



# 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 9 to 11 a.m.

Tuesday 12:30-2:30 p.m. Friday 8 to 10 a.m.

January 2023

A new year has begun and 2023 will also begin a new chapter in the ministry not only for St. Paul but also for the shared ministry of St. Paul and Our Saviour's Lutheran Churches. We have been sharing worship services for the past couple years alternating worship services at each church. This has allowed each church to maintain their own customs and identity but yet worship together. The two churches have established a very good relationship and most all, people go to church regardless of the location. The coffee fellowship time after the church services has also proved invaluable in helping the two congregations getting to know each other.

For the past fifteen months we have used a variety of supply pastors and we have been fortunate to find pastors for every Sunday and many of the supply pastors have returned multiple times. We have thoroughly enjoyed all the ministers and the variety has actually been a positive. However, both churches knew that this was not a long-term solution and a joint call committee was established to begin work on calling a minister. They held multiple meetings and each church prepared their own profile which was presented to the respective congregations. Both congregations approved the profiles as did the Northeastern Iowa Synod. I commend the call committee for the work that they did. A request for a minister was submitted to the synod for possible candidates.

On December 11<sup>th</sup> Pastor Steve Brackett from the Northeastern Iowa Synod conducted a joint congregational meeting to present a candidate – Pastor Jane Harris – who would jointly serve both churches. Members of the call committee presented additional information about the candidate and members had the opportunity to ask questions including about the compensation package. Each church then met separately to discuss and vote on the candidate. Both churches voted unanimously to extend a call to Pastor Jane Harris and also voted to approve the compensation package.

This is when it gets exciting. Pastor Jane Harris accepted the call and will begin serving both congregations on February 1, 2023. Worship locations will remain as they are with first and third at St. Paul and second and fourth at Our Saviour's but Pastor Harris will conduct all Sunday services as well as other services as needed. She also will have office hours at both churches. Her contract is for three quarter time and it is important we do not abuse this. Many details are yet to be determined but it is definitely exciting for both churches to finally have a minister they can call their own. Her first Sunday will be February 5<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul which will also be her installation. I extend a very warm welcome to Pastor Jane Harris.

Ron Lundblad, St. Paul Church Council President

**ST. PAUL COUNCIL MINUTES** - December 4, 2022**ATTENDANCE:**

The following council members were in attendance: Ron Lundblad, Sue Aves, Lavern Dahl, Kristen Stockberger, Diane Murphy, Pat Steinfort and Lori Cornick-Angell.

Opening prayer by Diane.

Diane made a motion to accept the November Minutes, Pat second and council all in favor.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Diane reported there is nothing out of the ordinary other than the normal.

There are a few items that Diane Murphy has been reimbursed for. These checks to her are written by another authorized person. The items have been for a new phone, pre-stamped envelopes and maintenance supplies. Jim has replaced a few things on some of the toilets also. There was also a check for the tuning of the organ. Otherwise, the expenses are similar to what "normal" is every month.

**MONTHLY BENEVOLENCE:**

The benevolence for December is a local organization. Sue made a motion for the Cheer Fund, second by Diane and council all in favor.

**COUNCIL PERSON OF THE MONTH:**

Ron is for December. Ron will not be available for the third Sunday of the month. Pat will plan on opening the church and Lori will help out with announcements.

**CALL COMMITTEE:**

Diane said the meeting for next week will be at Our Saviour's. Pastor Brackett will be there and he will explain to the two congregations the process. Then the two churches will divide and St. Paul and Our Saviour's will vote separately to approve our new pastoral candidate and then the second vote will be for the compensation package. St. Paul will need 25 parishioners in attendance and have a majority vote.

**FUNDRAISERS:**

There have been a variety of fundraisers at the church. Everyone has done a great job. Thank you to all involved. WELCA in conjunction with the church council will be having a bake sale on December 10, 2022, so please continue to support this.

**ROOF PROJECT:**

The roof project is complete. It has been paid in full.

**THANKSROOFING BRUNCH:**

Thank you everyone for helping with this. There was a great turn out and some money was raised for the roof.

**BUDGET:**

The budget for 2023 was reviewed and discussed. There will be some clean up with regards to the categories, but other than that it is complete pending the meeting regarding the upcoming vote for a new minister. Motion to approve the budget was made by Kristin, second by Lori and council all in favor.

