

Trinity Valley Tribune

Gilman ~ St. John's ~ Spring Lake

www.trinityvalleylutheranparish.com

March 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 : Mon.-Thurs.: 9am-noon

Friday—closed

Office Staff: Linda Price, Renee LaGrander



Lent

LENTEN SERVICES

(Services at 6:30 pm)

March 2nd (Ash Wednesday) - at St. John's Lutheran

March 2nd: 11:00am—1:00pm: Drive-thru

"Imposition of Ashes" at St. John's

March 9th - at Gilman Lutheran

March 16th - at Spring Lake Lutheran

March 23rd - at St. John's Lutheran

March 30th - at Gilman Lutheran

April 6th—at Spring Lake Lutheran



Attention All Youth & Families

Event: Roller Skating at Vision Quest

Date: Saturday, March 26th, 5:30-8pm?

Cost: \$6/per skater

Pizza: additional \$2/person

Address: Vision Quest Roller Skating

N4439 440th St., Menomonie

Contact: Missy Stringer (SL Superintendent)

Frog_lovermissy@yahoo.com

PASTOR AMELIA'S MESSAGE

Email address: pastoramelia@gmail.com

Cell phone: 612-850-3904

Greetings to you all in the name of Jesus!

When the sun starts to set past 5:30pm my entire being rejoices. It is like a light that is turned on and all of the sudden I feel energy return, focus regained, possibilities float in front of me, and I once again have hope that Spring is just around the corner. We've turned the corner! It is good to celebrate light. And it is good to turn our hearts and minds and lives towards the Light of the World, Jesus.

On Wednesday March 2, at 6:30pm we begin our Lenten adventure into light with our Ash Wednesday service. We will choose to enter into a season of repentance and returning. We will contemplate Christ and his work on our behalf and on behalf of all creation. We will press in to hear the cost of discipleship. We will pray. Invite you all to attend worship Ash Wednesday at St. John's. For the following Wednesdays in Lent we will once again rotate the churches of our parish. Worship will begin at 6:30. Please see the calendar for specifics.

Our Lenten theme is "Love, Loss and the Meaning of Lent". Let's worship together, pray together, hear together as we contemplate what this means for us post forming of our new parish and into the 2nd year of the COVID pandemic. There will be a touchpoint for all.

Peace be with us all as we enter the season of Lent remember that the dawn always follows the darkness.

In Peace and Healing,

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



BIBLE CAMP

At Trinity Valley Parish we ask that confirmation students attend "Jr. High/Confirmation Camp" at Luther Point Bible Camp at least once during the summer before their 7th, 8th or 9th Grade. This year we are scheduled to attend during the week of **July 17-22**.

This experience is designed to help campers gain independence, meet new friends and take ownership of their faith through worship, Bible studies and other fun activities. These will include an Outpost adventure, service projects, low-ropes course and more!

Each congregation will pay the great majority of the \$405 cost for each first-time student through grants and fundraisers. But we request that the \$135 deposit be paid by the student's family if at all possible.

It is very important that you register your student online, to avoid a \$25 added fee. For the church to get the early-bird discount of \$15 per student, you will need to go online to complete the registration and pay the deposit by May 1st. Information regarding camp is available at www.lutherpoint.org. Flyers are also available in the narthex at each church. If you are unable to pay this deposit, please contact Pastor so we can find a way to help.

GRACE PLACE

Gilman congregation supplied the supper to Grace Place homeless shelter for February. Brenda Walky, Michele Frederick, Carol Schilling and Kalena Beyer prepared meals. The Spring Lake Volunteers for March 11th are Donna Stringer, Missy Stringer, Kimmy Woodford and Darla Woodford.

NEED A PRAYER?



