



# 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.

March 2024

*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God  
and the Word was God. (John 1:1)*

A few years ago, I was asked by a good friend to preside over the memorial service of a cousin of hers, in Des Moines. The pastor of their church was on vacation at the time. It ended up being a very small gathering of devoted friends along with my friend and her husband, who were the only living relatives able to attend.

After visiting with my friend about her cousin, I learned that although he had been a lifelong member of the church, he had not attended in many years and had spoken very little of his belief in God. The

last week or so of his life he had been hospitalized and not able to communicate very well.

However, at the memorial service, a couple of his friends who had visited him in the hospital that last week of his life mentioned that they could hear him repeating over and over a prayer that he had learned as a child: *"Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take."*

It occurred to me that in spite of the fact that church had not been a big part of his adult life, the Holy Spirit had, in this man's final days, moved him to a place where he did have a connection to God; this prayer that he had learned as a child. This prayer was his personal Word from God. It made me realize the importance of knowing God's Word. It's our connection with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in this life. God's Word is filled with everything that can guide us, teach us, and comfort us in all areas of our life – the good times and certainly the bad times! God's Word truly is, as the psalmist said, "A lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119)

We have plenty of ways for you to meditate on God's Word during this season of Lent. There is (at both churches) a table in the fellowship hall with a plethora of Lenten devotionals free for you to take home. We have a Wednesday night meal and worship/study throughout Lent in which we discuss the Feasts of Israel and how it ties into Jesus' life and ministry. I am also doing a brief Lenten devotion on our Facebook pages Monday–Friday, along with daily scripture reading that will take us through the entire Bible in one year. And of course, we continue to worship every Sunday! Want to join me?

*"For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires." (Hebrews 4:12)*

In Christ's Love,  
*Pastor Jane*

**ST. PAUL COUNCIL MINUTES - February 6, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE:** The following council members were in attendance: Deb Stockberger, Diana Black, Mary Beyerhelm Huey, Lori Cornick-Angell, LaVern Dahl, Diane Murphy (by Zoom) 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, preparing for Lenten Season, Sunday School preparation, article and other information for the joint newsletter. Her full report is available outside the office.

**MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING:** Mary made a motion to accept the January Minutes, Diana seconded and council all in favor.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** There is now a single music copyright license that is shared with O.S. Both churches can copy the music. St. Paul paid O.S. for their half. Motion made by Deb to submit the treasurer's report for audit, Mary seconded and council all in favor.

**MONTHLY BENEVOLENCE:** The monthly benevolence is local. There was a discussion regarding a few different organizations and at this time Deb made a motion to donate to the food bank, Mary seconded and council all in favor.

**BUDGET UPDATE:** The final figure for Portico was a bit lower than estimated so has been adjusted.

**WELCA:** Just a reminder about the potluck for tomorrow February 7, 2024, at 5:00 with a presentation by Dennis Wilson on The Orphan Train to follow the potluck.

**JOINT CONGREGATION TOPICS:**

St. Paul and Our Saviour's have decided to have a church directory made with photos. More information will be forthcoming. Pastor presented an example layout of the joint newsletter. There was discussion regarding joint council meetings and the timing of the joint newsletters. This is scheduled to start on April 1, 2024. Further topics included name tags, joint Bible school and band festival and a possible float.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A few members of St. Paul, along with Dewey Kruger will meet at Faith Lutheran Church in Mitchell to determine whether the organ is still operating properly and a good fit for St Paul.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The 2024 council officers, the upcoming Lenten Services with a different menu this year for the suppers by each congregation and the bell choir is going to need some additional music for the year.

**ANNUAL MEETING:**

The Annual Meeting was held, and the budget was approved.

**2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS:** The 2024 church council was sworn in on Sunday, February 4, 2024. Officers are Kristen-President; Deb-Vice-President; Lori-Secretary; and Diane-Treasurer.

