



**Aurora & Trinity Lutheran Parish**  
**Feeding Body, Mind, and Spirit with the Love of Jesus**

www.auroratrinitylutheran.org

## March 2016 Newsletter

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### **Lent:**

#### **Worship Schedule**

##### **March 4<sup>th</sup>**

5pm – Worship at Trinity

6pm – Soup Supper at Aurora/6:45pm - Worship

##### **March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Joint Worship at Trinity

6pm-Supper/6:45pm Worship

##### **March 18<sup>th</sup>**

5pm – Worship at Trinity

6pm – Soup Supper at Aurora/6:45pm – Worship

#### **Folders for Giving:**

The almsgiving folders are available as you leave the sanctuary. Giving, is one of the traditional three pillars of Lent and this year the designated giving will go to supporting those in Flint, Michigan. The community has had its water source poisoned by switch to the water system resulting in toxic levels of lead and iron. We can help support Salem Lutheran Church as they hand out filters and install a water filtration system that will allow them to give out water to those in the community.

#### **Prayer Wall:**

The prayer wall will be available throughout Lent. Take a moment to write down the prayers that weigh down your heart. Leave them in the wall as they remain with God and the community who will pray for all prayers laying in the creases. All prayers will remain closed and confidential.

### **Food Shelf March**

March is Minnesota Food Share Month! Every dollar and pound donated to Steele County Food Shelf during March is reported to Minnesota Food Share. A monetary donation is returned to the Food Shelf based on the percentage of food and funds received in March. This year's March fundraising goal for Steele County Food Shelf is 100,000 dollars or pounds of food. It's our chance to increase the value of our giving. **NOISY OFFERING** will be taken Sunday, March 20 for donation to Steele County Food Shelf. March 6 is Food Shelf Sunday, and also March 13, 20, and 27!! Yes, please bring a nonperishable food item such as canned tuna or chicken, peanut butter, rice, cereal, canned fruit or vegetable every Sunday in March. Paper and cleaning products or personal hygiene items are also needed. You may also donate cash. Thank you for your generosity.

*Please give to this worthy cause, as we Feed Bodies with the Love of Jesus!*

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hometown Sampler**

Hometown Sampler is Steele County Food Shelf's one and only annual fundraiser. Local groups entertaining (for free) in the two hour show are: Bad Tangerines, The Gogs, Hot 'n' Bothered, and Mile 5 Band. This is a popular event, be sure to get there early for a good seat!

Little Theatre of Owatonna-560-A Dunnell Drive

#### **SHOW TIMES**

Friday, March 4- 7:00pm

Saturday, March 5- 3:00pm and 7:00pm

Sunday, March 6- 1:30pm

*Admission-freewill donation of cash or packaged food.*

## Youth and Families Corner

*Calling all the confirmation students and youth* to help lead worship for Sunrise Easter service. Whether you read, usher, act or would like to play special music please contact Pastor Stephanie and expect to hear from her as well. The planning and practice for the service will be Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

### First Communion

First Communion classes will begin shortly for those in 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade who have not yet received communion. The classes will be Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m. to noon. The service for first communion will be Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup> of April. Expect an email or letter to come your way with more details.

### Gathering/Meetings:

#### The Bakery Bunch

The "Bakery Bunch" will meet Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. at The Bakery in Blooming Prairie. All Trinity and Aurora members are welcome to join Pastor Stephanie for conversation, coffee, and completely delicious bakery treats!

#### Mission Committee Meeting

Mission Statement Committee will meet Monday, March 14, 3:00 p.m. at Owatonna Hy-Vee dining area. If you can help put our mission statement into action, please join us. Or share any ideas with Pastor Stephanie

#### Council Meetings

**Trinity:** Council will gather together Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, immediately following worship for a brief 30 to 45 minute business meeting.

**Aurora:** Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

#### Newsletter Information Deadline

Please have all information for the April newsletter and calendar to Lisa no later than March 20<sup>th</sup>. Send your info to: [auroratrinityoffice@gmail.com](mailto:auroratrinityoffice@gmail.com)

### Easter Flowers

With Easter right around the corner, it is time to start thinking about Easter memorial flowers. If you wish to display flowers in memory of someone at the Easter Service, please let Lisa know by Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> by e-mailing her at [auroratrinityoffice@gmail.com](mailto:auroratrinityoffice@gmail.com) or calling 507-456-0740.

