



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 1 p.m.

April 2019

Baptized into a New World Order

Once upon a time, church and church life held a favored status in day planners and on calendars for many people. Our church buildings were filled with much activity; activities that were important enough to not worry about who was playing whom in this or that sport. People from all walks of life worked together to build up the body of Christ and live into this “Christian Kingdom” under the grace-full and grace-filling reign of God.

When we were baptized, we can honestly say that we were immersed into a new and different world. The Christian community is no like-minded group, but an extraordinarily diverse community where all are welcomed and loved the same. The community exists not for OUR OWN SAKE but to live under the rule of Christ. Yes, we are cleansed, but biblically, when Christ spoke of his baptism, he spoke not of walking into the waters but of being baptized into his death. Therefore, when we dive or plunge our children into the deep waters of promise, we are also diving in in order to be made safe and alive again through his death and resurrection.

Our church no longer enjoys favored status – we aren’t the Privileged People we were, once upon a time, in our culture and among our institutions. And while it is understandable that we may lament the reality that the church has shrunk, hidden in this turning of fortunes are wonderful opportunities to recover what has been lost and to discover, in new and ancient ways, who we are and whose we are. We reconnect with God and each other in ways that rekindle a rejoicing life together and that energize growth both in faith and faithfulness. We reach out and find ourselves excited about inviting others to come and join in all that God is doing in and through the faithful mission and ministry to which we are being called and gathered, and for which we are being equipped to work better together in the coming collective ministry we are sharing.

May you come to be as excited and energized by the Holy Spirit as I am finding myself to be – through all that we are, all that God is working to help us become, and all that I see you are doing as God’s faithful daughters and sons.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Matthew Muters

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. Gary Slocum and family |
| 2. St. Paul Lutheran Church | 17. Pat Steinfort and family |
| 3. Our government, military leaders, troops & families | 18. Ian Stockberger and family |
| 4. All who suffer from illness, infirmity or loneliness | 19. Larry Stockberger and family |
| 5. Confined shut-ins (home, hospital, nursing home) | 20. Micah Stockberger and family |
| 6. Those who are dealing with losses in their lives | 21. David Tass and family |
| 7. All who hunger and/or are homeless | 22. Bryan Thenhaus and family |
| 8. All who seek God; finding comfort, peace, renewal | 23. Tabitha Thies and family |
| 9. Crystal Schriber and family | 24. Tyler Thies and family |
| 10. Carlyn Schriver and family | 25. Bob Thompson and family |
| 11. Gary Schriver and family | 26. Ken Truka and family |
| 12. Kirk Schriver and family | 27. Vera Walk and family |
| 13. Steve Schukei and family | 28. Jim Wallace and family |
| 14. Ted Schultz and family | 29. Karol Wallskog and family |
| 15. Margaret Simkins and family | 30. Tad Wendorf and family |



Prayers

Please contact the church office if you or someone you know is in need of prayers. 641-423-7749

Hospital Stay?

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.



While grocery shopping, please consider purchasing one additional item for our Sunday food baskets.

Thank You!

St. Paul serves at Community Kitchen every 3rd Thursday starting at 4. Please sign up on the clipboard in Fellowship Hall. Thank You!!

St. Paul Lutheran Church Minutes March 2019

Attendance – The following members were present for the meeting: Kristen Stockberger, Ron Lundblad, Dave Janssen, Linda Koopman, Pat Steinfort, Harold Gaiser, Jim Aberg, Pastor Muters, and Bryan Bjorklund.

Devotion – Pastor Muters shared an article from Living Lutheran titled “What is God Up To?” The article discussed how the church today is different from what it was like to many of the members growing up in the church (as many members are older). Isaiah 43: 18-19 was a referenced text. We may not know our individual future, but having a trust in God, who does know our path, is the path we should take. How are you using your human hands and voices to tell and welcome others to follow God’s path?

Minutes in the Love Letter – Ron discussed the potential of putting in council minutes in the monthly love letter. Besides personal matters and with the minutes being published a month behind (due minutes needing to be approved by council), this will be moved forward with. Motion Ron, Harold second.

Bulletin Attendance – Ron discussed putting the weekly Sunday attendance in the Sunday bulletin. This is used to propel attendance to church and to celebrate all those who were in recent attendance.

