



# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Share God's Love; Serve all People

“LOVELETTER”

329 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401

641-423-7749

OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 8:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday 11:45 to 1:45 p.m. Friday 7:45 to 9:45 a.m.

January 2024

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight.  
In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)***

Happy New year! Have you made your New Year's resolution yet? I've made many in my life. I can't think of any that have stuck! *Exercise more! Eat healthier! Spend less money on things I really don't need!* It seems that a resolve to change myself usually just means I am setting myself up for failure and disappointment!

With that being said, I do still like looking at the New Year as somewhat of a “reset button.” I think it's good for us to take a “snapshot” of our lives at the end of each year; reflecting, and then meditating on what we hope the next year will look like - Not only for us, but for our family, our friends, and our world. And then ask the question, “Where do I want to place my energy, my time, my focus for the next year?” And more importantly, where does *God* want me to place my energy for the next year?

A simple prayer can help with that. “*God, be my guide for the coming year. I place my trust in your plan for me. Use me as you will.*”

This year, as I reflect on 2023, first of all, I am very thankful! Thankful for all of you, and the call to be your pastor. The year has gone by quickly. It has filled my heart with the joy of getting to know all of you better (and getting re-acquainted with many of you!) But most importantly - serving the Lord together! My cup overflows!

With that being said, I ask you all, as you spend time reflecting on your own lives, to say a prayer for both of our congregations! Where does God see us in 2024 – where will God use us? Where and how can we best serve the Lord?

More than ever, in this new year, I hope that we can all put our utmost faith and trust in an all-powerful, all-knowing, ever-present God and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Jesus speaks of God's will for all of us, and those words often seem difficult and sometimes downright impossible! Things like, praying for our enemies, and loving our neighbors – even those who look, act, and sound completely different from us.

But then he showed us exactly how to do that: “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33) In essence, Jesus was saying, “I know you can't do it on your own! Ask God first for everything – and nothing will be impossible for you.”

That sounds like the perfect New Years Resolution for all of us. I am praying for all of you! And for a, Blessed, JESUS-filled, and JOY-filled 2024 – Happy New Year!

*In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Jane*

**ST. PAUL COUNCIL MINUTES - December 4, 2023**

**ATTENDANCE:** The following council members were in attendance: Sue Aves, Kristen Stockberger, Pat Steinfort, Lori Cornick-Angell, LaVern Dahl, Mary Beyerhelm Huey, Diane Murphy and Pastor Jane.

Opening devotion and prayer by Pastor Jane.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor had a very nice thorough written report. She continues to be involved with different organizations, attends several meetings, along with miscellaneous activities including the Veteran's lunch and a birthday potluck, continuing ed with trauma training and Pastor has performed some funerals for non-members. Confirmation classes and Sunday School are going well. Bible study will resume after the Advent season. She is looking forward to the Advent season and Christmas Eve service and of course soup suppers! Ash Wednesday will be early in 2024 on February 14.

**MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING:** Sue made a motion to accept the November Minutes, Diane second and council all in favor.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** There was nothing out of the ordinary. There was a check to Deb Stockberger for reimbursement for some bell supplies. This reimbursement is taken out of the bell fund. The check for the service of repentance can now be deposited in the account at North Iowa Youth Center regarding the restoration of St. John's Baptist Church. The monthly expenses for utilities have been good so far. Offerings were good also. Motion made by Kristen to submit the treasurer's report for audit.

**MONTHLY BENEVOLENCE:** The monthly benevolence is global. There was discussion and Mary made a motion to donate to the Lay Ministry Fund. Sue second and council all in favor.

**BUDGET MEETING:** The budget meeting for 2024 was held after our council meeting. Pension and insurance may change.

**WELCA:** WELCA bake sale is coming up on Saturday, December 9. WELCA is planning to host Mr. Wilson for a program and potluck in January or February 2024.

**JOINT CONGREGATION TOPICS:****Prayer Chain:**

St. Paul and Our Saviour's will be having a joint meeting on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at coffee hour, to discuss how they are going to work together with regards to the prayer chain.

**Newsletter Update:**

The joining of the two newsletters is still a work in progress. There was discussion regarding this with good conversation with some concerns raised. The main goal is to simplify the newsletter and continue to work together, support each congregation's activities while continuing to serve God. The secretaries will continue to work on this project together.

