

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

MAY 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As our social distancing has continued through this past month, I have heard from many of you a strong desire to return to church and resume worship here. Tied to that has often been the desire to receive the Lord's Supper. It was a difficult Maundy Thursday this year, in part because this was a day set aside to celebrate the institution of the Lord's Supper and instead, we were isolated at home. The words of institution begin with the phrase "Our Lord, Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed." And yet as we remembered the night He was betrayed, we were unable to partake of the Sacrament He gave to His church.

The Lord's Supper is such a blessing to us as God's people. Luther refers to it as one of the "means of Grace" a way God gives to us His grace and forgiveness. As one of only two Sacraments we as Lutherans celebrate, we rejoice in the gifts we are given in this Holy Supper: forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation.

The Lord's Supper is often referred to simply as "communion". And it is called this in part because of the Words of St Paul, "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?" 1 Cor. 10:16. In catechism, we teach that communion is something that happens in two ways or two directions: vertically and horizontally. Vertically, communion is a reception of the gifts God gives to us: that forgiveness, life, and salvation we spoke of earlier. Horizontally, communion is a matter of fellowship, something happening between yourself and the believers around you participating in this same Sacrament, confessing this same faith and belief in our Savior and the blessed gift He gave us in this Sacrament.

But one important thing to remember in all this is the Lord's Supper is given as just one of those "means of Grace". He has also given us baptism which has washed away our sins and in which we were marked as those redeemed by Christ the crucified. And He has given us His Word, by which He gives us the message of His grace and forgiveness in Christ Jesus. Going without the Sacrament for a time does not mean that we have lost our salvation nor does it mean that we aren't receiving God's grace. Instead, we receive that grace and forgiveness through God's Word and we are reminded of that grace we received in our baptism.

There was a time not so long ago when churches could go several months without receiving the Lord's Supper because there simply weren't enough pastors to go around. One pastor would be assigned to a large area and he would travel to the various churches, administering the Sacrament to these congregations as he was able. That being said, there is nothing wrong with desiring the Sacrament of the Altar. In fact, Luther encourages that desire in the Large Catechism, we read, "But if you say, "What, then, shall I do if I cannot feel such distress or experience hunger and thirst for the Sacrament?" Answer, "For those who are of such a mind that they do not realize their condition I know no better counsel than that they put their hand into their shirt to check whether they have flesh and blood. And if you find that you do, then go, for your good, to St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians. Hear what sort of a fruit your flesh is: Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies and things like these. [Galatians 5:19-21]"

For this reason, we are offering an opportunity for you to receive the Lord's Supper in the midst of our social isolation. You are not required to participate in this option, this is for those of you who feel you need to receive the sacrament as soon as possible and do not wish to wait until we can receive it once more as the body of Christ gathered here in His house in worship. May 13th and 14th

from 1pm-6pm we will be offering the Lord's Supper car-side in our north parking lot at 30 minute intervals. We are asking that you please call the church at 712-885-2221 on the 11th or 12th from 9am-11:45am or 1pm - 5pm to schedule a time. Please inform me when you call how many will be in your vehicle at your scheduled time so I can prepare the elements. We ask that you keep your windows rolled up until I have set up the table beside your vehicle and have stepped back. I will then consecrate the elements and have a brief prayer. These measures are to protect you as well as all those communing that day. Between each scheduled time, the table will be sanitized and reset for the next group. We ask that you dispose of whatever you take into your vehicle on your own.

Please keep in mind, you have received God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. While God encourages us to "do this in remembrance" going without for a time does not put our salvation in jeopardy. That being said, the sacrament can give great comfort to troubled souls. Please feel free to contact me at the church to discuss any of this further or if you have questions about how this will work.

God's blessings be with you and I look forward to worshiping with you here in God's house as soon as it is safe to do so,

Pastor Nathan Peitsch

Message from the Elders,

On April 27, 2020, Governor Kim Reynolds signed a proclamation addressing the reopening of businesses and establishments pursuant to Iowa Code 135.144 dealing with COVID-19 virus that has stricken the world we live in. Section Six addresses Mass Gatherings and events of more than 10 people shall continue to be prohibited until May 15, 2020. Article A in section six states that Spiritual and religious gatherings are not prohibited by this section. That the church shall implement reasonable measures of these gatherings to ensure social distancing of its participants and provide adequate hygiene related stations to reduce the risk of spreading. On April 29, 2020, the elders of St Paul's met with pastor to discuss what this means for our congregation and our plan moving forward. This news provides us with hope that we will all be able to worship together soon. Many ideas were presented to utilize for social distancing when we return. However, it was our decision to postpone the opening of our church. At this time, Iowa has not reached the peak of COVID-19 cases and has only recently ramped up testing. We hear of more cases daily, some of which are geographically close to us. We wanted to communicate that it was with much deliberation and that this decision was not made by haste or fear. There are neighboring churches that have decided to reopen and others not. Our responsibilities lie with the health and wellbeing of our congregation and its employees. The elders will meet again in two weeks to review the overall status of our state and area. We will continue to livestream our services on Sunday on Facebook. Our live view numbers are encouraging and viewings after service are outstanding. I am also excited to announce that we are planning to hold a drive through communion, Pastor will have more information on that. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to any elders or Pastor.

May your unfailing love be with us, Lord, even as we put our hope in you. Psalm 33:22

Stay safe and Healthy!

St Paul's Board of Elders

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



CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Photo Directory will be rescheduled for a later date.

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

May 4-9	Rev. Mark Kluzek Faith, Deloit/St. John, Kiron
May 11-16	Rev. Josh Keinath Zion, Denison
May 18-23	Rev. Merle Mahnken Immanuel, Schleswig
May 25-30	Rev. Chad Trunkhill Bethlehem/Our Savior

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.

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS FOR MAY

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.

Kristina Bernholtz, Austin Leitz	3
Kendra Creese	4
Bernice Schuitema	6
Jennifer Burbridge	7
Jacob Sorensen, NiKay Schaffer	8
Jeffery Mordhorst, Matthew Leitz,	9
Roger Krohn	
Elaine Vogt	11
Justin Hanson, Lainey Bernholtz	12
David Hageman	13
Evelyn Thies	14
Joan Hennings	17
Fred Mohr, Carol Ullerich	18
Kimberly Creese	19
Paul Tuttle	20
Mason Kuhlmann	21
Lillian Carritt, Josiah Peitsch	22
Matthew Sorensen	23
Matthew Hanson	27
Steven Gust, Kimberly King, Nina Leitz	31



A gift for Mom

The three young children told their mother that she wasn't to lift a finger on Mother's Day. They were going to do all the cooking. So, they got out three pots, two frying pans, six measuring spoons, three mixing bowls, a double boiler, a chopping board and eight serving dishes. Mom said it was the best Jell-O she had ever tasted!



Memorial Day

Memorial Day emerged from the grim shadows of the American Civil War. Before the close of the war, women began decorating the graves of soldiers



who had died in that war. The practice quickly spread, and a few years later May 30, 1868, was designated as Decoration Day — a day for placing flowers on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers throughout the United States.

In 1882, Decoration Day became known as Memorial Day, and soldiers who died in other wars were also honored. Over the years, it has become a day when all loved ones who have died — in war and otherwise — are remembered. In 1971, the United States Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be observed annually on the last Monday in May.

On this Memorial Day, remember those who gave their lives for our country. But also pray for those who continue serving to keep America free, especially those who are in harm's way.

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.

