



The Parish Twine

April, 2024



- St. John's Lutheran Church, St. Donatus, IA
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church, La Motte, IA

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy Easter! Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

By the time you are reading this newsletter, we have just celebrated the most holy week of the church year. It's also my very favorite time to be in church worshipping with you all. The services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil are so moving and powerful. Many of you will have already attended those services, but if you've never been to them, I thought it might be worth sharing part of what I wrote last year about those services. Perhaps if they haven't been part of your regular worship practice, I hope you'll consider participating in them next year (or tonight, in the case of the Vigil for some of you who get the *Parish Twine* electronically on Saturday).

On Maundy Thursday, we began a time that has been known since ancient times as the Three Days or *Triduum* (tri-DO-em): Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter, all leading up to Easter Sunday.

The Three Days really tell one story, from Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples and his arrest in the garden of Gethsemane on Maundy Thursday, through his trial, crucifixion, and death on the cross on Good Friday, through the story of the light and life of the resurrection overcoming the darkness of the tomb at the Easter Vigil. These three seemingly separate services come together to form one powerful, moving experience of worship, and each night is significant in its own way. Maundy Thursday has us remember Jesus giving us the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion, and ends with the somber practice of stripping the altar. Good Friday is a solemn reminder of how Jesus, the Son of God, loved us enough to give his own life for us.

The Vigil of Easter is the newest practice in our communities, although it's actually the most ancient of the three. The Vigil begins outside the church, just as night begins to fall. We light a "new fire" to remember how the light of Jesus' rising shines throughout the world, and the darkness will never overcome it. We will pass the light from that new fire to one another as we process into the church and sing God's praises first by candlelight. In that sense, you could almost think of the Easter Vigil being to Easter what Christmas Eve is to Christmas. The high point of the service is when we sing Alleluia to welcome the Easter Gospel reading and the lights in the church are turned up, the altar candles are lit, and the church bell rings all through that song of praise until we finally say together, "Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" Some years, we have had the opportunity to celebrate a baptism at the Easter Vigil, which was the traditional service for baptism of new Christians in the early church. This year, though we will not have a baptism at that service, we will all have an opportunity to affirm our baptismal faith. If you haven't attended the Easter Vigil before, I hope you'll consider participating in this beautiful, unique experience of worship.

And of course, Easter Sunday will once again bring joyful worship services, too as we celebrate the Good News of Jesus' resurrection!

I hope and pray that you and your loved ones have a joyous and blessed Easter!

In Christ,
Pastor Will Layton

Pastor:

Rev. William J. Layton
(563) 249-6923
pastorwill@stjohnsandstpauls.org

Deacon:

Rev. Laurie Finn
520-981-4328 cell
deaconlaurie@stjohnsandstpauls.org

Church Office:

773-2313
office@stjohnsandstpauls.org

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

St. John's Council Mtg.

April 8, 6:30 p.m.

Readings with Bruce

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Women of ELCA Bible Study & Mtg.

April 4, 1:00 p.m.

Kick-Off Event

Saturday, April 13
at St. John's

Cluster 5 Gathering

Saturday, April 27
at St. John's

Worship Attendance:

	<u>St. John's</u>	<u>St. Paul's</u>
Mar. 3	30	16
Mar. 6	40	Midweek
Mar. 10	24	11
Mar. 17	31	19
Mar. 20	52	Midweek
Mar. 24	29	12
Mar. 28	25	15 Maundy Thursday
Mar. 29	32	8 Good Friday

St. John's Council Meeting—March 4:

Meeting called to order by Richard Busch

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

Devotions: Provided by Pastor

Pastor Report: Pastor expressed appreciation and thanked everyone for office setup stating it has worked well with the meetings he has already conducted. Written report was provided.

Secretary Report: Judy will update 2/5/24 report stating Episcopal Church Pension fund is 1 month behind due to billing not received.

Treasurer Report: BSB checking; MIF; Sunday School; Memorial Fund - Payment was made for office furniture.

Old Business:

Building and Grounds: Mark accepted final bid for \$111,000 from TNT. Bid covers everything on outside except the lower windows in the basement. Roof is \$83,279 for a total cost of \$194,658. Tentatively scheduled for late summer. TNT will take about 1 to 1 ½ month and Eli's roofing will take 10 days to 2 weeks. Color of roof still needs to be determined.

Fundraising: Kick Off is scheduled for April 13, 2024. On 7/14/2024 there will be a Vintage Tractor Pull on flat ground behind housing and B&G area. There is a proposal for the two churches of St. Donatus to join together and man the food stand with proceeds split between the two churches. Menu will be simple and more information to follow.

