



The Parish Twine

May, 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,

As I write this newsletter, we're preparing for a visit from the bishop of our synod, the Southeastern Iowa Synod, Bishop Amy Current. Bishop Current will be coming to preside at the installations of Rev. Laurie as deacon at St. John's, St. Paul's, and Salem, and of me as pastor at Salem (I won't be re-installed at St. John's and St. Paul's). All of that had me thinking, it might be good to write about what it means to be part of a synod.

So, what is a synod? Well, originally that word was used to mean a meeting of church leaders who gathered to make decisions for the church in a particular area. Early on in the history of Lutherans in the United States, ministers from individual churches started coming together and call their regional meetings "synods," and that term soon came to apply to the regional groupings of the churches under their care. In some cases, that term "synod" became used for entire denominations, like we still see in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. In other cases, those "synods" came together and simply used the term "church" for their larger denomination. For example, all three of our congregations were originally founded as part of the Iowa Synod, which came together with several other synods in 1930 to form the American Lutheran Church. A couple more mergers later, and now we are part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a church that has three official "expressions" of the church: congregations, synods, and churchwide.

Today, synods in the ELCA fill a role very similar to districts in the old ALC, as well as dioceses in the Catholic, Episcopal, and Orthodox churches. The exact way the ELCA settled on using the term "synod" the way we do might not be the most interesting subject (though if you are curious, talk to me!), but the important thing to know is that as congregations, we are part of these larger groups that all come together to make decisions on behalf of God's mission in a wider area. That's important for us as Lutherans! In our tradition, it's not a free-for-all where each congregation or minister gets to decide what we do or what we believe without input from our Lutheran neighbors. It also helps us work together on things that really are better done by the wider church, like training and calling new ministers, setting guidelines for ministerial behavior and discipline, preparing new hymnals and liturgies, and responding to social issues. The synod also provides leadership, in the form of our bishop and her staff, and synod council. This is especially helpful when we face issues and situations that are beyond the ability of individual ministers, church councils, or congregations to adequately address.

During my time as a pastor, I truly believe our synod has been very fortunate to have such good and wise bishops as Amy Current and her predecessor Michael Burk. I hope you'll make a point of attending worship on May 5th when Bishop Current visits, especially if you're able to attend the 11:30 a.m. festive service and meal at Salem. You can also participate in the work of the Synod as a voting member at a

Continued on page 4

Pastor:

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Holy Communion:

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

Sunday Worship

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

Sunday School

May 12 & 19
After worship at St. Paul's

St. John's Council

May 6, 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation Class

May 8 & 22
5:30 p.m.

Women of ELCA Bible Study

May 2, 1:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Council

May 9, 7:00 p.m.

Worship Time Change

Beginning June 2
8:30 a.m. at St. Paul's
10:00 a.m. at St. John's

Council Notes

Worship Attendance:

	St. John's	St. Paul's
Mar. 30	45	Easter Vigil
Mar. 31	47	32
Apr. 7	28	13
Apr. 14	25	19
Apr. 21	27	7

St. John's Council Meeting—April 8, 6:30 p.m.:

Members present: Julie Busch, Peggy Post, Linda Hueneke, Deb Decker, Mark Hueneke, Pastor Will Layton, Tom Harmon, and Duane Tietjen.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor had stated that Easter and Holy Week services had gone very well, and he was pleased with the attendance and addition of the afternoon services that parish members could have an option to attend.
- Pastor reported he had conducted three funerals at Salem over the past month.
- The video crew had spent time at all congregations, and Pastor had worked with them and organized interviews with members of the congregations.
- Confirmation has a few more classes and will stop mid-May.

Building Fund Fundraiser: Deb Decker gave a financial report on the current balance. Plans are busily underway for set-up and event activities for the auction fundraiser April 13th.

Lent Soup Supper fundraiser: Julie Busch had reported the soup suppers were extremely successful, and thanks to everyone who assisted in the kitchen, baked, made soup and dined with us. The events provided a \$4,300 check for the Buschs.

Parish Committee:

- Thrivent has provided St. John's with a \$250 Action Team gift card to assist in paying for a portion of the meal on May 5th in Andrew. Julie Busch will reach out to committee president, Jolene Duschen, and try to call a meeting to tie up any loose ends.
- Motion carried to purchase Pastor Will's laptop so he can discontinue using his personal device, as one was never purchased for him when he started in 2017. Funding for this will come from the Memorial Fund.
- Pastor highly encourages excellent attendance from all members to partake in the meal for the TPJC on the 5th at Salem.

Parsonage improvements: Pastor wants to paint the parsonage inside to freshen it up, and there are funds available to do so. He was directed to select whatever he sees fitting for that space and provide receipts to the treasurer.

