



The Parish Twine

September, 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,

I'd be willing to bet most of you could think of at least one song that you know all the words to—something you can always sing along with when it comes on the radio. Does that ever happen in church? I have a feeling most church members could sing along with at least one hymn, even without the screens or the hymnals that we're used to using.

I love it when we sing hymns that I know by heart in worship, and at other times, too. My usual bedtime routine with Tillie, after we've read our stories and said our prayers, involves singing some favorite hymns as she falls asleep. We Lutherans have a long tradition of learning hymns by heart. At the start of the Reformation—when the literacy rate in Germany was perhaps as low as 5%—hymns were often used as a way to help teach lessons about faith to people who were unable to read theological tracts or even scripture for themselves. Even now, we can learn so much from hymns. There is a story that a student once asked the famous theologian Karl Barth if he could summarize his whole theology in one sentence. Dr. Barth is said to have responded: "Yes, I can. In the words of a song I learned at my mother's knee: 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.'"

Starting this month, I will begin a series in our church newsletters about "Hymns to Learn By Heart." I've got a few hymns in mind, but I'd be curious to hear from all of you if there are any hymns that you have learned "by heart," and how and why those hymns are important to you. I plan on coming back to the wonderful hymn that Karl Barth mentioned in a few months. For this month, I want to start out with a hymn that is often in my heart as I see the beauty of the changing seasons, especially at this time of year: "How Great Thou Art."

"How Great Thou Art" was written by the Swedish preacher and politician Karl Boberg in 1885. Boberg gave the following account of his inspiration for the hymn: It was that time of year when everything seemed to be in its richest colouring; the birds were singing in trees and everywhere. It was very warm; a thunderstorm appeared on the horizon and soon there was thunder and lightning. We had to hurry to shelter. But the storm was soon over and the clear sky appeared. When I came home I opened my window toward the sea. There evidently had been a funeral and the bells were playing the tune of "When eternity's clock calls my saved soul to its Sabbath rest". That evening, I wrote the song, "O Store Gud."

The English translation which we know and love was produced by Stuart K. Hine, who heard a Russian translation of the song while he was serving as a missionary in the Soviet Union in 1931. His translation was already becoming a popular Gospel song when Billy Graham chose it as the signature song for his "crusades" in the 1950s. Of the song, Graham said, "The reason I like 'How Great Thou Art' is because it glorifies God. It turns Christians' eyes toward God, rather than upon themselves. I use it as often as possible because it is such a God-honoring song."

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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.

Sunday School
beginning September 8
 St. Paul's—after worship

Women of ELCA Bible Study
 September 5, 1:00 p.m.

St. John's Council
 September 9, 6:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Fundraiser
 September 28
 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Council Notes

Worship Attendance:

	St. John's	St. Paul's
July 28	21	11
July 30	210	Mike Decker's Funeral
Aug. 4	28	15
Aug. 11	15	12
Aug. 18	83	Joint Worship in Park
Aug. 25	23	13

St. John's Council Meeting—Monday, August 5, 2024
Meeting called to order by Richard Busch.

Members present: Pastor Will, Rev Laurie, Richard Busch, Judy Hueneke-Kremer, Duane Tietjen, Tom Harmon, Linda Hueneke, Deb Decker, Mark Hueneke, and Julie Busch.

Devotions: Provided by Pastor

Pastor Report: Pastor Will—provided written report—Grand piano on loan from Layton family. Worship in Park August 18, with Kremer Baptism. Rev. Laurie—provided written report and stated thoroughly enjoyed driving in St. Donatus tractor pull.

Treasurer Report: BSB checking; MIF; Sunday School; Memorial Fund - \$13,155.82 (\$500 to be transferred to Roof Fund account); Trinity Parish - \$13,014.76; Roof fund—Raised \$164,219.53 (includes \$50,000 matching funds); \$55,689.50 paid to TNT (1/2 of total charges) \$157,094.68 remaining balance; Tractor pull fundraiser total \$4,539 – Thank You to be sent to Mike Theisen.

Motion carried to approve reports.

Old Business:

AED & CPR training:

Razor and mask was added to AED box
Richard to follow up with Gloria concerning Certified CPR training

Building and Grounds:

Mark stated painting will start tomorrow and will take about 2 weeks
Mason repair to take about 2-3 weeks
Eli will complete steeples before roof

God's Work Our Hands

Noisy offerings are taking place each Sunday in August

Salem VBS – God's New Creation – Rev. Laurie

About 35 children attended with many volunteers
VBS was enjoyed and with a live goat - "Who's the G.O.A.T.?" Jesus- Greatest Of All Time

TPJC - Next meeting in November

Parish committee is in need of three new members to replace three members who terms will end. Please consider volunteering to join the committee for a 3-year term. St. John's will be replacing Mark Hueneke. More information to follow in the Parish Twine.

