

Trinity Valley Tribune

Gilman ~ St. John's ~ Spring Lake

www.trinityvalleylutheranparish.com

JANUARY 2022

Mission Statement

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish is united to increase the vitality of our individual congregations by joining our talents and resources. Together we can better serve one another, share God's goodness, Sacrament, and bring Christ to our neighbors.

Church Locations

Gilman Lutheran Church

N8107 330th St.
PO Box 386
gilslake@svtel.net

St. John's Lutheran Church

S520 Church Ave.
PO Box 336
svstjelca@svtel.net

Spring Lake Lutheran Church

N7724 County Rd B
PO Box 386
gilslake@svtel.net

Spring Valley, WI 54767

715-778-4334 or 715-778-5935

Office hours : Monday-Thursday 9am-noon
Friday—closed

Office Staff: Linda Price, Renee LaGrander

Pastor Amelia Houdek: cell phone 612-850-3904 email: pastoramelia@gmail.com



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

ANNUAL MEETINGS

St. John's - Sunday, January 16th following 11 am worship

Gilman—Sunday, January 23rd following 9:45 worship, No Potluck

Spring Lake—Sunday, January 23rd following 8:30 worship

Reports will be available for review 1 week prior to meeting.

All worship services will be abbreviated that Sunday.

NOTE: Committee leaders need to get their reports to office by 1st week in January-PLEASE!

Explore Membership/New Member Class

Sunday, January 30th @ 11:00am

At St. John's (open to all 3 churches)

WELCOME NEW OFFICE STAFF

Renee (Thompson) LaGrander is our new Parish Office Administrator and Bookkeeper. A little piece of her heart has always been at Gilman. Renee was baptized at Gilman (some of you may even know her Godfather, Ron Thompson) and attended as a child in the summers while visiting her grandparents.

Renee grew up in Roberts (both her parents were born and raised in the Spring Valley area), and her husband Pete is from Spring Valley as well. They've been busy watching their boys Bode and Braydon participate in football, wrestling, and baseball for the last several years. They will soon be empty nesters (Bode is in college and Braydon is a High School Sr) - and hopefully have a little more time to travel.

PASTOR AMELIA'S MESSAGE

Email address: pastoramelia@gmail.com

Cell phone: 612-850-3904

Happy New Year friends and families of TVLP (Gilman, Spring Lake, St. John's)!

I am on a creative quest to discover new ways where we can connect as the church. Of course, connection for us as Christians always is grounded in love for God and neighbor. Yet, I also want to explore a connection back to our core identity as children of God, created in God's image, to grow in faith, receive healing for wounds created by the church and the world, and find safe holy spaces to wrestle with questions of faith and life.

In this new year we will experiment with different music styles for worship; different styles of worship; opportunities to grow in faith intergenerationally; opportunities to grow in relationship with one another in smaller groups discussing books, themes, or topics; prayer groups. I would also like to have different speakers in to encourage us in faith. I could keep going but I think you get the picture. When I look at all the areas and the possibilities, I must say it is daunting. I mean, what if we (I) fail? Natural question. And the answer is failure is only a perspective. Well, what if what we dream up is impossible? The answer to that there is only "possible". Impossible is simply possible without understanding how it's going to happen, yet.

We are in a different era than we have been before. COVID-19 has highlighted and accelerated trends in church commitment and engagement. I say this in love and hope, but, there is no "going back to the way things were". We must lean into the ways the Spirit is guiding us and trust that God's hand is with us as we continue to pivot and explore some conventional ways and some not-so-conventional ways.

In this new year, I look forward to listening together for the Spirit's direction for not only my ministry, but your personal ministry, and the ministry we share. We have the potential to have loads of fun! We only need to draw near to God and God will draw near to us. (James 4:8) How might God be calling you to grow in faith and connection this year?

The first opportunity I will offer is "Yoga Divine" beginning Thursday January 7 6:30-7:25pm. I will offer this movement and meditation class on Mondays and Thursdays through January. You can drop into one class or all. Please come early to register and settle into your space. What to bring:

A yoga mat (I will have a few on hand for you to use but cannot guarantee availability)

A towel (for support)

Water (Because it's good for you)

Yoga blocks (not necessary but nice if you have them.)

You. Just as you are. Not as you think you need to be. Just YOU.

Disclaimer: this class does require mobility, although I will always offer variations. Also, be prepared to leave encouraged, hope-filled, and centered in Christ.

Watch for other opportunities for faith formation, service, and connection! It's going to be a great year of DISCOVERY!

With Joy~

Pastor Amelia

FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Spring Valley:

2nd & 4th Wed.

10-11:30am & 4:30-6pm



Elmwood:

1st Tues. 3-6pm

3rd Tues. 9-11am

Sat. 9-11am

Where is Jesus?

