



The Parish Twine

March, 2024

- ❖❖❖ 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,

This Tuesday I was on my way down to a meeting in Clinton. The unbelievably warm weather and the sunshine meant I couldn't help rolling the windows down, opening up the sunroof, and cranking the stereo up. A Creedence Clearwater Revival song came on my Spotify playlist and I found myself transported back a couple of decades to cruising some of those same Clinton County roads in my first car—a 1978 Dodge Tradesman-Sportsman van. Imagine Scooby Doo and the gang had kept the mystery machine for 20 years, never washed it, and then sold it to the poor kid down the block. That old van was something: Dark brown, with light brown racing stripes that went well with all of the rust. I'd figured out I could wire the alternator in place with an old guitar string because the bolts on the belt tensioner were completely stripped out, and the gas gauge was never very reliable. But the tape player worked GREAT, and it had no trouble playing something like the tape of "CCR's Greatest Hits" that was probably almost as old then as the van itself.

But you know what? For all of its issues, there was nothing like packing that old van full of a bunch of my high school buddies and driving down the roads around our home town, getting into all the sorts of dumb, but mostly harmless (my friends and I were all honest-to-goodness Boy Scouts), adventures that only a bunch of dorky teenagers with freshly issued drivers' licenses can. As my memory snapped back to that time on my drive down to Clinton the other day, above all, what I remembered was the feeling of freedom. I don't know if there have been many times in life that I've felt as free as I did in that old van with my high school pals on a warm spring day, with no real plans or obligations.

When in your life have you felt the most free? Maybe, like me, you've felt that freedom on the open road, or maybe it was around a dinner table on a special occasion, or in a tree stand, or a boat, or a field or a garden. I hope at least once in a while, you've felt that kind of freedom in church.

After all, that's really what the Christian faith is all about. Now that might sound strange, especially considering how often people who haven't experienced the freedom of faith themselves assume that Christianity is all about rules and morals and ethics. And it's true, our faith does give us expectations for how we live and how we treat one another. But those things are a product of the Christian faith, not a condition of it!

One of Martin Luther's most important writings is a little book called *The Freedom of a Christian*. In it, he focuses on two main points, that might seem to be in conflict with one another at first:

A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything.

A Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all.

What he means by this is that faith in Jesus, which comes to us through God's Word, sets us completely, totally free. When we receive the Good News, that we are

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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. Paul's—after worship

Women of ELCA Bible Study

March 7—1:00 p.m.

Council Meeting

St. John's, March 4
6:30 p.m.

Midweek Lent Supper, 6:00 p.m. Worship, 7:00 p.m.

St. John's, March 6 & 20
Salem, March 13

Holy Week & Easter- Schedule—see p. 3

Council Notes

Worship Attendance:

	<u>St. John's</u>	<u>St. Paul's</u>
Jan. 28	29	18
Feb. 4	30	16
Feb. 11	27	16
Feb. 14	17 & 17	9 Ash Wednesday
Feb. 18	29	15
Feb. 25	24	13
Feb. 28		36 Wednesday

St. Paul's Annual Meeting—January 28, 2024

Meeting was called to order at 10:46 a.m. by President Martin Bormann.

Devotions of a prayer led by Deacon Laurie Finn.

Secretary's report and Treasurer's report were reviewed as written. approved with the correction of the date to be 2023 not 2022 on the financial statement on the balance on hand as of December 31

Other reports: Sunday school, Church women, Youth camp fund, Pastor were all reviewed.

Old Business:

The collaboration with Salem and St John's is now completed as of January 1, 2024 and is known as Trinity Parish of Jackson County.

New Business:

- 2024 budget was reviewed and approved.
- Church council members up for election—Gloria Heacock, Ruth Hingtgen, Bruce Bormann.
- Sunday School Superintendent—Anita Heacock.
- Motion made to keep everything the same and nominations cease. approved
- Synod Assembly Delegates (May 17-18, Coralville): Let Pastor or Marty B. know if you wish to attend.
- Fall Fundraiser Beneficiary will be for St. John's building repair.
- Lenten supper: Feb. 28, 2024; Arlice and Gloria volunteered to provide the supper on that night.
- Approved the following dates and times:
 - * Church Breakfast: June 9, 2024. (church service will be June 8, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.)
 - * Joint service in the Park: August 18th with alternate date of August 25, 2024.
 - * Fundraiser: September 28, 2024.
 - * Worship Hours: June 2, 2024 we will switch to 8:30 a.m. time
 - * Vacation Bible School: to be determined per Anita and Gloria's work schedule.
- Other Business: May 5th will be installation of Deacon Laurie and Pr. Will at the Trinity Parish of Jackson County. Bishop Current will reside at this.
- New Lock will be purchased for St. Paul's.

Meeting was adjourned. Closed with a Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

St. John's Council Meeting February 5, 2024

Meeting called to order by Richard Busch

Members present: Pastor Will, Richard Busch, Judy Hueneke-Kremer, Mark Hueneke, Duane Tietjen, Tom Harmon, Deb Decker, Linda Hueneke and Julie Busch
Linda welcomed as new member to the Council.