Pastor’s Report – Pastor Muters provided a detailed write-up of his monthly actions. Pastor discussed how he had some funerals to attend. February was a busy business of working together with the various worship teams. Began looking at programs for the season of Lent (which are currently being put into place). Pastoral care was interesting and unique and always a fulfilling calling. Brought forth his board experience with the board at Good Shepherd. Discussions were had on a possible opportunity with LSI on a potential relocation of additional services to St. Paul. LSI currently uses Our Saviors as their base office location. LSI is looking to increase their services and find a more centralized location for what programs they offer. Harold and Pastor will meet with LSI on 3/11/19 at 1:00 PM at St. Paul to see what their needs might be.

Secretary’s Report – Motion Pastor, Jim second, approved as reported.

Treasurer’s Report – Motion Kristen, Dave second, approved as reported.

Church Membership/Stewardship – Numerous letters will be sent out to all individuals on the church books. This is an action to clean up the church books and keep the account efficient and clean. A concentrated stewardship campaign is going to be started in the near future, ending on Palm Sunday. We need to remember, stewardship is a process where you need to ask first, as you cannot assume. As a church, we need to be clear on what our stewardship goals are. This is going to be a short campaign and all will celebrate when it is completed on Palm Sunday. The focus of the stewardship campaign is on any sort of giving (and not just monetary giving).

Shared Ministry – A meeting is scheduled for 3/24/19 to continue planning for moving forward, not backwards. An agreed upon, mutual agenda needs to be developed for this meeting. Remember, the three congregations are focusing on making a solid foundation and base to do God’s work while keeping the individual identities of the respective churches. Remember, we are all in the ministry together, meaning it is not just about money, or a specific pastor, or a specific activity, etc. Our goal is to build relationships to become the healthiest congregation in Mason City.

Continued on page 5...

New Business

Cannonball Days-Root Beer Stand – We were offered to fulfill a void to volunteer for Cannonball Days. This can be a potential fund raiser for the church, a great opportunity to fill the void, and an excellent way to meet the people of our community. The council sees this as an excellent opportunity to take on. Motion Kristen, Jim second, approved.

Kitchen Rental for Girl Scout Group – A Girl Scout troop reached out to using our church kitchen as a space. Ron is going to contact to see if they are still interested or not.

LSI Dinner on March 26th – If people are needed to volunteer, you will be contacted. Thank you for your help and support!

Monthly Benevolence – Local: North Iowa Foodbank, motion Jim, Kristen approved; Global: Bread for the World, motion Jim, Kristen second, approved.

Next Meeting – Sunday, April 7, 11:30 AM

Adjournment – Motion Jim, second Kristen, approved.

In your service,
Bryan Bjorklund

Attendance for March: 166 (5 Sundays)

Monthly Offerings and other Gifts for March: \$9638.73

**Sunday worship time
will be 8:30 a.m.
through JUNE**

Ushers (2 needed per Sunday)

- 7. Bryan Bjorklund & H Gaiser
- 14. R & B Lundblad
- 21. D & N Marsh
- 28. J & D Murphy

Lectors

- 7: Kristen Stockberger
- 14: Bethany Bjorklund
- 21: Lori Angell
- 28: Jim Aberg

Acolytes

- 7. Lori Angell
- 14. Pat Steinfort
- 21. Deb Stockberger
- 28. Diane Murphy

Coffee Hour

- 7.
- 14.
- 21.
- 28.

Count Offering

- 7. L Angell & J Bailey
- 14. P Steinfort
- 21. R & B Lundblad
- 28. L Angell & J Bailey

Financial Assistant:

Lori Angell

Council Person:

Kristen Stockberger
515-538-0939

Altar Guild:

Geri Barker 423-5525

Community Kitchen:

3rd Thursday of each month
Thu Apr 18 at 4:00

Council Meeting:

2nd Thursday of each month
Thu Apr 11 at 6:30 p.m.

M&Ms Quilting:

Each Wednesday at 9:30

Strategic Planning:

Meets as needed

WELCA:

Meeting 1st Wed of each month
Wed, Apr 3

Worship & Music:

2nd Tues of each month
Tue Apr 9 @ noon

Loveletter deadline: 25th

Bulletin deadline each Thurs 1:00

Happy April Birthday!

