

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office Number: 885-2221

Pastor Nathan Peitsch

Elders: Bruce Mohr: 269-8771; John Greder: 269-8337; Deryl Hennings: 885-2877; John McCall: 269-5163

JUNE 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Over the last several months things have been changing rapidly. We have gone from worshipping here in God's house to worshipping at home. We have gone to work from home and school at home. We have changed how we shop and how we live. And things continue to change. For some, I'm sure summer plans have changed as summer camps have closed and sporting events have been suspended.

Even as our church is cautiously preparing to reopen, things continue to change. Worship at church will change. We won't be singing yet to help prevent spreading the virus. Some of you may not get to sit in "your spot" in church as your particular pew may be blocked off to help maintain social distancing. And others of you may choose not to come in yet as members of "at-risk" groups or even simply to help prevent spread.

In the midst of everything changing around us, it is nice to know that some things never change. God assures us in His Word that He, Himself never changes. His love for each of us remains the same. His continued care for us never changes. His provision for us continues no matter what, because He never changes. In Lamentations we read,

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;"
-Lam. 3:22

God's love never stops. He never stops showing mercy. He has shown us His love and mercy in sending His son Jesus for us. Christ died so that God could be merciful to us.

In speaking to the children of Israel about their sins and God's mercy, we hear from Malachi,

"For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed." -Mal. 3:6

Because God's love and mercy do not change, God spares His people. This book comes after

the people of Israel had been sent away into exile. And yet in the midst of their exile, God gives them this assurance that He does not change. What a comfort to know that though everything around them was changing, though they had been taken from their homes and their homeland, God was not going to change. His love for them would remain and His mercy would continue to be shown to them.

In the midst of all that is changing around us we can take comfort in the fact that God is never going to change. He will continue to love us. He will continue to show us mercy. He will continue to care for us and hear us when we pray. His Word remains true and never changes. St Peter assures us of this in a way reflecting that same idea that everything around us may change, but God's Word does not. Peter writes,

"for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever." And this word is the good news that was preached to you." -1 Peter 1:24-25

God's Word remains forever, though everything else falls away and withers God's Word continues to give us hope and comfort.

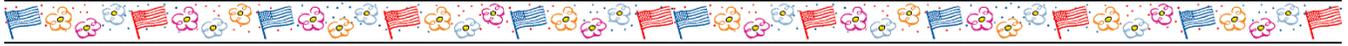
As we continue to see things changing around us and the "new normal" remains an elusive target, we can find comfort in knowing that God remains a constant for us. I believe the hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness" says it well,

"Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!"

He changes not and in that we can find comfort as we continue to change the way we worship to keep everyone we can safe. Social interaction may change, summer plans may change, work, school and shopping arrangements may change, but God will not and in this we can find comfort.

May His unchanging love and mercy sustain you through these trying and ever changing times.

In Christ,
Pastor Nathan Peitsch



Congregation of St Paul's Lutheran Church Ute

Most of you have already heard that a date has been set to bring our Sunday service back to the Church Sanctuary. June 7th marks the date that we all are looking forward to.

After several Elder meetings and including the Trustees in the most recent, it has been our goal to determine how to go about this in the safest manner. In the interest of transparency, we are sharing the changes that will take place in our service. Note that the goal is for the safety of all and that these changes are temporary.

- 1) Sunday School and Bible Study will be on summer break.
- 2) Elders on duty will be outside the main church entries in the front and rear of the building for No Contact greeting and guidance for the service.
- 3) There will not be a paper bulletin handed out nor will there be Bibles or Hymnals in the pews. Announcements will be posted on the overhead and reviewed by Pastor at the conclusion of service.
- 4) Masks will be encouraged to be worn as a way to protect both you and those around you, but not enforced. You may bring your own mask or a disposable mask will be provided. Note that if you belong to an "at risk" group, you are encouraged to remain home per Iowa Public Health guidelines.
- 5) We will be limiting access to certain portions of the church. Access to the church will be through the main double door and the North parking lot doors. The church basement and classrooms will be closed off with no access to the congregation. This limits the area that will need to be sanitized after Sunday use.
- 6) Hand sanitizer will be placed at both entrances to the church and we encourage all to use it upon entry.
- 7) The main restroom upstairs will be available for congregational use. Disinfecting wipes will be available in that restroom, and we ask that all surfaces touched be wiped down upon exit. Parents, please accompany your children to wipe the surfaces down for them.
- 8) Every other pew will be closed off to promote social distancing and we ask that you keep a six foot distance between households. We understand that everyone has "their favorite spot" in church but we ask that the following seating arrangement be followed. We encourage that we fill the church from front to the rear. We also encourage that only households sit together. If you are a single person household, please use a chair in the overflow. Smaller households please use the outer pews. This leaves the middle pews for larger households.
- 9) There will be no Hymns sung during the service. Scientists have determined that singing promotes droplets entering the air. The organist will play before and after service.
- 10) There will not be a children's message during service and Communion services will be suspended until a later date.
- 11) Collection plates will be placed near the entrances of church. This eliminates the need to pass from hand to hand.
- 12) Upon completion of service, be patient. Ushers will usher everyone out but will be starting from the rear of church moving to the front. We ask that you proceed directly to your vehicle to avoid any social gathering.