St. John's Prayer Groups will pray for YOU. Leave your first name and what you'd like us to pray for

Email: nancyofthevalley@yahoo.com

Call: 715-778-4718 or 715-441-7347

St. John's: 715-778-4334 or 715-778-5935

Pastor Amelia: 612-850-3904

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 Quilting for winter months at St. John's

First Communion

Hello! In March we will host 2 opportunities for 1st Communion Training:

- ◆ Sunday March 20 12:00-1:30 in the fellowship hall at St. John's
- ◆ Tuesday March 22 6:00-7:30 in the fellowship hall at St. John's

Students will receive first communion on Sunday April 10 at the family's church home.

We typically suggest that students receive 1st Communion Instruction in 5th grade. However, some children may be older and some children may be younger. Parents know their children best. Age appropriate teaching will be provided for all.

At least one parent or guardian must accompany and remain with the child during the instruction. There will be activities that parents and children do together.

Please RSVP no later than Sunday March 13 with the name and age of the student who will receive instruction along with the name of accompanying adult and contact information to pastor-ramelia@gmail.com



ORDER EASTER LILIES

- St. John's Members: Pick up an order blank at Narthex table to place your order
- Gilman Members: Place order with Marlene Aamodt (715-778-5687) Lilies \$10; Azaleas \$20
- Spring Lake Members: You are welcome to bring in lilies and other flowers to beautify the church.
- Deadline March 27th

MONTHLY PASTORAL UPDATE (2/4/22)

I Celebrate:

Fresh Start 2022: A New Day, A New Way (My working theme for the year)

Outgoing council members for their diligent work and support

Incoming council members for their acceptance to be part of this important ministry

Opportunity to explore "Who is My Neighbor" with the confirmation students

I Am Planning and Working on:

Commitment to Thursday Yoga Divine ministry

A schedule that is workable— I am working to have Mondays and Saturdays off to help create a sustainable, life giving, and workable ministry

Lenten Sunday series and Wednesday preaching series: Love, Loss & Meaning of Lent

ACC ICF Coaching Certificate. My Cont. Ed will be comprised of this for 2022. I will need to have 100 coaching hours to be certified. I plan to utilize this dynamic way of leadership as we navigate ministry together. Ask for more details: I Willow work with our councils and groups. If you are interested in individual coaching (spiritual, life, professional) let's talk!

With a few musicians creating occasional Sundays that offer alternative music genres for worship

I Am Wondering:

How will we focus our ministries this year?

What will be our priorities as a parish and as individual churches with unique people and a unique call to be church in the world

Will we be "brave, awkward, and kind" in times of ambiguity and change? How will we do this? What might it mean? How could it shape our future?

I Need Help With:

Securing a visitation pastor

Finding knowledgeable people in our congregations that are HR minded to help with creating employee handbook and other HR related policies and procedures

I Invite You to Pray With Me:

For a renewed sense of curiosity and engagement for our congregations

Innovative yet simple ways to connect— we are going to have to be creative

My family

Our world, our church, and all those in need

For each other as we are lead into "ventures unknown"

Respectfully and Joyfully,

Pastor Amelia HOUDEK

Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish Council Meeting Minutes: 2/15/22

The Parish Council met Feb 15, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the St. John's Fellowship Hall. Members present: Bill Emerson, Shelli Wood, Trudy Rew, Melanie Wentlandt, Jeremy Johnson, Dave Runge, Phil Verges, Ray Dohm, Phil Hennemann. (Roxanne Kiefer arrived early for the second portion of the meeting so was present for this meeting, as well. See below for other attendees.)

Jeremy Johnson, Vice President of the Parish Council called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. followed by a welcome and introduction of members. New members to the parish council this term are Trudy Rew, Phil Hennemann, and Dave Runge.

