

# Voice of Faith



July 2020

One in Faith Parish

Hope..... 8:30 a.m.  
St. Paul..... 10:30 a.m.

St. John..... 8:30 a.m.  
St. Sebald..... 10:30 a.m.

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Dear Beloved  
Community in Christ,  
This morning while out  
on our walk along the  
Turkey River here in

Elkader, Mark and I heard the soft peeping of what sounded like baby birds. We went over to the water to investigate and sure enough, along the muddy, swollen bank were 10 baby ducklings no bigger than a hand-full, no parent in sight.

Peeping at each other, paddling fiercely, working hard to stay together, they drifted closer and closer to the rapids in the river. I followed them, almost running to catch up, watching, hoping and praying that they'd make it over safely.

Somehow, just somehow I prayed they'd be able to stick together - that a measure of instinct as well as some good teaching from their parents would keep them in a group. I knew that only one or two or even half of them by themselves would have been much easier prey for further rough waters ahead or a big fish from below or some other creature from the sky.

I held my breath as one by one they tumbled over the falls, went out of sight for a moment or two and then, one by one emerged to bob upright again, peeping at each other, paddling, working to stay together. While I let out my breath, I thanked God they all made it, as a group! They shook off the

extra water that clung to their backs and without much of a pause, started making headway downstream again, seemingly unperturbed by the whole experience.

My hope and prayer for us is that we can take example from these little creatures. In the gospel of John, chapter 17, we read part of the prayer that Jesus was offering up to God just before he would get arrested and hauled off for trial and his eventual execution.



Jesus prayed, "I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, *that they may all be one...*

*I made your name known to them, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.*"

As we continue to live through these days of the Covid-19 virus with all its uncertainties, may we be one, traveling together down these muddy, turbulent waters together, listening to one another, watching out for one another, caring for each other. And may we know that we have the Spirit of the Living God protecting us, guiding us and upholding us.

In the Mercy of our Loving God,  
Pastor Margaret

## Our Worship Together

These days of figuring out how to do worship as a community have not been the easiest lately and that's actually been OK that we struggle with this *as a community*.

The first thing to always remember is that we have always been church, because the church is **you**, the people of God. The next thing to remember is that we've never stopped worshipping. The doors of our church buildings may have been closed to protect the health and well-being of everyone, (worshipping as a group, especially involving singing and group speaking is one of the fastest ways to spread this virus) but we've worshipped together online since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic and now we've begun parking lot drive-in worship thanks to the leadership of your "Reopening our Doors committee."

What we want most of all, aside from meaningful worship of God, is that we don't spread the virus to one another, to other vulnerable people in our communities and frankly, ultimately, globally. We have a responsibility as followers of our Creator to care for one another and so your "Reopening our Doors Committee" has taken into careful consideration the many aspects of worshipping safely and determined that for the foreseeable future, outdoor worship from our vehicles is the best. We do have protocol ready for when we deem it safe to go back inside our buildings which will include wearing masks, sanitizing our hands, sitting at a safe distance from one another and limiting singing and group speaking.

We ask for your continued prayers, patience and compassion for your church leaders and all of God's human family as we continue to be flexible in response to the virus.

## Opportunities To Receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion

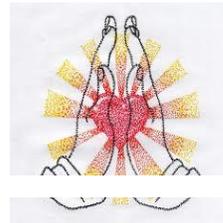
Have you been feeling a desire to have a communion? We haven't had lots of opportunities to receive the sacrament since the pandemic started. Pastor Margaret will be available in her office at St John in Arlington on Friday mornings and at her home in Elkader on Wednesday mornings from 9 am to noon to take appointments with those who would like to receive communion on a one-on-one basis or one with a family. I will wear a mask and sanitize my hands and ask that you wear a mask as well.

Please call or text Pastor Margaret at 563-329-1366 or email me at [mryj2232@gmail.com](mailto:mryj2232@gmail.com) to set up an appointment. These will start after the 14<sup>th</sup> of July.

## Thank You

Many thanks to everyone who sent a card, brought flowers, sent a gift, said a prayer and truly held me, my dad and Mark up as my mom made her journey on to the church triumphant! She had a long and wonderful life, loved lots of people, worked for peace and justice, was the queen of hospitality and made music always and will be greatly missed. You, as the beloved community made God's presence real to us by surrounding us with your love.