Devotions: Provided by Pastor

Pastor Report: Pastor provided verbal report

Everything is going well with Trinity Parish.

Secretary Report: Provided by Judy

Treasurer Report: BSB checking; MIF;

Sunday School; Memorial Fund; Trinity Parish

Motion carried to accept reports.

Old Business:

- **Building and Grounds**—Mark had downpayment sent to Eli for roof. Need to identify how much work TNT will complete before final amount identified. Tuckpointing to be completed first and currently looking at late summer start date.
- **Office Furniture**—Furniture has been purchased and office update has been completed, but a mirror will be added.
- **Fundraising:** Deb provided an update.
- **Shared Ministry:** All agreements with Synod have been signed and received.

New Business:

- **Ash Wednesday:** Linda made motion to have 12:00 pm and 7:45 p.m. service at St. John's. Julie seconded, motion carried. Services will be downstairs.
- **Soup Supper Beneficiaries**—St. John's soup suppers will be on March 6 and March 20. Julie made motion for beneficiaries of each soup supper to be Nathan and Tricia Busch. Judy seconded, motion carried. Julie will obtain Thrivent cards to help offset cost.
- **AED training**—Pastor stated Gloria Heacock has offered to do training on AED and CRP. Richard will discuss with Gloria to identify a time.
- **Rev. Laurie**—Move into Andrew parsonage will be March 1 & 2.
- **Hand Bells**—Tom H. made motion to lend out hand bells to Andrew. Duane T. seconded, motion carried. Only Pastor will transport bells. Julie and Pastor will identify responsibilities, procedural steps, and requirements for care of bells.
- **Worship and Music**—Julie B will discuss with Peggy S.
- **EWALU Representative:** Tracey (Derek) Hueneke will be new representative.

Next meeting: March 4, 2024 at 6:30 p.m

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Midweek Lenten Services

March 13 at Salem

March 6 & 20 at St. John's.

Lenten Soup Suppers are to be held at 6:00 p.m. before each 7:00 p.m. midweek service.

Maundy Thursday, March 28

6:00 p.m. at St. John's

7:00 p.m. at Salem

7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's

Good Friday, March 29

7:00 p.m. at both Salem and St. Paul's

Easter Vigil Joint Service, March 30

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

Easter Sunday, March 31

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

9:00 a.m. at Salem

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

Easter Lilies

There is a sheet on the back table at St. John's to sign if you wish to share a plant to beautify the sanctuary this Easter. Cost is \$10, and must order by March 24. 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 Address

Carlton Busch

Luther Manor Grand Meadows, Schrup Rm. 111

5300 Grand Meadow Drive

Asbury, IA 52002

EWALU Programs

Summer is right around the corner and so is summer camp! **EWALU Camp & Retreat Center** brochures describing the summer programs for 2024 may be found at the back of church. Early discount is eligible until April 18, 2024. See [program descriptions](#) for early discount amounts for each program. A \$50 sibling discount is also offered for each additional camper from the same family (i.e. a household registering 3 children would receive 2 sibling discounts). Please see Pastor Will if you are considering any of the programs.

In Sympathy

- Alverda (Wiegert) Beck, died February 8. Her funeral was February 15 at First Lutheran Church, Maquoketa.

- Ervin "Junior" Mangler, member of Salem, died February 25. The funeral service will be 11:00 a.m., Monday, March 4, at Carson Funeral Home in Maquoketa. Visitation begins at 9:00 a.m.
- Dan Yarolim, member of Salem, died February 29. The funeral service will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, March 7, at Salem.

Congratulations

- Bindi Kettmann was on the high honor roll list for the 2nd quarter at Marquette Catholic School.
- Anna Sanders made the fall semester dean's list at Iowa State University.
- Bindi qualified for the Archdiocese Religion Bee to be held March 1st in Dubuque. She was one of the top 3 in the Marquette Religion bee held during Catholic Schools Week.

Prayer Concerns

Avela Bahr, Norma Bormann, Marilyn Bradley, Carlton Busch, Kimberly Busch, Tricia Busch, Paul Dent, Max Elliott, Connie Goepfert, Jessica Harmon, Gary Hughes, Marilyn Knief, Sharon Konrardy, Terry Lenstra, Rod Miller, Declan Olson, Rev. Duane Priebe, Linda Ries, David Schroeder, Liam Schroeder, Lynn Scott, William Turnmeyer, Diane Wallace, Mickey Walton, Richard Walton, Duane Westphal, Rita Wiegert.