Trinity Parish Committee update:

President: Jolene Duschen, VP: Bill Goettler, Secretary: Julie Busch, Treasurer: Peggy McMurray.

Maundy Thursday services at St. John's at 6:00 p.m. and St. Paul's at 7:30 p.m. with Mark Oehlert.

St. John's will have a Good Friday service at noon.

Rev Laurie will have an Easter sunrise service starting in the cemetery.

Salem is doing a brunch after their Easter Service and have extended an invitation to other parishes. Time will be approximately 10:30 a.m.

On May 5, at the St. John's and St. Paul's services, Rev Laurie will be installed and Pastor Will to be installed at Salem's service. Bishop Amy will preach at each service. Jeronimo's will cater the meal at Salem following their service. Committee is planning for 100 meals. Thrivent cards will be requested August 18 will be Worship in the Park with a pot-luck meal to follow. St. John's to provide beverages, utensils, and plates as needed. Possibly there will be a joint choir. Volunteers are needed from each church for readings, offering, and communion assistants.

September 8, a Civil War Reenactment will take place in Maquoketa. A Salem member is on the committee. Pastor is scheduled to be at Salem that day and is to do a 1860 timeframe service on the battlefield. It will follow the 1860 services that are currently done at Gettysburg.

Pastor and Rev Laurie have been using their own computers. Cost to provide them with computers will be about \$2,000 to \$3,000. Each council is to discuss at their individual meetings and will be discussed again at Trinity Parish Committee meeting in June.

AED training for St. John's. Gloria Heacock will provide AED and CRP training in June after a service.

New Business:

ELCA Video Crew: April 6 & 7 a crew will be at each church to highlight the Trinity Parish of Jackson County. They will be taking footage of the churches, be in church during worship and speak with some parish members.

Bug vacuum cleaner: A cordless handheld vacuum cleaner will be purchased by Julie B.

Bug Spraying and Window Cleaning: Mark will contact Chris Ries for bug spraying and Key City Windows for front door window cleaning.

Resume church cleaning: Julie Troy to start cleaning church again this week

Morning Prayer Service: Not a big success – Pastor, Rev Laurie and Julie to discuss changing two songs.

Church Seating: Suggestion made that everyone sitting towards the front of church and together would enhance singing and spoken prayers in such a large setting.

Next meeting April, 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer

Lent Midweek

Thank you to all who provided the delicious food at our midweek services this year.

Women ^{of the} ELCA

April Bible Study & Meeting
Thursday, April 13, 1:00 p.m.

Devotions: Linda Hueneke
Bible Study: Pastor Will

The Bible study, session four of “Scripture and nature: Teachers of faith—Food,” is found on p. 32 in the March/April *Gather* magazine.

We are to elect a delegate for the Synodical Gathering June 14-15 at Zion, Clinton. 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

Change in Yearbook

Phone numbers: Rhonda Hefel, 563-543-4760
 Rachel Hefel, 563-4514760
 (their 876 numbers are no longer in service)

Spring Cluster Gathering

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

8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; Cost, \$7.00

Reservations due by April 22—call Marge Felderman
 563-773-2313 or email office@stjohnsandstpauls.org

Bible study: Jeremiah 3:15, Misha McFarland-Pollock

Program: Wartburg Theological Seminary by
 President Kristin Johnson Largen

Love Gifts: Non-perishable food or monetary donation will go to Wartburg Seminary Food Pantry.

Synodical Women’s Gathering

June 14-15, Zion, Clinton

Join with other Sisters in Christ to celebrate our faith, learn new things and share with each other about what is happening.

Theme: ‘JUST LOVE’

Speaker: Bishop Amy Current

Early registration fee: \$70

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

Love gifts to My Gear

PLEASE JOIN US and bring a friend or two!!

Still Saving

Bring to church:

- **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.
- **Can tabs** for Ronald McDonald House.

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St. John’s VBS Campfire Firelight

Friday, June 21

Age 4 to kids that have just finished 6th grade.

Our Sympathy

- ◇ Richard Walton, Betty Schroeder’s cousin, died March 4 in California.
- ◇ Lisa Kalmes died unexpectedly on March 19.
- ◇ Connie Goepfert died March 23. A Celebration of Life reception will be held on Friday, April 19, at the Bellevue State Park Lodge 4:00-8:00 p.m. A prayer service and sharing of memories will begin at 6:00 p.m. A dinner will be provided, but people are encouraged to bring a dish to share.
- ◇ Tom Wolter, Tracey (Mark) Hueneke’s brother, died unexpectedly on March 25 in Florida.

