

A note from the Pastor...

At our annual meeting on November 17 we faced some significant decisions that affect how we do our ministry together. Perhaps the most surprising decision was to adopt a budget that reduces my position to 80% time.

I am going to set down here some of the things I said at the meeting about this step. First I wanted people to understand that the budgeting committee and council made the recommendation with my full encouragement. We have communicated regularly in recent years about where we stood financially and we have undertaken a couple of financial response efforts in the past few years. In 2017 the households of the congregation increased their giving almost 23%. Since that time, several of our largest supporting households have either died or needed to relocate. When we looked at present and future trends it became apparent to me and our leadership that we needed to reduce our planned expenditure by \$20-30,000. The only realistic way to approach that is to look at how we are paying for staffing, particularly my position because of the cost of health and pension benefits. Of course, this is a picture we can all change with our generosity, but we also eventually had to assess what is within our means.

Second, several people have asked me how this will work for me and Lorinda. I am thankful for all the concern. Obviously there will be personal adjustments my family has to make. However, it doesn't trouble me greatly. In the years I have served here we have lived on a single full time salary (mine) all the way up to 2 full time salaries just the last couple of years after Lorinda started serving her current charge. We have seen our household income go up and down through the years and this will actually still be the second highest income we have had since we came. I think we will be okay. Members have been thoughtful to wonder how I will manage my responsibilities with less paid time. I will have conversations with the council about what should be the highest priorities for the pastor. As a practical matter, I expect to have one additional day a week where I will not be working. If there are appropriate opportunities, I might be open to other work to help with my family finances. I would consult with the council about any such possibilities.

Third, I am hopeful that a new, even exciting set of partnerships for doing ministry will emerge in time, if we are watchful and creative. At our last council meeting, Pastor Jim Davis who has been leading a cooperative ministry centered on Zion Lutheran in Gowrie, spoke to us about their experience. Many congregations in our area are facing similar challenges—it is a theme of rural ministry in our time. I am excited about the church learning how to engage in ministry in new patterns across our region. If we can stay focused on how congregations can provide quality ministry by being good neighbors with one another—not just sharing expenses of a pastor, but seeing ourselves in mission together—I think something fruitful and hopeful will come into being. It will help your pastor but it will help you too and most of all it will be faithful to Christ. Our council will be looking to develop these opportunities.

Fourth, I want to acknowledge the feelings this kind of decision evokes in us. I realize that many may feel some shame or embarrassment that St. Paul's can no longer pay its pastor full time. It can feel like we have failed. That's entirely normal. Thank you for your love of the congregation if you are feeling that way, but I hope you will also trust me when I say you can let those feelings go. We are in a time where even when congregations do everything right, people and resources don't always increase. The causes go well beyond us. They are problems to be solved. We work on those still within the promise that the church is a creation of the Holy Spirit and it has the promise of Jesus that he 'will not let the gates of Hades prevail against it (Matthew 16:18).' This isn't, of course, what we would like. Never forget, though, God is still with us. Our future as a congregation isn't determined by budgets but by our faith and zeal for the mission of the Gospel.

One of the strengths of St. Paul's—it's Lutherans and Presbyterians as well as the former members of the Skaarborg church—has been our adaptability for the sake of mission. You have never let a past hold you back from doing something for the future. We have renovated old church buildings to our needs, moved pipe organs, formed a new and wider life together with fellow Christians several times before. I believe you will show these strengths again. I am excited about where God is leading us.

Peace,

Pastor Jim



St. Paul's Council Meeting November 12th, 2019

Members Present: Pastor Jim, Kyle Welander, Deb Judas, Dave Birks, Vicki Roby, Peg Hildreth, Emily Gentry, Kandi Berner, Linda Nolte

Members Absent: Justine Baker, Dawn Murley, Lorri McClintock

Guests Present: Pastor Jim Davis, BJ Ukena, Angela Dobbins

President Kyle W. called the meeting to order.

Pastor Jim led in devotions: Galations Chapter 5

October Council Minutes: Approved on motion.

Treasurer's Report: Still behind on our finances. Discussed proposed budget being presented to congregation at our Annual Meeting on November 17th. Pastor Jim Davis presented ideas on how to share church services and activities.

