



The Parish Twine

April, 2020

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



From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor:

William J. Layton
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pastorwill@stjohnsandstpauls.org

Church Office:

773-2313
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Marge's Email:

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Holy Communion:

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

Easter will not be canceled. I don't exactly know what I mean yet when I say that. I wish I could say that I expected to be able to gather together for worship in the way that we normally do, but I was also given the charge at my ordination of "giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope." In the spirit of that, you should know that it is very unlikely that things are going to be back to "normal" by Easter—absent a miracle, I should say. Right now I am working hard to figure out alternative ways that we might still gather in one place while still following restrictions on gatherings. I know some churches have hosted "drive-in" services, and I am looking into whether that might be an option for us. We will share information about any worship plans as they develop via the church Facebook page, website, and on the phone tree. We are also sending out weekly announcements via email. Please contact Marge if you would like to receive those announcements and are not already on the list. We can also mail out copies of those announcements to those who desire them. Again, please contact Marge for that.

I wish I could give a clearer answer about what the future would hold, but it seems the Lord has given me other gifts instead of prophesy. As quickly as the news has been changing lately, I am not confident in saying that things will happen in a certain way. Yet I am confident in standing by the statement at the beginning of this newsletter: Easter will not be canceled. No matter what, whether we connect with one another in person, or strictly through means of technology, phone calls, letters, and prayers, Easter *is* going to happen in the midst of all this.

We do not need everything to be good or even "normal" to celebrate the Resurrection. The Resurrection is not true only on sunny days when we experience good health and prosperity. The Resurrection is true in the midst of the Valley of the Shadow of Death. The Resurrection is true at the side of the open grave. The Resurrection is true even in the depths of Hell itself.

And the Resurrection has been true for Christians throughout the ages, through the best times and the worst times. We can remember that the disciples spent that first Easter scared, locked in a room, not sure what the future would hold. You know what? The Good News still made it to that room, first through the witness of the brave and faithful women who first heard that Good News at the tomb. Then Jesus himself showed up in that room. He told them, "Do not be afraid!" and showed them that life had triumphed over death. But that would not be the last time that Jesus showed up among scared people facing hard times. Christians in the early church, persecuted by Roman authorities, gathered in homes and shared Jesus' Good News with one another. That continued to hold true, as Christians throughout the centuries continued to bear witness to Jesus in the face of persecution and plagues. This is far from the first time Christians will have to gather in homes to hear God's Word and experience Jesus' presence. Even in living memory, Christians have done so.

We can do it, too, continuing to tell the story of how life triumphs over death, and continuing to be Christ's presence for one another through acts of love and kindness

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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 & Mtg.**
cancelled

Council Meeting

St. John's—April 6
On Facebook

Holy Week & Easter

See schedule on page 2

Sewing Day

April 15

Cleaning Day

(St. John's)
Saturday, April 18

Cluster 5 Gathering

Saturday, April 25

Council Notes

Worship Attendance:

| | <u>St. John's</u> | <u>St. Paul's</u> |
|-----------------|---|-------------------|
| Mar. 1 | 44 | 25 |
| Mar. 4 | | 46 Midweek |
| Mar. 8 | 44 | 29 |
| Mar. 11 | 31 Midweek | |
| Mar. 15 | 34 | 19 |
| Mar. 18, 22, 25 | Worship electronically only due to coronavirus precautions | |

St. John's Council Mtg.—March 2:

Present: Mark Hueneke, Tracey Hueneke, Tom Decker, David Schroeder, Pastor Will, Dianne Strickler, Deb Decker, Vanessa Hueneke

Meeting called to order by Mark Hueneke at 6:15 Devotions to be given at Joint meeting.

Treasurer: BSB Mission Plus; Sabbatical, \$2,160; BSB \$

Memorial Treasurer: \$

Pastor's report will be given at Joint meeting.

Old Business:

- Giese bill for steeple and roof repair—\$8,538.60 plus repair work for the roof leak \$631.30, for a total of \$9,169.90 As agreed upon, the Memorial Fund paid half—\$4,584.95—with the remaining balance coming from the general fund.
- Council will sponsor the two soup suppers during Lent with the proceeds going to The Wartburg Scholarship fund.

New Business:

- Thank you to The Kettmann Family for polishing the individual communion cups. They will be used for special occasions and certain Sundays when communion assistants are comfortable holding them.
- Policy for funerals and rental of the basement will be discussed next month.
- Easter Vigil time is set for 7:30 p.m.
- FYI, Nick Ludwig had to work on the well.

Next meeting is April 6

Joint Council Meeting—March 2:

Called to order by Mark Hueneke, 7:00 p.m. at St. John's.

Present: Mark Hueneke, Tracey Hueneke, Tom Decker, Ruth Hingtgen David Schroeder, Bruce Bormann, Marty Bormann, Vanessa Hueneke, Richard Bradley, Chad Uhlenhake, Lynn Sanders, Dianne Strickler, Deb Decker, Pastor Will.

Devotions led by Pastor Will.

Pastor's report was given and discussed.

Old Business:

- Easter Vigil is set for 7:30 p.m. St. John's.
- Confirmation will be Palm Sunday at St. Paul's.

New Business:

- Discussion on the update on the Collaborative Minis-

try Proposal. Pastor went over the Learning Work Plan for Nichole breaking down her work week with Academic Requirements & Congregational Expectations. Discussed agreements that have to be made between the three churches.

