

The Maxfield Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church-Maxfield
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Denver, Iowa 50622-1085
Church Office 319-984-5767
Pastor Katie's Cell: 319-269-2030

Monthly Newsletter / FEBRUARY-MARCH 2021 / Volume 26



From the Desk of Pastor Katie

February. The month of Valentine's Day and something about a small rodent that predicts the weather. And this year, it's also the month when Lent begins.

Lent has always been my favorite season. Maybe it's because I like purple, but more probably it's the way that we slow things down and really seem to pay attention to what God is calling us to do and be, and how we are called to treat others.

I love Lent because it's a time of intentional penitence. It's a time when we can think about what kinds of things we might be placing before God in our lives, but it's also a beautiful, open invitation from God to learn how to live more and more as God has called us to live and be.

It seems to me that there are many passages of Scripture that are invitations to live as God calls us to live, but in true Valentine's fashion, I think the passage about love from 1 Corinthians 13 holds some heavy importance. When I heard this passage as a child, I thought it was a bit silly, to be honest, because loving people was easy. Or so I thought.

I've learned as an adult that loving people sometimes is really difficult. It's not that I think loving people, I suppose, is difficult, but perhaps the choice to love someone, no matter the circumstances, is the difficult part. And this is a lesson I've learned over and over in my life. Loving someone is easy when things are good; it's a challenge to love someone when things are difficult. And I sometimes wonder if this is how God might feel about humanity at times.

And yet, at the core of who God is resonates the choice by God again and again to continue to pour out love for humanity, for you and for me and for all human beings, without cause or explanation, without demand for payment or even recognition. God loves. Period. Again and again God loves. That's who God is.

I wonder, though, how our faith might change if we were to view that love from God as an invitation to live more boldly into the lives to which we've been called. What I mean is this: what if the love we received from God were so life-changing that our response and vocation would be to reciprocate that love and share it to the best of our human-limited capabilities? What if we took so seriously God's love that it changed the very fabric of our everyday lives and ordinary relationships? What if God's love were so radical that it transformed how we lived and worked and worshiped and played in community, both with neighbors known and unknown?

I am pondering that love this month, and I invite you to ponder with me. I invite you to remember that God's love is behind all things in life. May you hear God reminding you daily

that God loves you and has called you. May you know you are beloved by the Creator, embraced with hope, and formed for ministry in this world.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Katie

DRAFT COPY of Special Meeting Minutes. Official copy will be presented at the next annual meeting.

Happy Valentine's Day

St John Lutheran Church, Maxfield Special Meeting Minutes

Sunday, January 25, 2021

The St John Lutheran Church Maxfield Special Meeting was called to order by President Chuck Kaiser at 11:02 am with 27 voting members in attendance and 3 voting members present via zoom.. He shared the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and vote on four items. Item #1 was to dissolve the Unity of the Cross Parish Bremer County. Following discussion; Wanda Burkholder made a motion to dissolve the Unity of the Cross Parish Bremer County effective December 31 2020. This was seconded by Rick Wilson. Motion carried.

Item #2 was to issue a full-time letter of call to Pastor Katherine Rodriguez. Questions were asked and answered. A motion was made by Kerri Wilson, seconded by Wanda Burkholder to offer a full-time letter of call. A paper ballot showed 24 aye and 2 nay. Motion carried.

Item #3 was to approve the 2021 Compensation Package as presented by treasurer DuWayne Pipho. Paper ballot showed 24 aye and 2 nay. Compensation package was approved.

Item #4 to contract with St John Crane Creek Church for 50% of Pastor Katherine Rodriguez call for 2021 effective January 1, 2021. Motion was made by Rick Wilson and seconded by Kasey Krueger. Question was asked about mileage and the answer is that both churches will pay the IRS mileage rate for any mileage associated with their church. Motion carried.

It was moved by Annette Ebaugh, seconded by Charlene Schneider to adjourn the special meeting. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 am.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Pro-Tem
Kerri Wilson

St John Lutheran Church, Maxfield 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes Sunday, January 25, 2021



DRAFT COPY of Annual Meeting Minutes. Official copy will be presented at the next annual meeting.

