



# ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH “LOVELETTER”

Share God’s Love; Serve all People

329 East State Street, Mason City, IA 50401

641-423-7749

OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

May 2021

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## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

Throughout the pandemic, one question has resurfaced again and again from congregational leaders and people in churches around the world: "When will things get back to normal?" At first, people were certain we would be “back to normal” quickly... then as days of sheltering at home became weeks and then months, that question shifted to become "Will things *ever* go back to normal?" That question, too, evolved over time as people began asking, "What if things *don't* go back to the way they were?" Now, I hear more congregational leaders wrestling with a fourth question: "What will our “*NEW normal*” look like?"

I’m here to tell you, the church has never functioned according to what the world considered “normal.” We instead have followed and have been led by a faith fed and nourished by the norms and values given us by the Holy Spirit promised and sent by Christ. The book of Romans reminds us, “Don’t be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God’s will is— what is good and pleasing and mature. [Romans 12:2, *Common English Bible*]

Now, as we see more people going out to restaurants, and as we hear more about those are who “double vaxxed” there are more and more questions being raised about the activities and the life we can see ahead together. But as we move into who God is calling us to be I would encourage us to ask more questions than to try and come up with definitive and hardline answers.

If we are going to return to anything we have known before, let us return to the tried-and-true values and norms that connect us to the wider church *beyond* ourselves, seeking always to “*be better together than we can be on our own!*” This means looking to how we can be a part of the wider ministry of the church; through all that the Church-Wide ministries are doing in response to all that is happening the world, and the ways the Northeastern Iowa Synod is helping congregations adapt and thrive in innovative and inspiring ways to the needs and longings of the wider world.

It also means we seek to find ways to connect and communicate with those who are not ready or able to “gather” at the church, but who continue to feel the need to connect “as” the church. This means, that online and digital community are not going anywhere, but instead are part of who we are both now and into the future. If we can lean into our “new normal” with wholehearted excitement, we might find that the ‘new normal’ really doesn’t seem much different from the values we’ve always had: to build up each other in our faith walk in the world, and help others recognize their callings to be and do church actively in daily life.

Peace In Christ,  
Pastor Matthew Muters

### CONGREGATION MEETING



**Notice of Congregation Meeting for St. Paul:** The St Paul congregational council has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> following the 9 am worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the replacement of the roof on the education unit. The current roof was installed in 1986 and needs to be replaced. Per our constitution this is the one agenda item we will discuss.

### BAND FESTIVAL FOOD STAND

The North Iowa Band Festival is back on and so is our food stand!!

This joint project with Our Saviour’s and St Paul will include selling pop, bottled water and pre-packaged treats. You can help by donating pop, water or cash any time in May. Bottled water and pop can be placed in the fellowship hall of St Paul. If you would like to make a donation, please place in the offering basket with a note “for Band Festival”.

We are also in need of people to work that day, if you can help please give Lori Angell (641-425-4162) or Beth Rozen (641-424-8500) a call.



**Come have some fun and stop by our booth on the steps of St Paul!!!**



**Thank you to everyone** that helped with our first youth night. Whether you helped in the kitchen or helped the kids with the creation and Earth Day activities you made our first youth event a success.

A big **thank you** to Jim Wallace, Beth Rozen, Sue Aves, Geri Barker, Nancy Marsh and Ron and Becky Lundblad who spent over two hours on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Earth Day – doing spring clean-up at St. Paul. A job well done and much appreciated.

A big **thank you** to all those who contributed in any way to the success of St. Paul WELCA's Personal Care Kit ministry. With your help we were able to make our goal of 100 kits and a donation to Lutheran World Relief for mailing costs.