- 2. Elaine Schriver
- 4. Lyle Butler
- 5. Elizabeth Nonweiler
- 6. LaVern Dahl
- 8. Emma Wendorf
- 15. Beckett Petersen
- 17. Geri Barker
- 20. Bruce Long
- 21. Don Barker
- Emmet Thompson
- 27. Rebekah Mason

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



www.stpaulmc.com

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

www.facebook.com/stpaulmc





Thank you for all the prayers, hugs and sympathy during our mom's illness and passing. The St Paul family meant a lot to our mom and your thoughtfulness was appreciated. To the Women of ELCA, the lunch was wonderful and it felt like being surrounded by family. To Pastor Matt thanks for your support and for a wonderful service.

Mark Wright, Diane Murphy, and Jay Wright

Lent Schedule

Wednesday April 3 - St. Paul

6:00 p.m. soup supper, 7:00 p.m. worship

Wednesday April 10 - Our Saviour's

6:00 p.m. soup supper, 7:00 p.m. worship

Sunday April 14 - Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. worship at St. Paul; 10:30 a.m. worship at Our Saviour's

Thursday April 18 - Maundy Thursday

2:00 p.m. worship at Our Saviour's; 7:00 p.m. worship at St. Paul

Friday April 19 - Good Friday

5:00 p.m. worship at Our Saviour's

7:00 p.m. Cantata at Galilean

Sunday April 21 - Easter

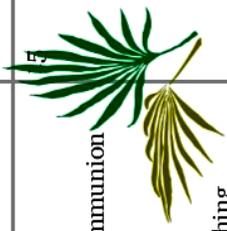
8:30 a.m. worship at St. Paul; 10:30 a.m. worship at Our Saviour's

All singers are invited to join in the joint cantata choir rehearsing during Lent!

St Paul served the LSI meal on March 26

Twenty nine people from LSI attended. They enjoyed the taco bar and the bars served as dessert. Many of the people thanked us including some of the children. It is always so energizing to be with the families. The conversation and laughter of children livens our hall. We had seven people who worked: Jack and Anne Gannett, Harold Geiser, Linda Koopman, Karol Wallskog, and Jim and Chris Wallace. Also, we want to thank Lori Angell, Linda Koopman, and Jim Wallace for making delicious bars. Thank you to those who support the meal financially. Thank you, Chris

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 9:30 WELCA 9:30 M&M's 12 Pastor's Text Study 6 Soup & Service @ St. Paul	4 10 St. Paul Knitters	5 Pastor's Sabbath	6 8 Narcotics Anonymous
7 8:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 9:30 Fellowship 9:45 Sunday school	8 9 12 Worship & Music	10 9:30 M&M's 12 Pastor's Text Study 6 Soup & Service @ Our Saviour's	11 10 St. Paul Knitters 6:30 COUNCIL 7 Narcotics Anonymous	12 Pastor's Sabbath	13 8 Narcotics Anonymous	
14 PALM SUNDAY 8:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 9:30 Fellowship 9:45 Sunday school 2:00 Good Shepherd stitching	15 	16 17 9:30 M&M's 12 Pastor's Text Study 6 Soup & Service @ St. Paul	18 MAUNDY THURSDAY 10 St. Paul Knitters 2 service at Our Saviour's 4 Serve at Community kitchen 7 service at St. Paul 7 Narcotics Anonymous	19 GOOD FRIDAY 5 service at OS 7 cantata at Galilean	20 8 Narcotics Anonymous	
21 EASTER SUNDAY 8:30 Worship w/Holy Communion 9:30 Fellowship 9:45 Sunday school 	22 23 HEATHER OFF TODAY 9:30 M&M's 12 Pastor's Text Study	24 25 Loveletter articles due	26 Pastor's Sabbath	27 8 Narcotics Anonymous		
28 8:30 Worship 9:30 Fellowship 9:45 Sunday school 2:00 Good Shepherd stitching	29 30 Website: www.stpaulmc.com Facebook: facebook.com/ Stpaulmc Office Hours: M-F 9-1 Phone: 641-423-7749 Email: secretary@stpaulmc.com pastormutters@gmail.com				Altar Guild: Geri Barker 423-5525	Council Member: Kristen Stockberger 515-538-0939