We hold the families of Brian Minger, Eunice



Naqing, Lester Groth, Paul Crawford Robert Meyer, father of Adam Meyer, Rita and Dave Dudley, friends of Hope on the passing of Rita's mother, and Eleanor Yackel (Pastor

Margaret's mother), in our hearts, thoughts and prayers.

**Please Hold in Prayer:** Jeremy Walz, Mary Lou Coonfare, Greg Shaw, Pastor Jerome Godson, Jane Godson, Bob Blue, Elaine Peterson, Merlin Goedken, Daryl Baade, David Opperman, Luther Pugh, Lawrence Kuehl, Joyce Erickson, Clair Kruger, Brenda Landis, Margaret Harvey, Mike McDonnough, Brian and Becky Meisgeier, Bernice Fletcher, Carol Thomas, Kent Klingman, Rog Knehans, Joe Knipper, Amanda Peterson, Charley Daisy, Adeline Andreae, Lucas Baker, Barb Garms, Pastor Martin Osterloh, Jim Miller, Wayne Coonfare, Dave Turner, Luke Baade, Dolores Boehm, Myrna DeSotel, Linda Stoner and the families of Eunice Nading, Brian Minger, Eleanor Yackel (Pastor Margaret's mother), Lester Groth and Paul Crawford.



We also hold in prayer and rejoice with Sally and Stormy Cunningham, united in marriage on the Hamlett family farm yesterday, June 20<sup>th</sup>.

## St. John Council

The regular meeting of St. John Lutheran Church Council was held Tuesday, June 9, 2020. Pastor Margaret and all council members with the exception of Joyce Knickerbocker were present.

President Marcia Rueber called the meeting to order and Pastor Margaret led devotions based on the Great Commission. The secretary's report was reviewed and approved with Doug making the motion and Penny seconding. The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved with Mark making the motion and Cassie seconding. Monthly expenses were \$5648.75 and monthly income at \$4,850.00. The QSS account continues to be \$568.72.

Pastor Margaret gave her report with these items highlighted:

- Online services and Zoom Bible study were continued. It would be helpful if a large flatscreen TV was available for use during our online services.
- Once we begin in person services, we will need two extra "Hospitality Ministers" to help with ensuring safe distancing.
- Online daily devotions will move to three times per week, and there is an invitation for other parish members to be part of this ministry.
- Pastor Clark will be leading a parish youth group one Sunday evening per month.
- The Youth Mission Trip has been cancelled, but there is an ongoing investigation as to other "safe" options.
- There will be no Synod Assembly, and the Bishop will appoint an interim Bishop for a

### Committee Reports:

**Parish Education:** VBS at St. John's and a small group of St. Paul's is a work in progress with Pastor Margaret and Bonnie Nus spearheading the project. EWALU will be holding some camps beginning the latter part of June.

**Worship:** Dennis gave a report of the discussion of the Parish Board Meeting with online worship June 14 and drive-in worship beginning June 21. A mailing will be sent to members detailing the schedule. Also, we reviewed and discussed the guidelines set by our Pastors and the members of the "Reopening our Doors" team. Again, our members will receive a copy of this document.

**Building and Grounds:** Doug said that gravel was purchased and leveled, the church parking lot and around the parsonage were sprayed for weeds and the air conditioner in the parsonage received some maintenance.

**Unfinished Business:** The white paraments have arrived. The baptismal bowl and carillon are still in progress.

**New Business:** Sally Hamlett is getting married June 20, 2020. It is an outdoor wedding. The family has

asked if there is inclement weather, could they have the wedding at the church. This was approved with the understanding that they would follow our Covid-19 Guidelines. Penny made the motion and Cassie seconded. Pastor Margaret reported on her research in the purchasing of new signs for the Food Pantry. Other topics of discussion were having a carry-out lasagna meal, flock group reports, and possibly having another outside get-together using social distancing.

Our next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, July 14. Doug made the motion the meeting be adjourned and Cassie seconded. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deatra ODell, Church Council Secretary



## St. Sebald Council

St. Sebald Council Members met June 18, 2020. Present: Wayne Yelden, Nancy Yelden, Pastor Margaret, Kris Morarend, Jerry Harvey, Fuzz Brown, & Tracy Kregel. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm and Pastor led devotions.