St. Paul WELCA

**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,*

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. NE Iowa Synod  | 16. LaVern & Tanya Dahl & family   |
| 2. St. Paul Lutheran Church                             | 17. Roger & Beverly Ennis & family |
| 3. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church                        | 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. Kay Harms & family             |
| 6. Confined shut-ins (home, hospital, nursing home)     | 21. Dixie Howell & family          |
| 7. Those who are dealing with losses in their lives     | 22. Dave & Sara Janssen & family   |
| 8. All who hunger and/or are homeless                   | 23. Carol King & family            |
| 9. All who seek God; finding comfort, peace, renewal    | 24. Linda Koopman & family         |
| 10. Bryan & Bethany Bjorklund & family                  | 25. Ron & Becky Lundblad & family  |
| 11. Brianna Buffington & family                         | 26. Dennis & Nancy Marsh & family  |
| 12. Rhett Buffington & family                           | 27. John & Carol Meyer & family    |
| 13. Lyle & Corrine Butler & family                      | 28. Margaret Movick & family       |
| 14. Karen Cornick & family                              | 29. Jim & Diane Murphy & family    |
| 15. Zell Cottrell & family                              | 30. Marv Murphy & family           |
|   | 31. Ron Nielson & family           |

## ST. PAUL COUNCIL MINUTES APRIL 11, 2021

### **ATTENDANCE:**

The following council persons were in attendance: Ron Lundblad, Diane Murphy, Lavern Dahl, Sue Aves, Beth Rozen, and Lori Cornick-Angell, along with Pastor Muters. Visitors at the meeting: Geri Barker.

### **INTRODUCTIONS:**

Ron began the meeting by talking about how nice the Easter service was as well as the baptism service at Our Saviour's. Both services were well attended.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT:**

Pastor did not have a written report due to some technical issues. Pastor has been working on discussions with different members with regards to the Bible Study Group. Perhaps doing it on Wednesday night like the time we have set for Advent and Lenten services. He performed pastoral duties for a non-member of either church for a funeral. It was a challenge due to a relative being deaf. He has been in discussion with the women's group with the quilting and LWR kits. Still some challenges mingling the groups from Our Saviour's and St. Paul together. Working with the worship committee it is not always about the number of services at either church but what works with regards to COVID-19 and other protocols.

### **TREASURER REPORT:**

Diane reported there were two Alliant bills for the month of March but one was actually the February bill. Also, a few bills for North Iowa Media for the ad for the church secretary. An additional check to Our Saviour's for the organist was paid due to her providing coverage during Wednesday night services. That was appreciated by St. Paul.

Ron reported that St. Paul withdrew \$7500.00 from investments to cover expenses during March. That is a total of \$15,000 for the year.

An additional discussion was made with regards to the books needing to be audited. This has not been done for a number of years. This could be a church person or someone else.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE MONTH:**

The church secretary will send a reminder out to the council member of the month.

### **UPDATE ON CHURCH SECRETARY:**

Diane has been helping the new secretary Valerie in learning the position. St. Paul appreciates Diane's help in this regard.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Youth night will be held April 21 at Our Saviour's. Drop off at 5:30 and a meal at 6:00. Games and activities.

Lawn clean up at St. Paul: April 22, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. Bring your rakes and gloves.

A janitor is needed. Church members Sue and Tanya have been cleaning the bathrooms on a temporary basis. Ron is doing the garbage and vacuuming until a janitor is found. The council will continue to look for a part-time janitor.

Lawn mowing service was also discussed. Ron is checking with Bryan Bjorklund regarding his desire to mow some this summer, along with Ron. Sue has a neighbor/lawn business in mind and would be ready, willing and able to perform that service when notified.

Diane is going to check with Gary Slocum with regards to the video doorbell for security.

Easter egg hunt went really well with 17 children.

**OATMEAL CONTAINERS:**

Will start using the oatmeal containers during the Sunday services in April. Will also begin having local and global council donations each month: local designation and a global designation switching months. on suggested for the monthly benevolence Good Shepherd telephone reassurance phone for \$100.00. Diane will complete the donation form. Motion by Ron, second by Sue Aves and approved by council. Last month \$100.00 was given to the ELCA disaster fund for the issues with Texas.

**BAND FESTIVAL:**

The church will plan on having pop, water, popcorn and prepackaged snacks. Beth Rozen and Lori Cornick-Angell will co-head that committee. This will be a joint effort with Our Saviour's also. Sign-up sheets will be passed during worship service. They will follow and practice all COVID-19 protocol for the event.