## Schedule for Holy Week:

### *Maundy Thursday*

7:00 p.m. at Trinity

### *Good Friday*

7:00 p.m. at Aurora

### *Easter Sunday*

7:00 a.m.-Sunrise Service at Aurora

8:00 a.m. -Breakfast at Aurora

*\*All are welcome to take share in fellowship and a delicious breakfast Easter morning. Thanks to Bob and Marcia Thurnau as well as Stan and Terri Norland for volunteering to coordinate the Aurora breakfast.*

9:00 a.m. -Worship at Aurora

10:45 a.m. -Worship at Trinity

*\*Trinity will have coffee and rolls prior to service*

## Thinking Ahead:

### Synod Assembly

The SE MN Synod Assembly will take place on May 6-7, at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. This year's theme is "We are Church Together for the Sake of the World." Both Trinity and Aurora need delegates to attend. Tell Pastor Stephanie if you wish to be a delegate.

### A reminder:

While shopping, check for clearance sales on winter gloves, mittens, hats, etc. for donation to Trinity's 2016 Christmas Mitten Tree. Crocheted, sewn, knitted items are also happily accepted. Thank you!

## *From the Pastor:*

I feel as though I have the vocabulary of a child discovering the world as I ask “Why?” I, like a child, begin to understand the world better by asking this question. The answers can also be very telling of how well the subject is understood and how those who are answering feel about it.

However, it can be unsettling for the one answering the question because we may not know the answer. I ask the families of those being baptized, “why this church” and “why do they want to have their child baptized.” A variety of answers come back and sometimes folks are a bit taken aback because they have never considered it. This Lent we are focusing on the baptismal covenant and I wonder if we should have started with the question, “why?”

Why did your parents have you baptized?

In a world in which it is no longer expected nor required for you to be a Christian, why do you still engage the church?

This isn't a “why” questions but still an important one – What difference does it make?

By wrestling with these questions and talking to God about our answers perhaps we can grow in faith and discover more about who we are. Soon we will receive the commission from Christ to go and make disciples and part of fulfilling that commission is in knowing the answers to those questions. The promises of life, forgiveness, love and community are made a reality because of Jesus' ministry in his life and through his death. In knowing the why we do what we do will help us better tell the story. As we continue to prepare for Easter perhaps it is important for us to seriously consider these questions as well – Why do we celebrate Easter? What impact does it make on you beyond that day of eggs and lilies?

Aurora Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
February 18, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Aurora Church Council was held on February 18, 2016 at 6:30pm. Those present were: Angie Jensen, Paul Korbel, Roberta Jensen, Dwight Jensen, Jeanne Pichner, April Prestegard, Mark Prestegard, Kayla Paape, Brett Paape, Michelle Williams, Holli Loken, Sara Pichner, Pastor Stephanie, and Jodi Keck (observing).

- ❖ Pastor Stephanie led us in Prayer
  - ❖ Secretary's report read & approved
  - ❖ Treasurer's Financial reports reviewed & approved subject to Audit
    - January income=\$6,308.61 expense=\$4,862.25 Net income = \$1,446.36
  - ❖ Pastor's Report
    - Preparing for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter
    - Leading worship services at nursing homes this month as part of ecumenical groups
    - Meeting people in the congregation in addition to the regular home and unexpected hospital visits
    - Planning and laying group work for Spring activities: variety of projects in formation stages
    - Mission Committee: planning and developing ideas to feed the spirit; Prayer Wall has been created
    - Pastor Stephanie is now in the rotation to write for the Pastor's section in the Steele County paper
  - ❖ Unfinished Business
    - Snow Removal at Parsonage: Motion approved to get bids on snow removal for Parsonage
      - Sara will get estimates and proceed if the rates are less than or equal to \$30/time
    - Emergency/Safety Sheet: Jeanne is working on final revisions
      - New First Aid kits will be purchased and a Defibrillator will be donated
      - Emergency sheets will be posted by front door, bulletin board, both phones, and in basement
    - Installation for Church Council members will be Sunday February 21, 2016
    - Reminder that 2 council member's should be counting offering after each Service
    - Window Coverings at Parsonage: Will table purchasing blinds/curtains for the Parsonage until Pastor Stephanie has found options for Council to review.
    - Yard Light repair will be done as soon as weather warms up
    - Culligan/Water Quality Update:
      - Culligan's Role is to come to Aurora and recharge cylinder for iron filter
      - Iron filter cylinder has not been recharged for a year and a half as Culligan wasn't able to get in the building (since church keys were changed) and didn't call to notify Aurora. Culligan states notices were left on church door (no one found these notes).
      - Culligan has since come to church and recharged the cylinder
      - Angie will contact Culligan on partial refund for months charged but service wasn't performed.
    - Child Protection Policy
      - Committee met and established draft policy; Council reviewed and gave feedback
      - Committee will meet again to revise and bring to next month's Council meeting for review
    - Approved getting a key for the Financial Secretary to the church office
  - ❖ New Business
    - Betty Thompson \$300 Scholarship recipient is Alexis Kubista. Congratulations to Alexis!
    - MN River Conference is at Pontoppidan Church February 21 at 2pm
      - Topic is Pastor's Salaries; Pastor Stephanie will be attending
      - RENEW Event at Trinity Church (Owatonna) Feb. 28 2-5pm; contact Pastor Stephanie if interested
  - ❖ Next Meeting is Thursday March 17 at 6:30pm
  - ❖ Meeting Adjourned
- Respectfully Submitted, Sara Pichner - Secretary

