

St. John's Lutheran Church in Bradley to hold final service this Sunday

A hard decision was made this month by the council members of the St. John's Lutheran Church in Bradley.

The time has come for the St. John's Lutheran Church to close its doors.

Minister Marion Grimes who has been St. John's minister since 2003 will still serve the Crocker Lutheran Church. The Crocker Lutheran Church will continue to stay open.

At the most recent church council meeting last Sunday, council membership from Crocker Lutheran Church was present at the St. John's council meeting to approve a list of items that they will be receiving from the interior of the Bradley church. Sunday school items, hymnals and a few other things from the church will be transferred to Crocker.

The final decision on closing the church was made two weeks prior at a church council meeting according to Gary Lenzen, church council president.

"No decision has been made yet on what will be done with the build-

St. John's
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The very first church building (the Bradley Methodist Church) built in the town of Bradley in 1889 and later purchased by the St. John's Lutheran Church congregation in 1937 is shown above.

Council members made the decision earlier this month that the time has come for the church to close its doors. St. John's Lutheran Church will be closing but the Crocker Lutheran Church will continue on with Minister Marion Grimes leading the congregation. No decisions have been made yet on the future of the building and its site in Bradley.

Clark continues with school site learning: COVID-19 policy adds contact tracing addendum

Two months into the 2020-21 school term, handling pandemic COVID-19 cases was the number one news story coming out of the October meeting of the Clark School Board, Wednesday, Oct. 14, at the high school library.

At Monday's meeting a COVID-19 contact tracing addendum was added to pandemic policy already in place. The purpose of the COVID-19 contact tracing information addition: to protect students and building staff by mitigating potential risk of exposure to COVID-19 while also balancing that with providing a quality educational experience to the students.

Clark School superintendent Luanne Warren said that she is very worried about the mental health of staff and students.

As of last Wednesday's school board meeting, two staff, three students and one section of the kindergarten class were under the 14-day quarantine as outlined by the new amendment to the COVID-19 policy.

Clark physicians assistant Louann Streff was also in attendance and she, along with Warren and high school principal Travis Ahrens answered board questions

and gave detailed transparent information regarding Clark School and the coronavirus.

It was emphasized that the school is following CDC guides and S.D. Department of Health guidelines.

COVID-19 CARES Act

School lunch waiver has been approved. All enrolled students will receive free lunches for the remainder of the school year, effective Oct. 1, 2020.

As Ahrens took the lead in discussing contact tracing he reiterated that everyone wants to keep the school open, keep activities going with the best educational experience as normal as possible.

The two key areas of the contact tracing is that masks are to be 'front loaded', or used at the beginning, rather than reactively and that 14-day quarantine guidelines will be strictly enforced.

The contact tracing policy guidelines include:

Guiding Principles:

- Objective evaluation of whether Close Contacts are present after notification of student or staff member

testing positive for COVID-19.

- Close Contacts are defined as being within 6-feet of a positive case for 15 continuous minutes or longer.

- Identification of a Close Contact must be definitive, with a high level of certainty.

Procedure:

1. When notified of the presence of a positive COVID-19 case an investigative contact tracing process will take place.

2. The student or staff member will be debriefed by a member of the administrative team to determine

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WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Oct. 13.....	66	39	0
Oct. 14.....	59	39	0
Oct. 15.....	57	26	0
Oct. 16.....	51	25	0
Oct. 17.....	47	29	0
Oct. 18.....	48	19	0
Oct. 19.....	37	22	0
2020 precipitation to date	16.98		
2019 precipitation to date	34.78		

Middle school new robotics class is building robots

Starting with a box full of parts - the new robotics class in Clark's middle school is learning how to assemble, program, move and maneuver small VexIQ Robots.

Bobbi Bohnet, middle school science teacher and now Clark's first robotics class teacher is excited about this new class which began this fall.

"Almost everything has robotics in the manufacturing world," stated Bohnet. "It's in everything in manufacturing, in our factories and even in our military. Mr. Ahrens brought us some information on how our military is making tanks that are completely robotic."

Later this year Bohnet is planning on her brother Clint Bohnet coming to the class to talk on his job with Bell Brands in Brookings where he works as an industrial engineer programming and updating computers which run the robotics part of the operation.

A grant last year from the Sunshine Foundation was helped along with the Clark School in making this class possible.

Thirty-five kits (robots) were ordered at the end of last year, each

kit filling up a good sized container worth of parts. Two students are paired up to work together on one robot.

First, they build the main part - the basic robot build which resembles a car body with four wheels and its 'brain' - its main controlling computer box. Then they learn how to program it to go backwards, forwards and stop.

Then they move on to the claw arms. "The whole thing when finished is called a 'Clawbot' added Bohnet. "The stabilizer part is on the other side of the robot and will actually hold a plastic box to transport it. We have plastic lightweight blocks (shown in the photo above) that come with it that are used for practice in picking things up and moving them."

