



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.

September 2021

September will begin a new chapter in the ministry of St. Paul Lutheran but it is one we have dealt with before. Many of us were surprised by Pastor Muter’s decision to no longer serve St. Paul but that was his decision and we wish him well. We certainly enjoyed getting to know and also worshipping with the people of Our Saviour’s and hope to do so again some time. In many ways we are similar congregations with many of the same goals and aspirations but also the same challenges. I believe many people in both churches believe a shared ministry is beneficial for both of us in order for us to continue. We certainly wish them the best and it is likely we will continue to do some activities together.

The immediate concern is where do we go from here? St. Paul has been without a full-time minister since June of 2015. During that time we have had multiple supply pastors, two interim ministers, and a shared minister. Because of this you would assume there would have been a significant drop in attendance and giving and that simply is not the case which is a testament to the people of St. Paul.

There has been no great exodus of members just as there has been no real increase. There is some natural loss because some people moved away or passed on. St. Paul still does some great things as evidenced by the veteran’s lunch, Lily Bags, Band Fest, Cannonball Days and our generous giving to local and national causes each month. It is only in the past two years that there has been a significant drop in offerings and the pandemic certainly contributed to this although it was perhaps not the only cause. Any church is only as good as its people and St. Paul has many good people.

The immediate plan is to continue weekly worship with communion on the first and third Sundays with various supply pastors just as we did a few years ago. I have already started that process and I actually think many people enjoyed that variety. There may be an occasional situation where a lay person leads worship but that will be the exception rather than the rule. This will require more effort from everyone and I hope people will make an extra effort to attend church every Sunday. This is not the long-term plan but rather what needs to be done at this time.

We have been in touch with the synod and hope to get help from them and we will also explore other possibilities. It will take some time. St. Paul is not just an ELCA church of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. To many of us it is like a family and that is what we like about it.

It is one reason why we joined in the first place. We like not only knowing all the people in our church but actually knowing where they sit in church. We notice and miss them when they are not there. We care about each other and you won't get that same feeling in all churches. However, we need to do an even better job of this. If someone is ill or suffering or there is a death we need to make sure we notify the church office and/or me so everyone knows. We can do better at this.

I honestly believe that we can and will move forward ...but it needs to be together. There is no value in placing blame or arguing. We need to band together and we can continue. Rather than lament what we don't have let us cherish and value what we do have: a dedicated group of Christians in a beautiful church who want to worship together and continue to care for each other.

Sometimes when one door closes another one opens. I don't know what the future holds but I hope and pray that we can share it together.

Ron Lundblad, Church Council President

Message from Pastor Matthew

To all the beloved of God abiding in Christ Jesus who are called and held together as the congregation St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to God each and every morning and continue to pray for you as fellow siblings in Christ called by the Holy Spirit and gifted with grace and faith together through God's Word. I have truly enjoyed growing in and sharing in the gospel through our shared ministry these past years and I am confident of this, that the One who began and called us to be "better together than we could be on our own" will bring this good work to completion by the sharing of the love of Jesus Christ. And this is my continued prayer for you, that you would continue to grow in love and in discerning God's will together, that you would work together with the whole church which is the body of Christ, so that Christ may become well-known to be your heart and your head, so that in your love overflowing and showing others that you are truly his disciples they too would come to know Christ is with them and for them, thus producing a harvest of friends and growing in faith that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Continue to use the gifts you are given by the Holy Spirit so that your kindness and gentleness would reveal Christ presence and compassion among you. Though the world is filled with anxieties, we know that we do not have to worry about anything, but through the Holy Spirit are called to join in praying and rejoicing in all things making our needs known to God. For we are promised that it is in this way that the true presence and peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, you who are called beloved by God, keep your focus on Christ, for this is his church, he is our heart and head, and our very reason for existing and “being Church”, keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in him and his good news, and the God of peace will be with you.

In Christ’s Peace,
Pastor Matthew Muters

ST. PAUL COUNCIL MINUTES - AUGUST 5, 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, JoEllen and Jim Bailey, Roger Ennis, Shelly and Brian Thenhaus, Margaret Movick, Pat Steinfort, Tanya Dahl, Becky Lundblad and Carlyn Schriver.

