

really having a sure way of knowing what that right thing is. Look for the silver linings where you can find them, and look for God's grace shining through it all.

- Trust that the people who have been gathered together by the Holy Spirit into this thing called the church are truly part of something real, and amazing. Trust that we can care truly about one another through whatever life brings our way.
- Show up, even if you don't feel like it. That meeting or special service or activity or whatever might not seem like the most important thing to you, but you being there might be more important to someone else than you will ever know.

OK, that's probably enough of my pontificating! I know most of you have far more wisdom and experience than I do. If you have a piece of advice or wisdom to share with me as I head into another year of ministry, send it my way!

Sincerely in Christ,  
Pastor Will Layton

### Antique Tractor Pull

**Help Support the Churches of St. Donatus!!!** Tractor pull, Sunday, July 14. Pull Starts at 10:30 a.m. behind B & G Feed Store in St. Donatus. Parking available on site and at the St. Donatus Community Club. Pullers—please park truck and trailers at the St. Donatus Community Club, St. Donatus Parish parking lot or B&G Feed Store parking lot. Proceeds will be split between St. Donatus Catholic Church & St John's Lutheran Church towards church improvements!! Food and Drinks will be available to purchase by Kalmes Restaurant on site.

Please share this event!! It's been many years since there has been an antique tractor pull in St Donatus, so lets support this great event!! PLEASE NO carry ins!

### VBS at Salem, Andrew

Join us for goats, games, gastronomical delights ... and God, at Salem Lutheran Church in Andrew on Wednesday, July 31. We'll have fun during Vacation Bible School as we share and learn about God's New Creation.