New Business:

Braille Version of Hymnal

Motion carried to see if used Braille Hymnal is available and if not available, a new Hymnal be purchased using memorial funds.

Insurance - Julie advised insurance has increased by 25%.

Next meeting September 9, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer

Baptism

Jasper Lewis Kremer was baptized August 18 at the joint worship in the park. He was born June 28, son of Jamison Nicole (Timmer) Kremer. His sponsors are Victoria Michel and Jack Kremer.

God's Work our Hands
Sunday, September 8

Our project this year was to collect "noisy" offerings each Sunday in August, with proceeds to be given to community food banks and pantries. A total of \$147.21 was collected at St. John's and St. Paul's, \$41.95 credited to Salem as the 40% from the joint service on August 18.

St. Paul's Fundraiser

Saturday, September 28, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Lunch (free-will donation): Turkey & Dressing Sandwich, Sloppy Joes, Chips (variety), Bars/Cookies, Coffee, Hot Apple Cider, Lemonade.
Bake Sale * Crafts * Rummage Sale *
Fall Harvest Items.

A portion of the proceeds to be given to St. John's building repair.

Forward in Faith

Bender's Food Stand fundraiser is September 6 & 7. We ask for volunteers. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of church at St. John's. Or you may contact Laurie Hueneke Martens at 202-441-4452 or lhuen- eke@yahoo.com. We'll need at least 1 person each shift who is willing to grill

Trivia Night

Beer in the Barn (at the Gehlen Barn in St. Donatus) will host a Trivia Night fundraiser to be shared between St. John's and St. Donatus churches, on Friday, September 13. Entry is \$10 per person, with all funds split between the two churches of St. Donatus. Play starts at 7:00 p.m. Come challenge your friends and neighbors to a friendly game of wit and knowledge and help support the churches of our community! Teams can be up to six people.



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

WHY MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among adults.

On average,
130
people die by
suicide every day

Source: American Foundation
for Suicide Prevention

From 1999 to 2019,
841,000
people died from
drug overdoses.

Source: Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

Nearly
1 IN 5
in the U.S. lives with
a mental illness.

Source: National Institute
of Mental Health

WHO NEEDS TO KNOW MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

- Employers.
- Police officers.
- Hospital staff.
- First responders.
- Caring individuals.

WHAT IT COVERS

- Common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges.
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use challenges.
- How to interact with a person in crisis.
- How to connect a person with help.
- Expanded content on trauma, substance use and self-care.

Learn how to respond with the Mental Health First Aid Action Plan (ALGEE):

- A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm.
- L**isten nonjudgmentally.
- G**ive reassurance and information.
- E**ncourage appropriate professional help.
- E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies.

October 11-12, 2024
Salem Lutheran Church
Andrew, Iowa

Registration information to come.
Questions? Email Laurie Finn:
lauriefinn2@gmail.com

Sources
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. (n.d.). *Suicide statistics*. <https://afsp.org/suicide-statistics/>
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.) *Drug overdose deaths*. <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/index.html>
National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). (n.d.). *Mental illness*. <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>

I imagine Billy Graham's influence could have something to do with the fact that this hymn is so popular among our communities. The fact that Elvis Presley and so many other notable singers have made beautiful recordings of it can't hurt either. Above all, though, I think it speaks to so many of us in how it captures a sense of awe at the wonder of God's glorious creation and reverence for God's unimaginable love show to us in Jesus' death for us on the cross. It's a hymn we've sung at many (perhaps most) of the funerals I've presided at during my ministry here, and every single time we sing it on such an occasion it is so incredibly powerful. We shouldn't think of it as a hymn that's just for funerals, though! I encourage you to learn it by heart, and whenever you witness the wonders of God's world, you too can join in that soulful song:

"Then sings my soul, my savior God to thee, 'How great thou art! How great thou art!'"

Blessings,

Pastor Will Layton

Sunday School

St. Paul's Sunday School begins September 8, following worship.

St. John's Sunday School schedule is still being determined..

Confirmation Classes are being scheduled now, and will start in September. Parents of confirmation students should look for more information in an email from Pastor Will.

Congratulations

- ◇ To all our young people who participated and did well at Jackson and Dubuque County fairs and at the Iowa State Fair.
- ◇ To Blake and Katie Ohren-Shipman married August 23 at Moorhead, MN. Blake is a member of St. John's and serves as a development officer at Wartburg Seminary.

In Our Prayers

Avela 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, Margaret Schultz, William Turnmeyer, Diane Wallace, A. J. Walter, Mickey Walton, Duane Westphal, Rita Wiegert.