**COUNCIL PERSON OF THE MONTH:** Sue and Lori are council people for March.

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

**OUR SAVIOUR'S MEETING MINUTES****February 13, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Pres. Ed Simon , Vice-Pres. Jan Nelson, Secretary Nancy Nielsen, Treasurer Dale Karsjens, Liz Hasty, Martha Koch, Gale Loveless, Art Martell, Cody Olson, Donna Vosburgh, and Pastor Jane. **Absent:** The meeting was called to order by President Ed Simon. Liz gave devotions, Will you be my valentine? God shows His love every day of the year. He sent His Son, His beloved for YOU! **Congregational Input:** none

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of January 9, 2024, minutes, Motion/Second, Art/Jan, motion carried.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Motion to approve the January Financial Report, Motion/Second, Martha/Liz, motion carried. The two Mission Investment CD's that mature in March 2024 will be renewed for a two-year term at 4.76% interest rate.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Discussed the new Council meeting schedule. We will have a joint council meeting every other month on the first Sunday following Worship at St. Paul (April 7, June 2, August 4, December 1, February 2). We will meet together first, then divide to conduct each congregation's council business. Spring clean-up day will be April 6th , 9:00 a.m. (weather permitting). We will need to make a lawn mowing signup sheet for April to October.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor Jane submitted a report of her activities for the month of January. The complete report is on file with the Council minutes in the office. We will have Vacation Bible School with St. James again this year.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:** The Worship Committee met and planned the schedule for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter services. Wednesday evening meals are served from 5:15-6:00 p.m., with Lenten Services held in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. (following the meals). February 21 (Pizza) at St. Paul, February 28 (Potato Bar) at Our Saviour's, March 6 (Soup) at St. Paul, March 13 (Tomato Soup, grilled cheese sandwich) at Our Savior's, and March 20 (Taco Bar) at St. Paul. Holy Week schedule is Palm Sunday, March 24, Our Saviour's 9:30 a.m., Maundy Thursday, March 28, Our Saviour's, 6:30 p.m. Good Friday, March 29, St. Paul, 6:30 p.m. and Easter Sunday, March 31, St. Paul, 9:30 a.m. with brunch following.

**COMMUNICATION REPORT:** Beginning in April we will have a joint newsletter printed bimonthly. We would like to have a Church Directory printed this year. Diane Murphy is checking on name tags with a magnet backing or one hanging on a lanyard. We are working on one new website including both churches.

**OLD BUSINESS:** none

**New Business:** We will be celebrating our 100-year centennial in 2025. If anyone is interested in being on this planning committee, please contact a council member. The next regular council meeting is March 12, 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Devotions for March will be given by Art . The meeting closed with all praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Nielsen, Secretary

**JOINT COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES    February 4, 2024**

St. Paul members present: Lori Angell, Sue Aves, Diana Black, LaVern Dahl, Mary Beyerhelm Huey, Kristen Stockberger, Deb Stockberger, and Diane Murphy (by telephone).

Our Saviour's members present: Liz Hasty, Martha Koch, Gale Loveless, Art Martell, Jan Nelson, Nancy Nielsen, and Donna Vosburgh.

Pastor Jane opened the meeting with prayer. New members were introduced and welcomed. Thank you to all council members for serving.

How are things going: Advent soup suppers were very well received. Joint Prayer Chain members very pleased and appreciates Pastor Jane's prayers. Positive comments from both congregations.

Ideas for future joint projects/activities: Pastor Jane will contact St. James about Vacation Bible School. Do we want to be involved with the Band Festival parade?

Report from Joint Communication team – Mary and Martha: Bimonthly Newsletter for both Churches would like to begin in April. They will continue to work on the details to make this a good transition. Suggested a professional directory of both church congregations with names, addresses, phone numbers, Email addresses and SP/OS. Pastor Jane will contact Bart concerning the Directory. Would like to have a new combined website with a fresh start.

Additional Topics: Continue with game days. We should have a social committee to organize these events.

Next Meeting: At our next council meetings, we should discuss the possibility of having a joint council meeting every other month on the first Sunday following Worship. (April, June, August, October, December, February) Meet together first, then divide to conduct each congregation's council business.

Meeting adjourned with praying the Lord's Prayer.  
Respectfully submitted, Nancy Nielsen, Secretary

## WELCA NEWS

**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.



### Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief

Our Saviour's and St. Paul will again be gathering supplies for Personal Care Kits in April and the first part of May. We invite you to start shopping for the items listed below or save back money to donate. These kits are so greatly needed for victims of natural disasters, wars, conflicts, and in refugee situations.

Most needed items are toothbrushes, 4 ounce (or 3 ounce) bars of soap, and dark colored towels( if possible) no larger than 27x52 inches. St. Paul has already found some towels and soap at good prices. If you'd like to use the small envelopes at the end of each pew for donations, that would help a lot!

