

## February 2023 Newsletter

# Fredsville

The Rev. Lee R. Gable, Interim Pastor

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Photo taken by Pastor Lee

### **Annual Meeting & Spaghetti Dinner after Worship on Feb. 12th**

At the Annual Meeting, we will be reviewing and voting on the yearly congregation budget, nominees for committees, and council positions. We need your presence and vote to have a quorum! A spaghetti meal with lettuce salad and garlic bread will be served following the meeting. A \$5/person donation is suggested. Members may bring sweets to share.

### **Summer Camp Scholarships**

Scholarship applications are now being taken for summer camp. Applications are in the mailbox outside of the church office. Please return your application by March 1st. Information is available about summer camp programs on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall and in the application folder, or contact the church office.

### **Weather Reminder**

If the Dike-New Hartford School District cancels classes or has an early dismissal, then any church activity for that day will be cancelled also. Any cancellations on Sunday morning are made by the Council President in consultation with the Pastor. Cancellations will be e-mailed to the congregation, posted to the church Facebook page, and listed on KWWL and KWWL.com.

# Pastoral Pondering ...

## Stewards of Knowledge

When I was younger my interests were shaped and influenced by those around me. My Grandma and Pap pap Gates cultivated creativity, watching Bob Ross paint on PBS, and inviting me to make art projects to be given as gifts. Grandpap Gable invited us to learn about Creation, planting trees, learning about animals. Grandma Gable taught me how to share family stories. My Mom, among so many things, patiently taught me to navigate driving around bigger towns like State College, (Penn State Main Campus). My Dad of course invited us to learn about electricity, but he also showed us how to serve in the community. He was on the water authority for decades helping to bring improvements to my home area.

Stewarding our knowledge is about how we entrust knowledge and skills to others, so that they may grow into new roles. In some cases, it is a family business that is learned and handed down. Other times it is a passion that brings you joy, like woodworking, quilting, cooking/BBQ, cross country skiing, and so much more that we want to share. In work or play it is important to invite people to experience something new and encourage the gifts you see in them. This can open the way for inspiration and new possibility.

Scripture is full of stories about stewarding knowledge. Generations of people passing on the stories of faith and skills of life. Shepherds learned to care for animals, from family. There probably was not a shepherds training school. In the Exodus, we see Moses inviting Joshua to learn how to lead. Fishermen passed on the trade generation to generation. Jesus invited the disciples to learn by accompanying him with on

the way, listening to his teaching and then going out to practice discipleship with their partners in ministry. That is the same format that Paul then used with his partners. God's people are stewards of knowledge when we help the next generation learn and grow into new roles in the community. How might we invite one another into the work we do as the people of God?

As a beloved community of people there are many tasks we do to support the work of God in this place. The boiler does not maintain itself. Meals do not magically appear. Have you ever wondered, What needs to happen before VBS can come alive? How do the altar and slideshow get prepared before worship each week? What are all the unseen administrative tasks that keep our congregation active and engaged with the work of the larger Church? Questions like these are good starting points to practice curiosity and invitation. Our community is stronger when we welcome others to discover the gifts God has given them. Empowerment also involves trust. The next generation of this community will grow into their roles as leaders, and they will do things in new ways. Jesus invites us to be stewards of knowledge, inviting, mentoring, and empowering, so that we can live and thrive in an ever changing world with the grace and love of God leading the way.

***May the Peace of Christ be with you always...***

***Pastor Lee***



## Remember Them in Your Prayers

**Dennis Kruger & Family** - For the recent death of his son, Kurt Kruger.

**Darla Andersen & Family** - For the recent death of her father, Dean Bowers.

**Amy Camarata** - For minor heart issues.

**Catherine Petersen** - For health concerns.

**Jeri Karr** - Healing from hip-replacement surgery

**LuAnn Jones** - Healing from eye surgery

**Ken Lyle** - Pr. Lee's friend, health incident & auto accident.

**Jeff Sandlin** - Being treated for a kidney issue.

**Tim Morgan** - Meridith Sandlin's brother who is battling cancer.

**Carol Watson** - Has on-gong health concerns.

**Marcia Andersen** - Undergoing treatment for cancer.

## Thank You

Thank you to the Fredsville Congregation for the nice appreciation gifts. It is an honor to use our God-given talents to serve the people of Fredsville. **Linda Nielsen, Jean Loger, Becky Diani, Meridith & Jeff Sandlin, Angie Wibben and Pastor Lee.**