Our Sympathy

- * Ella "Pat" Tigges died July 30. She was the grandmother of Justine (Knief) Dunn.
- * Verrena (Giesemann) Dagitz Stein died August 24.
- * Edna J. McDougall, 104, died on August 28 at the Viking Manor Nursing Home, Ulen, MN. She was the grandmother of Sam Giere.

EWALU Annual Fall Festival & Quilt Auction

Saturday, September 21
at 37776 Alpha Ave., Strawberry Point

Free admission & family fun
Live music, hayrides, food & fellowship!

- 9:00 a.m. - Quilt Review Country Store
- 11:00 a.m. - Devotional Service
- 12:00 noon - Freewill Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. - Live Auction Bidding Begins

There is online bidding September 16-22 at <https://charityauction.bid/EwaluQuiltAuction>:

Questions: Contact Camp Ewalu's Office
Phone: 563-933-4700; **Email:** www.ewalu.org.



We thank Sandra and Richard Hyman for their donation of this beautiful painting of St. John's, which belonged to Sandra's late sister, Beverly (Bergfels) Plimpton. Beverly was baptized and confirmed at St. John's and although she moved away to California as a young adult, she cherished coming back and visiting St. John's nearly every year for many years. Beverly's husband had had this painting commissioned as a gift to her, and after her passing, her family wanted to gift it to St. John's. Richard and Sandra are members of [St Peter Lutheran Church Dubuque, ELCA](#). Thank you for this beautiful gift!

Women of the ELCA

September Bible Study

Thursday, September 5, 1:00 p.m.

Devotions: Marge Felderman

Bible Study: Pastor Will

Bible Study: "Women of the Bible" p. 32, Hagar. We will again be sewing in the morning, so plan to come at 10:00 a.m. and bring your lunch

Quilt Donations in August

2 60"x80" tied quilts and 4 crocheted quilts were taken to Clarity Clinic.

15 60"x80" tied quilts were taken to Open Closet. (They mentioned their need for bath towels.)



Multi-Generational Sewing Day, August 21

There were 12 women and girls enjoying a day of cutting squares, arranging patterns, sewing and tying quilts.

Cluster 5 Fall Gathering

Saturday, September 28

8:30 a.m. (registration) to 1:00 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church, 1364 Washington St., Andover

The Bible Study based on 1 Peter 4:9-10

Program: YWCA many programs by Development Director, Sarah Salstrom

Love Gift will go to Elvira and Preston Food Pantries
Non-perishables as well as monetary donations

Registration, with refreshments, begins at 8:30 a.m. Pre-register by September 23—call or email Virginia Eggers at 563-212-0497 or virginiaeggers1949@gmail.com

\$7.00, payable on arrival, to cover meals and other costs.

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Coming Up:

- ⇒ **Bakeless Bake Sale**—St. John's/St. Paul's Women of the ELCA annual fund-raiser in October & November.
- ⇒ **Thankoffering**—Let us remember to express our thanks for each day's blessings. Our ingathering will be during the worship service on November 10.

Reading in the Evening with Bruce

Continues each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on St. John's/St. Paul's Facebook.

September Birthdays

- Sept. 1 — Adleigh Nicholson
- Sept. 3 — John Berendes
Dave Elliott
Dale Reeg
- Sept. 5 — Duane Tietjen
- Sept. 6 — Josh Feller
- Sept. 8 — Alyssa Marburger
9 — Aveah Sainci
- Sept. 10 — Chad Kohlenberg
Nora Koos
Harold Wiegert
- Sept. 11 — Bill Giesemann
- Sept. 16 — Mia Marie Busch
- Sept. 18 — Alexis Felderman
- Sept. 19 — Donna M. Busch
- Sept. 20 — Kinsley Felderman
John Giesemann
- Sept. 21 — Dennis Bishop
Sam Giere
Pastor Will Layton
Will Uhlenhake
- Sept. 22 — Dominic Nicholson
- Sept. 23 — Mike Duschen
Brian Gill
Scott Kasik
Megan Schmidt
- Sept. 24 — Presly Kettmann
- Sept. 27 — Richard Busch
Aubrey Busch
Nile Hueneke
- Sept. 28 — Jolene Duschen

Anniversaries

- Sept. 1 — Katie & Casey Steines
- Sept. 4 — David & Penny Minnehan
- Sept. 5 — Scott & Heather Schroeder
- Sept. 6 — Eldon & Donna Busch
- Sept. 8 — Dennis & Laura Bishop
- Sept. 12 — Gary & Bea Hansen
- Sept. 13 — Bruce & Julie Bormann
- Sept. 14 — Randy & Barbara Schoop
- Sept. 17 — Charles & Shirley Soliday
- Sept. 23 — Heath & Staci Felderman
- Sept. 24 — David & Cathy Felderman

Please let us know of any errors or omissions.