



# 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 8:30 to 10:45 a.m.

Tuesday Noon-2:00 p.m. Friday 8 to 10 a.m.

February 2023

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As I sit down to write this, I am in the midst of a very messy, cluttered, and semi-packed house with a big “to do” list that seems to be growing faster than I can get things crossed off it. Moving – it’s not exactly a fun-filled event and there is no easy way around it. What to keep, what to throw, what to donate? All while declaring, “I will never buy another book, another dish, another piece of clothing or another knick-knack again!” (If only!)

The good news is that with each box that is packed up I find myself thinking less about the “leaving” part of the move, and more about the “arriving” part. I am really looking forward to coming to St. Paul and Our Saviour’s to serve as your new pastor!

So, I thought I would take this newsletter space to let you know a little bit about me – some of you know me, some of you don’t – so let’s start here! I am originally from Austin, MN, but my family moved to Mason City when I was only six years old, so I’m more of an Iowa girl than a Minnesota one! I lived and worked in Mason City until 15 years ago when I moved to the Twin Cities to attend seminary. I actually attended Luther Seminary twice, receiving a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling in 2010, and then receiving a Master of Divinity degree in 2015. In between that time, I completed a graduate program in addiction studies through the University of Minnesota and worked as a Co-Occurring Disorders Counselor (mental health and addictions) for House of Charity in Minneapolis, and then Mayo Clinic Health Systems in Fairmont, MN.

Before being called to serve here, I had the privilege to serve as Chaplain Assistant at Augustana Senior Living in Minneapolis; Intern Pastor and then called Pastor in Bloomfield, IA; Frederika, IA; and most recently Rockwell & Thornton, IA.

I have one adult daughter, Samantha, who currently resides in Eagan, MN with her husband Douglas, and their two children: Ames (3 in February) and Eden (2 months) and their labradoodle, Izzy. They are a Navy family – Douglas serves as the Executive Officer at the Naval Reserve Center in Minneapolis. They recently moved from Virginia Beach, VA, and I’m so grateful to have them this close – you will meet them soon!

I am a life-long Lutheran. I was a member of Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Mason City most of my life, and it is through my involvement there that I felt the call to full-time ministry. One of my favorite definitions of what a pastor is comes from the book “Crazy Talk: A Not-So-Stuffey Dictionary of Theological Terms” by Rolf A. Jacobson. He says a pastor is “A sinner who is so aware of the power of sin in his or her own life that he or she feels called by the Holy Spirit to announce that God loves sinners.” I truly believe that!

I am really looking forward to sharing my love of Christ with you! We do have an awesome God, don’t we? A God who continues to work in and through us and in and through God’s church, *promising* to never leave us nor forsake us! I hope you will join me as together we praise the one who loves us so much that he gave his life so that we may live forever – our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Jane*

**ST. PAUL COUNCIL MINUTES** - January 6, 2023**ATTENDANCE:**

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

Opening prayer by Diane.

Beth made a motion to accept the December Minutes, Sue second and council all in favor.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

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

There was a transfer to the memorial fund for Corinne Butler. This had been placed in the general account. There was an additional cost for checks as this had not been needed for quite some time. It was a good month for offerings. There were some donations made to various organizations. This money was contributed by WELCA.

**MONTHLY BENEVOLENCE:**

The benevolence for January is a local organization. Diane made a motion for the telephone reassurance program through Good Shepherd, second by Beth and council all in favor.

**COUNCIL PERSON OF THE MONTH:**

Ron is for January. Ron will plan on opening the church. There are five Sundays in the month of January.

**INSTALLATION:**

February 5, Pastor Brackett will preside over the service for the installation of Pastor Harris. Pastor Harris and Pastor Brackett will distribute communion. There will be some comments made by members of the council and of the call committee. There will be a potluck held after the installation of Pastor Harris downstairs in the fellowship hall. The call committee is working on the potluck but will be a lunch-type of potluck. There will be sign-up sheets at both churches for main dishes, side dishes, desserts and for set up and clean up.

**BUDGET:**

The budget for 2023 was reviewed and council decided to increase the utility budget by \$2,000.00. This will be presented at the annual meeting.

**2023 COUNCIL:**

There will be some spots to fill for council. Beth will be stepping down at this time. Ron's term is over. Deb Stockberger is interested in joining the council. This will be voted on at the annual meeting. Thank you all for your service on council. A special thank you to Ron for his service.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ken Truka has volunteered to install new LED lights in the chapel. He will need some assistance.

The furnace company will take care of checking the furnace filters and changing the filters as needed.

When Pastor Harris begins, each congregation will pay one-half each month.

There will be cards for the supply pastors in the fellowship hall to sign for their appreciation for filling in.

**ANNUAL MEETING:**

The annual meeting will be held January 15, 2023, after the service. There will be an additional vote that will take place with regards to changing the constitution. This involves changing the number of church members that are needed for such votes. If this is passed from 25 voting church members to 15, it will take effect the following year.

**SUPPLY PASTORS:**

Both churches will be sending an appreciation/thank you card to all of our supply pastors.

**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:**

The next council meeting will be established after the annual meeting after discussion with Pastor Harris as to when she prefers them to be held.

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

Saying thank you does not begin to express my gratitude for all the cards, calls and wonderful meals I have received since my fall December 10th and coming home. There is a line on the card that is placed in the Lily Bags that says "you don't know how strong you are until strong is all there is left to be." I have really learned the truth of that sentence. I also know that some of my strength has come from the thoughtfulness and caring of the wonderful church family we call St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Sincerely, Carlyn Schriver

P.s. I have also received cards from several members of Our Saviour's. They too warm my heart.

