



The Parish Twine

February, 2021



✧ 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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Church Office:

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Marge's Email:

margelfelderman@netins.net

Holy Communion:

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sun-
days 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. John's, 9:00 a.m.

Joint Council Meeting

February 1—6:30 p.m.
Followed by
St. John's Council Mtg.

St. Paul's Annual Mtg.

Postponed until
Sunday, May 2

Women of ELCA Bible Study

February 4—1:00 p.m.

Confirmation Class

February 3 & 10
5:30 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

Worship, February 17
6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's
7:30 p.m. at St. John's
& online

Dear Friends in Christ,

This month, we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on the 17th. Like so many things over the past year, you can expect that Ash Wednesday will look a little different than usual, though as I write this newsletter, I am not exactly sure how those services are going to work. It is something that the church councils will be discussing on Monday evening, February 1st. The on going pandemic especially complicates some-thing like the imposition of ashes.

That particular practice, the imposition of ashes, has not always been a central part of Lutheran Ash Wednesday services, and I'm sure some of you can remember a time when our congregations did not do it. It might be that this year will be a temporary re-turn to an ash-less Ash Wednesday, or that we will distribute ashes in some modified way—again, that remains to be decided—but whether the physical ashes are part of of the service or not, their reminder certainly will be: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

It's always strange to think about our own mortality. We modern people don't like doing it, and outside of something like Ash Wednesday, we go to great lengths to avoid talking or thinking about death. Even the language of death has come to be treated as impolite. Notice how consistently people now are said to have "passed away" rather than "died."

The thing is, that's not really what we believe as Christians. We don't think people just sort of "pass away," as though a person just mysteriously disappeared! We believe that we are mortal, that people die, and that death does not get the last say! We believe in death, and in resurrection. Because of that, as Paul says:

"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first."

You see, we do not grieve as others do who have no hope, because we believe Jesus died and rose again! Lent always leads us to Easter, and the reminder of our mortality that we receive on Ash Wednesday is always also a reminder of the promise of the res-urrection.

With that in mind, I am including something with this newsletter that you might even think of as a Lenten spiritual practice, a worksheet for funeral planning. Many of us (myself included) may think that needing such a plan is a long way down the road, and I hope and pray that every one of us thinking that is right. Of course, we can never know what our own time on this earth will be, and having this information written down ahead of time can be a great help to your family when the time comes that it is needed. I invite you and your family to prayerfully consider filling out this form and returning it to the church office. We will keep it on file here, and will also forward a copy to your

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Council Notes

Worship Attendance:

	<u>St. John's</u>	<u>St. Paul's</u>
Jan. 3	9	5
Jan. 10	23	6
Jan. 16		16 Eliza Koos Baptism
Jan. 17	17	6
Jan. 24	25	4

St. John's Council Meeting—January 4, 2021:

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

Present: Mark Hueneke, Tracey Hueneke, Tom Decker, David Schroeder, Pastor Will, Deb Decker, Brianna Busch.

Meeting was at St. John's using social distancing and Zoom.

Pastor Will opened with a prayer.

Secretary's report was read, corrected and approved.

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

Memorial Treasurer: \$

Pastor's report: was gone over and discussed.

Christmas Eve program online video was well received. Thank you to all that helped put this together.

Old Business:

- Giese's repair on the shingles was \$1744.22
- Thank you from Marge Felderman was read, and Julie Schiltz sent a thank you through text.
- Tri-State Boiler came and looked at the boiler and cleaned up a piece.

New Business:

- Discussed having LaMotte Telephone put an anti-viral program on the secretary's computer. Motion carried.
- Discussion on a Scholarship Fund for church members going to a Lutheran College. Tabled until next meeting with more information.
- Motion carried to hire Gloria Petesch as organist.
- Discussion on having a Zoom meeting beside in-person for Annually Meeting. Ballots will be available if requested ahead of time as long as you join on Zoom for the meeting, with drop off by 1:00 p.m. the same day.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer. Next meeting is Feb. 1.