Thank you for your generous support of \$2,000.00 for our CPR training program. Those who participate in our Services for Disabilities program will have the added protection of a professionally trained CPR provider should an emergency require such services and we now meet the new requirements mandated by the Council of Accreditation, ensuring that we are offering the best care possible. **Sarah Green, VP of Philanthropy & Church Relations, Lutheran Services of Iowa**

## Super Bowl Fun

During the month of February let's participate in the Super Bowl fun via "The Puppy Bowl" by accepting donations for the Cedar Bend Humane Society in Waterloo. Please bring any dog, puppy, cat, kitten donations to the church and it will be delivered to the CBHS. Food (dry or canned), treats, litter, collars, leashes, toys, dog shampoo, etc. will be appreciated! Also, the CBHS currently lists the following items as priority needs: laundry detergent, floor scrub brushes, clear storage totes with lids, Lotrimin AF ringworm cream, clumping cat litter and blankets with no stuffing. Cash donations or gift cards are also welcome.

## Birthdays

Bryson Grider - 2

Jane Christiansen - 3

Matt Opoien - 3

Tony Norton - 4

Ryan Petersen - 6

Alana Husmann - 8

Heidi Kruger - 10

Ann Reinicke - 10

RayLyn Lott - 14

Mike Dufel - 16

Amy Jensen - 16

Larry Depping - 17

Bev Lupkes - 19

Karol Boike - 22

Daphnee Lutgen - 22

Jennifer Verhulst - 23

Jalen Lotts - 24

Stefanie Swinton - 24

Jannan Marx - 25

LuAnn Petersen - 26

Travis Wibben - 26

Madelyn Norton - 27

Carl Bakker - 29

Nora Hines - 29

Paul Nielsen - 29

## Wedding Anniversaries

Jon & Ann Hilliard - 29

## **Birth Announcement of**

**Ryan Jean Nuss**

Born on 12/22/22

9 lbs. 3 oz., 21 1/4 inches

Parents: Reid & MacKenzie Nuss

Brother: Tate

Grandparents: Mark & Teresa Nuss

John & Jeann Digman



## **Baptism of Nora Elizabeth Faust**

February 19th during Worship

Born on 12/13/22

7 lbs. 12 oz., 20 inches

Parents: Mark and Marin Faust

Grandparents: Steve & Connie Faust

Tom & Jennifer Verhulst

Sponsors: Robert & Lauren Miller



## **Why wait for the call or wait to be asked?**

Volunteer Jane Campbell has been “beating the bushes”, “pounding the pavement” (not really), and “delving into the directory” in order to find recruits to participate in Sunday morning worship - as lector, communion assistants, acolytes, greeters and ushers. Her phone calls begin Monday evenings so that secretary Becky has the people to list in the bulletin by Thursday morning.

Why wait for Jane’s phone call? If you know there is a Sunday you would be available to help, feel free to give Becky a call (319-989-2065) by noon the Monday before so Jane can take a break from calling.

Monthly we need helpers with the Family Clothes Closet (1st Saturday of the month); quilting (every Thursday); pillowcase dresses (2nd Tuesday of the month); recyclers of paper, plastic, and pop cans; donating food for the Little Food Pantry in Dike, helping with the WinGS program and/or Sunday School; etc. There is something for everyone. If you are interested in helping with any of these ministries, please call the church office at 319-989-2065.





## WinGS

### Walking in God's Service

WinGS is a collaborative ministry of Lutheran, Roman Catholic, & United Methodist in Dike, IA.

January's lesson concerning the Fruits of the Spirit was focused on Peace. The service project involved making cards of encouragement for people in the hospital.

A special thank you goes out to the Fredsville members who volunteered their time.

The upcoming February program will meet on Wednesday, February 8th at the Dike Community Center from 1:30-4:00 p.m. All children ages K-5th grades are welcome to attend.



## Games



## Craft time Prayer Boxes



## Service Project Making Cards



## Handbell Choir News

Four members of Fredsville's Handbell Choir started off 2023 by polishing the bells, an important part of bell care and maintenance. We also recently welcomed some new handbell players to the group. Rehearsals are from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, and we are at a great point in the year to continue adding new members. If you or your child(ren) want to join, e-mail [meridith@fredsvillelutheran.org](mailto:meridith@fredsvillelutheran.org) or call the church office.