The St John Lutheran Church Maxfield 2020 Annual Meeting was called to order by President Chuck Kaiser at 11:13 am with 27 voting members in attendance and 3 voting members present via zoom.

Pastor Katherine Rodriguez led devotions.

The 2019 meeting minutes were approved (with a correction of the date of the previous year minutes to 2019 not 2018) following a motion by Wanda Burkholder, which was seconded by Christopher Corday.

The financial secretary report was approved as presented following a motion made by Anita Dorn, seconded by Debb Kaiser. The congregation thanked Christopher Kaiser for his work applying for and getting approved for PPP funds.

The treasurers report was approved as presented following a motion by Christopher Kaiser, seconded by Dennis Peters. The congregation expressed their appreciation to DuWayne Piphon for his service as treasurer.

The Unity of the Cross Parish Bremer County's treasurers report was approved as presented following a motion from Kasey Krueger, seconded by Wanda Burkholder. The congregation expressed their thanks to Kerri Wilson for her years as UoCPBC treasurer. The books have been closed as the Parish has been disbanded.

Pastor Katie shared the Parochial report, showing we lost four members during 2020. We ended 2020 with 136 baptized members and 121 confirmed members.

Pastor Katherine Rodriguez shared her pastor's report. The congregation appreciated her calendar graphic showing the year in review. It was an interesting year with Covid and meeting virtually for part of the year.

The President's report and committee reports (education, property care, stewardship, worship/evangelism) were reviewed as presented in the annual meeting booklet.

Old Business:

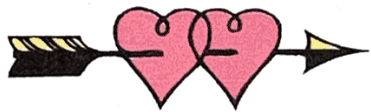
- Margaret Platte Estate CD. Chuck Kaiser shared that the CD is due April 18, 2021. In February Keith Hamer with Stifel Nicholas and in March someone from Thrivent will meet with church council to go over different options to consider. Following discussion, the congregation will allow Church Council to make what they consider is the best decision.

New Business:

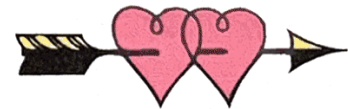
- Budget for 2021: Anita Dorn made a motion to approve the 2021 budget as presented. This was seconded by Christopher Kaiser. Motion carried.
- Basement Estimate (for rental property): Kasey Krueger shared estimates we received for the work to be done on the basement of our house property. Consensus was to let Church Council select who will do the work.
- Rental Property Estimate: The outside of the rental property needs to be painted. Following discussion of the estimates presented; consensus was to allow Church Council to select who will do the work.
- Election of Council Members: Debra Piphon, Chuck Kaiser and Diane Moeller's terms expired. Nominations from the floor were received for Chuck Kaiser for one more year (for continuity of Crane Creek sharing), Wanda Burkholder and Diane Moeller. Debb Kaiser moved nominations cease, this was seconded by Rick Wilson. Motion carried. Kerri Wilson moved we approve a unanimous ballot for those nominated with Chuck's term one year and the other two for three years. Seconded by Debb Kaiser. Motion carried. It was shared that next year six people go off the Council (Chuck Kaiser, Christopher Corday, DuWayne Piphon, Anita Dorn, Kasey Krueger and Annette Ebaugh).
- Appointment of Financial Secretary and Treasurer. Kerri Wilson made a motion to keep Christopher Kaiser as financial secretary and DuWayne Piphon as treasurer. Debb Kaiser seconded. Motion carried. Congregation members thanked them for agreeing to continue in those positions.
- Elect 4 Lay Representatives for Tree of Life Conference Assembly: This is to be held via Zoom in February. Christopher Corday, Christopher Kaiser and Rick and Kerri Wilson volunteered. Pastor Katie will also participate and has offered to host the group for the zoom meeting.

