

The Maxfield Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church-Maxfield
2286 250th St.
Denver, Iowa 50622-1085
Church Office 319-984-5767
Pastor Katie's Cell: 319-269-2030

Monthly Newsletter / OCTOBER 2020 / Volume 24



From the Desk of Pastor Katie

One of the things I've been pondering lately is how we care for others and how others care for us. In a recent sermon, I said that nothing we do or say is without consequences, good or bad. I believe this is true! We see this reality in our individual lives, and in our relationships with others. But this is especially true in church. Through Christ's example, we are taught that we are to love and serve others, by caring for their needs and by treating them as we wish to be treated ourselves. As the Body of Christ, we are not without obligation to love and serve others as Christ has loved and served us.

I think back to the washing of the disciples' feet in the Gospel of John; for me, this passage outlines my responsibilities as your pastor but also as a human being in relation to God and the world around me. When I was ordained, I made vows to the church, to God, and to all of you, where I promised to assume the office of pastor; to believe and trust that the church's call is God's call; to hold to the Lutheran confessions and teachings, including the Apostles', Nicene and Athanasian Creeds; to preach and teach in accordance with Holy Scripture and the Lutheran confessions; to be diligent in study of Scripture and faithful in the administering of the Sacraments; to pray for the people whom I serve, to nourish them with God's Word and the Sacraments; to lead by example in faithful service and living; and to demonstrate God's love in all that I do and say.

I was also charged with the following commission: "Katie, care for God's people, bear their burdens, and do not betray their confidence. So discipline yourself in life and teaching that you preserve the truth, giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope. Witness faithfully in word and deed to all people. Give and receive comfort as you serve within the church. And be of good courage, for God has called you and your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Being a pastor is no easy task. It's daunting and challenging while being also life-giving and joyful. Some of the things which bring me the greatest joy are also the things which can be most difficult and heartbreaking at the same time. I truly believe that I have been called by God to care for and love the people I serve, to demonstrate God's love in all that I do, and to lead by example. And I try to do so to the best of my ability.

I've learned in my first year as an ordained pastor that this is no easy task. I take very seriously the vows I made and the commission with which I was charged, because I believe these vows and the commission are instructions and responsibilities from God. But I, just



like you, am a human being. I am broken by sin; though I try as hard as possible, I have realized that I cannot, of my own volition, keep and honor these vows and the commission perfectly. I fail in them, just as we all fail because we're humans. Yet, even when I fail, I have faith and trust that God is leading and guiding and working in and through me. My hope is that despite my shortcomings and failings we can agree to continue to work together, to care for one another mutually, and to place the interests and well-beings of all members of our church on level ground, just as we all stand before God on equal ground. I do not stand above you as your pastor; rather, I walk beside you as a companion on the journey.

I know that church right now isn't what most of us expected or want. We cannot do much about that reality. But we can agree to work together to find a common solution that is satisfactory for all of us. This can only happen through open, honest and mutual dialogue, without threats or ultimatums, and where both sides can listen compassionately and lovingly to one another. I deeply wish for this, and I hope you do too. May we find common ground. May we listen to one another compassionately and lovingly. May we find a common solution to what we all are facing, because we all face this together. And may we continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in a world that desperately needs the reminder of God's restorative love. May God continually remind us that we are Church for the sake of the world.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Katie



October Birthdays

- 2 - Rick Wilson
- 15 - Wanda Burkholder
- 16 - Heather Heine
- 17 - Hazel Oltrogge
Cael Krueger
- 23 - Clayton Wiltse
- 27 - Marty Kuhlmann
- 28 - Lyle Schneider
- 29 - Matt Piph

Anniversary

- 7 - Darel & Marlene Kuhlmann

2020 CHURCH COUNCIL	
President:	
Chuck Kaiser	(319) 777-9166
Vice President:	
Christopher Corday	(319) 290-6224
Treasurer:	
DuWayne Piph	(319) 231-5893
Financial Secretary:	
Christopher Kaiser	(319) 457-0144
Secretary:	
Deb Piph	(319) 230-1446
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
Parish Secretary:	
Kerri Wilson	(319) 240-6438
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 Piph Not on Council – Wanda Burkholder, Kerri Wilson	
Stewardship:	
Christopher Corday, Diane Moller, DuWayne Piph	

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

Becky Bullerman
The Wellington of Dayton
2656 W. Alex Bell Rd.
Dayton, OH 45459

Duane Bullerman
6505 Sorrento Court
Dayton, OH 45459

Mildred Clark
221 Highland Avenue
Box 71
Readlyn, IA 50666



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

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

Linda Pencil
NorthCrest Specialty Care
2001 Heath Street
Waterloo, IA 50703

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

Mark Henry

Story City, IA



St. John Maxfield Mini Pantry

In May, our church put up a small pantry to help those in need during the pandemic. The church council had been talking about it for a while. Rick and Kerri Wilson wanted to give back to the community for their anniversary, so they got busy and built it.

