



# 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.

February 2024

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavily burdened [by religious rituals that provide no peace], and I will give you rest [refreshing your souls with salvation]. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me [following Me as My disciple], for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest (renewal, blessed quiet) for your souls.

For My yoke is easy [to bear] and My burden is light.”

Matthew 11:28-30 “Amplified Bible”

If there's one response that I get more than ever these days when I ask someone how they're doing, it's this: “(heavy sigh...) I'M SO BUSY!”

Busy. Everyone is busy! And I can relate – it's often my response to that question as well. Regardless of what stage of life we are in – young or old, student, employee, or retired – the answer is the same. *Busy!*

I think a lot of us have become addicted to “busy.” It starts feeling like we have no purpose in life unless we have a fully scheduled day ahead of us. And yet, that schedule – is exhausting!

I think many of us would love to spend more time just relaxing, doing things we love to do, spending more time with family and friends - and along with that - meditating on God's Word and getting to know Jesus! We long for that Godly “peace that passes all understanding” in our lives instead of the stress that comes with being busy. But along with that comes the feeling that we're just too busy to spend “extra” time with God! There's just no room left on our calendars, to even give to God.

That's why I'm excited about our Sundays in Lent series entitled, “**Busy: Reconnecting with an Unhurried God** -- *“The season of Lent has often been a time when we think about “giving something up” —a holdover from its penitential flavor in the medieval church. But what if we thought less about “giving up” and more about “making room?” In this Lent series, we will find out what it really costs to be so busy. Let us reconnect to an unhurried God.”*

I, for one, am ready to drop that “*I'm so busy!*” label (that I wear so proudly,) and start learning how to rely on the divine promises we are freely given for peace and rest - if we will just place our trust in Jesus. “*Come to me ALL you who are weary, and I will give you rest.*”

German Monk and Priest Martin Luther once declared he had such a busy day, that he *must* spend an extra hour (or two) in prayer that day. He relied on God for his strength! When things got wild and busy – he knew the importance of making even *more* room in his day for Jesus. I hope through this series, I can do the same! Want to join me?

God be with you all, as we journey into this sacred season of Lent.

In Christ's Love,  
*Pastor Jane*

*Below are the condensed council minutes but a full version is posted outside of the offices for those that are interested. We have also posted Pastor Jane's monthly report that is shared with the council each month. If you need either of these emailed to you please contact Valerie in the office.*

## ST. PAUL COUNCIL MINUTES - January 2, 2024

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

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor had a very nice thorough written report. Pastor is looking forward to Lent and Easter which is coming fast. Ash Wednesday will be early in 2024 on February 14. Her full report is available outside the office.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Yearly WELCA donations were a huge chunk of checks this month. There was also a cost for the microphone/sound system. Motion made by Deb to submit the treasurer's report for audit, Kristen second and council all in favor.

**MONTHLY BENEVOLENCE:** The monthly benevolence is global. There was discussion and Diane made a motion to donate to the Lutheran Disaster Relief, Kristen second and council all in favor.

**BUDGET MEETING:** The final budget was asked to be presented to the Annual Meeting to be held on January 21, 2024, by Lori, Deb second and council all in favor.

**WELCA:** Dennis Wilson will be presenting a program on The Orphan Train on February 7, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. with a potluck supper.

**JOINT CONGREGATION MEETING:** St. Paul and Our Saviour's have rescheduled the joint meeting to February 4, 2024, after church. Items to be discussed include name tags, bulletins, Facebook, joint newsletter, etc.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**ORGAN UPDATE:** [Faith Lutheran Church in Mitchell has spoken to Mary regarding their organ would be available after the first of the year. Further research is needed.](#)

**MICROPHONE ISSUES:** [The](#) sound system components were reconfigured and seem to be working better. Pastor is using a different microphone at this time which seems to be doing pretty well.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The Annual Meeting will be held on January 21, 2024, right after church. The meeting should be fairly quick as everything will be in the Annual Meeting Report.

**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.

**NEXT MEETING:** The next council meeting will be February 6, 2024, Tuesday, at 5:15 p.m.

Kristen made a motion to close the meeting, Diane second and the council all in favor. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

# ST. PAUL CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

**January 21, 2024**

Pastor Jane began the annual meeting with a word of prayer.

Kristen Stockberger called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m. There were approximately 30 St. Paul members in attendance. There is a requirement of 15 members to be in attendance per the constitution, so quorum was met.

The members present were given time to review the annual meeting minutes from the 2022 meeting and the upcoming budget.

**Minutes for the 2022 Annual Meeting held in 2023:** Sue Aves made a motion to approve the minutes for the 2022 Annual Meeting and it was seconded by Mary Beyerhelm Huey. All members in favor and the Minutes were approved.