Committee Reports:

WELCA: Put up Harvest display. Had Thank-offering service. Voted to give Christmas money from our project fund to 15 organizations and people.

PROPERTY: Repaired some gutters and a door. Discuss at Annual Meeting. Need 2 furnaces and 1 AC for north and west sides of Ed Unit. \$16,004.00

STEWARDSHIP: NONE

WORSHIP: Christmas Eve service 7:00 PM.

PARISH ED: Got a DARE program letter from the Sheriff's Office. They do educational material and services for all ages, especially younger kids @ \$3.70/child. Linda N donated \$20 to this program.

EVANGELISM: A Presbyterian family is possibly interested in joining.

VITALITY: 4 potential referrals. Discussed having a fundraiser in January (pork loin).

OLD BUSINESS: Angi D is sending out birthday cards to members. She needs more cards and stamps. Please get Annual Reports in.

NEW BUSINESS: Angi D resigned as Bookkeeper. Annual Meeting is November 17th after church.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: NONE

PASTOR'S REPORT: Vacation 3 days, 1 baptism.

President Kyle W. adjourned the meeting.

Pastor Jim led in the Lord's Prayer.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Peggy Hildreth, Secretary*

**Next meeting December 9th, 2019*

*The November unofficial, written Council
Minutes are subject to review & approval at the
December 2019 Council Meeting.*



Women of the ELCA



DECEMBER BIBLE STUDY

Walking through the wilderness of Advent: A creative retreat with Isaiah by Vonda Drees. In this Advent/Christmas devotional, we will walk through the seasons with a visual artist. Using the words of the prophet Isaiah, she will help us to contemplate the true meaning of the season using creative, artistic exercises.



*President Peg
Hildreth*

Welcome to December! November gave us all kinds of winter weather. We need to take one day at a time and put it in God's hands.
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

DATES TO REMEMBER

*December Serving Group 3
Meals on Wheels Group 3
(December 2-6)*

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|----------------------|--|
| Dec 4 th | Christmas Celebration & WELCA Installation @ 2:00 PM |
| Dec 7 th | Annual Cookie Walk, Craft & Bake Sale 8:00-10:00 AM |
| Dec 11 th | Sew/Quilt Day @ 9:00 AM |
| Dec 17 th | Dorcas Circle @ 7:00 PM |
| Dec 18 th | Ruth Circle @ 9:00 AM |
| | Sarah Circle @ 2:00 PM |
| Dec 29 th | Take down Christmas decorations after church @10:00 AM |

2019 Officers

President: Peg Hildreth
Vice President: Marie Schwarm
Secretary: Nancy Anderson
Treasurer: Brenda Johnson
Action Chairperson: Becky Junkman
Librarian: Marcia Ahlrichs
Assistant Librarian: Tammy Junkman
Banner Maker: Lorri McClintock
Kitchen Chairperson: Pam Heimdal

Altar Guild –
Peg Hildreth, Deb Judas, Marie Schwarm
Visitation – Sharon Vought



DECEMBER

WORSHIP



December 1st:

Promise of the Messiah
(Jeremiah 33:14-18)

December 22nd:

Zechariah's Song
(Luke 1:5-25, 57-80)

December 8th:

Comfort Comfort My People
(Isaiah 40:1-11)

December 24th:

Christmas Eve

December 15th:

Rebuilding the Temple
(Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13)

December 29th:

Mary's Song
(Luke 2:39-52)





Sunday School for All will be holding a Christmas for All Extravaganza on December 8th. We will be caroling with the Ridgley/Roby family on the trolley with the majestic Belgian horses. We will share our good joy at Sunnyview with a special presentation at 10:45 am. Following caroling we will return to the church for a soup lunch. Those who are interested in participating in any way contact Kandi

Berner or Jessica Meyer. We plan on singing traditional hymns with a few speaking parts and fun participation opportunities for every age!! Look for more information to follow.



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

On average, there are
123
SUICIDES A DAY.

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

From 1999 to 2016,
630,000
people died from
DRUG OVERDOSE.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Nearly **1 in 5** U.S.
adults lives with a
MENTAL ILLNESS.