## Electric Aebleskiver Pan

Some of you may have heard that they now make an electric aebleskiver pan. According to Norm Gerdes (Elva Thuesen's son-in-law), the electric pan works great! And several other Fredsville cooks have had good luck with the electric pans also. These electric aebleskiver pans can be ordered through Amazon and/or from the Museum of Danish America. The cost is \$70. Below is a website where you will find these pans:

<https://www.danishmuseum.org/shop/kitchen-and-dining/%C3%A6bleskiver-baker-electric>



## Choir

We may be small in number, but mighty in spirit, heart and voice! Plus we enjoy each other and singing together! If you would like to join us we will practice at 9:00 a.m. on February 12 and will sing during worship on February 19 (9:00 a.m. warm-up). The March and April schedules are TBD. Questions? Contact director Jean Loger at [jjloger@gmail.com](mailto:jjloger@gmail.com).



## **Annual Lutheran Day on the Hill**

### **Plan Ahead to Attend This!**

Lutheran Day on the Hill is LSI's largest advocacy event of the year with more than 200 participants gathering to learn about critical issues Iowa children, adults and families are facing. After learning about the issues and how best to advocate for them, the participants travel to the Iowa State Capitol to talk directly with legislators.

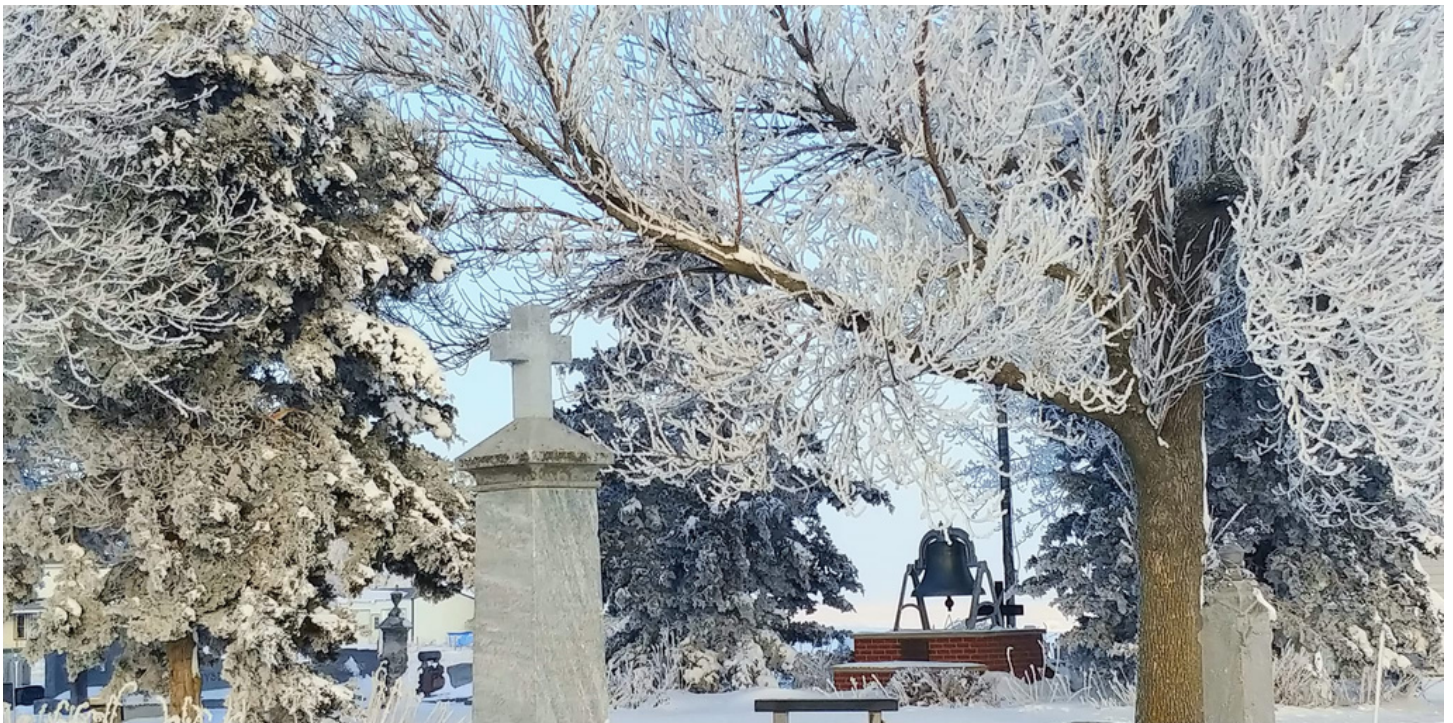
You are invited to join LSI on March 14, 2023 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Des Moines. The morning will kick off with a key note speaker, a welcome from LSI's CEO, John Twardos, and a brief message from one of Iowa's three bishops.