- Elect Two Representatives to the annual meeting of the Bartels Lutheran retirement community meeting to be held in April: Don and Mary Platte will serve.
- Elect one male, one female and one youth delegate for the NE IA Synod Assembly: To be held June 11-13, 2021 at Luther College in Decorah: Most likely this will be a virtual event. It will be important as the bishop election is on the agenda. Ardith Meier will serve as the female delegate if the meeting is virtual; Annette Ebaugh will serve if the meeting is in person. Christopher Corday will serve as the male delegate. Joe Ebaugh will be asked to serve as the youth delegate.
- Name three nominating committee members for 2021: DuWayne Piphon, Annette Ebaugh and Kasey Krueger.
- Cemetery Upkeep: Chuck Kaiser shared estimate received for stone repair. This will be done this year as time/weather permit.
- Appoint Thrivent Advocates: Wanda Burkholder and Kerri Wilson will continue to do this.
- PPP: Christopher Kaiser shared that we were eligible for the 2021 PPP funds from the government (\$7300). The Congregation thanked him for his work in securing these funds.
- School House: Discussion was held on what to do with the school house. It was decided that we will see what items can be donated to historical society and Poor House. Items that can be sold, will be sold. We will keep the sign indicating where the school house stood. Church Council will form a committee to take care of finalizing school house.
- LYO Funds: Christopher Corday will talk to Messiah regarding any LYO funds from the Parish. Maxfield believes the money should stay with Messiah. Chris will make sure to finalize this.
- Thank you messages were shared to those who helped with church items this year. Clayton Wiltse was presented with a Big Check showing the \$2,166 we received from the scrap drive he headed up. He as also presented with a new skid loader (ertl toy). Clayton and RuthAnn Wiltse were presented with a print of their farm to celebrate their Century Farm.
- Steffanie Krueger reminded the congregation that Viola Teisinger celebrates her 101st birthday on February 3 and cards would be appreciated.
- It was moved by Rick Wilson, seconded by Mike Richards to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 pm. Congregation adjourned following the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Pro-Tem
Kerri Wilson



St John Lutheran Church, Maxfield
Church Council Minutes
January 17, 2021



The St John Lutheran Church, Maxfield Church Council held their monthly church council meeting on Sunday, January 17, 2021. The meeting was called to order by president Chuck Kaiser at 11:00 am. Members of the council present were: Anita Dorn, Annette Ebaugh, Christopher Kaiser, Chuck Kaiser, Kasey Krueger, Diane Moller, Dennis Peters, Deb Piphon, DuWayne Piphon, and Rick Wilson. Pastor Katie was also present.

Pastor Katie opened the meeting with devotions.

Minutes of the December meeting were approved as presented following a motion by Anita Dorn and a second by Diane Moller.

The December Financial Secretary's report was approved as presented following a motion by Anita Dorn and a second by Kasey Krueger.

A motion was made by Anita Dorn and seconded by Rick Wilson and approved to rename the Scrip Account to the Scholarship Account.

The December Treasurer's report was approved as presented following a motion by Christopher Kaiser and a second by Dennis Peters.

Pastor's Report

All of December's worship services were on line. Pastor Katie spent a lot of time editing the videos for online worship.

On a weekly basis Pastor Katie attends anywhere from 3 – 5 meetings via Zoom.

Pastor Katie has been making phone calls, sending emails, text messages, and general correspondence to Maxfield members and starting in January she will also be making phone calls and doing outreach to Crane Creek members.

This year Pastor Katie is planning to spend some time focusing on youth and family ministry, worship and preaching, and stewardship. These were areas that were identified as growth areas in her evaluation, so she will try to pay special attention to those areas. In addition, she is also planning to spend some time in theological areas of interest, both for personal and professional growth.

President's/Property Care Report

There was discussion on purchasing a wheel chair for the church. Dennis Peters will check on the price of a wheel chair as well as a transport chair.

After the cost of the organ tuning this last time, we will make sure we know the price of tuning before the current company comes out. If the price is still high, we will check into other companies to check the cost of tuning.