Business

1. Pastor's Vacation Schedule tabled until Pastor can be present.
2. Phone consolidation. Gilman and Spring Lake are splitting a \$50 monthly bill to have the G/SL telephone number (778-4334) come into the St. John's church. Should we consider only having one number rather than two? Bill Emerson volunteered to investigate what options are available.
3. Elect Parish Council positions. The following people were nominated and agreed to hold these positions:
President – Shelli Wood
Vice President – Jeremy Johnson
Secretary – Melanie Wentlandt
Treasurer – Phil Hennemann

This portion of the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Parish Council Meeting (Part 2)

The Parish Council met together with the treasurers and financial secretaries from St. John's, Gilman, and Spring Lake along with the Parish bookkeeper. Roxanne Kiefer-G Fin. Sec., Ann Beyer-SJ Treas, Heather Koenning-SJ Fin. Sec., Tricia Traynor-G Treas, and Renee LaGrander-Parish Bookkeeper joined together with Ray Dohm-SL Treas/Parish Council member, and Trudy Rew-SL Fin. Sec/Parish Council member, and Phil Hennemann-Parish Treas/Parish Council member to discuss the role of the bookkeeper, parish treasurer, and individual church treasurers once Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish bank account and accounting systems are operational (March 1, 2022).

This meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Jeremy Johnson and introductions were made. After some general discussion, Phil Hennemann, parish treasurer suggested that the bookkeeper, and church treasurers and financial secretaries meet alone to work out some details. The remaining council members met in the library.

The two groups rejoined and reported what had transpired in their meetings. Phil Hennemann stated that the treasurers/bookkeeper had agreed to use Quickbooks for the 941s, 1099s, W4s, etc., and to set up Payroll on auto-deposit.

Shelli reported that the rest of the council had discussed how much money each church would need to contribute to the checking account so that it would be operational. The actual monthly parish expenses in 2021 were approximately \$12,500. The original intent upon opening a parish checking account was to have each church contribute 2 months' worth of their percentage of the shared expenses (SJ 50%, G 30%, SL 20%); after that the churches will contribute one month at a time. It was suggested that we begin with a fraction less than that with SJ paying \$10,000, G paying \$6,000, and SL paying \$4,000. Once the system is operational, the monthly amount each church contributes may need to be adjusted.

Motion made by Phil Verges and seconded by Bill Emerson to have St. John's pay \$10,000, Gilman to pay \$6,000, and Spring Lake to pay \$4,000 to open a new checking account. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ray Dohm and seconded by Jeremy Johnson to approve the Parish Treasurer, Parish President, and Parish Bookkeeper as signers on the Trinity Valley Checking account, with the stipulation that the bookkeeper can only sign checks up to \$200 if either the Parish treasurer or the Parish president are unable to sign. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Phil Hennemann and seconded by Bill Emerson to have keys made to the front door and/or office door of the St. John's church for use by the treasurers and financial secretaries so that offerings and other information can be dropped off after hours, or so that checks can be signed during non-office hours.

Next Parish Council meeting to be held March 15th at 6:00 p.m. at the St. John's fellowship hall.

Motion made by Bill Emerson, seconded by Mel Wentlandt to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

~Respectfully submitted by Melanie Wentlandt, Parish Secretary

TVLP Joint Council Meeting Minutes February 8, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

The Joint councils of Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish met in the Fellowship Hall at St. John's Lutheran church in Spring Valley. Members present were Ray Dohm, Karyl Tiffany, Trudy Rew, Shelli Wood, Melanie Wentlandt, Lisa Nelson, Tom Gunderson, Ann Beyer, Nancy Cleveland, Diane Hurtgen, Barb Esanbock, Shawn Miller, Rob Moore, Stacy Burr, Jeremy Johnson, Bill Emerson, Jeannie Runge, Heather Koenig, Leanna Larson, Tricia Traynor, Pastor Amelia Houdek.

The meeting was called to order by Parish Council Vice President, Jeremy Johnson, who is presiding until next week's Parish Council meeting when new Parish Council officers will be elected.

Pastor Amelia opened with a reading about leadership skills noting that the most important skill is grace; we should seek to live, love, learn, lead, and teach in grace. She concluded with a word of prayer.

Jeremy welcomed new members and thanked new and old members for their willingness to serve on the councils. He reminded us that meetings are regularly held at 6:30 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at St. John's, and the joint meeting is either preceded by or followed by the individual councils of St. John's, Gilman, and Spring Lake.

