



The Parish Twine

November, 2025



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,

The month of November always begins with one of my favorite celebrations of the church year, All Saints' Sunday. On that day we remember those who have been dear to us, especially members of our parish, who have died. But why do we do that on a day labeled "All Saints"?

In our Lutheran tradition, we use the word saint a little differently than some of our neighbors in other faith traditions do. In the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches, for example, "saint" specifically refers to a person known for heroic virtue and witness to the Christian faith. Those churches have a specific process for declaring a person is a saint, and even attribute miracles to the intercession (that is, prayers) of those saints.

In Lutheranism, we do also remember notable persons in Christian history. If you look at pages 15-17 in the front of the red ELW hymnal, you can even find a calendar of festivals and commemorations for these people, typically on the day that they died. That might seem strange, but that is their heavenly birthday—although we here on earth grieve, for those who have died in Christ it is the day they experience the fullness of the promise of the resurrection. We do remember those faithful ones. We can even refer to them as saints. Sometimes it's said that Lutherans "don't believe in saints," which is an odd idea when you look at the names of so many of our churches! In the Augsburg Confession, the foundational statement of Lutheran theology written in 1530, we state that "our people teach that the saints are to be remembered so that we may strengthen our faith when we see how they experienced grace and how they were helped by faith. Moreover, it is taught that each person, according to his or her calling, should take the saints' good works as an example." From early on, though, Lutherans rejected the idea of asking the saints for help or special intercession. Certainly we Christians here on earth pray for one another and ask for each others' prayers, and indeed we see evidence in scripture that the saints in heaven pray for the church (and us as members of it) generally. The Reformers did not hold to the idea, though, that we should pray to St. Polycarp to save us from dysentery, or St. Arnold to help us brew better beer. There simply is not biblical evidence to support such practices, or even to suggest that the saints in heaven have such a specific line of communication. More importantly, we Christians don't need a middle manager to go between us and God. Jesus teaches us how to pray: "Our Father, who art in heaven," means we can speak to God directly like a loving, caring father.

Besides, while we do remember such notable faithful ones as saints, we don't restrict that word only to famous Christians. "Saint" means someone who is holy, and that is the thing the Holy Spirit does in us, as Luther says in the Small Catechism: "I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith." You, dear Christian, are a saint! That doesn't mean you aren't also a sinner. It simply means you are a sinner who has been justified by God's grace, through faith. Martin Luther

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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

DST ends

November 2

Council Meeting

Joint at Salem—Nov. 3,
6:30 p.m.

Women of ELCA Bible Study

Nov. 6, 1:00 p.m.

Pastor on Vacation

Nov. 11-18

Thanksgiving Worship

Nov. 25, 7:00 p.m.
Ecumenical at St. John's
Nov. 27, 9:00 a.m.
St. Paul's

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Council Notes

Worship Attendance:

	<u>St. John's</u>	<u>St. Paul's</u>
Sept. 28	22	12
Oct. 5	28	11
Oct. 12	20	10
Oct. 19	22	12
Oct. 21	100	Rita Wiegert funeral
Oct. 26	46	Confirmation 20

St. John's Council meeting—October 6:

Meeting called to order by Richard Busch

Members present: Pastor Will, Richard Busch, Mark Hueneke, Linda Hueneke, Peggy Post, Tom Decker, Deb Decker, John Busch, Judy Hueneke-Kremer

Devotions: Provided by Pastor.

Pastor Report: Pastor Will provided a written report and spoke of Men In Mission and has information to share to those interested.

Secretary Report: Judy H-K. provided a written report.

Treasurer Report: Julie B. provided a written report.

Motion carried to accept reports.

Old Business:

Spraying—insect spraying will be done again soon.

Office Printer/Copier—Maintenance kit is still needed.

Richard B, to advise John Gardet to make purchase if available

TPJC—New member is needed. Betty Schroeder has expressed interest. Council to appoint new member.

New Business: none

Next meeting:

Joint Meeting, November 3, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at Salem.

Meeting adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Our Sympathy

- Norman Ritchhart, Bea Hansen's brother-in-law, died October 11 in Winterset, IA.
- Max Elliott, brother of Dave Elliott and Jeanette Frederick, died October 15 at Harmony, Dubuque.
- Kathy Widen, Jon Schroeder's mother-in-law, died October 15 in Stillwater, MN.
- Rita Wiegert died October 17 at Mill Valley. Her funeral was October 21 at St. John's.