**Summary of the Year in Review/Committee Reports/Investments:** These were reviewed by members of the congregation. There was a minor correction to the Property Committee Report. The refinishing of the front doors by Dennis Marsh needs to be added to the report.

**2024 Budget Adoption:** There is a slight increase to the Synod for the 2024 budget. Ken Truka made a motion to approve the budget as presented in the 2024 Budget proposed and it was seconded by Dennis Marsh. All members in favor of the 2024 Budget as proposed. Motion was approved.

**Election of Council:** Diana Black was nominated to be on council by Deb Stockberger, it was seconded by Nancy Marsh and approved by the members of the congregation. The nomination was approved and Diana will begin serving at the next meeting scheduled to be held on February 6 at 5:15 p.m. in the lounge.

**Synod Attendees:** This event is not scheduled for this year. It is now scheduled for every other year. There will be work shops scheduled by the Synod the first week of June. Notice will be provided.

**Good Shepherd Attendees:** The annual meeting is in November. Deb Stockberger and Kristen Stockberger, Sue Aves, Micah Stockberger and Diana Black have all volunteered to attend the meeting.

Pastor gave a closing prayer.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Lori Cornick-Angell, seconded by Micah Stockberger and members of the congregation all in favor.



**Make sure to mark your calendars for Lent and Holy Week services** that are quickly coming up. We'll start out the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday worship service the evening of February 14<sup>th</sup> (yes – Valentine's Day!) and it will culminate with a special morning of worship on Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. We will also, once again, be holding Wednesday evening worship services, with a light supper being provided before the service. This year we are changing things up a bit – instead of strictly soup for the suppers, we are going to enjoy a baked potato bar, walking tacos, pizza, and then a night or two of soups. **Our theme for Wednesday nights in Lent will be "The Feasts of the Bible."** Last year, when our adult Bible study class participated in the video/learning series "The Rock, The Road, and the Rabbi," we learned that a lot of the feasts and festivals that were celebrated back in the Old Testament times have some very significant connections to the coming of Jesus Christ.

**Wednesday Evening meals will be served from 5:15-6:00 with Worship at 6:30.**

**Services will be held at both church locations as follows:**

**Wednesday Services**

Ash Wednesday Feb 14 <sup>th</sup>	Our Saviour's 6:30 p.m.
February 21st	St Paul
February 28th	Our Saviour's
March 6th	St Paul
March 13th	Our Saviour's
March 20th	St Paul

**Holy Week:**

Palm Sunday March 24 <sup>th</sup>	Our Saviour's
Maundy Thursday March 28 <sup>th</sup>	Our Saviour's
Good Friday March 29 <sup>th</sup>	St Paul
Easter Sunday: March 31 <sup>st</sup>	St Paul

## WELCA NEWS

**POTLUCK/ORPHAN TRAIN PRESENTATION:** We are excited to announce that Dennis Wilson (father of Dianna Black) has agreed to give a presentation on the **Orphan Train on Wednesday, February 7.** Potluck will start at 5 p.m., with the presentation to follow at 6 p.m. Sliced ham that was donated by Mark Lovik will be provided. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for those who know in advance what they will make for the potluck. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity!

"A System Like No Other: The Orphan Train." They have been called nurseries on wheels, mercy trains, baby trains, until finally the name Orphan Trains stuck. The system known as Orphan Trains ran from 1854 to 1929. Children in large Eastern seaboard cities, such as New York, were orphaned when their parents died in epidemics of typhoid or yellow fever. Others abandoned due to poverty, illness, or addiction. It's estimated more than 300,000 homeless children -babies to teenagers- were taken off the streets and transported by railroads to every state and territory in America. More than 10,000 were brought to Iowa over the Orphan Trains span of 75 years. Most of the orphans were accepted by loving families and cherished. However, some were treated shamefully.

Presenter Dennis Wilson from Mason City, IA is a retired Canadian Pacific railroad conductor and an advocate for Orphan Train history preservation. He is a designated speaker for the Orphan Train National organization taking the story of the orphans and their plea to many throughout the state of Iowa. The story of the Orphan Trains is a little known history, rarely shared in school classes or books, forgot in the passage of time. Through power-point and lecture Dennis will take you back to the largest forced mass movement of people in the history of America.

**FUNERAL LUNCHESES:** As a reminder, beginning January 1, 2024, WELCA will no longer provide funeral 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 mares, 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.

**QUILTING:** We can always use more help making quilt tops and backs and cutting middles. We tie quilts on most Monday mornings. Contact Sue Aves (or just show up) if you can help or if you would like to participate but need to arrange a more convenient time for you. (You don't need to know how to sew or quilt.)