Council packets were handed out to all council members containing: a flier about the upcoming ministry workshops (Walking Together) and council training workshops (EPIC) or a combination of both on March 26th in Eau Claire; Serving on your Congregation Council – what you can expect and what is expected of you; Practical Pointers on Parliamentary Procedure; article entitled From the Age of Association to Authenticity; copy of the parish Shared Ministry Agreement; a copy of the constitution for your individual church; a list of contact information for council members.

Secretary's Report A motion was made by Leanna Larson and seconded by Bill Emerson to accept the minutes from Jan. 11' 2022, as presented. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report Pastor needs help with visitation of parishioners and Pastor Bob Dahm has expressed a willingness to help her with that. There is a set amount of money in the parish budget for that and details regarding whether he is paid per visit and mileage, etc. are still to be determined. Pastor Amelia will visit on an emergency basis and hopes to bring communion to those people on the visitation list quarterly. (Pastor Bob Dahm is the pastor for Wilson Lutheran Church, and taught confirmation in conjunction with Wilson, St. John's, Gilman, and Spring Lake within the last couple of years.)

Pastor reported that it is her intention to take Mondays and Saturdays off, and that she will work from home on Fridays to study and prepare for her Sunday sermon. She will be available by appointment if needed during non-office hours.

Pastor had mentioned the possibility of being an intern site for seminary students and stated that she has been in contact with Luther and CSTC to see what that entails.

A motion was made by Leanna Larson and seconded by Diane Hurtgen to accept the Pastor's report. Motion carried.

Office Roles Discussed the roles of secretary and bookkeeper in the parish office and how to transition to a parish identity versus individual churches, while recognizing the strengths all bring to the process. Office hours advertised are Monday – Thursday 9 am to noon, closed Fridays. Linda currently works Wednesday and Thursday 9 to noon (depending on workload she may work longer hours), and Renee has been working Monday-Thursday 9 to 5. Per pastor, Renee sometimes starts later and works later, and right now her hours are increased because in her role as bookkeeper she is merging systems, streamlining procedures and software.

Pastor clarified her tentative vacation schedule (Feb 14-22; May 23-31; July 1-14, plus 1 week of continuing ed using hours from 2021). She stated that she had used 2 days of her 2021 vacation, and that the vacation time she used in 2021 was her interim vacation time. She mentioned a reading week in June and spreading out her 2022 vacation time.

Katie Anderson will be the supply pastor for Feb. 20th. St. John's will write the check, and Gilman and Spring Lake will be billed for their portion. Pastor mentioned that the amount we have set aside to pay our supply pastors isn't in line with what the synod guidelines are currently.

There was no President's report or Treasurer's report.

Regarding Pastor Bob's pay as a visitation pastor – there is currently \$120 a week set aside in the parish budget to accommodate a visitation pastor. Typically, the pastor is paid per visit plus mileage. We will discuss this with Pastor Bob.

Synod Assembly is April 30th either in person in Eau Claire, or via Zoom. Registration is due April 17. Each church is allowed 2 people as delegates.

(continued on next page)

Shelli Wood summarized what we've done as a parish so far, and what we're in the middle of currently. We are transitioning to one system for bookkeeping and the treasurers from each church as well as a parish treasurer will work with the bookkeeper to implement a new protocol. Renee expects to be ready to go on March 1st. Signers on the new Parish bank account will be the parish treasurer, the parish president, and the parish bookkeeper.

At tonight's individual council meetings, new parish council members will be appointed, and on **Feb 15th there will be a meeting at 6:00 p.m. where new officers will be elected from the 9 total members. At 6:30, the parish council will meet with the parish bookkeeper, the individual church treasurers, and the individual church financial secretaries to establish an efficient and effective protocol.**

On Sunday, February 27th beginning at 11:30 to approximately 3:30pm, there will be a Church Council retreat at St. John's. Lunch will be served. Council members should review the information included in the council packets that were distributed tonight. Let your council presidents know if you CANNOT attend.