INTRODUCTIONS: Ron began by announcing that on August 1st Pastor Muters had submitted his resignation from St. Paul effective August 31, 2021, He will continue to serve Our Saviour’s but not St. Paul. Ron then read a statement he had written detailing many of the events explaining the details of a funeral for a St. Paul member and why the funeral was not held at St. Paul. Many people including Pastor Muters were able to express their feelings and it was a good conversation.

PASTOR’S REPORT: Pastor has performed duties relating to a funeral and some other visits at the care facilities. Pastor continues to make contact with those who have not been able to get out due to a variety of reasons through Facebook, over the phone or perhaps Zoom. Pastor discussed other ongoing issues with possible COVID changes as well as different worship options and the sharing agreement between the two churches.

GUEST SPEAKERS: No speakers per se. However, several members in attendance made comments regarding Pastor’s resignation and other pastoral duties as well as the funeral not being at St. Paul.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Diane reported that Mike Olson did not want to be reimbursed for the food license for band festival weekend. That money was then added to the donation given to Friends of the train.

Ron reported that St. Paul withdrew \$10,000.00 from investments to cover monthly expenses.

COUNCIL MEMBER OF THE MONTH: The church secretary will send a reminder out to the council member of the month. LaVern is for August.

NEW BUSINESS: Pastor's resignation. A long discussion was held in regard to this matter. Motion to accept Pastor's resignation as the current contract stands was made by Diane Murphy, seconded by Sue Aves. Council voted unanimously to accept the resignation.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES: No updates regarding youth night.

MONTHLY BENEVOLENCE: Discussion was held about various local donation options. Motion was made by Diane Murphy to donate to NIACC food bank for the college students. There is a need. Motion by Diane Murphy, second by Beth Rozen and council all voted in favor.

COFFEE HOUR: Plans to continue with coffee hour at this time. Perhaps an announcement during church reminding church members to sign up if they wish to serve coffee.

CHURCH REPAIRS: Ron had received a phone call from the Worth County Development Authority regarding the grant application for repairing the flat roof. The application was done correctly with all necessary documentation but they needed the minutes from the council meeting with the motion to apply for the grant. Ron emailed the June minutes to her verifying this and everything now is in order. However, St. Paul will not know until November 15th if the grant is approved. Ron also contacted the roofing company and no work will begin until after November 15th. The plan is to repair the roof regardless of whether or not the grant is approved. An update was given with regards to the sewing room located down by the fellowship hall. Because of issues with the floor, it was recommended that the storage/sewing room not be used at this time and closed up. The sewing ladies will simply use a different room at this time

A new lock was installed for the sign in front of the church and the correct times and place of worship were entered. At this time we will not replace the glass on the sign.

OTHER BUSINESS: The school kits are going well and they continue to work with Our Saviour's. Various donations have been made to help with this project.

NEXT MEETING: September 9, 2021, at 5:15 p.m.

MOTION: Lori Cornick-Angell requested that the meeting close in prayer. Pastor Jack Gannett concluded the meeting with a prayer.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) School Kit Project

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in our current, shared LWR School Kit project! Whether you donated the initial 'seed' money from Thrivent to get us started OR went shopping once or numerous times for the supplies OR donated for others to go shopping for you OR asked Walmart for a gift card, please know how much your generosity means to make this project successful.

We are getting ready to assemble the kits soon. We made our goal!! Thanks to you around 250 kids will be able to enjoy our efforts. We may be a small church, but we have amazingly generous members who give of their time, talents and money to get things done!

Thanks so much to Marilyn Martell, Our Saviour's, for getting this shared project coordinated, giving us 100 sharpeners and always keeping us on track. You're the best!

We'll still need funding to ship all these kits to their destinations and if you would like to make a donation, feel free to use the envelopes at the inside end of the pews marked for 'school kits' to do that. Please know how much everything you do for St. Paul is appreciated!

We're still Sharing Christ's Love.

