



The Parish Twine

May, 2020

❖❖❖ St. John's Lutheran Church, St. Donatus, IA

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



Pastor:

William J. Layton

(563) 249-6923

[pastorwill@stjohnsand](mailto:pastorwill@stjohnsandstpauls.org)

stpauls.org

Church Office:

773-2313

stjohnlutheran@netins.net

Marge's Email:

margefelder-man@netins.net

Holy Communion:

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

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m.

Zoom or Facebook

5:00 p.m.

KMAQ Radio

95.3 fm or 1320 am

May 31

8:30 a.m. at St. John's

10:00 a.m. at St. Paul's

Wednesday Worship

7:00 p.m.

Facebook

Joint Council

May 17, 4:30 p.m.

Zoom/telephone

Robo Call

Saturday, May 30

Worship Time Change

Beginning June 7

8:30 a.m. at St. Paul's

10:00 a.m. at St. John's

From the Pastor's Desk

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

In the midst of everything going on in our world right now, I want to begin by reminding you all that Jesus has triumphed over death, that we have a God whose love for us is so great it means dying on a cross for our sake, and that the promises of God never fail, no matter what happens. That is real and true, and I hope that you hear those words of Gospel promise loud and clear especially now.

God is still with us, the church is still here, and you are still a part of this body of Christ. Even though you might be separated from your fellow church members by physical distance for a time, our lives have been joined to Jesus Christ and to one another by ties that are far stronger than anything the world can throw at us. I have been surprised and delighted by the creative ways so many of you have found to show love for one another and share messages of hope and Good News. As this difficult time seems to drag on, I am reminded of the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Galatians: "So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." (Gal. 6:9-10)

I hope and fervently pray that this newsletter reaches you doing well; not just in terms of physical health, but emotionally and spiritually as well. These are hard times that we are going through right now. Please don't ever hesitate to reach out to me as your pastor if you need someone to talk to, or would like someone to pray with you. You can also reach out to me if you have more practical needs, as well. A number of church members have contacted me offering to help fellow church members with various things right now, like helping folks who are especially vulnerable with groceries and errands.

Right now, I think it's safe to say that we all wish that we could be together for worship. Nobody wishes that more than me. Believe me, I did not become a pastor in hopes of spending most of my time producing videos for the internet and only ever connecting with people through phone calls and online video chat. I truly miss you all and miss worshipping together with you.

At the same time, we have to keep in mind the safety of all of the members of our congregations. It is no secret that our churches, like most churches, include many members in the age range considered most susceptible to this disease, as well as people with serious health conditions—young and old. With that in mind, the Lutheran pastors in Jackson county have all agreed to recommend to our congregations that none of us will come together for in-person worship services before Pentecost, May 31st, at the very earliest, local conditions permitting. At a joint council meeting conducted via Zoom (a video chat program) on Monday, May 4th, elected leaders of our congregation affirmed this decision and scheduled another online joint council meeting for Sunday, May 17th, to evaluate conditions and plan for ways to keep worshippers safe when we do come together again.

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Council Notes

Worship Attendance:

St. John's St. Paul's

Apr. 8 10 Joy Hueneker Funeral

Apr. 11 8 Easter Vigil, Baptism

All other services were on Zoom and Facebook.

St. John's Council Meeting—April 20:

Present: Mark Hueneker, Tracey Hueneker, Tom Decker,
David Schroeder, Pastor Will, Dianne Strickler,
Deb Decker, Vanessa Hueneker, Brianna Busch

Meeting was on Zoom due to the COVID 19 guidelines on social distancing.

Meeting called to order by Mark Hueneker at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions were given by Pastor Will.

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

Memorial Treasurer: \$4,009.53

Pastor's report was given and discussed

Pastor Paul Ostrem joined us on Zoom to say hello and thank us for all the work that has been done so far on the Collaborative Learning Program. He also informed us that our Synod Assembly is cancelled until August.

Old Business: The policy for funerals and rental of the basement was tabled to next month due to time.

New Business:

- Sunday service on Zoom and Facebook was discussed, with the decision to keep having services with the Dubuque churches till the end of May and then revisit this again. A big Thank -you to Pastor for all his work and effort that goes into this each week. We talked about updating our equipment to better fit our needs for this.

