

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office Number: 885-2221

Pastor Nathan Peitsch

Elders: John Greder: 269-8337; Deryl Hennings: 885-2877; John Thies 882-3379; Jim Ewoldt 251-5576

February 2021

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

February is most notably known for Valentine's Day. This, as we all know, is a day set aside to celebrate love. We are all familiar with that famous "love chapter" of the Bible, found in 1 Corinthians 13. There, St Paul tells us all about love: how it is patient and kind, not self-seeking or rude, believing, hoping, and enduring all things. What a beautiful picture of love St Paul gives us in this passage! These verses do more than just tell us about love, they tell us about God's love for us. As we consider love this month, it seems fitting that we also consider the other important holiday we find happening this month.

February is also known for the beginning of the season of Lent, marked with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a day set aside to focus our attention on our sinfulness and our need for a savior. On this day, we are reminded, "we are dust and to dust we shall return." But even as we have this reminder, we remember the love God has shown us. St John writes in 1 John,

"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him." - 1 John 3:1

Despite being dust, despite the ashen stain of sin upon us, God calls us His children.

Just a little further along in his epistle, St John assures us,

"In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." - 1 John 4:10

Jesus was sent to be the propitiation, or sacrifice, that pays the price for our sins. God has truly shown us His love. For even as we consider how utterly undeserving we are on Ash Wednesday, even as we begin the Lenten season of contrition and repentance for those sins, we also remember the love of God shown to us in Christ Jesus. John even goes so far as to remind us that it isn't because of our love for God. Our love for God falls short, our love is insufficient, but His love for us is all sufficient.

Therefore, St John calls on us, because we are so loved by God, to also love one another:

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God." - 1 John 4:7

As we repent of all the sins we have committed and turn to God for His love and forgiveness, we also remember that He has called us to love one another. In our world today there seems to be so much love lost. Anger, hate, violence, these things seem to rule the day. Love for God, love for our neighbor, these seem harder and harder to find in our world today.

As we remember the love God has shown us, we are reminded of another passage that tells us of God's love, John 3:16. There Jesus tells us, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16 Holding fast to this faith in our loving savior, we hear the words of Hebrews 10:

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works," - Hebrews 10:23-24

As we confess our faith in a world where hate seems to rule over love, let us be the ones to show love to the loveless. Let us be the ones to show God's compassion. Let us consider how we can encourage that love in others, rather than stirring up more anger and hate. This after all is what we have been called to. Though we are dust and to dust we shall return, God has shown us His love. For He doesn't call us dust, but His own beloved children.

May we be reflections of His great love,
Pastor Nathan Peitsch

ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins on February 17th with Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 p.m.

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." During the service we will place ashes on our foreheads in the sign of the cross to reflect on the prayerful and penitential season of the church year.

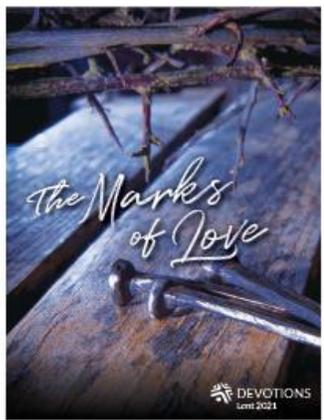
MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Mid-week Lenten Services will be at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday starting February 24th.



LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Every year Lutheran Hour Ministries makes available Lenten devotions. Copies of this devotion can be picked up from the back table in church on February 14th.



Following the narrative of Mark's Gospel, *The Marks of Love* explores the life and ministry of Jesus. The tragedy of Golgotha is met with the triumph of the resurrection on Easter morning. Along the way, we learn of Jesus' deep compassion for those He loved and served, including those who put Him to death.

No story in human history is like the narrative of Jesus' Passion. In it we see God in the flesh, coming to seek and to save the lost. In *The Marks of Love*, we meet a Savior who endured life's hardships, suffered our pain, and bore the weight of our sins. Each left its mark on Him as He pressed on to the cross, giving His life for ours, appeasing God's wrath against sin, and rising victorious over sin, death, and the devil.

DRIVE UP COMMUNION

On Monday, February 8th and 22nd, there will be drive-up communion from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please note that the location has changed for the rest of winter and drive-up communion will be offered in the front of the church by the basement entrance to the fellowship hall to avoid the ice of the back parking lot.



LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you would like to get your own Lutheran Witness the cost of one year subscription is \$22.68. This new subscription will start with the May issue. Just place your \$22.68 in cash or check (payable to St. Paul's) in an envelope (marked with your name and for Lutheran Witness) and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office before February 20th. The church will also have 2 to 3 copies that you can borrow.