Education Report

None

Worship/Evangelism

The committee will meet to plan worship through Lent.

We will alternate Wednesday evening Lenten services with Crane Creek.

Ash Wednesday service will be at Maxfield.

Maundy Thursday will be at Crane Creek.

Good Friday service will be at Maxfield.

Pastor Katie will check with Karen Platte and Suanne Schweer to see if either one of them would be interested in playing for our Lenten evening worship services.

Stewardship

None

Old Business

Chris Kaiser showed us a website usage chart which showed how many views our website has received over the past several months.

DuWayne will talk to Kathy Blasberg, Crane Creek's Financial Secretary/Treasurer to figure out how to bill them for Katie's Ministry at Crane Creek.

New Business

There was interest in a Zoom meeting for worship for those who are not on Face Book. There was also interest in a Zoom meeting for the annual meeting. Pastor Katie will take care of setting this up.

Chris Kaiser applied for another PPP loan for Maxfield.

The council will set up another meeting with a representative from Thrivent as well as Keith Hamer from Stifel Investment Services to talk about ways to invest the Margaret Platte Estate money.

Wanda Burkholder and Diane Moller have agreed to serve on the church council.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 12:10 pm following a motion by Rick Wilson and a second by Christopher Kaiser.

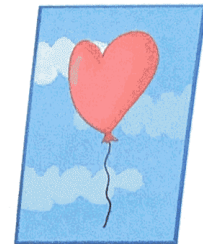
Secretary,
Deb Piph

Mutual Ministry Committee Minutes

Mutual Ministry Committee – meeting minutes: February 2, 2021

Attendees:

Pastor Katie, Christopher Corday, Anita Dorn, Sandy Klammer



- Pastor Katie very much appreciates having the Mutual Ministry Committee as a sounding board, she can't make adjustments/improvements if she doesn't have feedback from the congregation.
- Pastor Katie is interested in pursuing some continuing education this year around the topics of stewardship and working with youth.
- Pastor is finding that she is spending much more time writing her weekly sermons than originally expected.
- Pastor would like to try to preach more from outside of the pulpit. This is a new approach for her but she is trying to adjust.
- The support that the Worship/Evangelism Committee provides is very helpful and much appreciated.
- Kerri Wilson and Wanda Burkholder's assistance on Sundays and with administrative support is invaluable.
- Pastor is very thankful for the congregation's ability to remain flexible and adjust in response to Covid.
- The food pantry was a great idea and Pastor thanks the congregation for implementation.
- We need to ask, "What does the community need and what do we have to offer? What is going to get people to Maxfield and what is going to keep them here?"
- Pastor Katie closed the meeting by telling the committee that she desperately wants open communication to continue.

Some outreach ideas we discussed include:

- Sponsoring an elementary school classroom
- Offering a community meal with St. Peter
- Bible Study, though finding a mutual convenient time is difficult

- Getting a list of new community members in the area and contacting them with a welcome letter/gift.
- Starting a grandparent/mentoring program.



February Birthdays

- 2nd – Viola Teisinger
- 6th – A.J. Peters
- 9th – Caden Schneider
- 10th – LuAnn Peters

February Anniversary

- 20th – Dick and Betty Young

March Birthdays

- 2nd – Carson Schneider
- 3rd – Jeb Ebaugh, Dusty Heine
- 12th – Betty Young
- 15th – Chuck Kaiser
- 16th – John Ebaugh
- 20th – Brian Schneider
- 21st – Stacy Thurm
- 23rd – Sandy Klammer
- 25th – Levi Boevers
- 26th – Christopher Corday, Dean Platte
- 27th – Rich Leisinger

2021 Lenten Schedule

We will not be having a soup supper before any of the services this year. All services will start at 7:00 pm.