FUNDRAISER

WELCA

We have Pyrex glass baking pans in a variety of sizes that are etched with designs, names, patterns, etc. of your choice. Samples may be seen in the St Paul Fellowship Hall with a list of prices. Orders will be taken now until November 1st. They make great gifts for all occasions including Christmas!



Congratulations to Bishop Elect Kevin Jones

The Rev. Kevin Jones, Pastor to Youth, Family and Education at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mason City, was elected Bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod Saturday, June 12, at the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly.

Bishop Jones will take office September 1. He will be installed 2:00 p.m. Saturday, September 25, at Trinity Lutheran, Mason City, and online.

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 Fellowship Hall or call the church office 641-423-7749.



COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Lectors

- 5 Diane Murphy
- 12 Ron Lundblad
- 19 Deb Stockberger
- 26 Dennis Marsh

Acolytes

- 5 Diane Murphy
- 12 Pat Steinfort
- 19 Lori Angell
- 26 Deb Stockberger

Coffee Hour:

- 5 WELCA
- 12
- 19
- 26

Council Person:

Diane Murphy

Altar Guild:

Diane Murphy

Financial Assistant:

Lori Angell

Community Kitchen:

3rd Thursday of each month
Thurs Sept. 16 @ 4:00

Council Meeting:

Thurs Sept. 9 @ 5:15

M&Ms:

Each Wednesday @ 9:30

WELCA:

Wed, Sept. 1 @ 9:30

Worship & Music:

Thurs. Sept. 2 @ Noon

Loveletter deadline: 25th
Bulletin deadline each Wed.
12:00

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

**Happy September
Birthday!**

09/10 Lily Stockberger

09/13 Becky Lundblad

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



“The Pessimist Sees Difficulty In Every Opportunity. The Optimist Sees Opportunity In Every Difficulty.” – Winston Churchill

St. Paul would like to extend their sympathy to Pastor Melinda McVey McCluskey of Galilean Lutheran Church in Clear Lake whose father recently died. Pastor McCluskey officiated the funeral for Lyle Butler of St. Paul. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family. Cards may be sent to Pastor McCluskey at the address below:

Galilean Lutheran Church
4454 255th St.
Clear Lake, IA 50428



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!

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. Jim & Chris Wallace & family
11. Karol Wallskog & family
12. Tom & Patricia Wetter & family
13. Jim & Elaine Aberg & family
14. Lori Angell & family
15. Michael Angell & family
16. Stephanie & Shaun Arneson & family
17. Susan Aves & family
18. Jim & Jo Ellen Bailey & family
19. Don & Geri Barker & family
20. Dane Birkholz & family
21. Brianna Stephens & family
22. Rhett Buffington & family
23. Corrine Butler & family
24. Karen Cornick & family
25. Zell Cottrell & family
26. LaVern & Tanya Dahl & family
27. Roger & Beverly Ennis & family
28. Harold Gaiser & family
29. Jack & Anne Gannett & family
30. Kay Harms & 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)

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 Ron Lundblad at 641-420-9440 or the church office at 641-423-7749.

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Website: www.stpaulmc.com Facebook: facebook.com/Stpaulmc Office Hours: M—F 9-11 Email: secretary@stpaulmc.com	Phone: 641-423-7749		1 9:30 M&M's WELCA Meeting	2 10 St. Paul Knitters 12 Worship Planning 7 NA	3 Office hours 8-10	4 8 NA
5 9 Worship/Communion 10 WELCA Bake Sale & Fellowship	6 Labor Day Office Closed	7	8 9:30 M&M's	9 10 St. Paul Knitters 5:15 Council Meeting 7 NA	10	11 8 NA
12 9 Worship 10 Fellowship	13	14	15 9:30 M & M's	16 10 St Paul Knitters 4 Comm Kitchen 7 NA	17 Office Hours 7:30-9:30	18 8 NA
19 9 Worship/Communion 10 Fellowship	20	21	22 9:30 M & M's	23 10 St. Paul Knitters 7 NA	24 Loveletter Deadline	25 8 NA
26 9 Worship 10 Fellowship	27	28	29 9:30 M&M's	30 10 St. Paul Knitters NA		