- 13) Pastor will not be personally available before and after service. Any congregational needs should be addressed either by phone to Pastor's office or through any of the Elders.
- 14) If you feel uncomfortable attending in person, or if you are part of an at risk group, we will be continuing to livestream services as before. Also, if you are not feeling well, fever, cold, etc. we ask that you remain at home and view service on facebook, per Iowa Department of Public Health guidelines.
- 15) Sanitization of the church will happen every Monday following Sunday service. All pews will be wiped down with an approved disinfectant. All surfaces such as door handles, rails, etc, will be wiped as well with disinfectant wipes.

In closing, we would like to remind all that this is a unique time in our country and world. We have developed this guideline to promote the safety of our congregation and Pastor. We pray this passes soon so that we can all get back to our normal. If there are any questions, please direct them to any Elders, Trustees, or Pastor.

God's Blessings to All!

Your Elders at St Paul.



FROM STEWARDSHIP:

In these unprecedented times of pandemic, please don't forget your monetary gifts to support St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

If you are a customer of the Community Bank, you can do one of the following actions:

1. Call the bank for a recurring debit from your checking account into the church account. This can be done for any amount and will recur for the span of time you would like to give, for example, every Friday or every first of the month. Community Bank will send you a form to sign to confirm this request, but your debit can be taken immediately. If you choose to suspend this contribution, you are responsible for contacting the Community Bank.
2. Call Community Bank in Ute and request a one-time transfer from your Community Bank checking account to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Actions 1 and 2 can only be done for Community Bank customers.
3. Make out a check or give cash; put it in an envelope with St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ute, Iowa written on the outside and deliver it to the bank if they are open, drop it in the night deposit, or mail it to any Community

Bank branch. You can be a customer at any institution and give this way.

Community Bank
 131 East Main St.
 Ute, Iowa 51060
 Ph: 712-885-2275

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

SPECIAL MISSION PROJECT

Please remember our Special Mission Project for 2020, Carl & Kelsey Grulke and family, who are serving in Botswana with Lutheran Bible Translators. In Pastor Grulke's newsletter he asks that we

PRAY for the missionaries and their families and the translators and their projects

GIVE to support their ministry

TELL to raise awareness of Lutheran Bible Translators.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 19-23
SAVE THE DATE



“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

June 1-6 Rev. Richard Merrill
Multi-Point, Charter Oak

June 8-13 Rev. Nathan Peitsch
St. Paul's, Ute

June 15-20 Rev. Mark Kluzek
Faith, Deloit/St. John, Kiron

June 22-27 Rev. Josh Keinath
Zion, Denison

June 29-July 4 Rev. Merle Mahnken
Immanuel, Schleswig

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.

LWML DISTRICT CONVENTION

I just received an email from President Jane Morris that the ECB had a meeting via ZOOM earlier tonight and with a very heavy heart it was an unanimous vote to cancel the 2020 convention in Okaboji June 18-20!

In a few days I will be getting more information on what will be happening - once again we are in uncharted waters but with God as our pilot all will be in control! Like my 9 year old granddaughter said when our big Easter family dinner was canceled "I think we need a do-over!"

