



The Parish Twine

April, 2022



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

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

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to start off this month's newsletter on a practical note. There have been a couple of situations recently that made me realize it might be helpful to say something about the best way to get in touch with me, particularly in an emergency pastoral care situation. I always welcome a phone call or text message at my cell phone, (563) 249-6923. A message at that number is almost certainly going to reach me sooner than a message on the church answering machine. Marge is very diligent about passing along important messages that are left there, but she is not in the office all day, every day, and if I am out of the office at meetings, visits, etc., I may not get a message on the church phone until the following day, which is unfortunately not soon enough in certain cases. Email is also generally a pretty good way to reach me, at pastorwill@stjohnsandstpauls.org, but I nearly always am able to respond to a phone call or a text faster than an email. A Facebook message is probably the least consistent way to reach me—if I could turn off that feature, I would, since I am simply not a regular Facebook user, and messages sent to the church page seem to especially want to disappear from where I can see them.

Along with that, if you think there's even a chance it might be important to tell me about something, please call me! I really, really mean this. I know sometimes people think they shouldn't bother me, but believe me, I'd rather get ten different phone calls about the same one person who is in the hospital or going on hospice, than miss hearing about someone who is in need of care and prayer.

Communication is one of those things that is so important in congregations, and yet we can so easily take it for granted. In tight-knit communities like ours, sometimes we assume that "everybody knows" certain things, for better or for worse. Of course, now I'm talking about more than just pastoral care needs. In some ways, our whole life as a Christian church is centered around a kind of communication. I mean, above all, the church is a place where God's Word is shared. That happens in the reading of scripture and preaching, but that's not the only way. God's Word gets shared by Sunday School teachers and children who love to tell the story; by neighbors who show one another kindness in the name of Jesus in words and actions; by the promises we all received when we were baptized into the body of Christ, and the promises we receive every time we receive Christ's body and blood in the Lord's Supper.

Our God comes to us as a Living Word. We are people of the Word, and we trust in the promise of that Word which endures forever. I pray that you all will have opportunities to hear that Word of grace many times in the coming month, especially as we gather for the very special worship services of Holy Week and Easter. You can find the schedule for those elsewhere in this newsletter.

God's blessing to you during these last weeks of our Lenten journey and as we approach the joyful celebration of our Lord's resurrection.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Will Layton

Pastor:

William J. Layton
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Marge's Email:

margefelderman@netins.net

Holy Communion:

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

Sunday Worship

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

Sunday School

St. John's—9:30 a.m.
St. Paul's—after worship

Women of ELCA Bible Study & Mtg.

April 7—1:00 p.m.

St. John's Council Mtg.

April 4, 6:30 p.m.

Holy Week & Easter

See schedule on page 2

Cemetery Cleaning Day

Saturday, April 9

Cluster 5 Gathering

Saturday, April 23
at First, Maquoketa

Worship Attendance:

	<u>St. John's</u>	<u>St. Paul's</u>
Feb. 27	28	17
Mar. 2	20	15
Mar. 6	22	21
Mar. 9	29 joint	
Mar. 13	32	21
Mar. 16		36 joint
Mar. 20	28	10
Mar. 23	23 joint	

St. John's Council Meeting—March 7:

Meeting called to order by Richard Busch at 6:30.

Members present: Richard Busch, Julie Busch, Deb Decker, Tom Decker, Judy Hueneker-Kremer, Gloria Petesch, Duane Tietjen. Members absent: Tom Harmon, Dianne Strickler.

Devotions: Led by Pastor Will

Reports of Committees:

Secretary: Minutes provided from the 2/7/22 meeting

Treasurer: BSB, MIF

Sunday School:

Memorial:

Pastor Report: Pastor identified two changes to January Report. On 2/10/22, County Pastors met at Sabula. There will be a soup supper on 3/9/22 sponsored by the Council.

Old Business:

Shirley Busch Memorial gift – Richard stated Shirley Busch Memorial gift considerations are basement worship table, sign for cemetery or candles. Pastor identified a table similar size to altar upstairs would be appropriate size. Also identified desire to add roller to bottom of lector in basement. Troy Tietjen will build altar. Troy to contact Richard to discuss. Committee suggested—not identified.