Installation Choir

Joint Parish Choir will be singing at all three churches for the installation of our ministers on May 5. If you would like to join the choir that day, please come to Salem on Sunday, April 28, at 11:30 a.m. to practice. There will be a lunch following the practice. We will also practice at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 5, at St. John’s before the 8:30 a.m. service. Please feel free to join us in this joyous celebration. Thank you in advance. If you have any questions, call Mary Ann Goettler at 815-266-4681.

Thank you to Ruth Tietjen for putting a new wallpaper border in the women’s restroom.

Transfers Out

Tom and Glenda Meyer and Judy, Connor and Zachary Michels have transferred their memberships to St. John, Bellevue



Forward in Faith Kick Off Event

St. John's on Saturday, April 13
5:00 p.m., meal & silent auction
6:00 p.m., short program
6:30 p.m., live auction (Silent auc-
tion items will close 10 minutes af-
ter the live auction ends.)

Bring your friends, family and join us for pulled pork sandwiches, with hot dogs for the kids. Cost: Free-will donation.

Some of our unique auction items include:

- ⇒ 2 tickets for a Hot Air Balloon ride
- ⇒ Angus Beef Package
- ⇒ Date night with babysitting, dinner & movie
- ⇒ 1 year Homemade Baked Goods
- ⇒ 2 tickets Heart Ache Tonight + La Casa gift card
- ⇒ 2 day kids horse camp for up to 3 kids
- ⇒ Jackson County Hayride
- ⇒ Handmade cutting board
- ⇒ Solo stove & S'mores
- ⇒ Hand tied blanket

Many themed baskets: Garden, Coffee, Breakfast, Massage, Ducks Unlimited, Wine, Baby & more!

Thank you to everyone who has donated or helped gather donations. Due to the overwhelming support, we are no longer accepting any donations that have not already been pledged. All donations should be at church by April 1.

For more information, visit stjohnsforward.org

SE Iowa Synod Assembly

The assembly will be held 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. Talk to Pastor Will if interested.

Congratulations

Delaney Frances was born to Mitch and Clare Gill on March 19. She is welcomed by sister Olivia.

April Birthdays

- Apr. 3 — Lorelei Walker
- Apr. 4 — Jody Uhlenhake
- Apr. 6 — Richard Bradley
Olivia Carter
- Apr. 7 — Levi Keller
Ava Lehman
- Apr. 8 — Rhonda Hefel
- Apr. 9 — Isabelle Tietjen
- Apr. 10 — Quinn and Reese Felderman
- Apr. 11 — April Berendes
Laurie Hueneke 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. 4 — Mike and Jolene Duschen
- Apr. 7 — Dale and Mary Reeg

Richard S. Bradley turns 95 years young on April 6. Birthday blessings may be sent to him at 4756 Lambe Rd., Zwingle, IA 52079.

Please let us know of any errors or omissions.

Easter Blessings!

Lutheran Services in Iowa

From Sheep to Shepherd: An LSI Early Childhood Services Story

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, a mother, recently released from treatment, found herself in her new empty apartment with her son. She felt lost and needed a shepherd to guide her. So, Hali contacted LSI's Early Childhood Services, and Gretchen O'Brien, a Family Support Worker, answered the call. Gretchen began virtual home visits using the Healthy Family America home-visiting model.

For the next three years, Gretchen connected Hali and her son to community resources, served as a support system and a shoulder to cry on, and celebrated Hali's sobriety milestones with her. Even when Hali doubted herself, Gretchen guided and believed in her.

"I just remember sitting in that empty apartment crying, but I had Gretchen on the phone. You guys believed in me when nobody else did," shared Hali.

Today, Hali serves on the Healthy Family America (HFA) National Parent Advisory Committee, the first of its kind. The group is composed of 10-12 parents from around the country who have graduated from their local HFA program, each participant with their own story to share.

Hali needed a shepherd in her time of trouble and self-doubt, and Gretchen answered that call. Now, Hali serves as a shepherd to thousands of parents through the National Parent Advisory Committee. The LSI Early Childhood team couldn't be more proud of Hali and Gretchen.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's 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.



GriefShare®

**Help and encouragement
after the death of a loved one**

A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. At this 13-week group, you'll receive valuable guidance and tips, leading you to relief, comfort, and peace of mind.

Grief SUPPORT GROUP

13-week support group starting
Friday, April 5th, 1-2:30pm
St. Joseph Parish, Bellevue | Kruse Center

Questions Contact:
Yvette Andersen (563) 872-3234
Patti Hager (563) 542-7607