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

You can pick up the 2020 Annual Report from the back table in church.



OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

Those elected as officers or board members included:

- Elder:** Jim Ewoldt
- Trustee:** Gary Goslar
- Board of Education:** Rick Knuth
- Chairman:** Don Petersen
- Secretary:** Audrey Gust
- Treasurer:** Deanna Sorensen
- Stewardship Secretary:** Terri Mohr
- Auditing Committee:** Linda Riddle, Teresa Mordhorst, Dave Seieroe
- Endowment Fund:** Mariah Nutt
- Financial Committee:** Audrey Gust, Elaine Vogt, Bruce Mohr, Terri Mohr, Linda Riddle, John Thies, Dave Seieroe, Linda Seieroe, Barbara Mordhorst, Denny Mordhorst, Becky Mordhorst, Mike Mordhorst, Kim King

We give thanks for the faithful service of those who have completed their terms:

- Elder** – Bruce Mohr
- Board of Education** – Angie Teut
- Chairman** – Gary McCall
- Auditing** – Mike Mordhorst, Harvey Thies, Mariah Nutt
- Stewardship Secretary** – Barb Mordhorst
- Finance Committee** – Mariah Nutt, Heather Rosburg, Brenda Savery, Kevin Savery, Kerry Vinke, Jami Henschen



2022 ENVELOPES

For 2022, you will need to request envelopes by either calling the church office or there is a sign-up sheet on the back table by March 1st.



CHURCH RECORDS

Funeral

Memorial Service was held on January 6, 2021 for Lloyd John "Swede" Aronson who was called to his eternal home on December 31, 2020.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

On Tuesday, January 9th the Church Council will meet at 7 p.m.



CUB WEEK SCHOLARSHIP

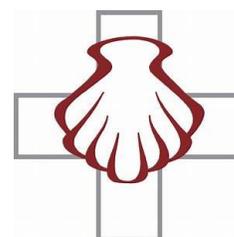
The Camp Okoboji auxiliary will be giving away 6 scholarships for Cub/Jr High/Youth Weeks. You can pick up a scholarship application from the church office or your Sunday School teacher. The application needs to be completed & returned to Camp Okoboji by April 8th.



BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY

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 February are:

Keri Lane, Steven Thies	1
Kailea Ewoldt	2
Warren Thies, Brooklyn Leitz	4
Mark Bretthauer, Ryan Pithan	6
James Pohlman	8
Megan Peitsch	9
Becky Miller	10
Dennis Mordhorst	11
Kim Lane	12
Ethan Kuhlmann	13
Misty Rose, Tobias Teut	14
John Neddermeyer	15
David Meadows	18
Brenner Jung	19
Torii Rose	20
Jane Ohlmeier, Linda Seieroe, Rustie Pithan	22
Gary Goslar	23
Emily Sorensen	27



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

Feb. 1-6 Rev. Chad Trunkhill
Our Savior/Bethlehem
Feb. 8-13 Rev. Richard Merrill
Multi-Point, Charter Oak
Feb. 15-20 Rev. Nathan Peitsch
St. Paul’s, Ute
Feb. 22-27 Rev. Mark Kluzek
St. John, Kiron/Faith, Deloit



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



FEBRUARY HELPERS

Elders: John Greder

Ushers: Dave Seieroe, Mike Mordhorst,
Mona Pithan, Bruce Mohr

Altar: Joan Neddermeyer

Flowers: Jo Thies

Finance Committee: Mike & Becky Mordhorst

WORSHIP SERVICE DVD RECORDINGS:

DVD recordings are 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 for January and February is sponsored in honor Warren Thies’ 87th Birthday that was January 12th and in honor of Evelyn & Vernon Thies’ 60th wedding anniversary that was January 22nd.

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



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.

ST. PAUL'S 2021 SPECIAL MISSION PROJECT



Goroga ka Pula



Back in December, when we were informing our colleagues and friends in Botswana that we would be returning soon, many of them responded with "Goroga ka pula," which means "arrive with rain." The word **pula** in Setswana is used in many different ways. The money here is pula and thebe, which translates to rain and shield. This is to remind people that "rain is our shield." Pula is used as an exclamation to celebrate something. The national anthem ends with everyone shouting "Pula!" When people say "goroga ka pula," it means welcome back, or arrive with blessing. Our return was indeed blessed, and we arrived with literal rain. January has been the rainiest month our family has ever experienced in Botswana. When people talk about the weather, they might complain a tiny bit about the inconveniences the rain causes (power outages, flooded roads, etc.), but they always end with how happy they are that the rains are good this year. After two years of drought, the pula is indeed a blessing.