**CANNONBALL DAYS:**

Our Saviour's and St. Paul will have a root beer float stand and sell hot dogs on June 26. Ron Lundblad and Sue Aves will co-head this committee. This will be a joint effort with Our Saviour's also. Sign-up sheets will be passed during worship service. They again would practice and follow all COVID-19 protocol for the event. Profits will be used for the Lilly bags, the food pantry or other local agencies.

**ROOF:**

Discussion was held with regard to the estimates for the costs of the roof. Ron, Harold and La Vern have received bids from four companies and La Vern presented the various options. This will have to go to a congregational vote. The plan is to have that meeting on May 16 after the worship service. Motion by Lori and seconded by Diane and approved by council.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Geri Barker inquired if other business could be brought up at the Congregational Meeting at the same time as the roof. Diane says only one issue can be voted on at a Congregational Meeting.

**NEXT MEETING:**

May 16, 2021, after church. Council meeting will follow congregational meeting.

**MOTION:**

Motion to adjourn by Lori Cornick-Angell, second by Sue Aves and approved by the council.

Lord's Prayer in closing,

Lori Angell, Secretary

**Lectors**

- 2 Lori Angell
- 9 Our Saviour's
- 16 Diane Murphy
- 23 Our Saviour's
- 30 Our Saviour's

**Acolytes**

- 2 Deb Stockberger
- 9 Our Saviour's
- 16 Diane Murphy
- 23 Our Saviour's
- 30 Our Saviour's

**Council Person:** Diane Murphy

**Altar Guild:** Diane Murphy

**Financial Assistant:**

Lori Angell

**Community Kitchen:**

*3rd Thursday of each month*  
Thu May 20 at 4:00

**Council Meeting:**

Sun May 16 after congregational meeting

**M&Ms Quilting:**

Each Wednesday at 9:30

**WELCA:**

Wed, May 5 @ 9:30

**Worship & Music:**

Thursday, May 6 at Noon @ St Paul

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Loveletter deadline: 25th

Bulletin deadline each Wed. 12:00

**Happy March Birthday!**

05/02 Beverly Ennis

05/13 Carlyn Schriver

05/23 Zell Cottrell

*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.

**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)

Your name could be added here \_\_\_\_\_



**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 Matthew Muters at 641-231-4418 or the church office at 641-423-7749.

# May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Website:</b> www.stpaulmc.com <b>Facebook:</b> facebook.com/Stpaulmc <b>Office Hours:</b> M—F 9-11 <b>Email:</b> secretary@stpaulmc.com pastormutters@smartmail.com	<b>Phone:</b> 641-423-7749					<b>1</b> 8 NA
<b>2</b> 9 Worship w/Holy Communion At SP	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:30 M&M's 9:30 WELCA Meeting 12 Pastor's Text Study	<b>6</b> 10 St. Paul Knitters 12 Worship Plan @ SP 7 NA	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 8 NA
<b>9</b> 9 Worship w/Holy Communion At OS 2:00 2/4 Stitches @SP	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30 M&M's 12 Pastor's Text Study	<b>13</b> 10 St. Paul Knitters 7 NA	<b>14</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>15</b> 8 NA
<b>16</b> 9 Worship at SP 10 SP Congregational meeting St. Paul Council Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30 M & M's 12 Pastor's Text Study	<b>20</b> 10 St. Paul Knitters 4 Community kitchen 7 NA	<b>21</b> Pastor's Sabbath Fellowship Hall Reserved	<b>22</b> 8 NA Fellowship Hall Reserved
<b>23</b> 9 Worship at OS 2:00 2/4 Stitches @SP	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30 M&M's 12 Pastor's Text Study	<b>27</b> 10 St. Paul Knitters 7 NA	<b>28</b> Pastor's Sabbath	<b>29</b> Band Fest Food Stand 8 NA
<b>30</b> 9 Worship at OS	<b>31</b> Memorial Day Office Closed					