Following the opening session, participants will break into groups to learn about the issues and key talking points to be shared with their legislators, including:

- Investing in a Strong Human Services Workforce
- Support for Services that Empower Refugees and Immigrants
- Support for Iowa's Mental Health System

In past years, our combined efforts have resulted in positive changes for Iowans, but our work is not done until every individual struggling with mental illness has access to quality resources and services; until every immigrant and refugee feels at home in their new community; and until every child in Iowa has a safe, loving home.

Stay up to date with the latest news regarding Lutheran Day on the Hill by following Lutheran Services in Iowa on Facebook and Instagram, as well as checking our webpage at [LSIowa.org/LDH](https://LSIowa.org/LDH).



Beautiful snowy day at Fredsville's cemetery - Photo taken by Pastor Lee

## Our Lenten Journey Schedule of Events

Certain as a sign of the upcoming spring, we will soon begin our Lenten journey to the cross and resurrection.

Please note the following special services:

- **Ash Wednesday** (February 22 at 7 pm)
- **Five weeks of midweek Lent services** (observed on Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 - see article on right.)
- **Palm Sunday** (April 2 at 9:30 am)
- **Holy Wednesday** (Maundy Thursday) April 5 at 7 pm (no meal beforehand)
- **Good Friday**, April 7 at 7 pm (no meal beforehand)
- **Easter Sunday** (April 9 with 8:30 am breakfast and 9:30 am worship).

Lent presents us with an opportunity for reflection, renewal and re-commitment. Please consider attending and joining us at any or all of the services offered.

**\*Please note: no Wednesday Lenten services will be recorded or available online.**



Frosted trees at church -Photo taken by Pastor Lee

## Choice of Two Wednesday Lenten Services

We will offer two opportunities for worship on Wednesdays during Lent. The scripture and message will be the same/similar at both services.

A light lunch will be offered at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesdays, followed by an abbreviated worship opportunity in the fellowship hall using the scripture and message from the evening service by Pastor Lee - concluding at approximately 1:00 p.m. The menu (meals prepared by Jean Loger) will be:

- March 1 - scalloped potatoes and ham
- March 8 - scalloped chicken
- March 15 - goulash
- March 22 - beef burgers
- March 29 - chicken noodle soup

Guests are welcome (but not required) to bring a side dish, dinner rolls or sweets to share. Coffee and water will be provided. Guests are encouraged to sign up with Secretary Becky by noon the Tuesday before so Jean has an idea of how much food to prepare. *A \$3/person donation to offset Jean's food costs would be appreciated.*

On Wednesday evenings supper will be served at 6:15 p.m. in the fellowship hall, followed by worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. with scripture, message and music. Volunteers are needed to provide food, set up and clean up. Historically, we plan on serving 30-35 people. Sign up sheets will soon be available in the gathering space.

- March 1 - casseroles
- March 8 - soups
- March 15 - sandwiches
- March 22 - casseroles
- March 29 - soups



# **Worship Readings, Prayers, & Introductions for February**

from SundayandSeasons.com

## **Sunday, February 5 - Fifth Sunday after Epiphany** (Green)

*Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.*

### **Prayer of the Day**

Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

- **Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]** - *The fast God chooses*
- **Psalms 112:1-9 [10]** - *Light shines in the darkness for the upright. (Ps. 112:4)*
- **1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]** - *God's wisdom revealed through the Spirit*
- **Matthew 5:13-20** - *The teaching of Christ: salt and light*

## **Sunday, February 12- Sixth Sunday after Epiphany** (Green)

*In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.*

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, the strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

- **Deuteronomy 30:15-20** - *Choose life*
- **Psalms 119:1-8** - *Happy are they who follow the teaching of the Lord. (Ps. 119:1)*
- **1 Corinthians 3:1-9** - *God gives the growth*
- **Matthew 5:21-37** - *The teaching of Christ: forgiveness*

## **Sunday, February 19 - Transfiguration of Our Lord** (White)

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

(continued on next page)

### **Prayer of the Day**

O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- **Exodus 24:12-18** - *Moses enters the cloud of God's glory on Mount Sinai*
- **Psalms 2** - *You are my son; this day have I begotten you. (Ps.2:7)*
- **2 Peter 1:16-21** - *The apostle's message confirmed on the mount of transfiguration*
- **Matthew 17:1-9** - *Revelation of Christ as God's beloved Son*

### **Wednesday, February 22 - Ash Wednesday** (Purple/Black)

*On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.*

### **Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

- **Joel 2:1-2, 12-17** - *Return to the Lord, your God*
- **Psalms 51:1-17** - *Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love. (Ps. 51:1)*
- **2 Corinthians 5:20b--6:10** - *Now is the day of salvation*
- **Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21** - *The practice of faith*

### **Sunday, February 26 - First Sunday In Lent** (Purple)

*Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.*

### **Prayer of the Day**

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

- **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7** - *Eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*
- **Psalms 32** - *Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. (Ps. 32:10)*
- **Romans 5:12-19** - *Death came through one; life comes through one*
- **Matthew 4:1-11** - *The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days*





## A Word from our Council President

Hello Fredsville!