St. John's Annual Meeting—January 24, 2021:

Meeting was called to order by President, Mark Hueneke, at 10:40 a.m. using social distancing and Zoom.

Pastor Will opened with a prayer.

The secretary's report was approved as written.

Treasurer's reports were reviewed and budget gone over. Motions carried to accept the budget and reports.

Old business:

- Steeple repair work was continued to be worked on and hopefully have it completed. Plaster work in the front rooms of church and little room and steps in the basement were completed.

- Talked about the collaborative learning program and the covid 19 shut down. Unfortunate consequences as a result of the covid virus. The church councils from St. John's, St. Paul's, and Salem Lutheran had done extensive planning and discussion into making a program work for all three churches. Just when we were ready to present that program to the congregations for a vote, we were forced to close the churches to in person worship by state mandates. When things were starting to open back up again and we were going to proceed with the program, an unforeseen circumstance arose. The student that we were in discussion with, with deepest regrets withdrew from the program. By this time, there were no other candidates. Our options are still open. Hopefully when the new school year starts, more students are interested in this program. We also have the option of working jointly with an intern for their third year of seminary. We will keep the congregation informed of any further development

New Business:

Nominations were presented.. Council changed Education to a one-time three-year term to even out the ballots. Since there was only one name for each position motion carried to vote by unanimous consent. Election Results:

Vice President—Duane Tietjen

Treasurer—Julie Busch

Memorial Treasurer—Tom Harmon

Building and Grounds—Tom Decker

Worship and Music—Shonagh Current Giere

Education (3 years)—Dianne Strickler

Synod Assembly Delegates 2021—David and Betty Schroeder

Nominating Committee—John Busch, Katie Steines, Linda Hueneke, Lisa Harmon

Mark closed with a few words about covid 19 and its effects on all of our lives and church. How technology has kept us together and connected. How we had to make weekly decisions. We had to tone down 100th Anniversary, cancelled holidays and celebration. We found out we can adapt and make things work for our future as long as we work together. Keeping the lines of communication open and feeling free to talk to Pastor or a council member to help make things better. Prayers that by this time next year most of this is in the past.

On a positive note, Congratulations to our church member, Amy Current, on her new position as Bishop.

Closed with the Lord's prayer.

The annual meeting of the Cemetery Association—January 24, 2021:

Meeting was called to order by vice president, Gary Knief.

Reports in Annual Report were approved as printed.

Bill Giesemann was re-elected to the board.

There was no old business and no new business.

St. Paul's Council met Thursday, January 28. Minutes are forthcoming.

Annual Giving Statements

If you have not received your 2020 Giving Record for cash and checks from St. John's, you can find it in your mailbox at the back of church. Annual giving statements for those who gave offering via [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) were emailed on January 20 by treasurer, Julie Busch. These emails will come directly from [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) (support@tithe.ly). Check spam mail if it did not come to your inbox, or if you did not receive one at all, but know you used eGiving, please call Julie at 563/773-8504 to get a copy.



February Bible Study Thursday, February 4

Devotions: Marge Felderman

Bible Study: Turnaround angels, session two in this winter's "Journeys with Angels" begins on page 36 of the January/February *Gather* magazine.

Cancelled Stamps

Be sure to be saving those cancelled stamps, as they are being used to help defray shipping costs for Lutheran World Relief items.

Changes in Yearbook

Brianna Busch's email - Buschbb4@gmail.com
Deb Deckers's email - dadecker59@gmail.com
Gloria Petesch is willing to help with funeral meals

Fabric & Yarn Available

We have accumulated a lot of small pieces of fabric that could be used for making quilts. There are also larger pieces of polyester and double knit. Please let us know if you are interested in them or in old white sheets.

Yarn—There are skeins of 4-ply thin Dazzle pastel colored yarn as well much crochet cotton available for the taking.

