

The Maxfield Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church-Maxfield
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Monthly Newsletter / JANUARY 2021 / Volume 25



From the Desk of Pastor Katie

What a year it has been! We've experienced so many things together as a community of faith, both when we were able to gather physically in our building, and when we've remained separated for the sake of the vulnerable in our community. As I think back on this year, I'm struck especially by the ways in which this community of faith, Maxfield, has banded together and lifted each other up in prayer and thanksgiving, leaned upon one another in times of sorrow and heartache, and especially made decisions and upheld them faithfully to the best of our ability.

If we had asked each other last year at this time if we thought life would change as much as it has, I think we both would have had a good laugh and wondered, perhaps secretly, if the other was serious in asking that question. Now, we've entered into that reality, and I think we can all say that our lives have changed beyond our wildest imaginations in the past year.

Some changes have been particularly painful, as have some of the events of this past year. We've lost four members of our congregation, and we grieve their loss to our community of faith. Especially, I think we grieve the ways in which we've had to alter how we've said goodbye.

We've walked together through the path of splitting our parish agreement with Messiah. I don't think any of us imagined that would happen, and I doubt any of us are truly happy that this is the end result. There is still heartache and hurt over those events.

We've spent more time apart as a community of faith than we have together. That, in and of itself, is challenging. I think one of the questions I asked myself over and over this year was "How are we the body of Christ when we cannot be together in the same space?" And yet, dear friends, that togetherness and unity happened, even when we were apart. As we are apart now. And may be, for who knows how long.

The constant within our lives, however, is that God's grace has remained the same. Whether we were gathered inside our building, or outside our building, or on Facebook or through emails, text messages and phone calls, God showed up and continues to show up with and among us. We are still the body of Christ and we are still Maxfield even when we are physically distanced from one another. We are still church, and we are still church for the sake of the world.

God's grace remains the same no matter who or what we've lost in our church. God's grace has remained the same even as we've had to say goodbye to Larry, Betty, Roger and Jan through extreme circumstances. And God's grace has remained the same even as we



figure out new normals in broken relationships and new, budding possibilities. God's grace has remained the same yesterday and today and will remain the same tomorrow and for all of the tomorrows we each will encounter.

I cannot say with certainty what this next year holds. Well, almost. I can't guarantee what the events of the next year will be but I can say, with sure and certain hope, that no matter what we face, no matter what joys we celebrate and what heartaches we endure, no matter what may happen, God's grace, love and mercy will be the same and will embrace each and every single one of us.

And so, may we enter this new year with confidence in God's love, grace and mercy, which strengthens us, embraces us, and fills us with hope for the future. Amen.

Peace and blessings,
Pastor Katie



St. John Maxfield Food Pantry

If you've happened to drive past St. John Maxfield within the past week, you might have noticed our new food pantry on the south side of the road between the church and the house. Joe Ebaugh, with the help of his family, designed and built a new pantry to replace the temporary one put up earlier this summer. Our new pantry is located where the temporary one was, and is ready to be stocked with dry goods for the winter season. We are requesting donations of things like powdered laundry soap, bar soap, and non-perishable dry goods like boxed cereal and pasta, dried beans, boxed dinner kits (Hamburger Helper, etc.), macaroni and cheese, and other such items. As always, paper goods like toilet paper, paper towels, and Kleenex are welcome, as are diapers! We are also asking for canned goods to be donated, which will be held in the church and available for those who need it. We cannot place canned goods, or liquid soaps/wipes or cleaning supplies in the pantry during the winter months, as they will freeze, but we are still hoping to provide those items for the needy in our community. If you're interested in providing canned goods or other items which would freeze if left outside, please text or call Pastor Katie at (319)269-2030 to make arrangements.

Special thanks to the Ebaugh family for this beautiful contribution to the ministry of our church. We are grateful for their willingness to serve in this way! As many of you know, this year has been challenging for so many people, and the pantry has been utilized regularly. We want to continue to provide assistance for those in this community who have benefited from the pantry. Please prayerfully consider supporting this vital ministry of our church! God's blessings to each of you!





Checking in on our Maxfield birthdays!

November Birthdays!

- 1 – Jesse Burkholder
Todd Johnson
- 5 – Mildred Clark
- 6 – DuWayne Pipho
Connor Corday
Gabby Corday
- 8 – Sara Ebaugh
- 9 – Chris Foust
- 11 – Theresa Johnson
Dick Young
- 13 – Ardith Meier
- 17 – Mary Platte
- 22 – Chad Krueger
- 24 – Tracy Corday
- 26 – Mark Atkins
Gordon Dorn

December Birthdays!