Pastor shared her report on recent activities. The council discussed the possibility of a screen for the front of the church to support worship services. The group also discussed an overview of church guidelines for when in-person services resume. The pastors will work on a welcome video to overview the slight changes and there will be welcome signs on the pews to help with proper distancing.

The May minutes were reviewed; Jerry motioned to approve, 2nd by Wayne, motion passed. The treasurer report was reviewed with a year-to-date ending balance of \$133.24.

The church has been power washed but painting has not yet begun. Families have been sent kids packets for Kids Night. The scholarship for the Navajo tuition is fully funded for 2020 and the council is currently waiting on the school to send the funds.

The council discussed German fest and will make a final decision at the July meeting. A big thank you to Pastor Mark for all the help with the online services and technical support.

Wayne motioned to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Fuzz, meeting was adjourned at 8:00 with the Lord's Prayer.

## Hope Council

The Hope Council met in the church fellowship room June 16. Attending were Pastor Margaret, John Hunt, Joddy Roys, Lori Fannon, Jamie Burgin, Gary Thurn, Ron Kuehl and Joyce Thurn. Vice-president John Hunt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Pastor Margaret's devotion was from the book of Psalms. "Be still and know that I am God."

Minutes of the previous meeting and treasurer's report were read and approved. Offering income for the month was \$3,535, and expenses were \$3,200.

Some excerpts from Pastor Margaret's report: She presented protocol to be followed when we resume worship in the church building. WELCA on-line Bible study will be June 24. On-line devotions are held three times a week. People are invited to sign up to help with on-line devotions. The youth mission trip has been cancelled, but there is the possibility of doing some local service work. There will be no Synod Assembly this year, but Bishop Ullestad will retire. An interim Bishop will be appointed.

Pastor Clark has been granted permission to do the Sacraments before his ordination.

### OLD BUSINESS:

A motion was made, seconded and carried to ask the Parish Board to revisit the PPP loan request.

Worship inside the church may begin in late July. In the meantime, "drive-up" services will be held. Hope will have drive-up services June 28 and July 12 at 8:30.

On-line services continue to be held.

There was a report from the church decorating committee. They now have price quotes from two firms for carpeting. John discussed the replacement of the cold air vent and gave a price quote. The possibility of changes to the pulpit were also discussed. A motion was made, seconded and carried to bring the suggestions to a congregational vote on July 12 following worship. A notice will be placed in the bulletins in the weeks preceding the meeting.

Protocol for the fellowship room will remain the same until further notice.

### NEW BUSINESS:

It was reported that Barb Bolsinger has delivered Bible School packets to the children in lieu of VBS at the church this summer.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to direct the treasurer to sign a contract for LP delivery and prepay the amount due.

Joddy was thanked for keeping the landscape weeded surrounding the church building.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 21 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joyce Thurn, secretary

## St. Paul Council

St. Paul held their council meeting on June 23, 2020 at 6:00pm via Zoom. Members present were Shelly Bushkofsky, Pastor Margaret, Carrie Taylor, Phyllis Glawe, Karla Duff, Tracy Follon, Carol Leonard, and Denny Christeleit. Carrie called the meeting to order and Pastor Margaret opened with a reading and prayer.

We will need a few volunteers to help during the curbside service at St. Paul in July. Please get with Pastor if you are interested.

The summer youth mission trip has been cancelled, but they are planning to meet and do some "safe" mission work at EWALU on July 29<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and then have a small campfire. The rain date for this will be August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Tracy Follon sent out the treasurer's report with our 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter income and expenses. Our general checking account is \$9,219.22. The Sunday School account is \$1,072.60. And the Memorial account is \$6,622.53. All bills are paid and up to date. Denny Christeleit motioned to approve the treasurer report, Carol Leonard seconded. Motion passed.

Shelly Bushkofsky read the minutes from the last meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Karla Duff and seconded by Tracy Follon. Motion passed.

Carrie Taylor met with Lyle Klingman, John Moore, and John Moyna about resurfacing our parking lot. The estimate is about \$5,000 and will be paid in full by silent donors. Tracy Follon made the motion to begin setting up the work on the parking lot, Phyllis Glawe seconded. Motion passed. Carrie Taylor will let everyone know when the work will begin.