Looking Ahead:

- ⇒ World Day of Prayer, March 5
- ⇒ Spring Cluster Gathering, April 24
St. Paul, Clinton
- ⇒ Synodical Gathering, September 10-11
Hotel at Kirkwood Center, Cedar Rapids

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Congratulations

Austin Sanders has been named to the fall semester Deans List at Iowa State University.

Prayer Concerns

Judy Ambrosy, Mildred Beck, Marilyn Bradley and her community at Area Residential Care, Shirley Busch, Kyden Decker, Erwin Felderman, Tom Harmon, Mary Kay Hobart, Marjean Hughes, Lorraine Knief, Rev. Duane Priebe, Shirley Schroeder, Deb Stillings, Bill Turnmeyer, Diane Wallace, Rita Wiegert.

In Sympathy

Peggy Post's sister, Susan Hunt, died January 16 in Michigan.

New Phone Numbers:

Tom Decker - 563-542-7943
Deb Decker - 563-542-0452

Thank-you

Shirley Schroeder sincerely thanks St. John's/St. Paul's Women of the ELCA for reaching out to her in a time of need with a warm coat.

February Birthdays

Feb. 1 — 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. 28 — Ryan Busch
Zachery Michels

Anniversaries

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

Please let us know of any errors or omissions.

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chosen funeral home, if you indicate one. I also invite you to set up a time for a conversation with me if you would like suggestions or guidance as you are working on this. Finally, I encourage you to remember that making such a plan is a statement of faith! Death is sad, and can be a scary thing to think about, but as Christians we are able to face it because we know that even death is just one of the powers of this world that has been swallowed up in the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ, the one who in dying has destroyed death!

With prayers that you always see the cross as a reminder of God's wondrous love this Lenten season,

Pastor Will Layton

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**St. John's Sunday School** will resume this Sunday, January 31st. We are also exploring a virtual option for families who would like to participate remotely, and expect to begin trying this option later this month. Sunday school families will receive more information soon! Please note that Sunday School furniture and supplies are being set up to facilitate social distancing and minimize surface contact. Please **do not move or use Sunday School items** without first speaking to Laurie.

### EWALU Programs

**Summer is right** around the corner and so is summer camp! **EWALU Camp & Retreat Center** brochures describing the summer programs for 2021 may be found at the back of church. For week-long programs, register by March 1 for first early discount, or by April 19 for second early discount. There is also a \$15 discount for additional children from the same family after the first one. Programs are geared for youth in grades 1-12, as well as families and grandparents. Please see Pastor Will if you are considering any of the programs.

### Daffodil Days



The American Cancer Society is taking orders for these spring flowers now through February 14—\$10 for a bunch; \$15 for a potted dainty daffodil plant. See poster for other selections. 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.

### Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!

*"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19*

Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is about love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. We give thanks for all the ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families!

We see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building bright futures, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other moments of joy. You can help carry out our mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at 563-676-2065 or [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org). Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

### Building a Bond

Julie had made a promise years ago: If anything happened to her friend, Julie would take care of her son, Jacob. When Jacob's mom passed away and he had no place to go, Julie stepped up. Her six children had grown up and moved out of her home, and she had the resources and space needed to care for Jacob. She became a mentor through LSI's Host Homes program. The service enables Iowans with disabilities to move into a private family home and live with a specially-selected mentor instead of living in a shared space with roommates and several staff members. Jacob moved into Julie's home last December and now, the two are thriving. Jacob is learning to take care of himself and build the life skills he needs to feel more confident and independent. He is learning to cook and enjoys looking up new recipes to try, especially meatloaf. "It's a great opportunity. You're changing their lives," Julie says. "You get to know each other more personally. We have a lot of discussions and heart-to-hearts." Jacob is finishing his senior year of high school. He enjoys learning new things and visiting new places, and he dreams of the day when he and Julie can go on more trips. Once it is safe to do so, Jacob is determined to visit more zoos and take a trip to Canada. "It's good," Jacob says of his Host Homes match with Julie. "She makes me laugh."