- 2 – Madison Thurm
- 5 – Krystal Corwin
- 8 – Kasey Krueger
- 10 – Jackie Heine
- 18 – Marlene Kuhlmann
- 19 – Janel Rewerts
- 23 – Anita Dorn
- 30 – Mark Thurm
- 31 – Dustin Wells

December Anniversary!

- 7 – Clayton and Ruthann
Wiltse

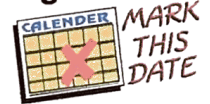
The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him. – John 1:9-10

January Birthdays!

- 5 – Lynn Moller
- 11 – RuthAnn Wiltse
- 17 – Brianne Wilson Anderson
- 23 – Karen Gaede
- 27 – Bob Platte
- 29 – Dixie Thurm

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars
for the annual meeting



and hopefully In-House Worship
Service on January 17th. Please have
all committee reports sent to Wanda
by January 8th.

There will also be a special
congregational meeting on the 24th of
January.

Stay tuned for more details!

Lyle Schneider was able to have his
surgery and it went well. Lyle
should be home by now. I'm sure
he would appreciate cards or a
quick call.

*May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the
obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the
eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of
the magi, and the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless
you now and forever. Amen*

And now a few notes from our President . . .

December 18, 2020

Good morning fellow members of St. John Maxfield Church.

What a year this has been. Never could I have imagined March 15th would be our last normal day of in-house service. And here we are, roughly 275 days later. Although there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel, we still are not comfortable having service.

With that being said, the end of the year is fast approaching and I can't thank you enough for your spiritual support and especially your financial support of our church. However, as it is coming to a close, and talking with DuWayne, we are coming up short from meeting our budget goals.

We started the year with a surplus in our checking account and our treasurer DuWayne and financial secretary Christopher K. have both done an outstanding job. We would like to start the new year 2021 with as close to our budget goal as possible.

So if you are one that has been giving on a regular basis, thank you. And if you are one who happens to have a few dollars and haven't given on a regular basis, now is the time.

Thank you in advance!!

Have a Merry Christmas!

Debb and Chuck



And now a few more notes from our President . . .

December 22, 2020

Good morning fellow St. John Maxfield members.

It comes with an extremely heavy heart that we will not have in-house Christmas services at Maxfield this year. Believe me there is nothing more than I would enjoy than getting together to enjoy each other's fellowship, at a safe distance of course, and obviously to share the true meaning of Christmas. However; the Covid-19 is still looking at us straight in the face. We are going to have a virtual service at 2:00 p.m. & another one at 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Please worship with us during either of/both of those services.

A vaccine so far has been wonderful. I believe, however, it'll be a while before it reaches us out here in the Midwest and that we will all be able to take advantage of it! During our 165 years of existence I'm sure there have been some other speed bumps along the way: whether it be extreme cold, snowstorms or they even had to deal with the flu back then too. Who would have thought that we would be dealing with this today, but the truth of the matter is it's here all around us.

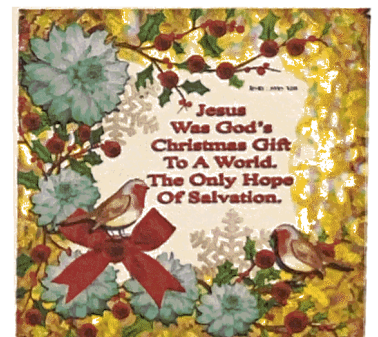
This past year we said good-bye to four of our beloved members here at Maxfield Church. Yes, I believe only one of them was because of Covid-19, but that was one too many. And what was really hard was not being able to say good-bye to our loved ones in the way that we are accustomed to here at Maxfield.

So to recap: NO in-person Christmas Eve service the 24th, no Sunday service the 27th, no Sunday service January 3rd or 10th, and we hopefully shoot to return to IN-HOUSE WORSHIP SERVICE on January the 17th with our annual meeting and a special congregational meeting set for the 24th of January.

Warmest Holiday Wishes-

Your President,

Charles H. Kaiser



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

The St John Lutheran Church, Maxfield Church Council held their monthly church council meeting on Sunday, December 13, 2020. The meeting was called to order by president Chuck Kaiser at 10:00 am. Members of the council present were: Christopher Corday, 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 November meeting were approved as presented following a motion by Anita Dorn and a second by Christopher Kaiser.