February is the month of **"LOVE"**. A time to show that special someone in your life how much you care about them. A time to buy those romantic symbols of heart-felt emotions. A time to say those things we sometimes don't say often enough. A conservation, a hug, a small gift of thoughtfulness. It's about sharing those feelings that we all have with someone special.

Love is easy to show to those close to you. When love truly fills your heart it is such an amazing feeling. I am sure you all have had those special moments. Just when you didn't think you could possibly love anymore, then it happens. Your heart opens up and grows what feels like twice as big. It's those moments in life when the impossible becomes possible. For me, it was when my daughter was born. I never in a million years would have guessed I could have loved anything or anyone any more than I did at that moment.

Love is kind and patient and unconditional. No matter what trials and challenges you face that kind of love supersedes all understanding. It's easy to give to those you love. It's easy to make sacrifices for those you love, but we are called to do more.

God calls us to love our neighbor and those who may be difficult to love. As love swells from your heart during those incredible moments in your life, we open our hearts to love more and to do more. When our hearts are filled with love from God, we can extend that feeling to those around us.

We say love symbolically comes from our hearts and our hearts extend throughout our bodies through vessels to nourish our limbs. Spiritually, the Spirit of Christ lives in us. If we fill our hearts with the Spirit and love for Christ, then that love will work through us and can be shared with others. If we open our hearts to that unconditional love that God has for us; it allows us to become vessels of his love to all those around us. This month, I encourage you to be an extension of God's love for you; and to share the goodness in your heart with someone new.

Love yourself, for you are worth it! Love those close to you, for they deserve to know how you feel. Love someone new, as it is God's will for us to share his unconditional love with others. Remember February is the month of **LOVE!**

God Bless,  
Brenda Cooper, Council President



## February 2023, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

### Happy Valentine's Day from LSI

At LSI, loving our neighbor is an essential value that we continuously work and grow towards. This Valentine's Day, take time to share with your friends, family and neighbors how important they are to you. February is a time of giving, a time of love and a time of gratitude. Share with those around you how much they mean to you and the impact they have had on you.

It's also a time when we want to thank you, the congregations that so generously support the work of LSI throughout the year. We are blessed by your love and support. Your generosity has continued to offer hope and healing to Iowans of all ages. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*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 [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### Love Your Neighbor

At LSI, loving our neighbor is an integral value. Our staff continuously work towards loving their neighbors and investing their time, energy and resources into helping their neighbors.

"I love getting to know my LSI colleagues and teammates, and I feel fortunate to be surrounded by such talented, passionate and inspiring individuals," said Nick Wuertz, Director of Immigrant and Refugee Community Services (IRCS). "The team around me makes me better, and by getting to know my team and understanding their unique skills and perspectives, I feel I can love and support them in sharing those gifts with others on our team, our clients and the broader community."

Barbra Jotzke-Torrier, Director of Philanthropy, shared that loving her neighbor means treating others with respect. "It means remembering my way is not always the best way, and certainly not the only way to live, love, make a home or be a part of a family." Barbra shared that her job at LSI has given her the opportunity to share people's stories and to connect people with programs they are passionate about.

"Loving my neighbor means caring for them and being there for them in good times and hard times," shared Patrick Karemera, a Resettlement Caseworker. "Loving my neighbor through my job is about welcoming our new neighbors from all over the world who flee their homes in hopes of a better life."

As Nick shared, loving your neighbors is complex and requires you to take the time to get to know them on a personal level. This Valentine's Day, we invite you to take that step and get to know your neighbors.





## **Somewhat Silent Saturday**

**March 4, 2023**

**9 am - 4 pm**

**St. John Lutheran Church**

**Cedar Falls, IA**

You are invited! The day will include:

1. Morning and Evening Prayer Services, based on resources from the Northumbria Community;
2. Sessions for Centering Prayer;
3. A brief Centering Prayer seminar;
4. Creative time with options -
  - \*to walk a Labyrinth or to use a hand/sand labyrinth;
  - \*journaling, letter writing, and other activities participants might initiate;
  - \*participate in Jo-Yo, a movement practice that incorporates journaling and yoga;
  - \*to participate in an introduction to "Breathe as Prayer;"
  - \*to meet with another pilgrim to be in dialog about your life journey; or
  - \*to walk or sit, and contemplate outdoors or in the sanctuary.