If you've attended church at Spring Lake recently, you have undoubtedly noticed that the altar has a different look. The painting of Christ the Good Shepherd has been removed for restoration and repair, and the empty space is temporarily being filled with beautiful quilts made by talented parishioners. According to the history of the Spring Lake Church printed in a Centennial Booklet in 1974, the painting survived the 1930 tornado which destroyed the church building and the altar. The painting was able to be repaired and restored and was placed in a new altar which was purchased by the women of the church. The present church structure was completed in 1932.

The very first church building was constructed beginning in 1890 and was finally completed and dedicated in 1896. We don't know the exact age of the painting, but it is apparent that it was either purchased or donated to the church sometime between 1890 and 1930. And it is once again being cleaned, repaired, and restored.

Esa Everroad, owner of Purple Pelican Gallery in Spooner, WI received excellent reviews when she restored the large canvas painting in the Elmwood Auditorium and her name was offered as someone who might be able to work on our altar painting. With approval by the church council, the painting is now being restored by Esa. It will take approximately 3-6 months to repair, in part because the canvas needs to be conditioned to complete the repairs. We were reassured that with this restoration, we can expect this painting to last another 50 to 100 years! We hope to have it back by Easter, but in the meantime, we are grateful to our quilters for adding to the beauty of the altar.

Half of the approximate \$2000 charge has already been paid to begin the restoration process. The women of the church are also fundraising to help offset the cost and we are grateful for their help.

~Submitted by Shelly Wood

WELCA NEWS

GILMAN:

Meeting & Bible Study: No Meetings Jan-Feb-March

2022 Handbooks are available

Quilters will meet as needed. Contact Marlene Aamodt for next meeting date.

SPRING LAKE:

Meeting & Bible Study: No meetings Jan-Feb-March

ST. JOHN'S:

Women's Bible Study every Monday

@ 10:00 am and 5:00 pm in the fellowship hall

No meeting on Jan. 3rd

Bible Study led by Pastor Amelia.

No Quilting for winter months at St. John's

WELCA meeting: No January Meeting

GRACE PLACE

Gilman congregation supplied the supper to Grace Place homeless shelter for December. Karen Jorgenson, Sonja Lenarz, Tricia Traynor and Julie Webb prepared meals. The Spring Lake Volunteers for January 14th are Mary Jane Hecker, Trudy Rew, Kim Davis and Sally Pierce.

A recent article about Grace Place was printed in the Amery Free Press: An excerpt from this article: "Evening meals are a time for fellowship and giving thanks for all blessings. Volunteer organizations and church groups provide residents with nourishing dinners each week Monday—Thursday. Residents are required to attend and upon leaving the shelter, many have shared with staff that the nightly meal is one of their favorite experiences at Grace Place. It's the first time many of them have enjoyed family dinners on a regular basis."

The Salvation Army Grace Place provides over 15,000 nights of shelter to those in need in the St. Croix River Valley residents of St. Croix, Pierce and Polk County. Be a part of this wonderful service by signing up to help prepare a meal once a month. Please let Marlene Aamodt or Trudy Rew know if you are willing to commit to a meal next year. The 2022 sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board.

MILLARD & ELLEN NELSON BEQUESTS

For the sixth year Gilman congregation has received two large gifts from Ellen Nelson- \$5,000 designated to the Gilman Cemetery fund, and \$10,000 to the Gilman congregation. We greatly regret that Mrs. Nelson passed away in 2018, and therefore her gifts this year serve as a bequest in her memory as well as of her husband, Millard. It was decided that this bequest should be directed to the Property improvements fund at this time.

→ *Individual Churches' Monthly Council Minutes can be emailed upon request. Printed copies will be available in the narthex area.*

☞ Birthday Lists will no longer be printed in bulletins or newsletters due to space issues. The 2022 list of birthdays is available as a handout in the narthex.

Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish Joint Council Meeting

The councils from Gilman, St. John's, and Spring Lake met on **December 14, 2021** at the St. John's Lutheran Church fellowship hall. Members present were Barb Esanbock, Pastor Amelia Houdek, Linda Anderson, Diane Hurtgen, Phil Verges, Trudy Rew, Duey Davis, Kim Davis, Jeremy Johnson, David Butts, Lisa Nelson, Ray Dohm, Karen Gunderson, Shelli Wood, Stacy Burr, Trisha Traynor, guest Kay Place.

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by Parish council president, Karen Gunderson. There was a motion made by Phil Verges, seconded by Ray Dohm to approve the minutes from November. Motion carried.

Pastor's report: Pastor Amelia is looking at different ways to engage different groups of people. Beginning in January she will offer Sanctuary Yoga on Mondays and Thursdays. For liability purposes, participants will need to sign a waiver. If you have health issues, please get your doctor's permission before attending. Bring water, an exercise mat, and a towel. Look for more information in the January newsletter.