Food items, as well as cleaning supplies and feminine products, are supplied. Church members have also put out a bucket for produce. We intend to keep the pantry going for as long as the community has a need.

Here's how the mini pantry works. It's an easy way for neighbors to help neighbors who need food, hygiene, or paper items. Even though the pantry is on our church property, it belongs to all of us. We encourage all who use it to keep it tidy and the space around it.

Give what you can by placing food, hygiene, or paper items inside the pantry. Give what you want to receive. An easy rule of thumb: buy extra of what you buy for your own household. No gift is too small. A single can of green beans can help. Items should be unexpired and in good condition.

Spread the word about our mini pantry. We know there are people around us that could use these items during these difficult times.

Our message is to extend blessings to everyone in need from our congregation!



St John Lutheran Church, Maxfield
Church Council Minutes
September 13, 2020

The St John Lutheran Church, Maxfield Church Council held their monthly church council meeting on Sunday, September 13, 2020. The meeting was called to order by president, Chuck Kaiser at 11:30 am. Members of the council present were: Christopher Corday, Chuck Kaiser, Kasey Krueger, Dennis Peters, Deb Piphoo, DuWayne Piphoo, and Rick Wilson. Pastor Katie was also present.

Pastor Katie opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the August meeting were approved as presented after a motion by Rick Wilson and a second by Dennis Peters.

The August Financial Secretary's report was approved as presented after a motion by Kasey Krueger and a second by Christopher Corday.

The August Treasurer's report was approved as presented following a motion by Rick Wilson and a second by Dennis Peters.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Katie and Brandon will be moving into the parsonage (rental property) on September 26th. They would appreciate help and will provide lunch and drinks to anyone who would be willing to help!

President's/Property Care Report

Lease agreement with Pastor Katie and Brandon will begin October 1, 2020.
The synod office called to thank Maxfield for our continued mission support.
Two new garage doors and openers have been installed in the parsonage garage.
DuWayne checked into getting separate water meters for the parsonage and church. It was determined cost prohibited at this time and we will discuss how we will split the water bill.
Will be meeting with a representative from Church Mutual to go over our property insurance.

Education

Parents and confirmands will meet with Pastor Katie and teachers to discuss confirmation.
Checking into options for Sunday School.

Worship/Evangelism

Indoor worship continues with guidelines.

Stewardship

A motion was made by Deb Piphó and seconded by Dennis Peters and approved to send \$706.52 to the United Way of East Central Iowa for Derecho victim support. (This was the remaining \$490 budgeted for stewardship outreach and 10 % of the steel sell.)

Old Business

None

New Business

Christopher and Tracy Corday are taking down the old garage.

The Northeast Iowa Synod sent Maxfield a check for \$421 to be used for feminine hygiene products. Deb Piphó will check with local schools to see if there is a need.

The next church council meeting will be on Sunday October 11, 2020 at 11:30 am.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 12:50 pm following a motion by Rick Wilson and a second by Kasey Krueger.

Secretary,
Deb Piphó

St John Lutheran Church, Maxfield
Church Council Minutes
August 16, 2020

The St John Lutheran Church, Maxfield Church Council held their monthly church council meeting on Sunday, August 16, 2020. The meeting was called to order by president, Chuck Kaiser at 10:30 am. Members of the council present were: Christopher Kaiser, Chuck Kaiser, Kasey Krueger, Dennis Peters, Deb Piphó, DuWayne Piphó, and Rick Wilson. Pastor Katie was also present.

Pastor Katie opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the July meeting were approved as presented after a motion by Kasey Krueger and a second by Christopher Kaiser.

The July Financial Secretary's report was approved as presented after a motion by Rick Wilson and a second by Deb Piphó.

The July Treasurer's report was approved as presented following a motion by Christopher Kaiser and a second by Kasey Krueger.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Katie continues to work on online devotions.

Joint parish council and presidents from Maxfield and Messiah met to discuss in person worship and completed Pastor Katie's annual review.