In Our Prayers

Avela Bahr, Billie Bohy, Norma Bormann, Marilyn Bradley, Richard Bradley, Carlton Busch, Tricia Busch, Lowell Carlson, Ann Current, Janell Daugherty, Paul Dent, Max Elliott, Carl Ganzer, John Hinke, Gary Hughes, Sharon Konrardy, Joyce Laughlin, David Schroeder, Liam Schroeder, Diane Wallace, Tammy Welders, Duane Westphal, and Reynold Wiegert.

Confirmed

- Mckenna Hueneke Martens and Pyper Kettmann were confirmed at St. John's on October 26.
- Sydney Uhlenhake is to be confirmed at St. Paul's on November 9.

November Birthdays

- Nov. 1 — Lisa Harmon
Keith Hueneke
- Nov. 3 — Ryan Feller
- Nov. 5 — Tammy Christoffer
- Nov. 7 — Mitchel Gill
- Nov. 8 — Mariah Hueneke
- Nov. 9 — Cecilia Teal
- Nov. 10 — Gary Hansen
Serenity Kohlenberg
Glenda Meyer
Dale Schroeder
- Nov. 12 — Wendy Tietjen
- Nov. 13 — Tracey (Mark) Hueneke
- Nov. 16 — Janice Busch
Gloria Petesch
Carly Schroeder
David Schroeder
- Nov. 18 — Marty Bormann
Lisa Hueneke
Dan Knief
- Nov. 19 — Lynn Hueneke
Brooke Schumacher
- Nov. 21 — Avere Kasik
- Nov. 22 — Toby Moeggenberg
- Nov. 23 — Billi Schroeder
- Nov. 24 — Payton Kettmann
- Nov. 26 — Gretchen Knief
- Nov. 28 — Ruth Hingtgen
- Nov. 29 — Laura Bishop
Jeanette Frederick
- Nov. 30 — Ada Schilling

Anniversaries

- Nov. 2 — Matt & Erin Weis
- Nov. 14 — Bob & Judy Kremer
- Nov. 16 — John & Julie Busch
- Nov. 28 — Duane & Ruth Tietjen

Please let us know of any errors or omissions.

Surprise Card Shower

The family of Norma Bormann invite your wishes to help celebrate her 90th birthday on November 12. Her address is 25553 216th Ave., La Motte, IA 52054.

Women of the ELCA

November Bible Study & Meeting

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

Devotions: Bea Hansen; Bible Study: Pastor Will

We will study Naomi, p. 131 in "Women of the Bible". There will be sewing at 10:00 a.m.—bring a sack lunch.

Our October Quarterly Meeting

October 10, 2024

There were 6 members present.

Old business:

- \$50 was sent to Ewalu for quilt auction.

New business:

- Officers and any others willing to help plan for the Thankoffering service, the Christmas party and the program for the coming year are to meet soon.
- Election of officers—Marge Felderman agreed to remain as president (*unless someone would be willing to step into that office*), Dianne Strickler will remain as treasurer, and Linda Hueneke is to remain as secretary.

Thank You Notes

We have received a letter from Opening Doors in Dubuque thanking us for the socks, t-shirts and underwear that we sent to the women and children they serve.

Cluster V Fall Gathering

Twenty-two women gathered at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Clinton on September 20 for the Fall Gathering. Roberta Jurgensen welcomed us all and did an opening prayer which was followed by a hymn sing led by Liz Mink.

Using Joshua 1:9, Pastor Tamara Silburg led a bible study with interaction from those in attendance.

Marsha Thrall from Franciscan Sisters at the Canticle then presented on Human Trafficking. Almost 50% of trafficking is done by family or friends with the myths and rumors making it harder to stop. Male to female ratio is pretty even. There was a lot of Q and A along with a handout for all attending.

Treasurer Donna Holste led the collection of the Love Gift to St. Paul Lutheran's Community Meal. General offering is split between SWO, Cluster, and also Franciscan Sisters with a designation that it is used toward their efforts on stopping Human Trafficking.

The business meeting was called to order by Dianne Strickler, coordinator. Secretary Minutes and roll call was also conducted by Strickler, as the secretary position remains open.

Donna Holste gave the treasurer report with a current balance of \$622.86.

SWO Liason, Liz Mink, presented an update from the Synod Women's Organization. The SWO will continue to have a Gathering every year but the convention will become an every other year activity. This will save costs and hopefully get more involved.

Delegates for the 2026 Triennial were elected with Julie Leeper, president; DaMisha McFarland-Pollock, Virginia Eggers, Chris Meyers, Dianne Strickler and Beth Stufflebeam elected. Liz Mink is the alternate.