## Happy Valentine's Day from LSI

At LSI, loving our neighbor is an essential value that we continuously work and grow towards. This Valentine's Day, take time to share with your friends, family and neighbors how important they are to you. February is a time of giving, a time of love and a time of gratitude. Share with those around you how much they mean to you and the impact they have had on you.

It's also a time when we want to thank you, the congregations that so generously support the work of LSI throughout the year. We are blessed by your love and support. Your generosity has continued to offer hope and healing to Iowans of all ages.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

## WELCA NEWS

Plans for future events to be announced.



**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.



### Love Your Neighbor

At LSI, loving our neighbor is an integral value. Our staff continuously work towards loving their neighbors and investing their time, energy and resources into helping their neighbors.

“I love getting to know my LSI colleagues and teammates, and I feel fortunate to be surrounded by such talented, passionate and inspiring individuals,” said Nick Wuertz, Director of Immigrant and Refugee Community Services (IRCS). “The team around me makes me better, and by getting to know my team and understanding their unique skills and perspectives, I feel I can love and support them in sharing those gifts with others on our team, our clients and the broader community.”

Barbra Jotzke-Torrier, Director of Philanthropy, shared that loving her neighbor means treating others with respect. “It means remembering my way is not always the best way, and certainly not the only way to live, love, make a home or be a part of a family.” Barbra shared that her job at LSI has given her the opportunity to share people’s stories and to connect people with programs they are passionate about.

“Loving my neighbor means caring for them and being there for them in good times and hard times,” shared Patrick Karemera, a Resettlement Caseworker. “Loving my neighbor through my job is about welcoming our new neighbors from all over the world who flee their homes in hopes of a better life.”

As Nick shared, loving your neighbors is complex and requires you to take the time to get to know them on a personal level. This Valentine’s Day, we invite you to take that step and get to know your neighbors.

**Lectors**

5 Ron Lundblad  
19 Lori Angell

**Acolytes**

5 Deb Stockberger  
19 Pat Steinfort

**Coffee Hour:**

5 Potluck  
19 Diana Black & Lori Angell

**Council Person:**

TBD

**Altar Guild:**

Deb Stockberger

**Financial Assistant:**

Lori Angell

**Community Kitchen:**

3rd Thursday Feb. 16 @ 4:00

**Council Meeting:**

Tues. Feb. 7 @ 5:30

**M&M's:**

Each Wednesday @ 9:30

**WELCA:**

Wed, Feb. 1 @ 9:30

**Worship & Music:**

Thurs. Feb. 9 @ Noon @ SP  
\*\*\*\*\*

**Loveletter deadline: 23rd**  
**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 February  
Birthday!!**

- 02/10 Pastor Jane Harris
- 02/10 Linda Koopman
- 02/12 Kennedy Birkholz
- 02/13 Roger Ennis
- 02/24 Anne Gannett
- 02/28 Kirk Schriver

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



**""We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."**  
Winston Churchill



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  | 16. Stephanie & Shaun Arneson & family |
| 2. St. Paul Lutheran Church                             | 17. Susan Aves & family                |
| 3. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America               | 18. Jim & Jo Ellen Bailey & family     |
| 4. Our government, military leaders, troops & families  | 19. Don & Geri Barker & family         |
| 5. All who suffer from illness, infirmity or loneliness | 20. Dane Birkholz & family             |
| 6. Confined shut-ins (home, hospital, nursing home)     | 21. Brianna Stephens & family          |
| 7. Those who are dealing with losses in their lives     | 22. Rhett Buffington & family          |
| 8. All who hunger and/or are homeless                   | 23. Karen Cornick & family             |
| 9. All who seek God; finding comfort, peace, renewal    | 24. Zell Cottrell & family             |
| 10. Bob & Heather Thompson & family                     | 25. LaVern & Tanya Dahl & family       |
| 11. Ken & Dawn Truka & family                           | 26. Roger & Beverly Ennis & family     |
| 12. Jim & Chris Wallace & family                        | 27. Harold Gaiser & family             |
| 13. Carol Wallskog & family                             | 28. Jack & Anne Gannett & family       |
| 14. Tom & Patricia Wetter & family                      | 29. Dixie Howell & family              |
| 15. Lori Angell & family                                | 30. Dave & Sara Janssen & family       |
|   | 31. Carol King & 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.

# February 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. 8:30-10:45; Tu. Noon-2 pm, Fri. 8-10 <b>Email:</b> secretary@stpaulmc.com	<b>Phone:</b> 641-423-7749		<b>1</b> 9:30 M&M's WELCA	<b>2</b> 7 NA	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8 NA
<b>5</b> 9:30 Worship @ SP Pastor Harris Installation 10:30 Potluck	<b>6</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>7</b> 5:30 Council Meeting	<b>8</b> 9:30 M&M's	<b>9</b> Noon Worship Planning @ SP 7 NA	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8 NA
<b>12</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ OS 10:30 Fellowship 2:00 2/4 Stitchers	<b>13</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>14 Valentine's Day</b> 	<b>15</b> 9:30 M&M's	<b>16</b> 4:00 Comm. Kitchen 7 NA	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 8 NA
<b>19</b> 9:30 Worship/Communion @ SP	<b>20</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>21</b>	<b>22 Ash Wednesday</b> 9:30 M & M's	<b>23</b> 7 NA	<b>24</b> Loveletter Deadline	<b>25</b> 8 NA
<b>26 First Sunday of Lent</b> 9:30 Worship/ Communion @ OS 10:30 Fellowship 2:00 2/4 Stitchers	<b>27</b> 9:30 Quilters	<b>28</b>				

Books of the New Testament

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

Acts  
Colossians  
Corinthians  
Ephesians  
Galatians  
Hebrews  
James

John  
Jude  
Luke  
Mark  
Matthew  
Peter  
Philemon

Philippians  
Revelation  
Romans  
Thessalonians  
Timothy  
Titus