Soup supper 3/9/22 – St. John's Council will provide and serve the soup supper. Donations will be given to Bellevue Community Cupboard. Julie has Thrivent card for cheese and meat. Julie suggested providing some leftovers from soup supper be provided to Dave and Betty Schroeder. Julie will provide after soup supper. Julie identified she will use Thrivent card to purchase all necessary items for the second soup supper. St. John's will do a third supper.

Service 3/9/22 – Decision to have soup supper and service in basement. Council to set up for both after meeting.

Bellevue Community Cupboard –To volunteer, sign up on their website. Pastor suggested confirmation class volunteer.

Parish Intern and Salem Discussion—Pastor advised interns will receive their assignments on 3/16/22. Pastor is supervising current intern and feels good about the three churches working together. Additional discussions to take place.

New Business:

Spring Clean Up Date – April 9 at 8:00 a.m. Tom to check with Cemetery Association to identify if Heath Felderman will be able to sweep gravel areas.

Bellevue Herald – Gloria Petesch identified desire for St. John and St. Paul's service times to be published in Bellevue Herald. Deadline is noon on Friday for the following week. Pastor stated he will mention to Marge, and Gloria stated she would email Marge to have published in Bellevue Herald.

Children's Bulletin – Gloria has started creating a children's bulletin. She shared with council. Council liked bulletin.

Bells at Easter – On Easter the singing of the Alleluia will have bell accompaniment. Brianna will play the flute for 2 songs.

Meeting adjourned; closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting – April 4, 2022 at 6:30

Holy Week Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 14:

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

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

Good Friday, April 15:

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

Holy Saturday, April 16:

The Easter Vigil will be held at St. John's at 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion will be celebrated at this first service of the Resurrection of Our Lord.

Easter Sunday, April 17:

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

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

Easter lilies:

The Altar Committee will again be purchasing lilies to beautify the sanctuary at St. John's. @ \$10. Please sign up at the back of church or contact Brenda Hueneker by April 10 if you wish to share a plant 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.

Baptism

Ada Bernice Schilling, daughter of James and Courtney Schilling and little sister of Rhett Schilling, was baptized March 27 at St. Paul's. Her sponsors are Megan Klein and Jenny Hansel.

Sympathy

- Ronald Althoff, Greg Althoff's father, died March 14.
- Alta Mae Morris, Lynn Sanders' aunt, died March 19.
- Jean Hueneker, who died March 23. Her funeral was at St. John's on March 26, with burial in the church cemetery.

Women ^{of the} ELCA

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

Devotions: Jackie Clark

Bible Study: Pastor Will

The Bible study, *The kingdom of God: Looking into the future*, is found on p. 36 in the March/April *Gather* magazine.

We will need to be electing a delegate for the Synodical Gathering June 10-11 in Davenport. Let us know if you are interested in being a delegate or going along.

Plan to come at 10:00 a.m. for sewing and tying and bring a sack lunch

Spring Cluster Gathering

Saturday, April 23, at First Lutheran, Maquoketa

8:30 a.m. through lunch; Cost, \$6.00

Reservations due by April 14—563-652-6777

or email finsec@flmaq.org.

Bible study leader: Pastor Neil Harrison

Program: Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Mark Beck

Love Gifts are personal care items for Maquoketa Community Food Cupboard. Four items they particularly need: 1) liquid body soap, 2) lotion, 3) shampoo and 4) conditioner. Next time you buy some for yourself, buy extra and bring some along for your Love Offering.

All women of the Cluster V Lutheran Churches and their invited guests are extended a warm invitation to join us for a time for ladies of all ages and interests to join in fellowship to celebrate our faith and the work of our communities to improve our world.

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.

There is a container at each of our churches to collect stamps which will be taken to the Synodical Gathering.

Synodical Gathering

**St. Paul, Davenport
 June 10 & 11**

Registration forms available at back of church.