Lent begins Wednesday, March 2 and continues each Wednesday through April 6. There will be **one** service for the parish, **beginning at 6:30** rotating between churches. *There will be NO coffee fellowship either before or after the services as we have done in the past due to Covid.* The rotation is as follows: St. John's (3-2)/Gilman (3-9) /Spring Lake (3-16), St. John's (3-23)/Gilman (3-30)/Spring Lake ((4-6). Holy Week services yet to be announced.

The next meeting of the joint councils of Trinity Valley Lutheran Parish will be Tuesday Mar. 8 at 6:30 at St. John's church fellowship hall. Bill Emerson made a motion to adjourn this meeting and proceed to individual council meetings, seconded by Shawn Miller. Motion carried. Joint meeting adjourned at 7:18. Closed with Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Shelli Wood, Parish Council Secretary

ATTENTION SPRING LAKE MEMBERS

- † Spring Lake Church Council still needs a Vice President. Please contact one of our current council members if you're interested!!!!
- † Are there any of you at Spring Lake that would be interested in on-line giving??? Please let us know! If there is enough interest, we will pursue this!!!
- † Spring Lake Members: Please write your name on your offering envelope if you don't already do that. Since the bookkeeper enters your contributions by name and not envelope number it speeds things up for her so that she doesn't have to cross reference the envelope number/name list. If you don't have envelopes, a regular envelope with your name on it will do the trick. If you want it to go to anything other than the local/general fund, please write that on the envelope, too. Undesignated offerings go to the general fund. (Local, Building, Benevolence, Other.)
- † The Spring Lake Cemetery Association has chosen to disconnect all the cemetery accounts from the church accounts, so contributions to the cemetery fund will no longer be recorded on the year end giving statements. Please contact a member of the Cemetery Association with any questions.

JOIN OUR WORSHIP IN MARCH

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)

See Front Page for Lenten Worship Service
 Rotation

WORSHIP ROTATION SWITCHES IN APRIL

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

~ CONFIRMATION NEWS ~

March 13th: Worship assistants at Gilman
 (group 3)

Worship assistants at St. John's (group 1)

Confirmation Camp scheduled for July 17-22.

WORSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES

GILMAN

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
3/6	Brad & Wendy Anderson	Wendy Anderson	Trenton Vorlicek	VB 3
3/9 Lent	Lois Verges	none	Jaci Mader	
3/13	Confirmation Students		Kalena Beyer	VB 4
3/20	Phil & Judy Verges	Phil Verges	Addison Neidermeyer	VB 5
3/27	Jack & Brenda Walkky	Linda Price	Chase Rud	VB 1
3/30 Lent	Bill & Marsha Goveronski	none	Jake Hannack	

Altar Care: Tonya Beyer & Casey Hannack
 Deacon: Tom Gunderson

SPRING LAKE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Readers</u>
3/6	Jim & Zona Hague	Zona Hague
3/13	Don & Cindy Jensen	Mary Hecker
3/16 Lent	Sue Wood	none
3/20	Dan & Nancy Christensen	Nancy Christensen
3/27	Rita Jensen	Kim Davis

Altar Care: Donna Lien, Karen Blanford
 Deacon: Trudy Rew

ST. JOHN'S

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Usher</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Acolyte</u>
3/2 Lent	Rhyan & Nate Nelson	Lisa & Jake Nelson		Isaac Koenning
3/6	Judy Larriou	Sara Anderson & Family	Bev Lueth	Parker & Kate Cipriano
3/13	Confirmation Students			
3/20	Brian & Pat Sandness	Brian & Pat Sandness	Pat Sandness	Brynn Moore
3/23 Lent	Leanna Larson	Butts Family		Gaige Larson, Evah Butts
3/27	Wilman Family	Mel Wentlandt	Jon Anderson	Kolton Wilman