

# ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office Number: 885-2221

Pastor Nathan Peitsch

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DECEMBER 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year has been unlike any other. It has brought about changes in pretty much every aspect of our lives. We've had changes in worship, grocery shopping, doctor visits, work, and so much more. It changed how we celebrated holidays, especially how we celebrated Easter earlier this year. It's changed how we interact with others leading to zoom meetings instead of meeting in-person, FaceTime calls instead of personal visits, and on and on the list could go.

With so much changing around us, it is good to know that one thing remains constant. The Scriptures assure us, *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."* -Heb. 13:8

With everything changing in the world around us, one thing remains constant: our Savior, Jesus Christ. His love for us has not changed. The peace He gives through His own death and resurrection will not change. Some things may change: how we worship, where we meet, how we meet, who we meet with. But God's truth remains constant.

His love for us is constant. His forgiveness continues to be extended to us each and every day. The truth that Jesus was born for you and for me, that truth we celebrate each year at Christmas, has not changed and will not change no matter how the world around us may change. The blessed hope of the resurrection remains constant for us as God's beloved children. For we have been washed in the waters of Baptism. We have been received into God's family, adopted as His own children. We have been promised an eternal inheritance that will never fade. None of this will change. Isaiah puts it quite well when he writes, *"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."* -Is. 40:8 God's Word of truth, life, forgiveness, and salvation stands forever. This Word stands. And though everything around us may be changing, God remains our constant. With that

in mind as we approach our Christmas celebration, some things may be changing, but one thing remains the same: The love God has shown us in sending His Son Jesus to be born for you and for me remains the same. Worship will continue to be live streamed and as we begin mid-week services, these too will be streamed online Wednesdays at 7:00pm.

As I'm sure you've heard, our children's Christmas program is the thing experiencing the biggest change. As of this writing, the plan is for the children to pre-record all the parts of the Christmas Eve Children's Program. These recordings will be compiled into videos that will be played during our Christmas Eve services. We will have two services to accommodate social distancing with a greater number of people. Our first service will be for those who are higher risk. We will be increasing the distance between pews, we are requiring everyone in attendance to be masked throughout the service, and we are asking anyone planning on attending this service to pre-register by either contacting the church or through a link that will be made available on our church Facebook page.

The second service will have precautions similar to our regular Sunday services. Every other pew will be blocked off, we still recommend masks, but will not require them, and no pre-registration will be required. In an attempt to accommodate everyone, we will have distanced seating available in the overflow and balcony, and should the need arise, we will have a video stream of the service playing in the fellowship hall where there will be additional seating. Finally, at the end of this service, we will invite any Sunday school children in attendance to come forward and sing a few songs in front of the congregation.

In all this it is our goal to make it possible for as many people as we can to come and be a part of our Christmas celebration. The good news of Christ Jesus

born for all stands forever. No virus can take this good news away from us. And though how we gather may change, whether you choose to join us at either of these services or to join us virtually. God's love for us all remains the same. May that love sustain us amid all life's changes.

In Christ,  
Pastor Nathan Peitsch



## Children's Christmas Program

Christmas Eve will have two services with different precaution levels. We will also live stream the service at each scheduled time.

- **5:30 PM** service will be increased precautions: masks required, service will require a sign-up through the church to ensure adequate distancing, seating will fill from front to back in every third pew, hand sanitizer at entrances
- **7:00 PM** service will be normal Sunday morning precautions: masks optional, open seating in every other pew, hand sanitizer at entrances.



### ADVENT SERVICES

We will be having Midweek Advent services on Wednesday, December 2, 9, and 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. The services will be in-person and live-streamed.



## Poinsettias

Congregation members are invited to donate poinsettias to beautify the church during the Christmas season. They may be brought in and left on the table in the overflow room. Put your name on a label and attach it to the container. Fill out the sheet with your name and who is being remembered.



## Christmas -Day- Service

December 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. we will be having our Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion. Service will be in-person & live-streamed.

**NEW MEMBERS**

On Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> during the worship service we will have the Receiving of New Members.