Motion carried to purchase the following equipment:

- Licensing for music and liturgy (one year), \$249.30
- Tripod, \$69.99
- Microphone \$129.99
- Extra long Cat-6 Ethernet cable, \$54.99
- WiFi network upgrade (Pitts family had offered to donate and install)

Total projected cost for greatly improved online Worship, \$504.27

- Information on the PPP Forgivable loan was given. This is \$10,000 that will be used for wages and operations and is forgiven as long as all employees are still being paid. Thank you to Nick Hueneker from Bellevue State Bank and Julie Busch for getting the paper work done for this.
- Discussion on Holy Communion practice and how this is affecting everyone and how we can proceed with any possibility on how to commune.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is joint with St. Paul's on May 4 at 6:30.

St. Paul's Council, May 4

In lack of a quorum, the following were discussed:

- St. Paul's breakfast postponed to August.
- Need 2 representatives for the Synod Assembly in August, Lynn Sanders has volunteered to go.
- Update on the land transfer was given by Lynn Sanders and what was still happening with Mike Clasen and his attorney.
- Discussed doing maintenance around the new addition to level the ground with loads of dirt.

Baptism

Mathilda Frances Layton, daughter of Pastor Will Layton and Hannah Simpson was baptized at the Easter Vigil service on April 11 at St. John's. Sponsors for Mathilda are Matthew Johnson, Libby Larson, and Quinn Simpson.

Church Cleaning

Spring cleaning (indoors) at St. John's this year is being taken care of this year by our hired and dedicated cleaner, Julie Schiltz. The council authorized additional hours for her to complete the standard list, deep clean and keep up on the bugs that are usually plentiful in the spring. She has been coming regularly these past couple weeks to insure that the worship space and public areas are thoroughly cleaned and ready when we reunite again for worship hopefully very soon.

St. John's VBS

It's planned for Saturday, June 28 for now. We will make a decision on whether or not to hold it when it gets closer, and if we have VBS we will need volunteers and kids.

St. John's Mailing Address

Please note that the correct mailing address for St. John's is: 32101 370th St., *Bellevue*, IA 52031. The post office has often been flexible with forwarding mail that is addressed to 32101 370th St., *St. Donatus*, but please list the address as Bellevue to ensure that any items sent arrive correctly.

Church Bells

Along with other churches throughout our region, we continue to ring the church bells at 8:00 p.m. every evening as a reminder to gather together in prayer. As you hear the bells, you are invited to pray and remember that, though distant, we are never truly separated from one another.

Synod Assembly

The 2020 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly is currently scheduled for August 7, 2020, at Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines.

Women ^{of the} ELCA

May Bible Study

Thursday, May 14. 1:00 p.m. by video and telephone conference call. Details about how to connect will be shared by email and on the church Facebook page.

If this doesn't work for you, you may do the devotional study, "Plenty Good Room," beginning on p. 22 of *Gather* magazine. As always, there are many other good articles to read in *Gather*.

Spring Cluster Gathering

Although the spring gathering scheduled for April 25 at St. John's has been cancelled, we can still show our stewardship support by sending the offering you would have given that day to our treasurer, Glenda Meyer, 30024 397th Ave., Bellevue, IA 52031. If you have any items to donate for the Red Basket Project love gift, please let Dianne Strickler know.

Christian Women's Fellowship

The three churches in Bellevue had planned this yearly event for the first Saturday in June, but it has been postponed until fall or possibly next year.

Synodical Gathering

"Women in Action"

Hotel at Kirkwood Center
7725 Kirkwood Blvd., S.W.
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

Originally planned for June 26-27, it is rescheduled for October 16-17. Registration is \$70 for both days (\$75 after October 1; \$40 for Friday or Saturday only. Block of rooms are reserved for SWO until September 25—\$130 for up to 4 in a room.

Love gifts for Catherine McAuley Center include personal care items (deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, hand lotion, etc.), dry rice (not instant), dry beans and canned tomato product.

Please also continue to save cancelled stamps.

Women of ELCA Triennial

Phoenix, AZ

This event scheduled for July 16-19 has been postponed until August, 2021. Another year to plan!