March Birthdays

Mar. 2 — Mitchell Knief
 Mar. 3 — Shonagh Current Giere
 Mar. 4 — Adam Busch
 Hudson Hueneker
 Mar. 5 — Shirley Schroeder
 Mar.10 — Bob Harjehausen
 Arlice Heacock
 Brett Koehler
 Diane Wallace
 Mar. 12 — Clinton Bormann
 Mar. 15 — Tom Harmon
 Mar. 19 — Anna Sanders
 Mar. 21 — Jan Gill
 Jared Hueneker
 Mar. 26 — Nolan Keller
 Jocelyn Tietjen
 Kate Tietjen
 Mar. 31 — Memphis Hueneker
 Justine Knief

Please let us know of any errors or omissions.

forgiven and loved and saved and given new life, completely by God's grace and without us doing anything at all to deserve it—only, purely, because of God's goodness and love for us—we are set completely free. I think one of the most powerful ways we experience that is in confession and forgiveness. The words we often use have us confess that we are “captive to sin, and cannot free ourselves.” You can't free yourself. I, your pastor, can't free you by myself. But God can, and does free you. That's why I declare those words of forgiveness “as a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ and by His authority.” Those words aren't a matter of my opinion. They are a promise from God's holy, living Word which says: **YOU ARE FREE.**

And the joy of being set free that way in Christ is what leads us to live Christian lives in community with one another. True Christian service doesn't come from guilt or shame. It comes from that freedom we find in Christ together. I suspect you might know that already—even if you never hear those words from Martin Luther, what I've seen in my time as a pastor is that that is simply true. The freedom we find in Jesus sets us free to care about one another, to love God, and to work together as Christ's church.

In this season of Lent, it's easy to focus a lot on discipline. If you've committed to a particular Lenten spiritual practice, I hope and pray that you are finding value in how it helps you connect to God, and above all that you are practicing it in a spirit of true Christian freedom.

Sincerely and gratefully free in Christ,

Pastor Will Layton

Women of the **ELCA**

March Bible Study

Thursday, March 7, 1:00 p.m.

Devotions: Ruth Tietjen

Bible Study: Pastor Will

We will be using the Bible study in the March/April *Gather* magazine, “Rivers, streams of life and hope.” Plan to come at 10:00 a.m. for sewing and tying and bring a sack lunch.

Thank You

We have received a note of thanks from Lutheran Services of Iowa for the donation we recently sent.

Quilt Donations

Taken to Open Closet at St. John, Dubuque in February were two tied 60"x 80" quilts.

Spring Cluster Gathering

Saturday, April 27, at St. John's, St. Donatus

Program: Wartburg Seminary

Everyone welcome!

Details coming soon!

Synodical Women's Gathering

June 14-15, Zion, Clinton

Speaker: Bishop Amy Current

Registration fee before May 18 is \$70. Forms are available at the back of church

Come See the Castle

Wartburg Seminary is delighted to share with friends and neighbors the newly renovated Fritschel Hall. The open house will be Thursday, March 14, 3:00-6:00 p.m., with ribbon cutting at 4:30 p.m. Any questions, contact Elizabeth at 563-589-0328.

Save the date

St. John's is planning to have Vacation Bible School on Friday, June 21, for ages 4 to kids that have just finished 6th grade.

Thrivent Financial

Thrivent Financial is a financial services organization that helps Christians be wise with money and live generously, offering a broad range of products and services—including life insurance, annuities and mutual funds—along with guidance in making wise money choices that reflect their values.

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.

Ordination

Nichole Robson was ordained on February 26 at Grace Lutheran Church, Dodgeville, WI. Nichole was the Wartburg student who would have served as vicar had our partnership with Andrew begun in 2020. She will now be serving as associate pastor at St. Peter, Dubuque.

Lutheran Services in Iowa

March is National Professional Social Work Month, a time to recognize social workers and thank them for all they do. At Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), we are grateful for the many social workers who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities across the state!

At LSI, we believe every Iowan deserves the independence they need to thrive. LSI's Host Homes is an innovative way LSI is serving adults with disabilities. Through this program, an individual moves from Supported Community Living into a private family home with a carefully selected mentor. This program is built entirely around an individual's goals and interests, and LSI's extensive matching process ensures the mentor and mentee are a great fit.

Take a moment to read the following story from a Host Homes mentee:

"My journey with LSI's Host Homes started in early 2023. I've known my mentor for a few years while he provided hourly services to me. We learned about Host Homes and thought it would be a good fit for us. I moved into my mentor's home where he helps me maintain a daily routine with schoolwork, household tasks, daily living skills, improving independence, and more.

I attend a college nearby and go to classes a few days a week. I am able to navigate the local bus system to access my community to attend classes and visit friends. My mentor is always available to transport me into the community as needed.

This summer, I went on a trip across the country with one of my classes. While on this trip, I was able to maintain my independence with limited support, but I knew my mentor would be available by phone to assist me with my coping skills and problem solving. This trip was a big success for me knowing I had support only a phone call away.

I like LSI's Host Homes Program because my mentor supports me in the way I want to be supported, assists me with some daily tasks I struggle with, and understands me."

If you are interested in becoming a Host Homes mentor and helping a fellow Iowan achieve independence, please visit LSIowa.org/HostHomes for more information.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