Please contact Marilyn Martell 641-425-9048 or Michele Thenhaus 641-420-6064 with any questions about places to shop or for help in shopping.

Thank you for your willingness to be a blessing to God's sons and daughters in need.

*"Many of life's failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up."*

Thomas A. Edison

***"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day."***

Attention all Music Lovers! We have been so blessed through this last year to have members of our congregations sharing their musical gifts during our worship services - both vocal and instrumental. *Thank you!* We welcome you all to do the same - if you have a love for singing or playing an instrument and would be willing to share that gift with the congregation - please contact the church office or Pastor Jane to arrange for some special music for our worship services.

*Let your light shine for God's glory!*

### **REMEMBER!**

Sunday, March 10th is the beginning of Daylight Saving Time.  
Spring forward!  
Speaking of Spring, the first day of Spring is Tuesday, March 19th.



**There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids and an Easter Brunch for all after the church service at St. Paul on Sunday, March 31st.**

**If you are interested in helping or supplying items please contact the church office.**

**Everyone is welcome!!!**

### **Did you know?**

There is an easy way to give to the mission of St Paul?

Simply Giving is a program endorsed by Thrivent Federal Credit Union and is a safe, simple, reliable way to make your regular contributions to St Paul through automatic giving. Vanco Services is the company that processes the donations directly from your bank account. It is an easy way to be consistent in your giving even when you are unable to be at worship.



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

### 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**

- 3 Lori Angell
- 17 Diana Black
- 31 Geri Barker

**Acolytes**

- 3 Deb Stockberger
- 17 Lori Angell
- 31 Pat Steinfort

**Ushers:**

- 3 Lori A. & Mike R.
- 17 Diana Black & Harold Gaiser
- 31 Larry & Deb Stockberger

**Coffee Hour:**

- 3 Ron & Becky Lundblad
- 17
- 31 Easter Brunch

**Council Person:**

Sue Aves/Lori Angell

**Altar Guild:**

Sue Aves/Lori Angell

**Financial Assistant:**

Lori Angell

**Community Kitchen:**

3rd Thursday Mar. 21 @ 4:00

**Council Meeting:**

Mon. Mar. 5 @ 5:15

**M&M's:**

Each Wednesday @ 9:30

**WELCA:**

Wed, Mar. 6 @ 9:30

**Worship & Music:**

Tues., March 5 @ Noon SP  
\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

**Happy March  
Birthday!!**

- 03/23 Stephanie Bailey
- 03/24 Dane Birkholz
- 03/28 Mary Beyerhelm Huey
- 03/29 Karen Cornick

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



**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



# March 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, 8:30-10:30 Tues. 11:45-1:45, Fri. 7:45-9:45 <b>Email:</b> secretary@stpaulmc.com	<b>Phone:</b> 641-423-7749				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>  8 NA
<b>3</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ SP 10:30 Fellowship	<b>4</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>5</b> Noon Worship Planning SP 5:15 Council Meeting	<b>6</b> 9:30 M&M's 5:15 Soup Supper SP 6:30 Lenten Service	7  7 NA	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  8 NA
<b>10</b> Daylight Saving Time Begins  9:30 Worship/Communion @ OS 10:30 Fellowship 2:00 2/4 Stitchers	<b>11</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:30 M&M's 5:15 Soup Supper OS 6:30 pm Lenten Service	<b>14</b>  7 NA	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  8 NA
<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day  9:30 Worship/Communion @ SP	<b>18</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>19</b> Spring Begins 	<b>20</b> 9:30 M & M's 5:15 Lenten Meal SP 6:30 Lenten Service	<b>21</b> 4:00 Comm. Kitchen 7 NA	<b>22</b> Loveletter Deadline	<b>23</b>  8 NA
<b>24 Palm Sunday</b> 9:30 Worship/ Communion @ OS 10:30 Fellowship 2:00 2/4 Stitchers	<b>25</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30 M&M's	<b>28</b> 6:30 Maundy Thursday Service OS 7 NA	<b>29</b> 6:30 Good Friday Service SP	<b>30</b>  8 NA
<b>31 EASTER</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ SP 10:30 Easter Brunch/Egg Hunt						

# He is Risen!

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

Angels

Cross

Easter

Faith

Judas

Mary

Passover

Pilate

Risen

Savior

Sunday

Tomb