Pastor Katie will take vacation September 5 – 8.

President's/Property Care Report

Got bids for painting our rental property (parsonage). Council approved the bid from K & K painting after a motion by Dennis Peters and a second by DuWayne Piphó.

It was also decided to leave the wallpaper on the north wall in the front bedroom.

Pastor Katie and Brandon will be taking occupancy on October 1, 2020.

DuWayne will check with IRUA to see what the cost would be to put in a separate water meter for the both the rental property and church.

After a motion by Christopher Kaiser and a second by Rick Wilson it was approved to charge \$750 a month rent plus a months deposit up front.

The church will also be providing snow removal.

Will check into getting the garage door openers fixed.

Education

Parents and confirmands will meet with Pastor Katie and teachers to discuss confirmation.
Checking into options for Sunday School.

Worship/Evangelism

Committee will meet to plan worship.
Indoor worship will begin on September 6.
Will start with the reader of the lesson and psalm rotation again.
There is a UNI student who is interested in playing the organ for our worship service.

Stewardship

\$100 from the noisy offering fund was used to purchase supplies for workers in Cedar Rapids who were helping with clean up from the storm.

Old Business

None

New Business

Got a bid for church insurance from Ed Hansen. DuWayne will send bid to Church Mutual to compare coverage.

The next church council meeting will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2020 at 11:30 am.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 11:30 am following a motion by Rick Wilson and a second by Kasey Krueger.

Secretary,
Deb Piph

St John Lutheran Church, Maxfield Church Council Minutes July 17, 2020

The St. John Lutheran Maxfield Church Council held their monthly council meeting on Sunday, July 17, 2020. The meeting was called to order by president Chuck Kaiser at 10:10 am. Members present were: Anita Dorn, Annette Ebaugh, Christopher Kaiser, Chuck Kaiser, Kasey Krueger, Deb Piph, DuWayne Piph, and Rick Wilson. Pastor Katie was also present.

Pastor Katie opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented following a motion by Kasey Krueger and a second by Rick Wilson.

The June financial secretary's reports were approved as presented following a motion by Rick Wilson and a second by Anita Dorn. The PPP (Payroll Protection Plan) funds have been depleted.

The June treasurer's reports were approved as presented following a motion by Christopher Kaiser and a second by Anita Dorn.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Katie has been busy with daily devotions and now Sunday morning worship. She has been enjoying outdoor worship and appreciates people taking precautions to keep ~~themselves and each other safe.~~

Pastor Katie also appreciates people understanding technology problems she occasionally encounters during devotions and worship.

Pastor Katie would like the congregation to reach out to our shut ins via phone calls or cards.

She would also like the congregation to think of ways to reach out to the community to let the community know who we are!

Pastor Katie celebrated her one year anniversary with Unity of the Cross Parish.

PRESIDENT & PROPERTY CARE REPORT

DuWayne Piphon sprayed the parking lot for weeds.

As of July 15th the parsonage has been vacated.

The parsonage and garage need to be cleaned out and cleaned up! The parsonage also needs painting. Chuck and Christopher Kaiser will get bids.

Flowers need to be removed from cemetery by June 15. We need to check to make sure the sign that states that is legible.

EDUCATION REPORT

There is a student attending Wartburg from Jubilee who has shown an interest in helping Pastor Katie with daily devotions and worship.

WORSHIP/EVANGELISM REPORT

There is a UNI student who is interested in playing the organ for worship. Christopher Kaiser will contact her.

Eli Smith is interested in playing the guitar and occasionally the keyboard for worship.

Pastor Katie will contact him.

There was a request that bulletins be provided for Sunday morning worship.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

DuWayne presented the 2020 Budget and right now we are on track in meeting the budget. Thank you to all of you for your continued financial support.

OLD BUSINESS

DuWayne Piphon, Annette Ebaugh, and Christopher Corday are on the committee to draw up a rental agreement for the next renters.

NEW BUSINESS

Christopher Kaiser will check into the cost to purchase a vapor cleaner for the church building.

Christopher Kaiser and Deb Piphon are on the committee to check into what steps we need to do to be a "Reconciling in Christ" church.

The next council meeting will be held on Sunday, August 16 at 10:00 am following worship.

Meeting adjourned at 11:23 with the Lords Prayer following a motion by Rick Wilson and a second by Christopher Kaiser.