- Finances: agreed to go forward with the program that Salem has with Maquoketa State Bank to pay bills. To be discussed with the treasurers, includes the possibility of forming a corporation between the three churches.
- Ministry Site Committee: to work with the candidate and her needs—to consist of two lay people from each church.
- Parish Council Committee: Consisting of 3 or 4 members of each church to meet in place of all council members to discuss issues of importance of the Ministry Proposal
- Officers will be getting together from the three churches to finalize these plans. Date to be set.
- Candidate will be Preaching on March 15..
- Meet and Greet for the candidate is set for March 21, starting at 1:30 p.m.
- Last Wednesday of lent will be at Salem Lutheran.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

SE Iowa Synod Assembly

The assembly is being postponed to a date yet to be determined.

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 9:

6:00 p.m. Worship/Communion at St. John's

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

Good Friday, April 10:

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

Holy Saturday, April 11:

Joint Easter Vigil Service at St. John's at 7:30 p.m. Mathilda Frances, daughter of Pastor Will Layton and Hannah Simpson, will be baptized at this service which will be broadcast on the church facebook page. Sponsors are Matthew Johnson, Libby Larson, and Quinn Simpson.

Easter Sunday, April 12: (No Sunday School)

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

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

Church Cleaning at St. John's

It will happen differently this year. Plans are pending.

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

Women ^{of the} ELCA

April Bible Study & Meeting
Thursday, April 2, 1:00 p.m.

Devotions: Jackie Clark

Bible Study: Pastor Will

The Bible study, *We are called!*, is found on p. 25 in the April *Gather* magazine.

We will need to be electing a delegate for the Synodical Gathering June 26-27 in Cedar Rapids. Let us know if you are interested in being a delegate or going along.

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

Spring Cluster Gathering

Saturday, April 25, here at St. John's

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 20.

Bible study: led by Pastor Will (Psalm 101:1)

Program: The Red Basket Project of Jackson County

Bringing Dignity to Women and Girls

Offering & love gift: The Red Basket Project

Boxes of individually wrapped regular tampons, regular slim pads, slim maxi pads, or panty liners.

Opaque bags with velcro or drawstring closure, 6"x9"
(Check with Dianne on how to make.)

Bags of individual candy—Hershey kisses/Dove
(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

Stewardship Challenge

Save Cancelled Stamps. They are being used to defray cost of shipping LWR quilts & kits. Try to leave 1/4 inch margin around stamp when cutting from envelope.

Please bring to Cluster or Synodical Gathering.

Synodical Gathering

"Women in Action"

Hotel at Kirkwood Center
7725 Kirkwood Blvd., S.W.

June 26 & 27

Registration fee is \$70 for both days (after June 1, \$75); \$40 for Friday or Saturday only. Block of rooms are reserved for SWO until June 5—\$130 for up to 4 in a room. Registration form with more info at the back of church

Women of ELCA Triennial Phoenix, AZ July 16-19

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 Hueneke 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

Please let us know of any errors or omissions.



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.

A Special Thank You to all for the many birthday cards and greetings that I received for my 80th birthday. They were very much appreciated. God bless you all. *Arlice Heacock*

for those in great need at this time. And if that is how we are forced to celebrate Easter, it will be a right and fitting way to celebrate. It might not be the big, public celebration that we know and love, but it might be something even more real, and more important. *Especially* when fear and death are around us, we will boldly say: “Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

With prayers for all of you,
Pastor Will

Prayer Concerns

Judy Ambrosy, Jane Barnes, Christine Burns, Shirley Busch, Mary Ann Clasen, Erwin Felderman, Janice Felderman, Reese Felderman, Roger and Sue Hanselmann, Tom Harmon, Ruth Hingtgen, Mary Kay Hobart, Elaine Hueneker, Richard Hueneker, Lorraine Knief, Kielyn Pitts, Rev. Duane Priebe, Abraham Saraka, Lorna Swehla, Kemora Von Thun, Diane Wallace.

Easter Lilies

Please contact Vanessa Hueneker if you wish to share a plant to beautify the sanctuary at St. John's 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.

New Addresses

Jean Hueneker
Sunrise Villa, Apt. 102
308 N. 12th Street
Bellevue, IA 52031

Elaine Hueneker (temporary address)
Grand Meadows Luther Manor
5300 Grand Meadow Dr., Rm. 119,
Asbury, IA 52002
Her phone number is 563-543-3633

Sunday School

Sunday School activities are pending according to church activities.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to the Iowa Department of Human Services, 8,967 Iowa children were subject to abuse or neglect in 2018. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs or dangerous substance, 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 care. 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 2019, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 11,000 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 can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

A Future Full of Hope

Last year, Jaqashia didn't know what to do. She was expecting her first child, and she felt stressed and overwhelmed. She didn't have a job or a home to provide for her new baby.

When she was referred to LSI's Early Childhood Services, she didn't know if the program could help her. But after just two months with her LSI worker, Jaqashia says the services made a life-changing difference. Her LSI worker, Pam, helped Jaqashia find an apartment. Every week, she visited Jaqashia in her new home to provide helpful parenting tips she could use to raise a happy, healthy baby. With a comfortable home ready for her child, Jaqashia felt confident and empowered to find a job. And Pam was there, ready to encourage her and walk alongside her every step of the way.

Jaqashia is now the proud mother of a baby boy, A'Kani, and she is determined to be the best parent she can be. Pam still stops by for her regular visits but now, Jaqashia feels ready to raise her son in a safe and loving home.

“LSI made a huge difference. They made a big positive change,” Jaqashia says. “I feel very confident that I can actually raise my son now, and I have my own place. I'm feeling great.”