April 27th Cluster Gathering: Dianne Strickler indicated to Julie Busch she would like a Facebook post to encourage women to attend. Events will take place in the basement, and salads and desserts are still needed along with RSVPs which are due by April 22nd to Marge Felderman.

Church Building:

- Cleaning is Saturday April 20, beginning at 8:30 a.m.
- It was reported that after an initial repair there was leaking again from the glass entrance to the church. Dubuque Glass had been there to fix it; however, Pastor Will has seen some additional leaking taking place.
- Mark Hueneke indicated spraying for wasps, beetles, and boxelders will take place again this month.
- The furnace in the basement is still emitting a very strong fuel oil smell, and Mark is working on getting this fixed with Heartland Mechanical who has serviced it in the past.

Window Shades for Basement: Motion carried to spend up to \$900 from the Memorial Fund to purchase the blinds. It was determined to try to get these up prior to the auction on Saturday, April 13th.

Confirmation: Motion carried to accept the slate of candidates for confirmation which includes Payton Kettmann and Maddie Hueneke. Confirmation exercises will be held this fall on Reformation Sunday.

AED training: Anyone interested in being instructed on the use of our AED device and CPR procedures should let President Rich Busch know. Rich is planning to schedule instruction with Gloria Heacock for a time yet to be determined in June. We want to get an idea of who and how many would like to attend this informative session.

Meeting was adjourned by Vice President, Duane Tietjen, at 7:30 p.m.

Julie Busch (Secretary Pro-Tem)

Synod Assembly

The 2024 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly is scheduled for May 17-18 in Coralville. Our delegates from St. John's are Julie Busch and Dianne Strickler. Salem delegates are Sherry Weuste Tucker and Roger Tucker. Pastor Will and Deacon Laurie will also go. It's not too late to have someone from St. Paul's—registration closes May 8.

Talk to Pastor Will if interested.

Prayer Concerns

Avela Bahr, Billie Bohy, Norma Bormann, Marilyn Bradley, Carlton Busch, Kimberly Busch, Tricia Busch, Doug Clark, Kevin Cornelius, Janell Daugherty, Paul Dent, Max Elliott, Jessica Harmon, Gary Hughes, Anthony Jensen, Marilyn Knief, Sharon Konrardy, Rod Miller, Declan Olson, Rev. Duane Priebe, David Schroeder, Liam Schroeder, Shirley Schroeder, Lynn Scott, William Turnmeyer, Diane Wallace, A. J. Walter, Mickey Walton, Duane Westphal, Rita Wiegert, Ethan.

Lutheran Services in Iowa

Happy Mother's Day!

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate and empower all the strong, loving women in your life. At LSI, we provide mothers, and soon-to-be mothers, with the education and resources they need to build the brightest future for their children.

LSI's Foster Care and Adoption Services work to bring families together and to help them throughout the process of becoming licensed for foster care and approved for adoption. Our Family Centered Services uses a strengths-based approach to keep Iowa families together by equipping parents with skills they need to be successful, independent and healthy.

As you celebrate Mother's Day this year, remember that your support helps empower Iowa moms. If you are looking for a way to help these moms, or to honor a mother in your life this year, please consider making a gift in her name to LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Senior Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

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.

Staying Connected to your Roots

LSI Foster Care and Adoption is proud to be part of the Native Families for Native Children (NF4NC) project, which is a collaborative effort between the four native tribes of Nebraska, human services agencies and private agency partners in Nebraska and Iowa. As part of the project's efforts, we recruit, train, license and support Native American families in accord with the traditions, needs and resources of their communities.

Rebecca and Kirby expanded their family when they adopted their son in January. The couple had the opportunity to work with the Omaha Tribe and were able to participate in the second Customary Adoption in the State of Iowa.

Through their Customary Adoption, the family completed a culture plan with the tribe and will be able to keep their newly adopted son connected to his cultural roots with the Omaha Tribe. The new family also was able to keep their son connected to his biological siblings, so he can continue to be involved with them.

LSI is proud to help connect families, like Rebecca and Kirby, with the resources they need to continue to grow their families and build the brightest future for Iowa children

Almost Home Fundraiser "Party for a Purpose"

Friday, June 21, 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Dubuque County Fairgrounds.

Almost Home is the Homeless Men with Children Shelter located at St John's Lutheran Church in downtown Dubuque. We are seeking donations of "Theme" baskets worth over \$50 or specialty silent auction items. The specialty auction items could include a boat ride, a plane ride, a farm tour/meal, a backyard barbeque, or dinner/cards. If you have an interesting item to donate, please call Cindy Recker at 563-542-7143.

And please mark your calendar to attend "Party for a Purpose" on June. 21, 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Dubuque County Fairgrounds.

future synod assembly, and by praying for Bishop Current, her staff, and the other churches and ministers in our synod. Together, we can do so much more for the sake of the Good News of Jesus!