- 2-17 Ash Wednesday St John Maxfield
- 2-24 Lenten Service Crane Creek
- 3-3 Lenten Service St John Maxfield
- 3-10 Lenten Service Crane Creek
- 3-17 Lenten Service St John Maxfield
- 3-24 Lenten Service Crane Creek
- 4-1 Maundy Thurs. Crane Creek
- 4-2 Good Friday St John Maxfield

2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

President:

Chuck Kaiser (319) 777-9166

Vice President:

Christopher Corday (319) 290-6224

Treasurer:

DuWayne Pipho (319) 231-5893

Financial Secretary:

Christopher Kaiser (319) 457-0144

Council Secretary:

Wanda Burkholder (319) 231-2846

Council Members:

Anita Dorn (319) 559-0092
 Annette Ebaugh (563) 920-5429
 Kasey Krueger (319) 239-4491
 Diane Moller (319) 269-7573
 Dennis Peters (319) 215-5930
 Rick Wilson (319) 352-5529

Church Secretary:

Wanda Burkholder (319) 231-2846

COMMITTEES

Property Care:

Anita Dorn, Chuck Kaiser,
 Dennis Peters, Rick Wilson

Education:

Kasey Krueger, Annette Ebaugh

Worship & Evangelism:

Christopher Kaiser, Deb Pipho, Wanda Burkholder
 Not on Council – Kerri Wilson

Stewardship:

Christopher Corday, Diane Moller,
 DuWayne Pipho

Some of these committees might be incorrect. They will be corrected in the next newsletter.

God planted a seed of faith in our hearts . . .
 So all we have to do is water it with prayers . . .
 Fertilize it with words of God and cultivate it with lots of love.



Lent Begins
 Ash Wednesday

And now a few notes from our President . . .

This year in the summer will be St John Maxfield's **165th Anniversary!** Hopefully Covid will be behind us and we will be able to celebrate to some degree. Very early stage details will be shared as they become available.

Chuck

Crack A Smile



Little Charlie was in the cafeteria line getting ready for lunch. There was a large tray of apples with a note on it that read, "Please take only one apple. God is watching!" Moving along at the end of the line was a large tray of chocolate chip cookies. Little Charlie wrote a note, "Take all you want! God is watching the apples!"



*Please drop these members a Valentine card or a line or two.
They would love to hear from their Maxfield family.*

Becky Bullerman
7383 Paragon Rd.
Dayton, OH 45459

Duane Bullerman
16505 Sorrento Ct.
Dayton, OH 45459

Mildred Clark
221 Highland Avenue
Box 71
Readlyn, IA 50666

Mark Henry
Story City, IA
Send to Lori Henry
P.O. Box 638
200 E. Eagle St.
Denver, IA 50622



Gwen Muehling
121 Bremer Avenue, Unit #7
Denver, IA 50622

Hazel Oltrogge
131 S. Powell St.
Denver, IA 50622

Linda Pencil
North Crest Specialty Care
2001 Heath St.
Waterloo, IA 50622

Jill Sullivan
106 E. 3rd St., Apt. 210
Waterloo, IA 50703

Viola Teisinger
Denver Sunset Nursing Home
235 N Mill St.
Denver, IA 50622

Please make note that Viola Teisinger is our oldest living member at St John Maxfield. She celebrated her 101st birthday on February 2nd. A card or note from members of her church family would be very kind.

Highlights from our Annual Meeting 2021

To the right:
President Chuck Kaiser presented Clayton and RuthAnn Wiltse with a print of their farm to celebrate their Century Farm.

Below:
President Chuck Kaiser presented Clayton Wiltse with a Big Check showing the \$2,166 we received for the scrap drive he headed up. He was also presented with a new toy skid loader as his has apparently shown lots of wear.



February 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2 Viola Teisinger	3	4	5	6 AJ Peters
7 Reader: Christopher Corday / Installation of Council / Council following Worship	8	9 Caden Schneider	10	11	12	13
14 Reader: Annette Ebaugh	15	16	17 Ash Wednesday Worship at Maxfield	18	19	20 Dick & Betty Young
21 Reader: Wanda Burkholder	22	23	24 Lenten Worship at Crane Creek	25	26	27
28 Reader: Christopher Kaiser Gwen Muehling	1	2	3	4	5	6