The November Financial Secretary's report was approved as presented following a motion by Rick Wilson and a second by Dennis Peters.

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

Pastor's Report

Because of technical problems, Pastor Katie is now prerecording and editing the Sunday morning worship services to be set to view at 10:00 am on Sunday morning on FaceBook.

Pastor Katie met with members of Crane Creek and Maxfield to discuss contracting 50% of Pastor Katie's call.

Has been making phone calls to Maxfield members.

President's/Property Care Report

Kasey Krueger got bids for insulating the parsonage (rental property) foundation. Council decided to table discussion until annual meeting, but will include the cost of insulating on the 2021 budget.

DuWayne set up the nativity scene.

Education Report

The motion to give any money left in the Unity of the Cross Parish LYO fund to Messiah was approved after a motion by Annette Ebaugh and a second by Rick Wilson.

Worship/Evangelism

The committee met via zoom and planned worship thru January.

There was discussion on whether to have Christmas Eve Service.

Stewardship

There was some discussion on what we are going to do with the Margaret Platte money. We decided to contact Keith Hamer (Investment Representative) as well

as a representative from Thrivent to come and talk to the church council in February. This will also be discussed at the annual meeting.

Old Business

A motion was approved to give Christopher Kaiser and Cindy Clemen \$500 for setting up the church website (www.stjohnmaxfielddenver.org) after a motion by Rick Wilson and a second by Christopher Corday.

New Business

We received a check for \$1,000 from the Denver Savings Bank to help those in need in our congregation.

DuWayne presented the budget for 2021. The budget was approved after a motion by Christopher Kaiser and a second by Kasey Krueger.

Discussion with Crane Creek to contract 50% of Pastor Katie's call has gone very well. Crane Creek was very receptive and would like to go ahead with the contract beginning January 1, 2021.

The following motions were approved and need to be presented to the congregation for a congregational vote:

The motion was made by Annette Ebaugh and seconded by Dennis Peters and approved to waive the 6 month notice and dissolve the Unity of the Cross Parish Bremer County effective immediately through mutual agreement with Janesville Messiah.

The motion was made by Anita Dorn and seconded by Annette Ebaugh and approved to call Pastor Katie Rodriguez to a full time call effective January 1, 2021.

The motion was made by Rick Wilson and seconded by Christopher Kaiser to approve Pastor Katie's compensation package for 2021.

The motion was made by Annette Ebaugh and seconded by Christopher Corday to enter into an agreement with Crane Creek to contract 50% of Pastor Katie's call to Crane Creek effective January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 with Maxfield and Crane Creek each paying for the pastor's mileage that pertains to each church.

The January church council meeting will be on January 10.

The annual meeting will be held on January 17 immediately following the worship service.

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

Secretary,
Deb Pipho

John Lutheran Church, Maxfield
Church Council Minutes
November 8, 2020

The St John Lutheran Church, Maxfield Church Council held their monthly church council meeting on Sunday, November 8, 2020. The meeting was called to order by president, Chuck Kaiser at 10:54 am. Members of the council present were: Anita Dorn, Annette Ebaugh, Christopher Kaiser, Chuck Kaiser, Diane Moller, Dennis Peters, Deb Piphon, DuWayne Piphon, and Rick Wilson. Pastor Katie was also present.

Pastor Katie opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the October meeting were approved as presented following a motion by Anita Dorn and a second by Rick Wilson.

The October Financial Secretary's report was approved as presented following a motion by Rick Wilson and a second by Dennis Peters.

The October Treasurer's report was approved as presented following a motion by Christopher Kaiser and a second by Annette Ebaugh.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Katie did communion visits.

Continues live streaming of Sunday morning worship and discussed with the council when to stop in church worship because of the spike in Covid numbers. Pastor Katie and the church council will decide on a week by week basis.

President's/Property Care Report

The old garage has been pulled down and will be burned in the near future.

The school house is in really bad shape and the future of the building and contents will be discussed at Maxfield's annual meeting in January.

The organ tuner will be coming to tune the organ on November 12.

Church Mutual sent the church sensors that can be placed in the church to detect the temperature and possible water leak in the church. It has been installed on DuWayne's phone and the two sensors have been placed in the church; one in the furnace room and one on the book shelf in the fellowship hall.

Education Report

None

Worship/Evangelism

It was mentioned that it would be nice to have music at the end of the service. Pastor Katie said she would take care of that.

Eli Smith was going to play the organ the 1st and 3rd Sundays starting in November with the congregation singing with masks on, but due to the spike in Covid numbers we will wait and reevaluate in January.