Stacking blocks is the latest challenge with four being the goal to equal or beat. (And no...these robots do not destroy each other, those are a different kind of robot.)

Picking things up, moving it where you want it to go and being in control are lessons learned in this

Robotics
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Playing with robots in school (without getting in trouble) is now possible in the robotics class taught by Bobbi Bohnet. New this year at the Clark middle school in the sixth and seventh grade wheel classes, students are learning the details and steps it takes to make a robot do what you want it to do.

Here three robots are moving a chair from point A to point B. Controlling them are, left to right these three seventh grade teams of Logan Bohnet, Damian Severson, Gracie Luvaas, Atticus Stiefel, Leah Nelson and Tye McGraw.

'A Whole New World' is 2021 Snow Queen theme

This is the 52nd year of the Clark Area Snow Queen Contest. The Clark Area Snow Queen Contest will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 1, at the Clark High School gym.

The theme this year is 'A Whole New World'. Melissa Mudgett will be the emcee.

Current Snow Queen Saylor Burke and Junior Snow Queen Avery Miles will make their final walks across the stage as reigning royalty and will speak on the last year's experiences.

There will be no talent contest this year due to the pandemic. There will be no talent contest at the state level so therefore all local talent contests are being canceled.

The senior snow queen contestants are Sarah Weisbrod, daughter of Jon and Donna Weisbrod; Caycee Schneider, daughter of Pat and Julie Schneider; Megan Swedeen, daughter of LeRay and Andrea Swedeen; Rebecca King, daughter of Jodi Johnson and Tianna Tschetter, daughter of Stacey and Teena

Tschetter.

Junior Snow Queen contestants are Emma Peterson, daughter of Kyle and Jody Peterson; Katelyn Mischke, daughter of Ashley Mischke and Brett Mischke; Jodyyn Bawek, daughter of LeAnn Bawek; Olivia Nelson, daughter of Ben Nel-

Snow Queen
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Mystery Snowperson Clue 52nd Annual Snow Queen Festival Mystery Snowperson Contest

Frosty says: "I am a married male with children and I like to hunt, read and eat a lot of hot sauce."

When I went to kindergarten, it was at the Plymouth Congregational - UCC basement."

Send guesses to: Erin Heiman, 17746 426th Ave., Clark, SD 57225 or email: clarksnowqueen@gmail.com



Clark Bowling Lanes owners Anthony, left and Mike Woodland stand in front of the new electronic bowling scoring system installed earlier this month at their establishment. This photo was taken during men's league last Thursday.

New electronic scoring system installed at Clark Bowling Lanes

It was definitely a family affair acquiring and installing the new electronic bowling scoring system at the Clark Lanes. Owners Mike and Anthony, along with Jon and Jim Woodland took part in moving what was at the Dell Rapids bowling alley, up to Clark.

Said Anthony, "Once in Clark, we had to pull up all our gutters to run wires and install the bowlers terminals, we had to run hundreds of feet of wires, including five trips through the attic to run communication cables from the monitors to the two computers per set of lanes

that runs it all. Each set of lanes has two monitors, two computers and a bowlers terminal and a camera which snaps a picture of the pins each time a ball crosses over."

This project took about 11 months to complete, but now will be used by all bowlers.

Two months into the school year, new principal Travis Ahrens 'loves working with people and kids'

"There are some great personalities here at the Clark School. We've got some talented and smart kids here and a great staff which I'm having fun getting to know," stated Clark's new middle and high school principal Travis Ahrens.

He moved to Clark this past summer with his wife Amanda and their three children, Breanna, Adilynn and Behrett and is enjoying becoming a part of the Clark community.

Travis and Amanda are originally from Jackson and Ruthton, Minn. and were both teachers at Flandreau and at Dell Rapids and Brookings respectively. Amanda is teaching the fifth through the eighth grade at the Fordham Colony. Travis, in addition to his principal duties is Clark's co-activities director, teaches the senior government class and now this year is adding COVID-19 mitigation duties while keeping the school open to provide a quality educational experience.

"Every decision we make now weighs mitigating risk and exposure to COVID to providing the highest quality educational experience to our students.

"We often find ourselves between a rock and a hard place. Some think we are doing too much and then there's some who don't think we are doing enough. It's been a real



Travis Ahrens is shown right outside of his office in the Clark High School. He started this July as the middle school and high school principal, the government teacher and the co-activities director along with superintendent Luanne Warren. The father of three, his wife Amanda also teaches in the school system. COVID-19 challenges have been added to his duties including contact tracing recently.

Summer graduation and a prom COVID style were the first of his duties this school year. "We just need to persevere," he stated. "We'll get through this."

challenge. The last two months a big chunk of our day is COVID related. Extra cleaning, setting up extra tables at lunch, contact tracing and other additional things that in a normal year we would take for granted."

For the most part the students have adapted well to the extra things they do, he continued. Like the temperature checks and the social distancing, masks and face

Ahrens
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