioral health treatment. Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI's Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2018, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 14,000 in-home visits to families.

LSI's Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect.

You make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. Thank you!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and [Facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

A Life-Changing Service

Amanda felt helpless when her children were removed from their home. She and her husband, Nathan, struggled with substance use, and they could no longer provide a safe environment for their children. But with help from LSI's Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services, Amanda has overcome every obstacle to build a future she only dreamed possible.

LSI connected Amanda and Nathan to parenting and sobriety resources in their community, and their LSI worker, Katie, helped them schedule regular visits with their children. Knowing Katie was there to cheer them on, even on the bad days, the couple was determined to beat their addiction. It was time to turn their lives around and fight for their family.

Amanda and Nathan recently celebrated two years of sobriety, and all three of their children have returned home. Amanda now also collaborates with the Iowa child welfare system and organizations like LSI to support more families in need of the same care she received. "I'm grateful that Katie and LSI were a part of our lives. They weren't there to hinder, they were there to help," Amanda says. "I feel accomplished, and I feel really good about where my family is at in our lives. Now I'm just happy to help other families achieve their goals and realize they are not alone."