



The Parish Twine

March, 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,

One of the most important things that Jesus does throughout the gospels is eating with people. Throughout his ministry, you find people noticing and commenting on who Jesus decided to share a meal with. In Luke 15, we find the Pharisees and scribes grumbling about Jesus and saying, "This fellow welcomes tax collectors and sinners." On the night just before Jesus was betrayed and arrested, he had a meal—a Passover meal—with his disciples, and instituted the holy meal that's still central to our Christian worship, Holy Communion. And after he was raised from the dead, the first couple of times that he appeared to his disciples, he ate with them.

In a few days, we start the season of Lent, and on the first Sunday of Lent we always hear the story of Jesus alone, in the wilderness, fasting. It's completely the opposite of all of those meals that he shared with people. On the one hand, that story supports a lot of the traditional Lenten practices of fasting. On the other hand, the stories of Jesus eating with people really remind me of one of my favorite traditions during Lent: soup suppers!

It's been a couple of years since we have been able to eat together, and I'm excited to be able to do it again. Getting together for a meal isn't just about feeding our physical bodies. It's about fellowship with one another. Breaking bread together is an important part of being the body of Christ together. Of course we do that whenever we share Holy Communion with one another, and I certainly don't mean to minimize that. But if we are looking to follow Jesus' example, or the example of the early church, then it's pretty clear that we ought to share other sorts of meals with one another, too. Meals where we can gather around a shared table and look one another in the eye and have a good conversation with one another. Meals where we can enjoy one another's company. In fact, did you know that that's what "company" means? It probably comes from the word companion, which in turn comes from the latin phrase *com panis* or "with bread". In other words, in the *company* of one another, we break bread together!

One of the hardest things about the past couple of years, I think, has been what it's done to our fellowship—our companionship—in the church. Out of a sincere Christian desire to protect the health and lives of the most vulnerable ones among us, we found that we needed to stop simply eating together the way we did in the past. I want to be absolutely clear: I am not saying that decision was wrong at any point. But I am eagerly looking forward to being able to gather together that way once more. Fellowship like that is a sign that we are a part of each other's lives beyond simply sitting quietly in the same room for an hour on Sunday morning.

I understand, too, that things won't go back to normal right away just because I want them to. At this point, though, I'll take any little bit of normal I can get! If you're comfortable doing so, I hope you will, too.

Beginning Wednesday, March 9th we will have our traditional Lenten "soup suppers" each Wednesday night of Lent, followed by Holden Evening Prayer. This year, as part of my agreement to teach the preaching class at Wartburg Seminary, we will have

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:

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

Council Meeting

St. John's, March 7

6:30 p.m.

St. Paul's, March 24

7:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday

March 2

St. Paul's, 6:00 p.m.

St. John's, 7:30 p.m.

Women of ELCA

Bible Study

March 3—1:00 p.m.

Midweek Lent

Supper, 6:00 p.m.

Worship, 7:00 p.m.

St. John's, March 9, 23,

& April 6

St. Paul's, March 16 & 30

Continued on page 4

Council Notes

Worship Attendance:

	St. John's	St. Paul's
Jan. 30	22	9
Feb. 6	19	16
Feb. 13	16	11
Feb. 20	16	14

Joint Council meeting—February 7, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Members present—Tom Harmon, Duane Tietjen, Lynn Sanders, Julie Busch, Rich Busch, Chad Uhlenhake, Richard Bradley; Zoom Online—Ruth Hingtgen, Bruce Bormann, Mary Bormann, Deb Decker, Tom Decker; unable to attend—Judy Hueneke-Kremer, Gloria Heacock, Dianne Strickler, and Gloria Petesch

New Business:

- Lent schedule: St. John's will host 3 midweek services March 9, March 23, and April 6; St. Paul's, March 16 & 30. They will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be conducted by a student of the seminary, arranged by the seminary, as Pastor Will is teaching during those times. Soup suppers, when held, will begin at 6:00 p.m. The first soup supper will be held at St. John's by the council families on Wednesday, March 9..
- Pastor read a copy of his proposed pastoral and congregational goals for 2022: Pastor has identified four areas of concentration and his goals for success in the areas of: Worship, Faith Formation and Inner Mission, Administration and Outer Mission, and lastly, Pastoral Care. Council members gave feedback and agreed it was a good outline with achievable goals providing there is good congregational support. He was also given some verbal feedback on ideas he may want to incorporate into his ministry for 2022 which included community involvement and presence. A copy of these goals will be attached to the minutes and can be reviewed by any member by reaching out to Pastor or St. John's secretary.