The only cost for this event is a donation for expenses such as the meal. The event itself will be led by local members of Contemplative Outreach of Northeast Iowa. If you are planning to attend, please Email [CONEIowa@gmail.com](mailto:CONEIowa@gmail.com) with your name and phone number no later than **Monday, February 27**. We appreciate this for our planning. No further registration is needed.

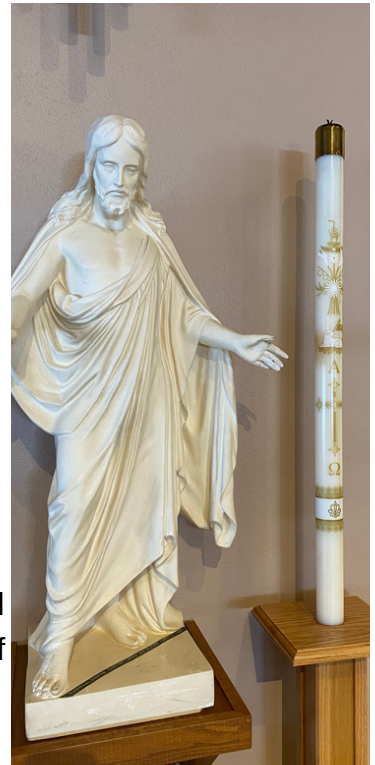
More details will be shared with those persons who register. St John Lutheran is at 715 College St, Cedar Falls, IA. Sponsored by Contemplative Outreach of Northeast Iowa

# Q & A

by Sue Green

## Candles: Altar, Paschal & Eternal

*Candles play a part in our worship experience at Fredsville. There is much symbolism with the lighting of the candles. I found it very interesting to learn about this symbolism when doing the research for this month's Q & A. A special "thank you" goes to Pastor Lee Gable for answering my questions.*



**Q: Why do we light altar candles for church?**

A: Historically, candles were used to provide light. We still use candles today as the presence of the lit candles reminds us of Jesus' coming into our world and into our lives. The light is carried into our worship service as a symbol of Jesus' coming into our world and into our lives. The two candles are on the altar to point out that Jesus was both human being and God.

**Q: Is there a name for the people that light the altar candles before church?**

A: The people that light the candles before church are called "Acolytes". At Fredsville, the youth usually serve as acolytes. However, anyone may serve as an acolyte, regardless of their age. Serving as an acolyte has been a great way to introduce the youth to ways they can be involved in the Sunday Worship.

**Q: Do the acolytes have other duties too?**

A: Besides lighting (and extinguishing) the altar candles, the acolytes help with the passing of the offertory plates and bringing our collective offering forward before God.

**Q: Who gets to be an acolyte?**

A: Parents can sign their children up for this duty by calling Jane Campbell or the church office (319-989-2065).

**Q: Is there someone to help the youth prepare for the lighting of the altar candles?**

A: I, (Sue Green), am usually in the gathering space before worship begins to help the youth with this important task. If you would like to practice lighting candles to see what it is like, please ask. We can do that after worship or on another day.

**Q: Besides the two candles on the altar, there is a larger white candle left of the altar that is sometimes lit. Does it have a name?**

A: This larger white candle is called a "Paschal Candle". Paschal (pronounced pass' - kul) is a Greek word, meaning "passage". In this case, it is Jesus' passage from death to Resurrection. Some think of the Paschal Candle as the Resurrection Candle or the Easter Candle. The Paschal Candle is traditionally made out of bees wax and has several Christian symbols on it: lamb, the Greek letters - Alpha and Omega, a cross and a crown. These symbols are in gold.

(continued on the next page)



**Q: When is the Paschal Candle lit?**

**A:** The Paschal Candle is lit on three occasions:

- The Paschal Candle is lit on Easter and the next seven Sundays of the Easter season until Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost Sunday is the 50th day after Easter and it is when we celebrate the Holy Spirit
- The Paschal Candle is lit during all baptisms. It represents the passing of the light of Christ to each person being baptized. During baptism, a small white candle is lit and given to the Baptized so that they can carry a reminder that the Light of Christ goes with them. Some people relight these personal candles each year on the day of their baptism.
- Lastly, the Paschal Candle is lit at funeral services as the Pascal light testifies to the Christian certainty of the resurrection of the dead and the life with Christ in the world to come.