**OLD BUSINESS:****Advent Midweek Soup:**

St. Paul Council will do the two services held at St. Paul – December 6 and December 20. Council will supply the soup, bars, and bread for both Wednesdays.

**ORGAN UPDATE:** There have been efforts made by several members of the council regarding obtaining a used organ for St. Paul. Mary has been in discussion with Faith Lutheran Church in Mitchell and Lori has tried to reach out to a church in Marble Rock who may be closing their doors. Lori has also contacted Dewey Kruger Music in Northwood with regards to new/used options, installation, microphone issues, etc.

**MICROPHONE ISSUES:** Craig from Cherokee has also been contacted regarding the microphone issue, but Lori has not received a response yet. Kristen also contacted Eric Merritt with Merritt Computers, to set up a time for him to look at it also.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE:** There have been a few projects. Ken Truka, Mark, Harold, and members of the property committee have been able to perform most of those. Ken's help in this regard is greatly appreciated.

**DON BENSON MEMORIAL:** Pastor Don Benson's memorial money has been deposited at this time. The memorial committee can further discuss the options with regards to this generous gift.

**2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS:** There are a few vacancies that will need to be filled in the upcoming year. If anyone is interested, please let a council member know or Pastor Jane.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Girl Scouts have requested to use St. Paul for its annual kickoff on Saturday, January 27, 2024. Lori made a motion to allow them to use the building, Mary second and the council all in favor.

There was discussion regarding Christmas cards/gifts for our staff at St. Paul. This will be wonderful to express our appreciation for their hard work.

**COUNCIL PERSON OF THE MONTH:** Mary is council person for December.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next council meeting will be January 2, 2024, Tuesday, at 5:15 p.m. Diane made a motion to close the meeting, LaVern second and the council all in favor. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational meeting of St Paul Lutheran will be held immediately following worship on Sunday January 21, 2024. The agenda will include approving the 2024 budget, election of congregation council, and presentation of reports. Our updated constitution reads that we need at least 15 voting members for the quorum. There are a couple of council vacancies to fill. If you have an interest in serving or have questions about what that involves, please speak to any current council member. Coffee will follow the meeting.

## HAPPY 2024

God bless each of you in the next twelve months!

I wanted to take a moment and thank you all again for the support you gave me following the fire at The Kirk Apartments. Everything from providing housing, financial, personal shopper, the WELCA warrior women, material items and emotional support. Starting over from nothing was made easier by the people in my life, some I didn't even know previously. I will never be able to express in detail how much each of you impacted my life in the following days, weeks and months. I never felt alone and in a time of crisis that is so important! Again the hymn, 'They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love' comes to mind and you ALL represented well!!!

A huge thank you to the St. Paul congregation for the Fareway gift card I received for Christmas. That was happily used over the holidays.

Happiest of a New Year to each and everyone of you!!

Valerie Hasbrouck  
Ministry Administrator  
St. Paul Lutheran Church

**Thank you all for the many cards, gifts and goodies**  
given to me during this Christmas season!

My heart is full! I hope you all know how much I love you and enjoy serving as your pastor -  
I am truly blessed!

*Pastor Jane*

**I never lose.**

**I either win or learn.**

Nelson Mandela

## WELCA NEWS

**BIBLE STUDY:** Bible study with Pastor Jane continues on the third and fourth Wednesdays of each month at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. We are discussing 'Jesus Over Everything' by Lisa Whittle.

**BAKE SALE:** A very big thank you to all from Our Saviour's and St. Paul who helped with this successful event. We had such a good time preparing for the sale and visiting with our customers. We can't wait until next year to start baking again!

**FUNERAL LUNCHESES:** It is with sadness we inform you that beginning January 1, 2024, WELCA will no longer provide lunches. If you wish to have a luncheon catered, we will be happy to provide desserts such as cookies, cake or bars and beverages. The old gray mare, they ain't what they used to be, and accomplishing this task on short notice is getting to be too much for us. All Mason City funeral homes have been notified in writing of this change.

**FUTURE EVENTS:** After the first of the year it is hoped we can have a potluck and a guest speaker discussing the Orphan Train. Details to follow.