Details to come. Questions? Reach out to Rev Laurie Finn [deaconlaurie@stjohnsandstpauls.org](mailto:deaconlaurie@stjohnsandstpauls.org)

~~~~~

### Lutheran Services in Iowa

#### God's work. Our hands

It's nearly that time of year again – God's Work, Our Hands! Though the official day is in September, it's not too late to plan how your congregation can engage with GWOH Day. One of the best ways to practice GWOH is through volunteering. At LSI, we have volunteer opportunities for individuals of nearly every age, ability, and schedule. Additionally, we offer group volunteer projects – the perfect opportunity for this upcoming day of service. If you are interested in volunteering with LSI for God's Work, Our Hands, talk to your pastor and have them contact [philanthropy@LSIowa.org](mailto:philanthropy@LSIowa.org).

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto: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](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*



## The Parish Twine

July, 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,

Seven years! Wow! It's hard to believe that, as this newsletter comes out, I am marking seven years as a pastor with St. John's and St. Paul's. (For the folks at Salem, I know I'm much newer to your congregation as the pastor, but I still feel like I've been walking alongside you all in ministry of one form or another for more than four of those seven years!)

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017, I was ordained as a pastor, and the following night I presided at worship for the very first time as a "called and ordained minister of the church of Christ". I officially started full time ministry with these congregations on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Over these seven years, I'd like to think I've learned a few things—though I have often said I wish I knew as much now as I *thought* I knew back then. At any rate, I was thinking I might try to share a few of the lessons that I've learned over these past seven years, in no particular order. Some of these are things that I knew in my *mind* coming into ministry, but that it took time and experience to really understand them or learn them by heart:

- God's grace is real, and it shows up exactly when we need it the most.
- That grace often comes through God's people, and often comes in unexpected ways.
- Life is TRULY unpredictable, but the one thing that we can be sure of is that God's love goes with us through it all, no matter what.
- Funerals are one of the few things that get harder with experience—it is much harder to bury someone who has become a friend than it is to bury a stranger.
- People actually do listen to what the preacher says, though people don't always notice the parts that the preacher thought were the most notable.
- Prayer really makes a difference.
- Stop and think about the things you say before you say them; you never know who is going to take your words more seriously than you anticipated.
- On the other hand, don't be afraid to speak your mind when it really matters (after you've thought about it first, though).
- Politics is not nearly as all-important as the politicians want us to believe. That's not to say that good leadership and good policies don't matter, but it's not worth losing friends over! Pray for our elected leaders, vote prayerfully and thoughtfully, and remember that the people who voted differently from you are your neighbors and fellow people for whom Jesus died. You can disagree with your neighbors and still be friends and fellow church members with them.
- There are exactly two kinds of people who come to church: sinners, and Jesus. Actually, those are the only kinds of people you'll encounter anywhere.
- If you happen to find yourself as a church leader during a once-in-a-century global pandemic, remember that it's uncharted territory for everyone involved. You will make right decisions and wrong decisions. You will lose sleep over those decisions. You will probably lose church members over those decisions. You will probably regret some of those decisions. I don't think there's any way around it. Pray, and remember that you are trying your best to do the right thing, without

**Pastor:**  
Rev. William J. Layton  
(563) 249-6923  
[pastorwill@stjohnsandstpauls.org](mailto:pastorwill@stjohnsandstpauls.org)

**Deacon:**  
Rev. Laurie Finn  
520-981-4328 cell  
[deaconlaurie@stjohnsandstpauls.org](mailto:deaconlaurie@stjohnsandstpauls.org)

**Church Office:**  
773-2313  
[office@stjohnsandstpauls.org](mailto:office@stjohnsandstpauls.org)

**Marge's Email:**  
[margefelderman@netins.net](mailto:margefelderman@netins.net)

**Holy Communion:**  
1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays  
of each month  
plus major festivals

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

**St. John's Council**  
July 8—6:30 p.m.

**Women of ELCA Bible Study & Meeting**  
July 11—1:00 p.m.

**St. Paul's Council**  
July 11—7:00 p.m.

**Tractor Pull**  
July 14, 10:30 a.m.  
In St. Donatus

**Intergenerational Sewing Day**  
July 17, 10:00 a.m.

**Salem VBS**  
Wednesday, July 31

**Readings with Bruce**  
7 p.m. each Wednesday

**Council Notes**

**Worship Attendance:**

|         | <u>St. John's</u> | <u>St. Paul's</u> |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|
| June 2  | 22                | 11                |
| June 8  |                   | 13                |
| June 9  | 28                |                   |
| June 16 | 32                | 11                |
| June 23 | 26                | 8                 |

**St. John's Council Meeting, June 3, 2024:**

Members present: Pastor Will, Duane Tietjen, Julie Busch, Mark Hueneke, Tom Harmon, Deb Decker, Peggy Post, Linda Hueneke, and Judy Hueneke-Kremer  