Old Business: Pastor asked if the plates could return to being brought forth during that time of worship. Only one plate needs to come forward he indicated, and the other could stay in the back. The group unanimously agreed, and it can begin as soon as the second Sunday in February.

Housing Allowance: Annually, Pastor indicates his intentions to designate a portion of his salary to housing allowances, and he would like to set this year's allowance at \$4,500.

Installation of Officers: Pastor would like to install the 2022 officers on Sunday February 13 during worship. The group was in agreement that would work for those who could attend.

Parish Intern & Salem Discussion: Lynn Sanders gave a recap of the meeting he, Mark Hueneke and Salem's President, Erik Rockwell, held in January to discuss the WTS internship program and the potential shared pastoral arrangement. The intern would be a one-year intern. There aren't any interested candidates at this time for the collabora-

tive agreement which is a 3-year intern scenario. Lynn Sanders will reach out to Mark Hueneke to see if a time can be arranged to speak to the logistics of this partnership, including finance topics, worship schedule and other considerations. Remaining committee members would be asked to attend and include: St. John's: Mark Hueneke, Duane Tietjen, and Julie Busch; St. Paul's: Marty Bormann, Lynn Sanders and Ruth Hingtgen.

The next joint council meeting will be Monday, May 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at St. John's.

St. John's Council Mtg.—February 7, 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Tom Harmon, Duane Tietjen, Julie Busch, Rich Busch, Zoom Online: Deb Decker, and Tom Decker; Members unable to attend: Judy Hueneke-Kremer, Dianne Strickler, and Gloria Petesch.

Reports of Committees:

A motion carried to approve all committee reports—treasurer, memorial treasurer and secretary's report.

New Business: It was discussed if any other group, including confirmation families, Sunday School, women's group, or St. Paul's would like to take one of the soup suppers, they can contact Julie Busch (563-599-5968) to make plans or receive assistance in scheduling for either of the remaining two events.

Old Business:

- Pastor indicated the brass candle topper is in at the Religious Supply in downtown Dubuque where he will pick it up, and that bill will be covered from the memorial fund.
- The new Scholarship fund from the Memorial account will be provided to students attending Lutheran Colleges, and this year's recipient of that honor for \$250 in fall of 2022 will be Mariah Hueneke. It can be renewable annually (as long as the funds sustain) for four years and will be matched by Luther for a combined gift of \$500 to her for her education per year. Pastor will work with the college to get that paperwork together, and Julie Busch will notify the family and work with Memorial Treasurer, Tom Harmon, as to where and when the check can be sent.
- It was indicated we may need to boost our social media footprint, and Julie Busch will be put back on as an admin on the FB account to begin promoting the soup supper events.

Parish Intern & Salem Discussion: The council was in agreement that it is imperative to see the cost breakdowns and the anticipated schedule of worship and shared arrangements soon in order to have an informed discussion and share details with the congregation.

The next council meeting will be Monday, March 7, at 6:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Council Meeting, January 13, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Devotions were done by Pr. Layton.

Minutes were read and approved

Treasurer's report was handed out, read and approved.

Pastor's report was given--he will be teaching every Monday from February to first week of May.

Lynn Sanders, Mark Hueneke and Eric Rockwell met to discuss continued partnership of collaborative ministry.

Appointed Gloria Petesch as organist at St. Paul's.

Fundraising recipients were discussed.

Need to have Goals for Pastor by February joint council meeting.

Meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.

St. Paul's Annual Meeting January 16, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 10:52 a.m.

Opened with a prayer from Pr. Layton

Secretary's report was read and approved

Treasurer's report was read and approved

Remainder of reports in Annual Report sheets were read and approved

Old Business: Update on collaboration with Salem Lutheran, St. John's Lutheran and St. Paul's was discussed and congregation was updated. Currently Pr. Layton is overseeing Andrew's intern. Will table this until a collaborative ministry intern can be found. This will then be brought back to the congregation for discussion and vote.

New Business:

- St. Paul's Budget was discussed and was approved
- Nominations for church council are Martin Bormann, Chad Uhlenhake, Lynn Sanders, and Richard Bradley. All were reelected. (Still have one open council seat not filled from 2021)
- Anita Heacock was appointed Sunday School Superintendent
- Gloria Petesch was appointed organist
- Synod assembly delegates for May 20-21 in Coralville are needed, looking for volunteers
- Church breakfast will be on June 12, 2022
- Joint Service in Park: August 21, 2022
- Fundraiser: September 24, 2022. recipient will be Jackson County Hospice
- Worship Hours starting June 5, 2022 will be 8:30 a.m.
- Vacation bible school: TBD
- Communion will stay as is for now with the prefilled individual cups.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

St. John's Sunday School

St. John's Vacation Bible School is planned for Friday, June 24. All are welcome!