The worship and evangelism team will need to meet to plan Advent and Christmas worship services.

Stewardship

Calls were made to check in with some of our members. We encourage you all to connect with each other during this pandemic!

Old Business

The SBA (Small Business Association) has forgiven our PPP (small business loan) so we will not have to pay any of that loan back. Thank you to Christopher Kaiser for taking care of that! A motion was made by Annette Ebaugh and seconded by Christopher Kaiser and approved to transfer \$4,577.96 from the capital improvement fund to the general fund to cover the costs of the parsonage painting, paint, pressure washing, garage doors and openers, moving the LP tank, and the dumpster.

Anna Richards also applied and received a LYO scholarship.

Chuck Kaiser will contact the president of Crane Creek, Lee Schweer to see if there is any interest in a shared Pastor agreement.

There was discussion about the procedure to dissolve the Unity of the Cross Bremer County Joint Parish. It was decided to table any further discussion until our December meeting.

New Business

Because of concern and safety for the congregation the council has suggested a 2:00 pm Christmas Eve afternoon in-church worship service and a 7:00 virtual candlelight service. This is subject to change so please watch for emails.

Anita Dorn will check with Toby Pencil to see if he is interested in snow removal again this year.

We have been asked if the AA group could use our church for their monthly meeting. Council agreed.

The December church council meeting will be December 6, 2020 following worship.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 12:30 pm following a motion by Anita Dorn and a second by Annette Ebaugh.

Secretary,
Deb Piphon



St. John Lutheran Church, Maxfield Church Council Minutes October 11, 2020

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

Pastor Katie opened the meeting with prayer.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved as presented following a motion by Anita Dorn and a second by Rick Wilson.

The September Financial Secretary's report was approved as presented following a motion by Dennis Peters and a second by Christopher Corday.

The September 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 have moved into the parsonage.

Shared concerns about her ministry at Messiah and her intention to resign from Messiah.

President's/Property Care Report

A new LP tank has been delivered and hooked up for the parsonage.

Rick Wilson painted the garage door trim and door trim.

Denver Heating and Cooling came to check out the church furnace as well as the parsonage furnace.

Education

None

Worship/Evangelism

None

Stewardship

None



Old Business

A motion was made by Anita Dorn, seconded by Christopher Corday, and approved to transfer \$750 from the kitchen fund to the general fund to cover scholarships. Those from our church to receive scholarships were John Ebaugh, Eli South, and Chase Lyons.

The money received from the synod for feminine hygiene products will be used to stock our Little Food Pantry.

Christopher Corday will do the final walk through of the parsonage and will handle the lease agreement with Pastor Katie and Brandon.

Water usage for the parsonage will be included in the amount paid for rent.

Mr Mehmen contacted Chuck about stone repair in the cemetery. He felt there were at least 35 stones that needed to be reinforced, and the amount to repair them would be \$4200. This will be discussed with the congregation at the annual meeting.

Compared quotes from Brotherhood Mutual and Church Mutual and decided that for the difference we would stay with Church Mutual.

New Business

Deb Piphon received a call from Mary at the Denver Savings Bank and she was wondering if we received the bank's \$1000 gift to our church for those in need in 2019. They sent the check and it was never cashed. No one on the council or Pastor Katie knew anything about it, but the check was never received or cashed so they issued us another check for \$1000.

A motion was made by Christopher Corday and seconded by Rick Wilson and approved to give Pastor Katie \$150 in gift cards in \$20 increments from Brothers Grocery Store and \$150 in gift cards in \$20 increments from Kwik Star using money from the Denver Savings Bank to be placed in Pastor Katie's "Pastor's Discretionary Crisis Fund" to be given to those in need as Pastor Katie sees fit.

Duke Home & Lawn LLC was hired to pressure wash the parsonage, A motion was made by Rick Wilson, seconded by Kasey Krueger, and approved to transfer money from the capital improvement fund to the general fund to pay for the pressure washing of the parsonage. While pressure washing the parsonage some of the paint came off of the siding. K & K were contacted to see how much they would charge to paint the outside of the house. Their bid was for \$2500. Because of the amount of the bid it was decided to include it as budget item to be voted on by the congregation.

Kasey Krueger will check to see how much it would cost to spray the foundation. The church listing in the Forum needs to be updated.

The November church council meeting will be November 8, 2020 following worship.

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

Secretary,
Deb Piphon

"You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father's face and tell him you have received his Christmas gift." – John Piper



Please drop these members a Christmas 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