**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.



**"There is no passion to be found playing small--in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living."**  
Nelson Mandela



### **Happy Valentine's Day from LSI!**

*"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19*

The idea behind Lutheran Services in Iowa's (LSI) mission is centered around love: responding to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.

We give thanks to all our ministry partners, both individuals and congregations, who help share this love for Iowa children, adults, and families.

At LSI, we see this love in newly adopted children and their families, in teens who are overcoming years of trauma and building brighter futures, in Iowans with disabilities who are growing their independence and confidence, in new parents who are raising strong and healthy families, and in so many other joyous moments.

You can help carry out LSI's mission of hope and healing by giving a gift and showing love to the Iowa families we serve.

Thank you for the love you share and create through LSI. Happy Valentine's Day!

**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. Carlyn Schriver & family
12. Kirk Schriver & family
13. Megan Slocum & family
14. Pat Steinfort & family
15. Ian & Kristin Stockber & family
16. Larry & Deb Stockberger & family
17. Micah & Jessica Stockberger & family
18. Michele Thenhaus & family
19. Bob & Heather Thompson & family
20. Ken & Dawn Truka & family
21. Jim & Chris Wallace & family
22. Karol Wallskog & family
23. Lori Angell & family
24. Stephanie Bailey & family
25. Sue Aves & family
26. Jim & Jo Ellen Bailey & family
27. Don & Geri Barker & family
28. Mary Beyerhelm Huey & family
29. Dane Birkholz

### 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:

Gerri 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**

4 Deb Stockberger  
18 Ron Lundblad

**Acolytes**

4 Lori Angell  
18 Pat Steinfort

**Ushers:**

4 Ian & Kristin Stockberger  
18 Ron & Becky Lundblad

**Coffee Hour:**

4 Jo Ellen Bailey  
18 Sue Aves/Tanya Dahl

**Council Person:**

Deb Stockberger

**Altar Guild:**

Deb Stockberger

**Financial Assistant:**

Lori Angell

**Community Kitchen:**

3rd Thursday Feb. 15 @ 4:00

**Council Meeting:**

Mon. Feb. 6 @ 5:15

**M&M's:**

Each Wednesday @ 9:30

**WELCA:**

Wed, Feb. 7 @ 9:30

**Worship & Music:**

Tues., Feb. 6 @ Noon SP  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Loveletter deadline: 22nd  
Bulletin deadline each  
Wed. 10:00 a.m.**

**Happy February  
Birthday!!**

- 02/10 Linda Koopman
- 02/12 Kennedy Birkholz
- 02/13 Roger Ennis
- 02/24 Anne Gannett
- 02/28 Kirk Schriver

*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



# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Website:</b> www.stpaulmc.com <b>Facebook:</b> facebook.com/Stpaulmc <b>Office Hours:</b> M, W, Th. 8:00-10:30; Tu. 11:45-1:45, Fri. 7:45-9:45 <b>Email:</b> secretary@stpaulmc.com	<b>Phone:</b> 641-423-7749			<b>1</b>  7 NA	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  8 NA
<b>4</b> 9:30 Worship @ SP 10:30 Fellowship 10:30 Joint Council Meeting	<b>5</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>6</b> Noon Worship Planning SP 5:15 Council Meeting	<b>7</b> 9:30 M&M's/WELCA 5:00 Potluck/Orphan Train	<b>8</b> 7 NA	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>  8 NA
<b>11</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ OS 10:30 Fellowship 2:00 2/4 Stitchers	<b>12</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>13</b>	<b>14 Valentine's Day</b>  9:30 M&M's 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service OS	<b>15</b> 4:00 Comm. Kitchen 7 NA	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> FH in Use 8 NA
<b>18</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ SP	<b>19</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:30 M & M's 5:15 Lenten Meal & Service SP	<b>22</b> 7 NA	<b>23</b> Loveletter Deadline	<b>24</b>  8 NA
<b>25</b> 9:30 Worship/ Communion @ OS 10:30 Fellowship 2:00 2/4 Stitchers	<b>26</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:30 M&M's 5:15 Lenten Meal & Service OS	<b>29</b> 7 NA		

# PSALM 100

Y Y R E T N E C P G S J S E T A G  
E Q S H Z G E H Q C P W V D G Q T  
R V D T X C C D L F S C L N B D G  
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O E H L S H N R U I C D O G Z Q Z  
G E N E R A T I O N S H P E E H S

bless	courts	enter	everlasting	gates
generations	gladness	God	good	lands
LORD	mercy	noise	pasture	people
praise	presence	serve	sheep	singing
thanksgiving	truth			