**COUNCIL:**

Ron Lundblad's term will be up on council. We want to thank Ron for his countless hours and dedication during his tenure. Diane Murphy and Lori Cornick-Angell's terms will be over. However, they will be able to continue to serve the council for another term. So if anyone is interested in being on the council, please let someone on the current council know. Our annual meeting will be held on January 15, 2023. This is where we will discuss new members joining the council.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

There has been some inquiry as to the organ and what would need to be done with regards to repairing or replacing the same. The organ was recently tuned. The gentleman who tunes the organ does not repair organs. A list of names was given and Diane will try to secure an estimate. However, these companies are out of state so they will be giving an estimate without viewing the organ at this time. The organ has come to the point where it might be time to repair or replace the same instead of being nickel and dimed on repairs all the time. Further discussion about the repair or replacement will be discussed at a later date and time. Another option might be obtaining an organ from a church that is closing.

**FALL CLEANUP:**

Thank you for all those who participated in the fall clean up.

**WELCA:**

WELCA has been busy this fall. There will be a joint bake sale with the council on Saturday, December 10, 2022.

**SUPPLY PASTORS:**

Supply pastors will continue to be scheduled by Mr. Karsjens.

**COFFEE HOUR:**

St. Paul will continue to have coffee hour after the church service. There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. Attendance at coffee hour has been great.

**COMMUNITY KITCHEN:**

There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall for this also.

**NEXT MEETING:**

January 5, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. (Note the time change.)

Pat made a motion to close the meeting, second by Sue and council in favor. Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

***I want to give a huge thanks of gratitude for the lovely Christmas card and gift card!! It was very endearing to see all the signatures on the card. I enjoy serving St. Paul and look forward to the new year and all that it will bring.***

Valerie Hasbrouck  
St. Paul Ministry Administrator

## Annual Congregational Meeting Set

The Annual Congregational Meeting of St Paul Lutheran will be held following worship on Sunday, January 15, 2023. Agenda items include approving the 2023 budget, election of congregation council, and presentation of reports. This year we will also vote on a constitutional change of requirements for quorum at all congregational meetings. As you are aware our current constitution states that we need at least 25 voting members for quorum, and this has been a challenge in the last few years. The council is recommending a vote to reduce that number to 15. Below is taken directly from our constitution

**C17.02.** *A proposed amendment to this constitution shall:*

- a. be approved at a properly called meeting according to this constitution by a majority vote of those present and voting;*
- b. be ratified without change at the next annual meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of those present and voting; and*
- c. have the effective date included in the resolution and noted in the constitution.*

While we will vote at this meeting it will not be ratified until the next annual meeting. It is not an easy process to change the constitution, but it is needed. We will still need at least 25 voting members at the January 15 meeting.

There are also a couple of council vacancies that need to be filled. If you have an interest in serving or have questions about what that entails, please speak to any of our current council members.

## Update from Call Committee

Thank you to everyone that attended the meeting to extend a call to Pastor Jane Harris. It is so exciting to call a new pastor to lead the congregations of St Paul and Our Saviour's! Minutes for that meeting are below. Pastor Harris has accepted our call and will join us in February. We will have her installation at St Paul on Sunday, February 5, 2023, at worship. The call committee is also planning a meal following the service and hope you will all join us to welcome Pastor Jane.

Pastor Jane Harris was a resident of Mason City several years ago and a member of Our Saviour's before attending Luther Seminary in St. Paul MN. Since her ordination, she has been a chaplain's assistant at Augustana Health Care and Senior Living Apartments in Minneapolis, MN; then called as a Pastor to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Iowa; then served St. John Lutheran Church in Frederika, IA; and lastly is a pastor at St. Peter and St. Paul Lutheran Churches in Rockwell and Thornton, Ia.

And now, we welcome her in February to the church families of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church, serving as a 3/4 time pastor but preaching every Sunday (except on her vacation days) following the established worship schedule. Her wide range of experiences, her belief in God's grace and acknowledgment that we are all unique in God's eyes and loved, and her strengths in pastoral care and visiting people will be a great addition to our ministry and mission.

Please pray for Pastor Jane's transition and ministry at our churches.

## MINUTES FROM CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOR CALL DECEMBER 6, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Ron Lundblad and Mike Olson, congregation presidents.

On November 6, 2022, councils from Our Saviour's and St. Paul met with the joint call committee to vote to move forward on extending a call to Pastor Jane Harris. This congregational meeting is now being held to vote to extend a call by both congregations.

Pastor Brackett from the Northeastern Iowa Synod, opened with a prayer and read the letter of call.

There were several members of the joint call committee who spoke. These included Diane Murphy and Art Martel, who were co-chairs of the call committee. Jan Nelson and Deb Stockberger also spoke.

There was information provided regarding office hours, compensation package, how her compensation will be paid, and the need to have a supply pastor when Pastor Jane would be on vacation.