New Phone Number

Gloria Petesch, 563-235-7611

Prayer Concerns

Marilyn Bradley, Travis Bullock, Carlton Busch, Kyden Decker, Tom Harmon, Marjean Hughes, Jeff Kueter, Ruth Michaelson, Rod Miller, Rev. Duane Priebe, Dale Schroeder, David Schroeder, Liam Schroeder, Lynn Scott, Diane Wallace, Duane Westphal, Rita Wiegert.

Our Sympathy

- * Diane Loeffelholz, sister-in-law of Jeanette Frederick, died January 31.
- * Dr. Edwin A. Schick died February 9. He served as a professor at Wartburg Seminary.
- * Carol Kifer died February 17 at her home in Asbury. She was the daughter-in-law of Fern Felderman Kifer Bies.

March Birthdays

- Mar. 2 — Mitchell Knief
- Mar. 3 — Shonagh Current Giere
- Mar. 4 — Adam Busch
Hudson Hueneke
- Mar. 5 — Shirley Schroeder
- Mar. 10 — Bob Harjehausen
Arlice Heacock
Brett Koehler
Diane Wallace
- Mar. 12 — Clinton Bormann
- Mar. 15 — Tom Harmon
- Mar. 21 — Jan Gill
Jared Hueneke
- Mar. 26 — Nolan Keller
Jocelyn Tietjen
Kate Tietjen
- Mar. 31 — Memphis Hueneke
Justine Knief

Please let us know of any errors or omissions.

Thrivent Financial

We are thankful to our Thrivent members who have directed their Choice Dollars to our church. If you would like your choice dollars to go to St. John's or St. Paul's again this year, you must contact Thrivent at thrivent.com/thriventchoice or 800-847-4836 before March 31.

students in their final year of seminary preaching at each of those worship services. I'm looking forward to hearing from this group of extremely talented preachers. And hey, you get to hear somebody other than me preach for five whole weeks in a row! If you're able to join us for those meals and worship services, I hope you will. It'll be nice to be back together for those again.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Will Layton



March Bible Study

Thursday, March 4, 1:00 p.m.

Devotions: Glenda Meyer

Bible Study: Pastor Will

We will be using the Bible study in the March/April *Gather* magazine, p. 24, "The Kingdom of God: Here and Now." Plan to come at 10:00 a.m. for sewing and tying and bring a sack lunch.

Stewardship Challenge

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

Spring Cluster Gathering

Saturday, April 23, at First Lutheran, Maquoketa

We ask for personal care items for the Maquoketa Community Food Cupboard. There are 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.



**Turn clocks ahead!
Daylight Saving Time
begins March 13.**

Lenten Suppers & Worship

Suppers at 6:00 p.m., Worship at 7:00 p.m.

Our first soup supper is scheduled for Wednesday, March 9, at St. John's, sponsored by the church council, with the Bellevue Community Cupboard's drive up food share program as benefactor. If other groups are interested in helping or serving March 23 or April 6, please reach out to Pastor Will.

St. Paul's will host a baked potato bar with lots of toppings on Wednesday, March 16. On March 30, a spaghetti night will be done. Volunteers are needed to help and supply condiments, salads, desserts, beverages, and paper supplies. Please contact Marty Bormann, Ruth Hingtgen, or Lynn Sanders if you can help and plan on a short meeting after church at St. Paul's on March 13 to cover last details. A freewill offering each night will be designated for St. Paul's general fund expenses.

St. John's Vacation Bible School

Scheduled for Friday, June 24. All are welcome!

Saving Can Tabs

Bindi and Jacee Kettmann along with other Junior members of the American Legion Auxiliary in Iowa are taking part in a project to collect can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. We are asking for you to save and bring your tabs to church from now until June. We will have a container set up for collections. Thank you all for your help and support!

Lutheran Day on the Hill

Join Lutherans across Iowa from the comfort of your computer or phone screen on Thursday, March 10, 9:30-11:30 a.m., for a morning of inspiration and advocacy training. This free online event, sponsored by LSI and the three Iowa synods of the ELCA, is open to anyone who wants to learn more about citizen advocacy and important issues that matter to Iowans. Registration will be open through March 9th, <https://lsiowa.org/ldh/>.

*Ash Wednesday, March 2—6:00 p.m. at St. Paul's; 7:30 p.m. at St. John's
Maundy Thursday, April 14—6:00 p.m. at St. John's; 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's
Good Friday, April 15—7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's
Easter Vigil, April 16—7:30 p.m. at St. John's*