School started just as we finished our self-quarantine. The kids are so happy to be back among their classmates and into a somewhat normal rhythm. Some of their favorite things are on pause due to COVID, but they're doing so well adjusting back to life in Botswana.



We are so happy to be working with the translation projects again! The Wayeyi project is in the process of publishing the book of Mark. The Shekgalagari project is working on team checking and moving closer and closer to publication of the entire New Testament. Both projects are exploring ideas for Scripture Engagement.

Prayer Requests

Keep us in your prayers:

- For all those here and around the world affected by COVID-19.
- For our city, Maun, as we are experiencing a surge of COVID cases, including the newer South African strain of the virus.
- For wisdom regarding COVID precautions and travel.
- For technology and internet to enhance and not hinder the translation projects.
- Thanksgiving for PULA!
- For the Wayeyi team as they plan a COVID-friendly mini-launch for the book of Mark.
- For the Shekglaglari team as they move closer to publication of the New Testament.
- That God would continue to provide for our ministry through partners like you.

January 17, 2021, Voters Meeting Recap

The meeting opened with prayer, and the minutes of the previous 10/18/20 meeting were on the screen. The 2021 Ballot was handed out and everyone voted. The General Fund went from \$18,452.62 January 1, 2020, to \$21,374.05 at the end of 2020, including the forgiven PPP Loan of \$18,500.00. The Auditing Committee met in December and went through the books and the computer system and everything matched. The prayer chain has been restarted with double the number of members. Ash Wednesday is February 17, 2021. Livestreaming of the services is continuing, with DVD's available of the previous month's services. The Wednesday Bible study is on hiatus until the weather improves. Sunday morning Bible study is held in the sanctuary before the service. All are invited. Ten kids are attending Catechism classes. The trustees reported that the steeple repair project is on hold until warmer weather. Tina Bernholtz has resigned her position on the Board of Education but is staying on as Sunday School Superintendent and will continue to teach. Former members of the Board of Ed will be contacted to see if one would be willing to fill out the one-year remainder of her term. There was a technical issue so that the livestream of the Christmas Eve program could not be aired, but Pastor made a whole new video of it to put on Facebook Christmas Eve night after the services. The children held caroling the in back parking lot and sang at a couple of local homes. The kids will be separated into two groups based on age to save on curriculum expenses. The board is working on making singing possible again for the children. The special mission budget was met last year, and the church was close to meeting the Iowa District West budget amount. A motion to continue supporting the Grulkes of Lutheran Bible Translators and increasing the goal to \$2,500.00 in 2021 was made by NiKay Schaffer and seconded by Gary Goslar. Motion passed.

Election Results:

Elder	Jim Ewoldt
Trustees	Gary Goslar
Board of Ed	Rick Knuth
Chairman	Don Petersen
Secretary	Audrey Gust
Treasurer	Deanna Sorensen
Stewardship Secretary	Terri Mohr
Auditing Committee	Linda Riddle, Teresa Mordhorst, Dave Seieroe
Endowment Fund	Mariah Nutt
Finance Committee:	Audrey Gust, Kim King, Becky Mordhorst, Mike Mordhorst, Barb Mordhorst, Denny Mordhorst, Bruce Mohr, Terri Mohr, Linda Riddle, Linda Seieroe, Dave Seieroe, Elaine Vogt, John Thies

A motion to accept all by unanimous vote was made by Linda Seieroe and seconded by Lynette Thies. Motion carried. October services: 155, average 39. Communion: 84, average 42. November services: 202, average 40. Communion: 85, average 42.5. Thanksgiving: 14. December services: 159, average 40. 3 Communion: 113, average 38. Special: Three Advent services, Two Christmas Eve services, one Christmas Day service: 173, average 29. John McCall resigned as Elder, and John Thies was appointed to finish his term. Ten Bibles were donated to the Sunday School. Applying ashes to the forehead will still be done on Ash Wednesday, but precautions will be in place. Anyone who comes forward for ashes will be required to wear a mask. The ashes will be applied with a Q-tip so there is no direct contact. Discussion was held on the request of the Council of Presidents to extend the Triannual Convention to give the districts the chance to meet this year as they could not meet last year. The motion was made and was carried. Installation of officers will be January 24. Next Council meeting will be February 9. A motion to adjourn was made by NiKay Schaffer and seconded by Don Peterson. Motion carried. Paster led the voters in praying the Lord's Prayer.