The congregations split into their respective rooms (Our Saviour's went to the fellowship hall); and St. Paul remained in the sanctuary.

Kristen made a motion to vote to extend the call to Pastor Harris and it was seconded by Beth Rozen. Ballots were given to all 27 members present. Counting of the ballots was performed by Dennis Marsh and Kristen Stockberger.

27 ballots were cast, and all were in favor of calling Pastor Harris. The second ballot was to accept the compensation package for Pastor Harris as presented. Again 27 ballots were cast, and all were in favor of the compensation package.

Following the vote we were joined by Mike Olson who reported that Our Saviour's had 23 voting members present. All 23 voted unanimously to approve the calling of Pastor Harris and the compensation package.

Additional comments by Ron were made commending both churches on this journey. Pastor Brackett closed with a prayer.

## WELCA NEWS

**Joint WELCA/ Council Bake Sale:** This was a huge success! \$883 was raised, with all profits going to the church. The winner of the beautiful quilt that was made by Jan Willeke, our friend from St. John's, was Twila Luker. A big thanks to all who participated in this event

**Disbursement of Funds:** With all our hard work, especially the rummage sale. We were able to make donations to the following organizations: ELCA Good Gifts, Brentwood LS, Caring Pregnancy Center, Hawkeye Harvest Food Bank, House of Hope Women's Shelter, Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach, Lutheran Social Services, Mason City Senior Center, Northern Lights Men's Shelter, Riverside Bible Camp, Salvation Army, Global Missions and St. Paul Lutheran Church



**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.

**Lectors**

- 1 Lori Angell
- 15 Geri Barker
- 29 Deb Stockberger

**Acolytes**

- 1 Diane Murphy
- 15 Pat Steinfort
- 29 Lori Angell

**Coffee Hour:**

- 1
- 15 Diana Black & Lori Angell
- 29

**Council Person:**

**Altar Guild:**

Geri Barker

**Financial Assistant:**

Lori Angell

**Community Kitchen:**

3rd Thursday Jan. 19 @ 4:00

**Council Meeting:**

Thurs. Jan. 5 @ 5:30

**M&M's:**

Each Wednesday @ 9:30

**WELCA:**

Wed, Jan. 4 @ 9:30

**Worship & Music:**

Thurs. Jan. 12 @ Noon @ OS  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Loveletter deadline: 24th**  
**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 January  
Birthday!!**

- 01/01 Dennis Marsh
- 01/18 Deb Stockberger
- 01/23 Carol King
- 01/26 Mary Paulsen

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



***"Always do what is right. It will gratify half of mankind and astound the other.***

Mark Twain



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

**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. Dixie Howell & family
11. Dave & Sara Janssen & family
12. Carol King & family
13. Linda Koopman & family
14. Ron & Becky Lundblad & family
15. Dennis & Nancy Marsh & family
16. Margaret Movick & family
17. Jim & Diane Murphy & family
18. Ron Nielson & family
19. Mary C. Paulsen & family
20. Tim & Beth Rozen & family
21. Carol Rye & family
22. Jayne Schiek & family
23. Crystal Schriber & family
24. Carlyn Schriver & family
25. Kirk Schriver & family
26. Megan Slocum & family
27. Pat Steinfort & family
28. Ian & Kristen Stockberger & family
29. Larry & Deb Stockberger & family
30. Micah & Jessica Stockberger & family
31. Michele Thenhaus & 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:

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)

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.

# January 2023

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 9-11; Tu 12:30-2:30 Fri. 8-10	<b>Phone:</b> 641-423-7749 <b>Email:</b> secretary@stpaulmc.com					
<b>1 New Year's Day</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ SP 10:30 Fellowship	<b>2</b> Office Closed 9:30 Quilters	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30 M&M's WELCA	<b>5</b> 5:30 Council Meeting 7 NA	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 8 NA
<b>8</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ OS 10:30 Fellowship 2:00 2/4 Stitchers	<b>9</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30 M&M's	<b>12</b> Noon Worship Planning @OS 7 NA	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8 NA
<b>15</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ SP 10:30 Annual Congregational Meeting	<b>16</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30 M & M's	<b>19</b> 4 Comm Kitchen 7 NA	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8 NA
<b>22</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ OS 10:30 Fellowship 2:00 2/4 Stitchers	<b>23</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>24</b> Loveletter Deadline	<b>25</b> 9:30 M&M's	<b>26</b> 7 NA	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8 NA
<b>29</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ SP 10:30 Fellowship	<b>30</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>31</b>				