**DRIVE UP COMMUNION**

On Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be drive-up communion from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the back-parking lot.



**ADULT BIBLE CLASS**

Join us on Sunday's at 9:00 am for Sunday Adult Bible Class.



**COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> the Council Meeting will be after the worship service.



**OFFICIAL ACT AT ST. PAUL'S**

**Baptism**

Elyse Lynn Schmidt, daughter of Kristin & Ryne Schmidt, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Funeral**

Memorial Service was held on November 20, 2020 for Fred Arthur Mohr, Jr. who was called to his eternal home on November 15, 2020.

**2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES**

The offering envelopes for 2021 will be in the back of the church to pick up. Envelopes were ordered for the people who signed up to receive them. If you would like to receive a packet for 2021, you will have to notify the secretary or pastor. Special mission offering envelopes can be found in the back of the church, or any plain envelope can be used as long as you designate where your donation should go. Automatic debit giving can be used by signing a form at your bank.



**BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS FOR DECEMBER**

We are listing Baptismal birthdays to remember and celebrate the day we were adopted into the family of God through the washing of the Holy Spirit. Those having Baptismal birthdays in December are:

Jamison Thies, Kendyl Purcell	1
Sue Kelm, Jacob Schaffer	6
Gloria Barnett	10
Barb Lorenzen, Johannes Bumsted	13
Mark Teut	17
Nathan Vogt	19
Wyatt Teut	21
Suelinn Nelson, Caden Kuhlmann	23
Marilyn Neddermeyer, Holly Thies	25
Keenan Riddle	26
Nicole Norotsky	30



### **“THY STRONG WORD”**

‘Thy Strong Word’ is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 a.m. Monday through Saturday on KDSN 107.1FM).

Dec. 7-12	Rev. Josh Keinath Zion, Denison
Dec. 14-19	Rev. Merle Mahnken Immanuel, Schleswig
Dec. 21-26	Rev. Chad Trunkhill Bethlehem/Our Savior
Dec. 28-Jan. 2	Rev. Richard Merrill Multi-Point, Charter Oak

### **GOOD SHEPHERD HOUR**

This program is a ½ hour worship service heard on Sioux City, KSCJ, 1360 AM, at 8:00 am.

### **MAIN STREET LIVING**

Main Street Living is a television ministry of the Lutheran churches of Missouri-Synod and of the Iowa West District. The worship service is on Sundays at 10 am on channel 9 KCAU, the ABC Network from Sioux City.

### **THY STRONG WORD**

Thy Strong Word is a 5 min. daily devotional message given by LC-MS pastors of the Denison area and sponsored by area congregations including St. Paul’s. It is aired at 6:25 a.m., Mon.-Sat. on KDSN, FM107.1



### **PLEASE GIVE US A CALL**

- before going to the hospital
- birth of your baby
- death in the family
- making wedding plans
- address and name changes
- private communion

### **SUGGESTIONS FOR A SAFE WINTER**

As we head into the winter months, realize that snow and cold awaits us. At times, services may be held in less than ideal conditions. We encourage those with special concerns for dangerous conditions to use suitable caution. Reasonable effort will be made to have sidewalks clear, and ice melt placed where needed. Be cautious of the north parking lot, especially on mornings after a thaw and refreezing. We understand that for some it may be wiser to listen to services at home and not take chances.

If the weather is so severe that services are cancelled, it will be announced on KDSN radio: 107.1 FM and 1530 AM, and posted on church facebook and website. We will also use membercaller in the event of a cancellation. Please make sure we have your current phone number.



### **WORSHIP SERVICE DVD RECORDINGS:**

Can’t stream our worship service? DVD recordings will be available monthly with the previous month’s services. When you return your DVD, you will receive the next month. If you know someone who could use this share God’s Word by spreading the word. Please contact the church to sign up or for more information.



### **NEWSLETTER SPONSORS**

The newsletter this month is sponsored in honor of cancer patients & their families.

Please contact the office if you’d like to sponsor the newsletter. The cost is \$37.