National Institute of Mental Health via the
National Survey on Drug Use and Health
(NSDUH) and the Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Administration

Why Mental Health First Aid?

Mental Health First Aid teaches you **how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders**. This 8-hour training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to the appropriate care.

WHO SHOULD TAKE IT

- Employers
- Police officers
- Hospital staff
- First responders
- Faith leaders
- Community members
- Caring individuals

WHAT IT COVERS

- Common signs and symptoms of mental illness.
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use.
- How to interact with a person in crisis.
- How to connect the person with help.
- **NEW:** How to administer naloxone in the event of an opioid overdose.

The course will teach you how to apply the ALGEE action plan:

- Assess for risk of suicide or harm
- Listen nonjudgmentally
- Give reassurance and information
- Encourage appropriate professional help
- Encourage self-help and other support strategies

Mental Health First Aid - Youth & Adult

Hello! I am Todd Anderson, a Prevention Specialist for Community and Family Resources and Project Director of a national grant that offers FREE Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training to Boone, Calhoun, Hamilton, Humboldt, Pocahontas, Story, Webster, and Wright counties to educate and train local Iowans to recognize, reach out, and refer to the appropriate services any youth or adults diagnosed with a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis.

Qualifying for this training are participants ages 18+ who are employed by, work with, or related to someone in the professions below:

- **First-Responders** (Public Safety, EMT, Fire/EMS, Emergency Management), including staff, service providers, and family and loved ones.
- **Education** (private or public; daycare, pre-K, elementary, secondary, post-secondary) including staff, service providers, and family; students (18+ only), including family and loved ones. (NOTE: This training does not count toward teacher re-licensure in Iowa, per ISEA's policy.)
- **Military** (veterans, active/inactive duty), including staff, service providers, family and loved ones.
- **Older Adults**, including staff, service providers, and family and loved ones.
- **Faith-based Organizations**, including staff, family, and loved ones.

St. Paul's will sponsor the following FREE trainings for anyone interested:

Adult - Saturday, January 25 8:00am-5:30pm

Youth - Saturday, February 1 8:00am-5:30pm

Participants may be eligible for CEUs based on employer requirements. This training includes interactive activities and encourages participation. Those who become certified Mental Health First Aiders will also be encouraged (but not required) to track interventions they initiate via brief, quarterly online surveys.

I provide all training materials and participants need only arrive with an open mind. More information on Mental Health First Aid can be found at <https://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org>.

Best, Todd Anderson, MA Prevention Specialist MHAT Project Director Certified Adult and Youth Mental Health First Aid Trainer Community and Family Resources 500 Fair Meadow Drive, Webster City, IA 50595 (515) 832-5432 x1414 ToddA@cfrhelps.org

Article and Story Merry Christmas from LSI!

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." —

John 1:5



As Christmas approaches, we give thanks to you! Whether you have lifted up our organization through a financial or in-kind gift, volunteered your time to our programming, or supported us as a ministry partner this year, you have helped bring the light of Christ to others. At LSI, we know many people experiencing deep darkness. We know parents who feel hopeless, with little resources to raise their young children. We know adults with disabilities who feel voiceless, with no support system or connection to their community. We know teens who are aging out of foster care, who fear they will never have a family to love them. The holidays can be an especially difficult time for our most vulnerable neighbors. In the spirit of giving, the spirit of love, and the spirit of working together, let us stand with them and lift them up this Christmas season. If you would like to learn more about how you can support Iowa children and families, contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563.676.2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org. Wishing you a blessed and merry Christmas from LSI!

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

With You Every Step of the Way

When Lexi found out she was pregnant, she felt scared. She didn't have a job or an apartment, and she was overwhelmed as she tried to prepare for her baby. She knew she needed guidance and support, and she knew where to turn. In high school, Lexi utilized LSI's Behavioral Health Intervention Services, where she developed skills like anger management and healthy communication through regular meetings with her LSI worker. LSI had been in her corner before, and she needed help again now. She enrolled in LSI's Early Childhood Services. The services provide in-home parenting education for families of young children or parents who are expecting. Each week, Lexi's LSI worker, Gretchen, brings resources and helpful tips and tricks to help Lexi feel confident as she starts her new family. Now, Lexi is thriving. She found a job she loves and she moved into her apartment earlier this spring. On May 14, she welcomed baby Javeah into the world. "LSI has always pointed me in the right direction and given me support, and they've really pushed me to where I need to be," Lexi says. "I always have someone to call when I need help."