**Q: What is the red candle on the wall to the right side of the altar?**

**A:** That red candle is called the Eternal Candle. It symbolizes the presence of God, therefore it is always lit. Traditionally, this candle was changed weekly. In many congregations, it has changed to an electric candle to make sure that this light is safe and that it will not go out. The Eternal Candle is in red glass to remind us of the color of the Holy Spirit.

*The next time you are attending a Fredsville worship service (either in person or remotely), I would encourage you to pay attention to the candles. And, when you get the chance, I would also encourage you to walk up and inspect the beautiful symbols on the Paschal candle. All the candles represent the light of Christ - how comforting!*



# Council Minutes

January 29, 2023; Meeting held @ 11:30 on ZOOM due to poor weather conditions

\*\*\*These Minutes have been approved electronically\*\*\*

**Attendance:** Pastor Lee Gable, Linda Nielsen, Brenda Cooper, Kathi Heide, Sue Green, Sharon Hemmen, Kelley Knutson, Meridith Sandlin. Absent: Art Lupkes, Jana Hermann, Erin Frahm

**Call to Order:** Brenda Cooper

**Prayer:** Pastor Lee Gable

**Treasurer's Report:** Linda Nielsen

As of December 31, 2022:

- General Fund: \$85,539.86
- Building Fund: \$46,310.59
- Memorial Fund: \$19,397.44

**Secretary's Report:** Sue Green stated that the November 20, 2022 minutes were approved electronically.

## Updates:

- 1) Pastor Lee gave an update on the parsonage renovations. "There is light at the end of the tunnel" as more tasks have been completed. President Brenda Cooper thanked Pastor Lee for his organization, expertise and tolerance while the basement of the parsonage has been remodeled.
- 2) Pastor Lee reported that Nick, Angela and their children are most grateful to have the opportunity to live in the Vicar's Villa while they look for housing. They have offered to pay for the various bills that have occurred since they moved in.
- 3) Brenda Cooper shared that the MSP (Ministry Site Profile) has been submitted. The Call Committee will be meeting with Pastor Liz Albertson Bell from the Synod on January 30th.
- 4) Linda Nielsen has met with and Pastor Lee is going to meet with Carol Andersen about the Good Samaritan Fund. Information on how the Good Samaritan Fund works is needed, along with having another name on the checking account.
- 5) Brenda reviewed with us the two goals that the Council set a year ago: #1 – Reopen the Clothing Closet and #2 – Restart WinGS & JAM. Progress has been made on both of these goals.
- 6) Brenda Cooper reported for Jana Hermann on the Clothing Closet. Gloves, hats and coats have been taken to the Dike Elementary School. Sherry Sharp, the Dike Elementary Secretary, has been helpful matching the winter items to the children in need.
- 7) Brenda Cooper reported that there are two new members to the Social Ministry Committee: Lisa Dumler and Wanda Nielsen. Additional members are needed for the Altar Guild.

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## **New Business Discussed:**

### **1) Easter Season**

- a. Ash Wednesday – February 22, at 7 p.m. (No meal)
- b. Mid-Day Lenten Lunch & Service – 11:30 on March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29
- c. Evening Lenten Dinner (6:15) & Service (7:00) on March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
- d. Holy Week:
  - i. Palm Sunday, April 2nd
  - ii. Holy Wednesday (Maundy Thursday Service), April 5th (7:00)
  - iii. Good Friday, April 7th (7:00)
  - iv. Saturday (Decorate The church), April 8th (9:00)
  - v. Easter Sunday, April 9th, Breakfast (8:30) and Worship Service (9:30)

Note: There will not be a Sunrise Service. With everyone at the same service, it will be more of an Easter Celebration.

### **2) Annual Meeting – February 12, 2023 with a Spaghetti Lunch afterwards**

#### **a .Committee Nominees:**

- i. Church Council: Tom Verhulst, Todd Mikkelsen & Brenda Cooper
  - ii. Farm: A member has been asked
  - iii. Cemetery: Roy Stefan (was appointed last year to complete Scott Dietrich's term)
  - iv. Endowment: Two are still needed
- b. The vote to accept the "Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations" which was approved by the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, will have to wait until our next Congregational meeting as they need to be presented to the congregation at least 30 days prior to the meeting. (Note: These Amendment changes were made to use more inclusive language, eliminate redundancy or were reworded to give more clarity along with a more consistent language.)