I found this somewhere just lately and thought I would share -----

Q-uiet your soul
U-nite as one with God
A-ct with Godly Love
R-ead your Bible
A-ctivate your faith
N-ourish your seed
T-alk to the Lord
I-ntercede for others
N-estle in the Presence of God
E-levate God in worship
So stay safe and healthy and I will let you know more as I hear more too!
Serving the Lord with a great full heart!
Jan Ketelsen

With deepest regrets, the 39th LWML Iowa West District Convention is cancelled. The safety and health of our Lutheran Women in Mission is our prime concern.

Details will be forthcoming on restructuring some of the happenings that were going to be at convention, only in a virtual format. Voting will still take place by paper ballot, via mail, with the intent to announce results June 19th.

Thank you for your prayers and understanding.

Thanks,
Lisa Wilson
Editor/Information Technology Chairman -
Iowa West District LWML

2020 CAMP OKOBOJI QUILT AUCTION

THANK YOU!

ATTENTION: THE 2020 QUILT AUCTION **HAS BEEN CANCELLED!**

Thank you to everyone who helps in any way to make the Camp Okoboji Auxiliary Quilt Auction a success! It takes the time and energy of many people to make the auction happen! The Auxiliary is humbled by all those who care so much for Camp Okoboji! Please pray that the Lord will once again bless our efforts. Blessings to all!

Camp Okoboji Auxiliary



NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Thank you to Keri Lane for sponsoring the newsletter this month.

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



BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS FOR JUNE

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 June are:

Jenelle Conto	1
Brett Mohr	4
Kent Seieroe	5
Dolly Krohn	6
Kyle Bumsted	10
Gary McCall	13
Jerry Thies	15
Neal Bartels	17
Jamie & Kyle Savery, Skye Grindle	19
Linda Plough, Kenley Creese, Lillian Koch	20
Gary Vinke	
John McCall	22
Morgan Teut, Kerry Vinke	23
Teri Hinrichsen, William Sorensen	24
Mardi Goslar	27
Jennifer Lynn, Barbara Mordhorst	28
Calliyah Mareau	29



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

Camp Okoboji Events In Response to COVID-19

CAMP OKOBOJI COVID-19 UPDATE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

VISION: Refreshing Body & Spirit

MISSION: We provide Sanctuary which connects guests with God and His Creation

VALUES: Gospel, Safety, Excellence, Wellness, Stewardship, Legacy

Throughout the last 80 years, Camp Okoboji has been a ministry committed to serving its guests - pastors, church workers, campers, and families. The unprecedented impact of the COVID-19 has disrupted Camp Okoboji's conventional approach to carrying out our Vision, Mission, and Values as it is primarily based on gathering in a physical location. Since Mid-March, Camp Okoboji has cancelled all events, programs, and reservations of Family Ministry Cabins through May 10, 2020. As time has gone on, we have been investing ourselves in keeping up with recommendations from CDC, Iowa's state government, our local health departments, and various Christian Camping organizations.

In the conversations between the Executive Committee - our Executive Director, Camper Director, & Ministry Coordinator - and the Camp Okoboji Board, *we've come to the shared conclusion to cancel all 2020 Summer Programs, family reunions, large group events, and activities.* This decision was not easy, but was entirely directed by our overall intent to care for the needs of our guests - in faith, in body, and spirit. The following 2020 Summer Programs are included in these cancellations: *Kids' Kamp #1 & #2, Cub Week #1 & 2, J.O.Y. Camp #1 & 2, Girls' Sports Camp, Lake Adventure Camp, Minneboji Lutheran Camp, July 4th Family Retreat, Junior High Week, Youth Week, Family Retreat #1, Family Retreat #2, Camp Okoboji's Traveling Vacation Bible School / Day Camp, & Camp Okoboji's On-Site Day Camp.*

Our 2020 Summer Season will look very different than it has in the past. *Our immediate attention will be developing a stronger Family Ministry for the families that reserve our Family Ministry Cabins.* For those reserving a stay at Camp Okoboji this summer (while remaining within Camp Okoboji's social distancing guidelines), we will be providing opportunities for our guests to be refreshed, enriched in the faith, and built up in Christian community. For more information on reserving a Family Ministry Cabin and participating in this opportunity at Camp Okoboji this summer, call the Camp Office (712-337-3325).

With all this said, we look forward to Camp Okoboji's 2021 Summer Season when, Lord willing, J.O.Y. Campers, Cubs, Junior High Youth, High School Youth, & Family Retreaters, will gather again to grow in their faith in Christ, be built up in Christian community, and be equipped to be lights for Christ in the world.

