

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office Number: 885-2221

Pastor Nathan Peitsch

Elders: John Greder, Deryl Hennings, John Thies, Steve Gust

DECEMBER 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With our Thanksgiving celebrations fresh in our minds, I imagine many of you have ideas of some of the many blessings God has given you over the past year. These blessings lead us then to give thanks to God, because we recognize Him as the giver of all good things. I am reminded of the hymn, "How Can I Thank You, Lord" where we sing of the great things God has done for us: bearing with us in our sins, bringing us to faith, giving us joy as God shows us the way of salvation. The song concludes with the request that God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lead us to adore Him, serve Him, and ultimately be welcomed into His eternal kingdom. Because of the many blessings we have, we are led to praise, adore, and serve our loving God.

So how do we do these things? We praise God with our voices. Whether that is through psalms, spoken words of "alleluia" or "praise the Lord", or songs of praise we sing together. We show our adoration through our gifts brought to God in loving obedience, but also through loving service in many different ways.

When I was in high school, one of my teachers had a phrase that he would repeat when asked about our purpose on Earth as God's children. He would say that we, "love and serve God by loving and serving others." Yes, we can serve God through our attendance in worship. We can serve Him through our tithes and offerings. But as Jesus told us in the parable of the sheep and the goats,

"the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'" Matt. 25:40

Our service to our neighbor is service to God because it is what God has called us to do.

God has called us to serve one another in love. St Paul talks about this idea of serving one another in terms of a body, referring to the church as the "body of Christ." A body isn't made up exclusively of hands or just feet or

just eyes. Each member of the body has a function that serves the rest of the body. The nose smells, the eyes see, the ears here, the hands touch. So it is with the body of Christ. God equips each of us differently and so St Paul comes to the conclusion,

"God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another." 1 Cor. 12:24a-25

With that in mind, there are so many different ways that we as God's children can serve Him in His house. You can serve by helping to clean God's house. You can serve by assisting with funerals or helping with worship by ushering. You can serve by joining a board or committee or helping out with a program like VBS or the Christmas Program. You can serve by joining the prayer chain and lifting up others in prayer. You can serve by volunteering to drive pastor around. And there are countless other ways you can serve the Lord based on the gifts He has given.

God has blessed us greatly through His Son, Jesus Christ. Forgiven, redeemed, and looking forward to the promise of eternal life with Him, we in thanksgiving serve our Lord. And so I encourage you this holiday season, as you recall the great gift God has given us in sending Christ to be born for us. Consider with the hymn writer, "How can I thank You, Lord?" For God has built us together into the body of Christ. We have been gifted in so many different ways. Let us use our gifts to bring praise and honor to His name. Let us "love and serve God, by loving and serving others." To that end I encourage you to consider where you can serve as a member of the body of Christ. That together we might ask, as we do every Sunday in the singing of the offertory, "What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?" May God continue to bless you with His love and grace this holiday season.

In Christ, Pastor Nathan Peitsch

SNOW REMOVAL

We are looking for someone to remove the snow off the sidewalks and steps this winter. If you are interested, please contact a trustee: Jim Thies, Gary Goslar or Ted Nutt

DRIVE UP COMMUNION

On Monday, December 6th & 20th there will be drive-up communion from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the back-parking lot.



ADVENT SERVICES

We will be having Midweek Advent services on Wednesday, December 1, 8, 15 and 22nd at 7:00 p.m. The services will be in-person and live-streamed.



All children are invited to Jesus' Birthday Party from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 12th.

CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE

Sunday School will begin earlier at 8:30 a.m. during the month of December for Christmas Eve Practice.



The Sunday School Christmas program will be presented Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m.



Christmas —Day— Service

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



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.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Thursday, December 2nd the Elders Meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting is Tuesday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m.



LCW CHRISTMAS PARTY

The LCW Christmas Party will be on Wednesday, December 15th at noon.



The LCW is looking for men and women to help serve at funerals and events. There is a sign-up sheet is on the back table or you can call the church office.



The offering envelopes for 2022 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 2022, 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.



The annual church cleaning is planned for the week of December 12-19th. We will be having a kick-off night on Sunday, December 12 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. to start the week. You can come in on your own or as a group during the week. The church will be open Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 9:00 to 5:00 p.m. If you need to come in at a different time, please call an elder or pastor to open the church. When you get do, please mark it off the list on the secretary's door. Sign-up sheet is on the back table of the jobs that need to be done. All members are needed, men, women, and children.

2021 SPECIAL MISSION PROJECTS

This year are special mission project is The Grulkes', Lutheran Bible Translators. Congratulation for making our goal for the year. If you would like to still give to our special missions, please write the check to St. Paul's Lutheran Church and mark (Special Missions) on your envelope or on the check memo.

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.



OFFICIAL ACT IN NOVEMBER

Funeral

Memorial Service was held on November 6, 2021 for Gary Ralph Vinke who was called to his eternal home on October 31, 2021.

Memorial Service was held on November 11, 2021 for Norma Jean Buschmann who was called to her eternal home on November 7, 2021.

Graveside Service was held on November 12, 2021 for Delbert E. Olson who was called to his eternal home on October 30, 2021.

Memorial Service was held on November 20, 2021 for Norman Henry Timm who was called to his eternal home on November 15, 2021.

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
Samantha Kelm	14
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



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



We would like to welcome our new members: Laura Mordhorst, Chad, Rachael, Landon, Leah & Lydia Kiepe, Emily and Landen Meseck, Maria Watke and Nancy Edmundson



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

Lost and Found

A couple of weeks ago there was some keys found at the church. If you lost them, please talk to an Elder, Pastor or Deanna.

"THY STRONG WORD"

Thy Strong Word is a 5 min. daily devotional message given by LC-MS pastors. It is aired at 6:25 a.m., Mon.-Sat. on KDSN, FM107.1

**Dec. 6-11 Rev. Nathan Peitsch
St. Paul's, Ute**

Dec. 13-18 Rev. Mark Kluzek
St. John, Kiron/Faith, Deloit

Dec. 20-25 Rev. Josh Keinath
Zion, Denison

Dec. 27-Jan. 1 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.

Mission Central – Visiting Missionaries 2021

LCMS World Mission 40718 Highway E16
Mapleton, IA 51034 712-882-1029 Gary Thies
(gary.thies@lcms.org) www.missioncentral.us

- December 1, 2021 – Kip and Ivy Hoech – Asia – 1:00 pm
- January 8, 2022 – James Sharp family – Uruguay – 1:00 pm
- January 18, 2022 – Tirzah Krey – Dominican Republic – 1:00 pm

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 station, and posted on church facebook and website. We will also use Call Multiplier in the event of a cancellation. Please make sure we have your current phone number.



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

VISION: Refreshing Body & Spirit

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

WINTER EVENTS

Family Ice Fishing Retreat January 28-30, 2022
This Ice Fishing Retreat is for all families of all ages and is for anyone who loves to fish or wants to learn! Expect good food, good fellowship, and good fishing for this weekend retreat. Pastor Ben Dose of Zion – Arcadia & Pastor Jim Stogdill of Messiah – Johnston will be our Bible Study leaders. Looking forward to seeing you at the (FROZEN) lake!