Karla Duff made the motion to keep our fellowship hall closed to any outside events or church/council meetings until we are able to meet safely in person for services. Carol Leonard seconded, Denny Christel it opposed. Majority rules, motion passed. Pastor Margaret will be contacting the parents of children who have finished kindergarten through sixth grade about options for VBS. We will either hold virtual sessions or small outdoor sessions as they will be doing in Arlington. We would use the same material they are using as well. Dates have not been set yet for this.

Our next council meeting will be July 26<sup>th</sup> after the curbside service at St. Paul. We will meet outside or under one of the shelters.

Tracy Follon motioned for the meeting to be adjourned, Carol Leonard seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Shelly Bushkofsky, Secretary



## St. Sebald & St. Paul Birthdays

July 4 .....	Barb Brown
July 5 .....	Roderick Kamper, Lee Hilgerson
July 7 .....	Kara Burrack
July 11.....	Brandon Stannard
July 13.....	Pastor Mark
July 16.....	Dee Coan
July 19.....	Jacob Robinson
July 28.....	Ruth Kamper
July 29.....	Aiden Knipper
July 31.....	Kristy Hunt, Kristi Kenkel

## Hope Birthdays

July 2.....	Steven Gull, Daniel Williams, Tiffany Williams
July 4.....	Kenny Roys
July 5.....	Marilyn Stewart
July 7.....	Evelyn Nading, Devin Kuehl
July 10.....	Terry Groth, Jarrod Kim
July 12.....	Darlene Minger, Branch Clinton, Mya Bockenstedt
July 13.....	Marvin Dahling, Debra Denklau, Pastor Mark, Louis Rowell, Marilyn Voshell
July 16.....	Christa Ruegnitz, Ryan Frieden, Matthew Aulwes, Zachary Ingles
July 17.....	Lynn Jaster, Jason Williams, Cody Kruger
July 18.....	Chad Dahling
July 19.....	Erica Groth
July 22.....	Lance Amsden, Ben Putz
July 25.....	Genevieve Meisner
July 26.....	Cory Ashline
July 27.....	Dustin Clinton
July 31.....	Brooke Pritchard



## St. John Anniversaries

July 3 .....	Jeri & Debbie Watson
July 11.....	Craig & Sherri Seedorff
July 13.....	Casey & Tricia Wells
July 18.....	Bill & Jane Thompson
July 21.....	Cary & Kristina Wieland
July 31.....	Greg & Kathy Thode

## Hope Anniversaries

July 5 .....	Doug & Liz Jaster
July 15.....	Brian & Darlene Minger
July 20.....	Dan & Cheryl Williams
July 20.....	Jared & Jody Groth

## St. John Birthdays

July 5.....	Dennis Cordes
July 7.....	Henry Hamlett
July 8.....	Lois Pierce
July 12.....	Breck Breitsprecher, Alan Shaffer
July 13.....	Pastor Mark
July 14.....	Jett Seedorff
July 19.....	Robin Fliehler
July 21.....	Leland Smith
July 23.....	Kyle Andreae, Tyler Andreae, Rod Corbin
July 25.....	Julie Andreae
July 26.....	Carrie Thomas
July 27.....	Brian Meisgeier, Jake Munger
July 28.....	Gary ODell
July 29.....	Kari Herrgi

## St. Paul Anniversaries

July 26.....	Paul & Jennifer Tilton
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St. John Lutheran Church  
115 Park Ave.  
Arlington, IA 50606

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**St. John Lutheran Church  
115 Park Avenue • Arlington, Iowa**

## **Lasagna Carry-Out**

**Friday July 10, 2020**

**5:00 – 8:00 PM**



**SERVING INCLUDES**

**Lasagna    Lettuce Salad  
Breadstick    Dessert**

## **Free Will Donation**

*Proceeds go to outreach ministries.*

**Reserve your carry-out & pick-up time:**

Call: Sherri Seedorff 563-419-5696

OR Marcia Rueber 563-608-2632

Pick-up at St. John's Back Entrance

**ALSO AVAILABLE:**

8x8 pans of frozen unbaked lasagna until sold out.

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