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**SE Iowa Synod Assembly
 May 20-21 in Coralville**

Prayer Concerns

Carol Althoff, Marilyn Bradley, Travis Bullock, Carlton Busch, Kyden Decker, Max Elliott, Phil Elliott, Tom Harmon, Marjean Hughes, Jeff Kueter, Rod Miller, Rev. Duane Priebe, Jordan Rumsey (Marge Felderman's niece's son), Dale Schroeder, David Schroeder, Liam Schroeder, Lynn Scott, Diane Wallace, Duane Westphal, Rita Wiegert.

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 — Julie Sanders
 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
 Jensen Kremer
 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.

EWALU Spring Volunteer Work Day

May 7 @ 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Please RSVP to camp@ewalu.org or call 563-933-4700. Thank you for your support of Camp Ewalu!

At Ewalu, we help campers explore, enjoy and connect with God's creation along the Maquoketa River. Check out our summer programs at ewalu.org/summer-camp and take advantage of our Early Discount before April 18.

Hospice of Jackson County

Our Hospice has been awarded the Hospice CAHPS 2021 Award of Distinction. This award is presented to home health organizations that have demonstrated superior performance in patient satisfaction. Hospice of Jackson County is proud to provide all of Jackson and surrounding counties with complete Hospice services including bereavement and Advanced Directive paperwork. If interested in learning more call 563-652-0123.

St. John's Sunday School & VBS



NEW TODDLER PROGRAM: ARKY ARKY is making its debut on Sunday, April 24. All toddler aged kids are invited to spend 20 minutes after church learning more about God's word with stories and activities. Also mark your calendars for Sunday, May 15! Thank you to Hannah for leading.

In 2021 despite the global pandemic, St. John's Vacation Bible School 'Yee-Haw' had tremendous interest and congregational support, so we are looking forward to another year of VBS fun for even more kids in our community and beyond. Last year we had over 30 kids from Bettendorf, Clinton, Maquoketa, Dubuque, and local communities learn about God's word through bible stories, songs and service, including making tie blankets for Marie House and donating needed items for kids just like them who are in need.



St. John's VBS will host: **Food Truck Party—On a Roll with God** on Friday, June 24, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. This is open to ages 4-5 (1/2 day morning option) all the way up to kids finishing 6th grade. Kids are also invited to share their VBS songs and stories at church service on Sunday, June 26.

Save the dates have been sent out to families who participated last year and additional save the dates are in the back of church for those to hand out to grandkids, neighbors who may be interested. Please share the Facebook event on the @StPaulsStJohns and watch the bulletin and Facebook page for further updates. If you are interested in volunteering either that day or in preparation for VBS, please contact Laurie Hueneker Martens 202-441-4452 or lhueneker@yahoo.com

Soup Supper

Wednesday April 6th will be our final Lenten meal and fellowship gathering as we support the EPIC scholarship fund for members attending a Lutheran university. Our memorial fund has committed \$250 towards the 2022-2023 academic year for Mariah Hueneker who will be studying elementary education at Luther College. Luther will match the \$250, or even more, which is raised on behalf of the recipient by her home congregation. Mariah's family and friends will be sponsoring and serving the meal that night to raise additional funds to put towards this scholarship for even a larger match from Luther. Serving begins at 6:00 p.m. with worship to follow.

We congratulate Mariah on making IGCA third team all-state, IGCA Southeast all-district team, and RVD elite team.

What's Cooking in the Church Kitchen?

As we get back into the groove of having a few more fellowship events, if anyone has a nice container or two (such as cool whip, country crock) etc. please feel free to share and put in the cupboard for left overs or to-go's. Also, if anyone has borrowed items from the kitchen such as roasters, crock pots, beverage coolers, etc. remember to return them following use. A newer and donated roaster is currently not on site, and its whereabouts is unknown, while an older roaster was just discarded for an electrical issue. A new coffee pot will be making a debut as a previous one's pot sprung a crack.

Cemetery & Yard Cleaning

Saturday, April 9, 8:00 a.m.

Note: Please remove any cemetery decorations you wish to keep before that date.