Sincerely,

Pastor Will Layton

May 5 Installations

7:30 a.m.—Joint choir practice at St. John's.
8:30 a.m.—Rev. Laurie to be installed at St. John's
10:00 a.m.—Rev. Laurie will be installed at St. Paul's.
11:30 a.m.—Rev. Laurie and Pastor Will are to be installed at Salem.

Bishop Amy will preach at each service.
All are invited to the meal catered by Jeronimo's following the service at Salem.
(Church members are invited to bring desserts.)

Thank You

- ◇ **Thank you** to everyone who helped with or attended the midweek suppers and services this Lent.
- ◇ **Thank you** to all who participated in and helped make Holy Week and Easter services very special.
- ◇ A very sincere thank you to Laurie Hueneke Martens for planning the "Forward in Faith" meal and auction on April 13. Special thanks to all who donated and bid on auction items, helped with the meal, and took part in any other way.
- ◇ Another thank you to Laurie for putting plants in the outside planters at St. John's.

Note Received

*Dear St. John's Community—friends and family,
Thank you so much for making me the recipient for the soup suppers. I want you all to know how much we appreciate it. You are all angels to us. We are more grateful to everyone than words can express.*

Continued prayers are needed as I still struggle with activities of daily living.

Love, Tricia & Nathan and family

Graduations

- Brianna Busch will be graduating from the University of Iowa on Saturday, May 11, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Physiology and a Spanish minor.
- Delanie Moeggenberg will graduate from the University of Iowa on Saturday, May 11, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Health Studies and a Spanish minor.
- Tyler Hueneke graduates from Nolensville High School in Nolensville, TN on May 24. He is the son of Chris and Marica Hueneke and plans to attend the University of Kentucky.
- Tate Monk, grandson of Tom and Lisa Harmon, will graduate from Maquoketa Valley High School, Delhi, on May 26. He plans to attend Kirkwood after graduation and then to the University of Dubuque for their pilot program.
- Sam Christoffer is graduating from Western Dubuque High School on May 19 and will be attending UNI in the fall. His parents are Paul & Tammy (Hingtgen) Christoffer.
- Jayce Hingtgen is graduating from Center Point-Urbana High School on May 26 and will attend Luther College in the fall. His parents are Terry & Heather Hingtgen.
- DaMisha (Misha) McFarland-Pollock will graduate from Wartburg Theological Seminary on May 12. Misha has been assigned to our South-eastern Iowa Synod.

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!

Women of the ELCA

May Bible Study

Thursday, May 2, 1:00 p.m.

Devotions: Bea Hansen; Bible Study: Pastor Will

The study, "Compassionate Companions," a Devotional on Mental Health by Elise Seyfried is in the May/June issue of *Gather* magazine. All are welcome to come at 10:00 a.m. for sewing. Bring a sack lunch.

Quarterly Meeting

At the April 4 meeting, a motion carried to order the book "Women of the Bible," by Ann Spangler and Jean E. Syswerda, which we will soon use as our Bible study. Dianne will order books @ \$17 for all who have signed up by April 28.

Quilts

In April, 11 tied quilts were taken to Open Closet at St. John, Dubuque.

Synodical Gathering

June 14-15 at Zion, Clinton

We want our women to know that should you like to serve as a delegate for our church, we do have budgeted monies to help defray the costs. It would be great to have someone (or more) come to the event and join in the wonderful time we have. Theme: 'JUST LOVE'

Speaker: Bishop Amy Current

Presentations: Sleep in Heavenly Peace
My Gear Outreach
Human Trafficking
and others

Love gifts to My Gear—new child-size pajamas & toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, hair brush, comb, liquid bath soap).

PLEASE JOIN US and bring a friend or two!!

Early registration fee: \$70 if paid before May 18; \$75 after that. Forms are available at church or at <https://forms.gle/S3XQUH42nrxSwxPP7>.

A block of 20 rooms at the Hampton Inn in Clinton for \$129 + tax is under "SEI Southeastern Iowa Women," good until May 15. Make your own reservation @ 563-243-5555.

Sunday School

The last class until fall will be Sunday, May 19, at St. Paul's.

Vacation Bible School

For kids age 4 through ones that have finished sixth grade, "Campfire Firelight," VBS will be Friday, June 21, at St. John's.

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
Russell Marburger
Damian Noble
May 12 — Norla Bormann
May 14 — Ace Adams
Jaylee Keller
May 15 — Lance Felderman
May 17 — Michael Boone
May 19 — John Busch
May 21 — Blain Bormann
May 24 — Sharon Bullock
Jackie Clark
Sandi Schroeder
May 28 — Knox Giesemann
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
May 10 — Rhonda and Mark Hefel
May 16 — Angel and Lee Keller
May 18 — Nathan and Tricia Busch
May 20 — Bob and Becky Harjehausen
May 21 — Carl (Butch) and Janice Busch
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.

Happy Mother's Day

May 12