Pastor reported that Theresa Clements has agreed to play piano/organ for the SL Christmas Eve Service at 6 pm., and that Katie Anderson, seminary student and daughter of Jon and Linda Anderson, will be preaching the sermon at the joint worship service on December 26 at 9:45 at St. John's.

Administrative Job Opening update: Renee LaGrander has been hired to begin December 28th. She has experience with the ChurchTrac software currently used by St. John's, as well bookkeeping and general church secretarial/administrative experience. She will be responsible for parish treasurer duties and will either pay bills out of a joint parish bank account (which needs to be set up) or will direct them to the correct church account for payment. The parish council is waiting for a proposal for one workers compensation package which would cover all paid employees of all 3 congregations, potentially saving all churches money. Currently each church has its own bookkeeping and church records systems which has proven to be cumbersome. Kay Place expressed disagreement with the proposal for a parish bookkeeper to take on Spring Lake's portion of the job. The matter was tabled for further discussion by the Parish council.

Annual Report information is due in the church office by Jan. 3. St. John's annual meeting is Jan. 16, and Gilman and Spring Lake meetings are Jan. 23. If all financial information isn't available by Jan. 3, it was suggested that an amended financial report could be brought to the annual meetings for disbursement, but to encourage members to submit giving in a timely manner.

People in Need Fund: Pastor reported that when people in need come to the church office looking for financial assistance, there are gas cards, etc. available to help. For emergent needs other than gas and food, could there be a parish fund established so that a check could be written from it to help with other kinds of crucial bills? Might we consider a line item in the budget, or receive special offerings to fund this? Would we need a special committee to oversee this? Could each church contribute \$500, for example, towards such a fund? No decision was made at this time.

The Christmas schedule is as follows: 4pm Christmas Eve Service at St. John's; 6pm Christmas Eve Service at Spring Lake, 9:45am Christmas Day service at Gilman; 9:45am December 26th one combined parish service at St. John's (no Sunday School).

Karen Gunderson expressed her thanks to Lisa Nelson and Jeremy Johnson and all the other participants of the Live Nativity on Dec. 12th. There was hot cocoa served, and the event was followed by Christmas Caroling.

Parish Employee Christmas gifts were discussed. Gilman has agreed to write checks for each of our shared employees (musicians, office staff) and Spring Lake and St. John's will reimburse Gilman. Each church will pay \$50 per shared employee (except for Pastor, who will receive \$100 from each church). Shelli Wood will submit the names of those employees to Trisha Traynor and Trisha will disburse those gifts.

Karen announced that she and Earl will host a social gathering for all council members at their home on January 11, 2021. Any council meetings should be held at a different time. Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Shelli Wood, Parish Council Secretary

JOIN OUR WORSHIP IN JANUARY

Spring Lake will be at 8:30
 Gilman at 9:45 (coffee following worship)
 St. John's at 11:00 (coffee prior to worship at 10:15)

Note: Jan. 30th-One Service at 9:45 at Spring Lake

~ CONFIRMATION NEWS ~

Jan. 5: Xmas Break-No Confirmation

CHURCH ROTATION SCHEDULE 2022

JANUARY-MARCH

SPRING LAKE	8:30
GILMAN	9:45
ST. JOHN'S	11:00

APRIL-JUNE

ST. JOHN'S	8:30
SPRING LAKE	9:45
GILMAN	11:00

JULY-SEPTEMBER

GILMAN	8:30
ST. JOHN'S	9:45
SPRING LAKE	11:00

OCTOBER-DECEMBER

SPRING LAKE	8:30
GILMAN	9:45
ST. JOHN'S	11:00

WORSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

GILMAN

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
1/2	Josh & Becca Kiefer	Linda Price	Trenton Vorlicek	VB 5
1/9	Dave & Jeanne Runge	Jeanne Runge	Payton Jorgenson	VB 1
1/16	Tony & Mel Mader	Larry Sorenson	Jaci Mader	VB 2
1/23	Ron Thompson	Trisha Traynor	Adely Kotten	VB 3

Deacon: Tyra Johnson
 Altar Care: Linda Price, Karen Jorgenson

SPRING LAKE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>
1/2	Randy & Kathy Nyeggen	Kathy Nyeggen
1/9	Tom & Sue Yonke	Donna Lien
1/16	Randy & Debbie Hague	Trudy Rew
1/23	Sally Swenson	Bethany Stringer
1/30	Kris Frankfurth	Mary Hecker

Deacon: Trudy Rew
 Altar Care: Sue Wood

(One Service at 9:45 am)

ST. JOHN'S

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters/Ushers</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
1/2	Kathy Miller	Jeanne Niccum	Brynn Moore
1/9	Laurie & Larry Kreibich	Katie or Jon Anderson	Isaac Koenning
1/16	Mel & Megan Wentlandt	Elena Roberts	Alec Boyer
1/23	Daric & David Butts	Gwynn Lacy	Evah Butts