2nd- Iona Sittig
Julia Ukena
3rd - Al Berg
Judy Olson
5th - Jamie Ridgely
6th - Mason Henry
7th - Eleanora Bailey
Mariah Pagel
10th - Evan Jackson
12th - Tina Farrington
13th - Jon Pagel
14th - Rex Buttolph
Rusty Farrington
Kjersti Olson
Sharon Vought

16th - Lucas Farrington
17th - Dave Birks
Wade Voith
18th - Kim Olson
20th - Terry Smith
22nd -David Haberl
Joann Lyons
23rd - Roni Henry
Ashley Strandberg
24th - Parker Pagel
25th - Dawn Murley
26th - Noel Heimdal
29th - Tony Doster
Caleb Knouf
30th - Jim Judas

*Happy December
Birthday*



If your name does not appear on the Birthday List, please contact the church office.

Missions, Budget, & Financial Giving

Amount Needed To Meet the Budget:
(Adjusted 7-28-19) \$3,587.00 per week

Tithing	Oct 27	Nov 3	Nov 10	Nov 17	Total
Current Offering	2,037.00	1,874.43	950.00	1,301.00	6,162.43
Non ELCA	125.00	105.00	75.00	755.00	1,060.00
Simply Giving	0	270.00	0	595.00	865.00
Simply Giving (Non-ELCA)	0	150.00	0	525.00	675.00
Operating budget total	2,162.00	2,399.43	1,025.00	3,176.00	8,762.43
Weekly budget Year to date budget	-1,425.00 -17,207.02	-1,187.57 -18,394.59	-2,562.00 -20,956.59	-411.00 -21,367.59	-21,367.59
Major Repair	0	0	0	0	0
World Hunger/Missions	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	140.00
Special Offerings	0	0	0	0	0
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0
Memorial	0	0	0	0	0
Designated fund Totals	35.00	35.00	35.00	35.00	140.00

ST. PAUL'S LUTH. & PRES. CHURCH
 527 MAIN ST.
 ROCKWELL CITY IA 50579
 FORWARD SERVICE REQUESTED



«AddressBlock»



SHARING GOD'S AWESOME LOVE
 WITH ALL OUR NEIGHBORS

<p>St. Paul's Lutheran & Presbyterian Church 527 Main Street Rockwell City, Iowa 50579 712-297-8511</p> <p>Email: stpaulschurchrc@gmail.com Website: stpaulschurchrc.org Facebook: facebook.com/stpaulslutheranrc</p>	<p><u>Worship Services</u> Saturday Evening 5:30 p.m. Sunday Morning 9:00 a.m.</p> <p><u>Communion</u> Served 1st & 3rd Sunday</p> <p><u>Fellowship</u> 2nd Sunday Following Services</p>	<p><u>2019 Church Council</u></p> <p>President: Kyle Welander Vice President: Dave Birks Secretary: Peg Hildreth Treasurer: Lorri McClintock Bookkeeper: Angela Dobbins</p>
<p><u>Office Manager/ Parish Coordinator</u> Angela Dobbins</p> <p><u>Office Hours</u> Wednesday & Friday 8:00-12:00 Closed Monday, Tuesday, Thursday</p> <p><u>Custodian</u> Joshua Schoonover</p>	<p><u>Pastor</u> Pastor Jim Mossman Parsonage 712-297-8381 pastorjim5@gmail.com</p> <p><u>Sunday School</u> Sunday 10:00 a.m.</p> <p><u>Confirmation</u> Wednesday 6:00 p.m.</p>	<p><u>2019 Council Members</u></p> <p>Justine Baker Kandi Berner Emily Gentry Deb Judas Dawn Murley Linda Nolte Vicki Roby</p>