Happy
Mother's Day

Temporary address

Rita Wiegert
c/o Grand Meadows, Room B-106
5300 Grand Meadow Dr.
Asbury, IA 52002

May Birthdays

May 2 — Nathan Carter
May 3 — Nick Decker
May 4 — Josh Bishop
Leon Felderman
May 8 — Julie Bormann
May 9 — Isaac Carter
May 11 — Doug Clark
Tom Decker
May 12 — Norla Bormann
May 14 — Ace Adams
Jaylee Keller
May 15 — Lance Felderman
May 17 — Michael Boone
May 18 — Kielyn Pitts
May 19 — John Busch
May 21 — Blain Bormann
May 24 — Sharon Bullock
Jackie Clark
Sandi Schroeder
May 29 — Madelynn Decker
May 30 — Ava Adams
Bea Hansen
May 31 — Rachel Bormann

Anniversaries

May 1 — Chad and Jody Uhlenhake
May 2 — Ryan and Amanda Busch
May 6 — Brett and Jade Clark
May 7 — Paul and Tammy Christoffer
Jim and Ty Muller
May 10 — Rhonda and Mark Hefel
May 16 — Mark and Dina Felderman
Angel and Lee Keller
May 18 — Nathan and Tricia Busch
May 20 — Bob and Becky Harjehausen
May 23 — Bob and Gigi Reeg
May 24 — Chad and Cat Walker
May 27 — Travis and Pamela Hingtgen
May 28 — Brian and Jan Gill
May 30 — Judy and Darin Michels

Please let us know of any errors or omissions.

Finally, during the last week of May, in order to make a decision about worship, the presidents of both congregations and I will discuss the situation along with Gloria Heacock, who in addition to being St. Paul's secretary, is an ICU nurse at Finley. We are blessed to have an officer of one of our congregations who can inform the rest of us about the realities of this crisis. Please keep her and all healthcare workers, first responders, and other frontline workers in your frequent prayers. Thank you to all of you who are working to care for and protect others.

This decision means that we will continue to have worship only through electronic means until at least the 31st. As a reminder, the Sunday worship services are broadcast live on Zoom and Facebook at 9:00 a.m. They can also be reached live via telephone, or heard at 5:00 p.m. on KMAQ. Shorter Wednesday night worship services will also be broadcast live on Facebook each week at 7:00 p.m. Those without internet access who would like a DVD recording of upcoming worship services should contact Pastor Will, who plans on making this option available very soon.

In order to make sure that you are kept up to date on when we resume in-person worship, those who use Facebook are encouraged to follow the church page at facebook.com/stpaulsstjohns. An automated robo-call on Saturday, May 30th will inform everyone who is on the phone list whether we are resuming in-person worship the following day. This call comes from a Davenport number, and if you did not receive such a call on Saturday, May 2nd, please make sure that Marge has an updated phone number for you in our membership records.

I know that is a lot of information for right now, and of course there will be more information to share in the days and weeks to come as we prepare to come back together, but for now, I will leave you with those same words of Gospel promise: Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Praying that the light of Christ brings you hope and peace,
Pastor Will

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Holy Communion Distribution:

For those who desire to receive the Lord's Supper during this time that we are unable to be together, contact Pastor Will to set up an appointment for a modified pastoral visit, following social distancing practices. Pastor Will will remain outside the house at an appropriate distance, and will pray, read scripture and engage in conversation as church members participate from their own front porch, doorway, or window. Pastor Will will lead the order for "Holy Communion in Special Circumstances," and then distribute the sacrament by leaving the bread and wine in sealed containers prepared with clean hands several days ahead of time, which communicants may then retrieve for themselves after Pastor Will has left.

Please Keep in Prayer

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

Our Sympathy

- Sue Hanselmann (sister-in-law of Bob Cartigny) died April 3 at Manor Care in Dubuque.
- Joy Hueneke died April 5 at Mill Valley Care Center, Bellevue. Her funeral was April 8 at St. John's.

Graduations

- ◇ **Allison Bormann**, Maquoketa High School (July 19), plans on attending University of Iowa to study Speech and Hearing Sciences.
- ◇ **Brianna Busch**, Bellevue High School, will attend the University of Iowa this fall for PreMed and plans to try out for the Hawkeye Marching Band.
- ◇ **Isaac Carter**, Bellevue High School, plans are to go to Wartburg College for Business and to continue to play football.
- ◇ **Kylee Haxmeier**, Bellevue High School. She plans to attend Kirkwood Community College for Business Administration and Capri College for Esthetics.
- ◇ **Nicole Haxmeier**, University of Iowa, with a degree in Medical Informatics.
- ◇ **Zach Michels**, Bellevue High School, will go back to school and work.
- ◇ **Delanie Moeggenberg**, Dubuque Senior High (June 27), plans to attend the university of Iowa in the fall majoring in Human Physiology- pre Physicians Assistant track.
- ◇ **Emma Sanders**, Cascade High School, will attend Luther College in the fall for elementary education.

(Bellevue High School will have virtual graduations on May 23 and hope to have traditional graduation on June 21.)

Please let us know of any more graduations (where and when and future plans) or other special events important to your family so we can spread the news!