\$656 was raised with a silent offering and will help defray Triennial costs. Love gifts of \$664 plus donations of items went to the Urban Bicycle Food Ministry in Des Moines. It is a great group of people reaching out to hundreds a month. The SWO board has been taking an offering at their meetings and then donating it to worthy causes. So far to LSI and LWR.

There was more but if you will get on the mailing or email list for the Directions, you can keep more informed. All the women are encouraged to attend the Triennial in Des Moines, July 16-19. "I Am Worthy" is the theme and it is an enlightening event. The SWO board is staying at the Hilton and encourages all to stay there with us. Registration is open and costs go up after January 1st so don't delay. Our WELCA group has funds to help with costs. www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page is the link.

Lastly, we are in need of women to serve on the board/committee to plan these gatherings at Cluster level. Currently there are only 3 of us doing it and both I and Cathy Layton-Johnson go off in the spring. It doesn't take that much time as most of the activity is in the spring/fall within a few weeks before or after the Gathering. PLEASE consider stepping up and helping out.

Dianne Strickler

Our Bakeless Bake Sale

Thank you to all who have already contributed, and if you haven't yet, we ask for your prayerful consideration as to how you can support the work and projects of the women of our parish. Checks may be made out to St. John's/St. Paul's WELCA.

Remember Your Thankoffering

For more than 100 years, Lutheran women have been setting aside coins and small offerings every day to give thanks for blessings in the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life. At a Thankoffering service, women bring these offerings together to give thanks to God in worship and fellowship. Thankofferings go in full to support the churchwide ministries of Women of the ELCA.

On Sunday, November 9, our Thankoffering will be gathered in the worship service at both St. Paul's and St. John's. Please plan on attending this worship and sharing your offering.

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described this with a Latin phrase, “simul justus et peccator.” It literally translates to “at once justified and a sinner.” Often though, we talk about it as “at the same time sinner and saint.” Because Jesus has died for us, we sinners are justified through faith in him. We sinners become saints!

And so, on All Saints’ Sunday, we remember our fellow sinners of Jesus’ own redeeming, as the words of the funeral commendation beautifully remind us, because these people are our fellow saints.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Will Layton

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*Take a look at this from
both directions!*

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Congratulations

- St. John's member, Sam Giere, was installed as the Rev. Dr. Frank L. and Joyce S. Benz Chair in Scripture at Wartburg Theological Seminary at a special service on Friday, October 10th.
- Lucas Busch and Victoria Vail were wed October 11. We pray God’s blessing on their marriage.

Community Events

St. Donatus Catholic Church Pancake & Sausage Breakfast, Sunday, November 2, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in their parish center. All-you-can-eat — Pancakes, Hickory Smoked Sausage, Sweet Rolls, Applesauce. Adults, \$12.00; ages 6-10, \$5.00. Country Store also.

Habitat for Humanity

Dubuque/Jackson Counties Habitat for Humanity has their ‘Flipping for Habitat’ Fundraiser on Thursday, November 6, 5-8 p.m. at the Dubuque County Fairgrounds. For a \$500 sponsorship table, you get admission for 8, 8 drink tickets, and logo/name displayed at the event. There is an auction of repurposing items/art with auctioneer Tim Markham starting at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Catering features Cindy’s Classic Catering and live music provided by The Daddy Longlegs. Visit www.habitatdjc.org for details. If you have a repurposed art or item you would like to donate, contact Habitat at 563-556-2195.

Faith Lutheran, Andover, Fall Supper, Sunday, November 9, 3:00-7:00 p.m. Serving “Kalmes Chicken” and Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Stuffing, Glazed Carrots, Coleslaw, Roll & Choice of Apple, Chocolate or Pumpkin Dessert. Parking Lot Pickup ONLY. Tickets, \$16.00.

Salem Lutheran, Andrew, Harvest Auction, Sunday, November 23. Worship at 9:00 a.m., followed by a roast beef dinner with all the trimmings. Please stay for the Harvest Auction. It always is a fun day and you just never know what you may find to bid on and take home. Proceeds from auction will go to Inspiration Stables.

Thrivent Members

You have until November 25 to have a say in who represents you on the Thrivent Financial board of directors, who lead and govern the organization. If you’ve already voted, thanks! If you haven’t voted yet, you may vote on line, visit Thrivent.com/vote, or vote via the paper ballot mailed to you.

Also, remember to direct your Choice Dollars—this needs to be done every year.

Thanksgiving Worship

- ◇ St. John’s will host an ecumenical service on Tuesday, November 25, at 7:00 p.m.
- ◇ We will have worship at St. Paul’s at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 27.

