

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 Thies 712-882-3379

JANUARY 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As I sit here, the words of John Lennon's song "Happy Christmas" continue to run through my head. "So, this is Christmas. What have you done? Another year over, a new one just begun." The new year is upon us. I can hardly believe that 2020 is finally over, but here we are, 2021!

Each new year is a chance to review. A chance to make changes. A chance to assess and adjust our priorities. Each year people make resolutions to exercise more, to eat better, to manage their finances differently. So as the song states, what have you done? How did you spend this year. Look back on the time you've spent last year. Where was your focus? What took up the bulk of your time? God reminds us in His Word:

"Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." **Col. 3:2, 3**

Where is your mind set? Our world presents us with so many opportunities to focus somewhere else: sports games, video games, facebook, cell phones, television, movies, clothing, homes, books, and on and on the list goes. There are so many different places we can focus. And it's so easy to let ourselves get distracted by these things and leave the things of God by the wayside.

Granted, our world also offers us many new ways to interact with the Word as well. You could read the Bible on your tablet, where cross-references are a tap away and textual notes or even whole books can be pulled up at a moments notice as you continue your studies of the Word. We can use our cell phones and even facebook to have ongoing, meaningful discussions about God's Word with fellow believers and even with those who don't yet believe.

It's easy to focus just on how we used the time of this past year, but how have we

used the other things God has given us, like our bodies? In His Word, God encourages us to recognize our bodies as the gift they are from Him:

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." **1 Cor. 6:19-20**

Here we are reminded our bodies are God's temple and He calls on us to take care of them. And so we end up with resolutions to eat well, to exercise right, to get more sleep or less... and so on. But again, the question this comes back to is where is our focus? Are we focused on the things of God? Or are we focused on earthly things? Does your desire for a healthy body win out over God's desire that you have a healthy soul?

And then there's the entertainment industry. God has given us our minds. He has given us the ability to develop wonderful technologies. He has given some people great talents in sports, acting, singing, and dancing. These things are good. They are enjoyable. But when they begin to take away from the time we spend in the Word, we would do well to call them into question.

So where have you set your mind this last year? Where will you set your mind this new year? I pray that this new year serves as an opportunity for you to reflect on the year past, and how you can continue to love and serve God in the year ahead. And remember the reason God desires us to be in His Word, it is there he tells of His great love for us, His forgiveness in Christ, and His promise of eternal life.

A blessed new year to you all,
Pastor Nathan Peitsch

POINSETTIAS WERE DONATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Nickolas Watke by Terry & Maria Watke
Craig Lynn by Family
Sheryl Petersen by Don Petersen
Kermit & Clara Amunson by Harvey & Lynette
Elmer & Marina Thies Thies
Fred & loved Ones by Fred Mohr family
Family by Gary & Karen McCall
Loved Ones by Joan & John
Neddermeyer
Tony, Nick, Lily by Donna Watke & family

SUNDAY JANUARY 3rd and JANUARY 10th

On Sunday, January 3rd the worship service will be virtual only. No in-person gathering will take place on that day. Sunday School and Bible classes will be cancelled for that day only.

On Sunday, Jan. 10th we will be having Holy Communion during the service.

DRIVE UP COMMUNION

On Monday, January 11th and 18th, 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.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

On Tuesday, January 12th the Church Council will meet at 7 p.m.

On January 17th, there will be a Voters Meeting after church. Main agenda items will be the year end reports and the election of officers.

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 JANUARY

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 January are:

Keivin Hennings, Jayden Young	2
Alexis Mordhorst, Bethany Mordhorst, Colin Mordhorst, Laurie Mordhorst,	
Candace Seward, Elizabeth Meadows	3
Carla Teut	4
Joan Neddermeyer, Daniel Vogt	5
Justin Hageman, Leonard Trimpe	14
Matthew Savery	15
Hannah Peitsch	20
Aaron Gosch, Donna Watke,	
Mariah Nutt	21
Audrey Gust	22
Ashley Savery	24
Deon Christman	25
Deryl Hennings, Daxton Leitz	28
Noah Sorensen	31

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

Jan. 4-9 Rev. Nathan Peitsch
St. Paul's, Ute

Jan. 11-16 Rev. Mark Kluzek
 St. John, Kiron/Faith, Deloit

Jan. 18-23 Rev. Josh Keinath
 Zion, Denison

Jan. 25-30 Rev. Merle Mahnken
 Immanuel, Schleswig

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

JANUARY HELPERS

Elders: Bruce Mohr

Ushers: Gary Goslar, Kevin Vogt, John Greder,
 John Thies, Brenner Jung

Altar: Linda Seieroe

Flowers: Terri Mohr

Finance Committee: Bruce Mohr, Terri Mohr,
 Mariah Nutt, Kerry Vinke

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.