Secretary,
Deb Piphon

St John Lutheran Church, Maxfield
Church Council Minutes
June 25, 2020

The St. John Lutheran Maxfield Church Council held their council meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2020. The meeting was called to order by president Chuck Kaiser at 4:10 pm. Members present were: Christopher Kaiser, Chuck Kaiser, Dennis Peters, Deb Piphon, DuWayne Piphon, and Rick Wilson. Christopher Corday was present via phone and Pastor Katie was also present.

Pastor Katie opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as presented following a motion by Christopher Kaiser and a second by Rick Wilson.

The April and May financial secretary's reports were approved as presented following a motion by Deb Piphon and a second by Dennis Peters.

The April and May treasurer's reports were approved as presented following a motion by Rick Wilson and Christopher Kaiser.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Katie has been busy with live streaming her daily devotions and Saturday evening worship.

She conducted 4 funerals; Betty Lau, Jan Westendorf, Roger Brettman, (from our congregation), and then Kaiser Corson contacted Pastor Katie to officiate at a service of a non-member.

Pastor Katie was very touched and appreciated the birthday parade.

She met with the Joint Parish Council and council chairs to discuss in person worship service.

PRESIDENT & PROPERTY CARE REPORT

Rick Wilson made and erected the Little Food Pantry. Please take a look and let people know it is on the northwest corner of the church lot and is there for anyone in need!

DuWayne Piphon sprayed the weeds in the church parking lot.

Clayton will be loading junk to sell for the church. Christopher Kaiser will notify Wanda so she can send a reminder to the congregation via email.

EDUCATION REPORT

Confirmation has concluded for the year. There are four potential confirmands for Messiah. Working on Mentoring process.

WORSHIP/EVANGELISM REPORT

Pastor Katie is live streaming devotions Monday – Friday at 9:00 am and worship service at 5:00 pm on Saturday night.

The Joint Parish Council along with Pastor Katie, Chuck Kaiser, and Mike Young met to discuss starting in-person worship. The first in-person worship will be on Sunday, July 12. It will be an outdoor service, with just one service on Sunday morning, and we will alternate service sites. All members will be receiving a letter via email or mail with details. Pastor Katie is very concerned about everyone's safety including her own and is adamant about having the restrictions followed.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

None

OLD BUSINESS

Christopher Kaiser worked with Karrie Ryherd from the Denver Savings Bank and applied for the PPP on behalf of the church and the church was given \$7,362 to use for expenses. The Margaret Platte CD was renewed at the Farmers Savings Bank for 12 months at an interest rate of 1.3%.

Christopher Kaiser and Cindy Clemens have updated the church's website and it looks wonderful. A motion was made by Dennis Peters and seconded by DuWayne Piphoh and approved to rent the domain name for 3 years at \$15 per year and to pay \$220 a year to host the website. For those of you who want to take a look go to www.stjohnmaxfielddenver.org. Thank you to Chris and Cindy!

NEW BUSINESS

DuWayne contracted 3,000 gallons of LP at \$1.12 a gal from AgVantage. Eric Thompkins will no longer be renting the parsonage as of July 15.

The next council meeting will be held on Sunday, July 19 at 10:00 am following worship.

Meeting adjourned with the Lords Prayer following a motion by Rick Wilson and a second by Christopher Kaiser.

Secretary,
Deb Piphoh

And now a few notes from our President . . .

Good morning and welcome back everyone!

Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine it would be almost 6 months to the day when we would have in house worship again, but that is exactly what it was. Even though we have not had service here every week, our Church Council has been busy. They approved painting of the inside of the parsonage main level and the upstairs. Council approved to have new tenants move in to our parsonage, and it's our very own Pastor Katie and Brandon! Council also approved having them pay \$750.00 a month rent with a \$750 deposit. A thank you goes out to the Piphoh's – the Wilson's – Dixie – Cooper – Annette – Dennis Peters (that's right, even Dennis made it on time – right day – right time) and a special thank you goes out to the entire Ebaugh family for making moving day go a lot smoother!

During the last six months, whether we have had church or not, the bills have continued to be paid. And thanks to each and every one of you, we have been able to stay on the plus side. So please continue to support our church. And as they say, "We'll all get through this together!" *Chuck*

Crack A Smile 

A mother took her 3 year old daughter to church for the first time. The church lights were lowered. The choir came down the aisle carrying lighted candles. All was quiet until the little one started to sing in a loud voice – "Happy Birthday to you! Happy birthday to you!"