Duane Tietjen called meeting to order.

**Devotions:** Provided by Pastor

**Secretary Report:** Written report provided by Judy H-K

**Treasurer Report:**

BSB checking, MIF, Sunday School, Memorial Fund, Trinity Parish

**Pastor Report:** Pastor Will provided written report  
Motion carried to accept reports.

**Old Business**

**Fund Raiser:**

Current bank balance: \$90,215.18  
Funds raised: \$95,660.00  
Tractor pull as scheduled on July 14

**AED & CPR training:**

Gloria will provide training on June 30 following worship at St. John's. This training is informational only and will not provide certification

**Building and Grounds:**

Mark advised backroom by kitchen needs to be cleared out so open area to breaker box

**New Business**

**Church cleaner:**

Julie Troy has broken her foot and will not be available for an extended period of time.  
Please assist in covering the cleaning.

**Synod payment:**

Mark H made motion to reimburse Julie B for expenses she paid for Synod Assembly and for Judy Hueneke-Kremer to be added to the bank account for signature on account. Linda H 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

Next meeting July 1, 2024 at 6:30

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer

**Sympathy**

- \* Gladys Wernimont, grandmother of Lucas and Adam Busch, died June 14.
- \* Ayden Beeson, 17-year-old young man who drowned June 27 at Lake Rathbun. He was a friend of the Pat & Kerensa Kettmann family and had been ring bearer at their wedding.



**St. John's Camp Firelight VBS**

This was a huge success! We hosted approximately 35 kids from around the community of different faiths and backgrounds to learn about trusting God—Whenever I am afraid, I put my trust in you. Psalm 56:3. For our service project, the kids made over 40 birthday cake kits that were donated to the Bellevue Community Cupboard. They also tied and braided 50 dog toys that will be donated to the humane society. A BIG THANK YOU to the 20 volunteers who helped with set up, prep the service projects, kept the church cool, and taught the kids and everyone who donated items or contributed in any way. Pictures of the day are posted on the church Facebook page.

**In Prayer**

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

**Women of the ELCA**

**July Bible Study & Quarterly Meeting**

Thursday, July 6, 1:00 p.m.

Devotions: Peggy Post; Bible Study: Pastor Will

Our Bible study is in the book, "Women of the Bible," beginning on p. 17 with Eve and Sarah on p. 25. Come for sewing/tying at 10:00 a.m.

**Quilts Donated in June**

Four tied quilts were taken to the Synodical Gathering for our love gift to My G.E.A.R

**Southeast Iowa Synodical Women's Gathering**

"Just Love" was the theme as we began our Gathering with a hymn sing where all the songs had love in them. Over our time together, we heard from Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Human Trafficking and My G.E.A.R. from their representatives. Portions of the offering went to the first two, with love gifts made to My G.E.A.R. Our church took several quilts for My G.E.A.R.

The fifty plus women/guests present had a Bible study led by Pastor Julie Higgs while Bishop Amy was present on Saturday to conduct worship and bring greetings. Those present had time to visit over coffee before the sessions and during our meals together.

During the business session, non delegates learned more about the Bickelhaupt Arboretum in Clinton, and a bus tour was done before dinner on Friday.

The business session was led by president, Julie Leeper, during which the budget was adopted, resolutions were addressed including changing how many times one person can serve as a delegate to the Triennial Gatherings. This is to give more ladies an opportunity for that task.

Elections were held with Virginia Eggers elected vice president and myself to treasurer for a second term. We elected two board members but are still in need of one more to have a full board.

It was a great two days, and I am happy to have been a part of this again and look forward to helping plan and participate in next year's Gathering to be held at Grinnell College in Grinnell.

Dianne Strickler

**Multi-Generational Sewing Day**

We invite everyone who would like partake in another day of sewing, tying, cutting blocks to come at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 17.

**Looking ahead**

Watch for plans for our fall Cluster Gathering, to be held on September 30 at St. John, Preston.

*July Birthdays*

- July 1 — Kari Carter
- July 4 — Delanie Moeggenberg
- July 5 — Teague Kohlenberg
- July 6 — Rita Brown  
Roger Heacock  
Abram Shaw
- July 7 — Brandi Moeggenberg  
Tyler Till
- July 9 — Lucas Knief
- July 10 — Staci Felderman
- July 11 — Allen Glen Busch  
Eddie Walker
- July 12 — Stacey Wagner
- July 13 — Paul Christoffer
- July 14 — Evie Shaw
- July 15 — Anita Heacock
- July 17 — Ethan Marks
- July 18 — Sienna Kohlenberg
- July 19 — Presly Kettmann  
Cat Walker
- July 21 — Taylor Gourley  
Lexi Knief  
Sherry Miller
- July 22 — Samuel Christoffer  
Ernie Hilborn
- July 23 — Chris Hueneke  
Marica Hueneke
- July 26 — Terry Tietjen
- July 27 — Brett Clark
- July 28 — Ben Busch  
Peggy Post
- July 30 — Bailey Woodard
- July 31 — Linda Felderman  
Maxton Felderman

*Anniversaries*

- July 1 — Chris & Jennifer Felderman
- July 2 — Darla & Chuck Till
- July 6 — Deb & Bruce Weis
- July 9 — Rod & Sherry Miller
- July 10 — Joan & Eric Clark
- July 26 — John & Mary Giesemann  
Ernie & Sue Hilborn
- July 28 — Toby & Brandi Moeggenberg

Please let us know of any errors or omissions.

**Congratulations**

Clint and Kalli Bormann are parents of a son, Grady Allen, born June 14.