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.

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

The newsletter for January and February is sponsored in honor Warren Thies' 87th Birthday on January 12th and in honor of Evelyn & Vernon Thies' 60th wedding anniversary on January 22nd

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



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Quarterly Voters Meeting
(Highlights from the meeting)
October 18, 2020, following Worship Service

Secretary's Minutes: The secretary's minutes from the previous voters meeting of August 2, 2020 A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mona Pithan and seconded by Loretta Hinrichsen. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: The General Fund went from \$3,107.11 July 1 to \$-5,929.26 at the end of September. Pastor, the Elders, and the Stewardship Board are working on a letter to raise awareness of the financial situation. The lower attendance with Covid has affected giving, but some checks have come in the mail and some people have given as they attended drive-up Communion, and we now have our link to a giving page. A motion was made by Gary Goslar, and seconded by Tammy Bramley, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor reported that Catechism classes resumed in September, with some kids attending in person, some virtually, and some back and forth. One questioning and confirmation was held for Jasmine Schaffer. The Wednesday Bible Study is going on hiatus because of the weather. The Sunday morning Bible class meets upstairs in the sanctuary. There have been a few requests for the DVD's of the services. The users bring them to drive-in Communion and switch for the next month. Ministry to the shut-ins has changed because of Covid. The nursing homes are closed, so Pastor cannot do very much there. He is doing his best to check in on the in-home people, and many of them come to drive-in Communion.

Elders Report: Bruce Mohr reported that the attendance for July was 36, with three services. The average in August was 34, with five sessions. The average in September was 43, with four sessions. The average Communion attendance in August was 31, and in September the average Communion attendance was 39. Livestream services will continue. John Greder and Pastor are working on getting the prayer chain going. And Dave Seieroe and John Thies have volunteered to help the elders. Matt and Sam Kelm and family are new members.

Trustee's Report: Gary Goslar reported that the concrete was poured for the parsonage driveway and patio at a cost of \$3,900.00. The steeple project will have to wait until spring because of the weather.

Board of Education: Some changes are being made regarding the books used for the curriculum to save money and making a better fit for all ages. 15-16 attend

in person on average, while 4-8 are online. They are working on a Christmas Eve program plan. The board is recommending two service offerings of the Christmas program: one with masks required and extra social distancing, and the other with protection similar to Sunday mornings. Pastor will lead both services.

Stewardship Secretary: Barb Mordhorst reported that the Grulkes from Lutheran Bible Translators will be here on November 29 and encouraged everyone to come and listen to them.

Old Business: The Nominating Committee has been working hard to get the positions filled on the ballot but is having trouble finding names for the elder positions, and a few other positions have openings yet. A special voters meeting will need to be held to approve the ballot before the January voters meeting.

New Business: Bruce Mohr offered at the latest council meeting to be our lay delegate at our circuit forum held before the Iowa District West convention. Karen McCall made the motion, and it was seconded by NiKay to approve Bruce Mohr to be our representative. Motion carried. The 2021 budget was presented on the screen. Barb Mordhorst made the motion to accept the 2021 proposed budget, and it was seconded by Don Petersen.

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Mohr and was seconded by Gary Goslar. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned, and Pastor Peitsch led the voters in praying the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted: Audrey Gust, Secretary

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Special Voters Meeting
December 13, 2020, following Worship Service

A special voters meeting was held after the service on Sunday, December 13, 2020, to approve the ballot for 2021. Gary McCall called the meeting to order and Pastor had a prayer. Treasurer Deanna Sorensen reported that our PPP loan has been forgiven. A list of the offices and the candidates from the Nominating Committee was posted on the screen for everyone to see. A motion to accept the slate was made by Deanna Sorensen and seconded by Luanna Goslar. Motion carried. A motion to adjourn was made by Deanna Sorensen and seconded by Gary Goslar. Motion carried. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Audrey Gust, Secretary