**QUILTING:** We can always use more help making quilt tops and backs and cutting middles. We tie quilts on most Monday mornings (if we don't have more urgent projects to complete).

**WELCA:** (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) members meet in the Fellowship Hall on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief and Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. for meetings and to work on other projects. We hope you will join us. However, if you are interested in making quilts or working on our other various projects and this time doesn't work for you, please contact Becky Lundblad, Tanya Dahl, Shelly Thenhaus or Sue Aves so a more convenient time can be discussed.



May the New Year bring you peace, joy, purpose and love.

Do you receive birthday cards in the mail from various groups to send and you just don't remember to use them? I DO (Geri)!!! (The groups are usually looking for a donation for sending them to you. Most of them are very nice, but just might not say the exact/right thing you want to say to someone.) If you'd like to bring these new cards to church to put in a box in the Fellowship Hall, by the sign-up sheets, that would be great. We'll send them to members to brighten their birthday!

## Sunday School resumes January 6

immediately following worship services in the fellowship hall (at both St. Paul and Our Saviour's.) Children (of all ages!) are encouraged to attend as we learn about God and God's love for us!

**Have you ever thought, "I really should spend more time in God's word"?** If you're serious about reading the Bible and contemplating on God's word - join (follow) me on my Facebook page "Together - with Pastor Jane" and starting on January 1, 2024, we will read together FOR ONE FULL YEAR - the Holy Bible. If you are not on Facebook but have email and would like a daily link sent to you - contact me. It's not too late to join!

Pastor Jane

## Amplifying the Voices of Iowa Children and Families

Individuals struggle without access to critical healthcare and family support services. Human service providers are overworked and underpaid. Former refugees and immigrants strive to build new lives in the U.S.

These are all issues faced by Iowans from all different walks of life. Join Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) to advocate for our community members at Lutheran Day on the Hill (LDH) on **Monday, February 19, 2024.**

In partnership with the three Iowa synods of the ELCA, LDH is LSI's biggest day of advocacy. Over 150 participants gather at Capitol Hill Lutheran Church in Des Moines to learn about critical issues Iowa children, adults, and families are facing. You'll learn more about the legislative process, the issues impacting your neighbors, and your role as a citizen in helping to amplify their voices.

After learning how to advocate for our neighbors, the group heads to the Iowa State Capitol to talk directly with legislators.

For more information and to register for this year's Lutheran Day on the Hill, visit [LSIowa.org/LDH](http://LSIowa.org/LDH).

*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).*

**It's important to pray for ALL our family & friends, so our list is rotated among our congregation.**

*Keep this in a convenient place for prayer time. If you don't have a daily prayer time, this might be a good time to begin.*

1. NE Iowa Synod
2. St. Paul Lutheran Church
3. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
4. Our government, military leaders, troops & families
5. All who suffer from illness, infirmity or loneliness
6. Confined shut-ins (home, hospital, nursing home)
7. Those who are dealing with losses in their lives
8. All who hunger and/or are homeless
9. All who seek God; finding comfort, peace, renewal
10. Pastor Jane Harris & family
11. LaVern & Tanya Dahl & family
12. Roger Ennis & family
13. Harold Gaiser & family
14. Jack & Anne Gannett & family
15. Dixie Howell & family
16. Dave & Sara Janssen & family
17. Carol King & family
18. Linda Koopman & family
19. Mark Lovick & family
20. Ron & Becky Lundblad & family
21. Dennis & Nancy Marsh & family
22. Margaret Movick & family
23. Jim & Diane Murphy & family
24. Ron Nielson & family
25. Mary C Paulsen & family
26. Tim & Beth Rozen & family
27. Carol Rye & family
28. Jayne Schiek & family
29. Crystal Schriber & family
30. Carlyn Schriver & family
31. Kirk Schriver & family

### PRAYER CHAIN

Please call any Prayer Chain member below if you have a prayer request. All requests are kept confidential and you can share as much information as you are comfortable with. You may call any member and they will start the chain.