Aurora Lutheran Church  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
January 31, 2016

The 2015 annual meeting of Aurora Lutheran Church was held on January 31, 2016 after the church service. President Sabrina Ulland presided.

- ❖ Pastor Stephanie led us in prayer
- ❖ Minutes from 2014 annual meeting held on January 25, 2015 were approved as read
- ❖ Pastor's Report
  - Pastor Stephanie put together a wonderful short video with highlights from 2015
- ❖ Mission Committee: update given by April Prestegard
  - Includes Pastor Stephanie and 6 members from both Aurora and Trinity
  - Recapped 2015 activities including 3 different noisy offerings and a pizza night
  - "Feeding the Spirit" will be the theme again for 2016
  - Upcoming plans include: prayer shawls and visiting shut-ins
- ❖ Worship Committee: updates given by Kay Klemmer and Theona Lewison
  - Cheryl Thompson will be joining the Altar Committee
  - Exploring changing communion to intinction communion on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month
- ❖ Treasurer's Report: Jodi Keck reviewed 2015 Financial results
  - 2015 Financial reports approved subject to Audit
  - Discussed offering contributions for 2015 and how do we increase member's contributions for 2016
- ❖ Jared Prestegard presented proposed 2016 Budget
  - Aurora total expenses=\$86,043.60 (includes Aurora's 75% of joint expense \$50,375.25 plus Aurora only expense \$35,668.35)
  - 2016 Budget approved as presented
- ❖ Other Business
  - Water Quality: discussed water quality at church and rusty water problem
    - WELCA pays Culligan to recharge cylinder for iron filter
    - Roberta Jensen will ask Angie Jensen to contact Culligan about water
  - Child Protection Policy: required by our insurance company
    - Committee has been formed to work on drafting a policy
  - Parsonage Yard Care: lawn and snow removal
    - Discussed if the congregation should pay for lawn care and snow removal or supply the tools for Pastor Stephanie to use
    - Motion made and approved to pay for snow removal and purchase a lawn mower to Pastor Stephanie to use for lawn care
  - Audit 2015 church financials: Stan Norland and Sara Pichner volunteered to audit church records
  - Easter Breakfast Coordinator(s): volunteers needed
    - Bob and Marcia Thurnau and Stan and Terri Norland will be coordinating Sunrise breakfast

- Discussed what we can do in the Spring to prevent grass and weeds from coming through the wood chips in the Playground

❖ 2016 Ballot was approved as presented:

- President – Angie Jensen
- Vice President – Mark Prestegard
- Secretary – Sara Pichner
- Treasurer – Holli Loken
- Financial Secretary – Jeanne Pichner
- Trustee – Paul Korbel
- Deacon – Dwight Jensen
- Board of Ed – Kayla Paape
- Head Usher – Curtis Jensen
- Nominating Committee – Marica Thurnau and Dave Melby
- Worship Committee – Sarah Hoffman

❖ Meeting Adjourned

Respectfully Submitted  
Sara Pichner - Secretary