3) Pastor Lee will be needing to take time off in May to attend a wedding in Pennsylvania. The wedding is May 6th.

4) The bishops from the three Iowa Synods are planning on riding RAGBRAI to raise \$50,000 for ELCA World Hunger and are asking for help in raising these funds. Sue Green has thought of an idea on how to involve the Fredsville Congregation that will be discussed at a future meeting.

5) Nora Elizabeth Faust, daughter of Mark & Marin (Verhulst) Faust, will be baptized on February 19 and Ryan Jean Nuss, daughter of Reid & MacKenzie Nuss, will be baptized in March.

6) Fredsville is going to be the site for the Three Rivers Conference meeting on Sunday, February 26th at 2:00. The Pastors and the Lay Members will be spending time in prayer and nominating people for the various Synod committees .Fredsville will be providing the snacks along with providing a place for all to gather in worship and fellowship.

7) Custodian Angie Wibben needs a new vacuum cleaner as the one that the church has, no longer works. Sharon Hemmen moved, Sue Green seconded and the council approved Angie spending up to \$800 to purchase another one.

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- 8) Erin Frahm has reserved the church on Saturday, May 6th for her daughter's Anna's high school graduation reception.
- 9) A request was made by Jean Loger for Fredsville to collect pet products for the Cedar Bend Humane Society in February for a "Puppy Bowl" like we did last year. Jean Loger will be asked to coordinate this project. Social Ministry offered to coordinate the collections of women's personal care products in May (in honor of all women for Mother's Day month) for the Salvation Army's Women's Shelter, and men's personal care products in June (in honor of all men for Father's Day month) for the Salvation Army's Men's shelter

**Pastor Report:**

- 1) Pastor Lee and the Worship Team have collaborated to have a meaningful Christmas Eve worship service and a video devotion for Christmas Day. Plans have been made for the Easter Season services.
- 2) Pastor Lee has made lots of visits to care facilities and homes. He led the funeral service for Kurt Kruger. And, Pastor Lee has provided lots of grief care to those that have lost a family member recently.
- 3) Confirmation continues to be successful. Pastor Lee helped at WinGS.
- 4) Pastor Lee and his wife Pastor Dena put together a Reverse Advent Calendar box to help the Little Free Pantry. At Dike's Razzle Dazzle, Pastor Lee helped at the Fredsville table by asking those that stopped to participate in a Community Prayer Cross. Pastor Lee said "yes" to serving on the Northeastern Iowa Synod Candidacy Committee. This committee meets four times and has 1 retreat each year. They help the candidates discern their call and guide them through the candidacy process.
- 5) Pastor Lee has attended open houses, wrestling meets and a couple of basketball games at the Dike-New Hartford Schools. He has met with Superintendent Justin Stockdale along with the pastors of the other Dike congregations.
- 6) Pastor Lee is continuing to work on the Fredsville Facebook page to enhance our digital presence and outreach.

**Upcoming Committee Meetings:**

Call Committee – January 30th  
Worship & Music – February 5th  
Property – February 9th

**Upcoming Reminder:**

Congregational Meeting – February 12th, following the Worship Service

**Closing Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer was prayed in unison.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 p.m. (Note: We are meeting on a Tuesday night due to a conflict on the last Sunday of the month.)

**Respectfully Submitted:** Sue Green, Secretary

# 2023 FEBRUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 5:30 p.m. Handbells 6:30 pm Confirmation	2 Groundhog Day 9:00 a.m. Quilters	3 Pastor's Day Off	4 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Family Clothes Closet
5 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship & Music Mtg	6	7	8 1:30 - 4:00 pm WinGS 5:30 p.m. Handbells	9 9:00 a.m. Quilters Property Mtg 7:00 p.m.	10 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Fancy Fingers Pastor's Day Off	11
12 9:00 Choir Practice 9:30 Worship 10:30 Annual Mtg 10:30 Sunday School 11:00 Spaghetti Dinner	13	14 Valentine's Day 12:00 p.m. Sew Pillowcase Dresses	15 5:30 p.m. Handbells 6:30 p.m. Confirmation	16 9:00 a.m. Quilters	17 Pastor's Day Off	18
19 9:00 Choir Practice 9:30 Worship Baptism 10:30 Sunday School	20 President's Day	21 7:00 p.m. Council Mtg	22 5:30 p.m. Handbells Ash Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Service	23 9:00 a.m. Quilters 9:00 a.m. Deadline for Newsletter Articles	24 Pastor's Day Off	25
26 9:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 2:00 Three River Conference	27	28				