Prayer Chain members:

Geri Barker 641-423-5525 (please do not leave message)

Anne Gannett 641-421-6852 (leave message)

Margaret Movick 641-201-1250 (leave message)

Diane Murphy 641-512-5851 (leave message)

Diana Black 641-430-0770 (leave message)



### PRAYERS

Should you or a family member be admitted to the hospital and would like prayers/visits, list St. Paul on forms and request they call us. Also please contact Pastor Jane Harris at 641-242-0337 or the church office at 641-423-7749.

**Lectors**

7 Diana Black  
21 Geri Barker

**Acolytes**

7 Pat Steinfort  
21 Deb Stockberger

**Ushers:**

7 Diana Black & Harold Gaiser  
21 Larry & Deb Stockberger

**Coffee Hour:**

7  
21

**Council Person:**

Mary Beyerhelm Huey

**Altar Guild:**

Geri Barker

**Financial Assistant:**

Lori Angell

**Community Kitchen:**

3rd Thursday Jan. 18 @ 4:00

**Council Meeting:**

Mon. Jan. 2 @ 5:15

**M&M's:**

Each Wednesday @ 9:30

**WELCA:**

Wed, Jan. 3 @ 9:30

**Worship & Music:**

Tues., Jan. 9 @ Noon SP  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Loveletter deadline: 24th**

**Bulletin deadline each  
Wed. 10:00 a.m.**

**Happy January  
Birthday!!**

- 01/01 Dennis Marsh
- 01/18 Deb Stockberger
- 01/23 Carol King
- 01/26 Mary Paulsen

*If we have missed you, please  
let us know. Thanks!*



Sign up for or  
unsubscribe from our  
newsletter [HERE](#) or by  
calling the office  
641.423.7749.

**Contact information for Pastor Jane:**

Phone number is 641-242-0337 and her email address is [janeharris2010@gmail.com](mailto:janeharris2010@gmail.com)  
if anyone in our church family wanted to contact her.



There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for **coffee hour**. Please sign up for a Sunday so this fellowship can continue to be enjoyed!

St. Paul serves at **Community Kitchen** every **3rd Thursday** starting at 4. In order to continue this ministry we need your help. Please consider lending a hand. If you work until 5 we can still use your help (just let us know). Please sign up on the clipboard in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office 641-423-7749.



COMMUNITY KITCHEN



# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Website:</b> <a href="http://www.stpaulmc.com">www.stpaulmc.com</a> <b>Facebook:</b> <a href="https://facebook.com/Stpaulmc">facebook.com/Stpaulmc</a> <b>Office Hours:</b> M, W, Th 8-10:30; Tu 11:45-1:45; Fri. 7:45-9:45	<b>Phone:</b> 641-423-7749 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:secretary@stpaulmc.com">secretary@stpaulmc.com</a>					
	<b>1 New Year's Day</b>  Office Closed	<b>2</b> 5:15 Council Meeting	<b>3</b> 9:30 M&M's WELCA 6:30 Bible Study OS	<b>4</b> 7 NA	<b>5</b> 8 NA	<b>6</b> 8 NA
<b>7</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ SP 10:30 Fellowship	<b>8</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>9</b> Noon Worship Planning SP	<b>10</b> 9:30 M& M's 6:30 Bible Study OS	<b>11</b> 7 NA	<b>12</b> 8 NA	<b>13</b> 8 NA
<b>14</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ OS 2:00 2/4 Stitchers	<b>15</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 9:30 M & M's 6:30 Bible Study OS	<b>18</b> 4 Comm Kitchen 7 NA	<b>19</b> 8 NA	<b>20</b> 8 NA
<b>21</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ SP 10:30 Congregational Meeting Fellowship	<b>22</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:30 M&M's 10:00 Bible Study SP Loveletter Deadline 6:30 Bible Study OS	<b>25</b> 7 NA	<b>26</b> 8 NA	<b>27</b> 8 NA
<b>28</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ OS 10:30 Fellowship 2:00 2/4 Stitchers	<b>29</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:30 M&M's 10:00 Bible Study SP 6:30 Bible Study OS			



# Bible Word Search

## Apostles / Disciples



Word list:

PETER  
ANDREW  
JAMES  
JOHN  
PHILIP  
BARTHOLOMEW

THOMAS  
MATTHEW  
JAMES  
THADDAEUS  
SIMON  
JUDAS

