

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office Number: 885-2221

Pastor Nathan Peitsch

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MARCH 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Throughout the season of Lent, our midweek worship services are focusing on the them, "Return to the Lord." Looking specifically at the passage from Joel 2 where we read,

"rend your hearts and not your garments."

Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster." - Joel 2:13

This call from the prophet Joel was for the people to turn back from their wicked sinful ways. To repent of their sin and return to the Lord. This is why Joel encourages them to "rend their hearts." This isn't about the outward appearance of penitence, faith, or piety. It is about returning to the Lord with all your heart.

That said, as this month marks one year since we started social distancing and so many other measures to stop the spread of COVID-19, I know many of you have a deep desire to do just what our lenten theme states, "return to the Lord." I have spoken to many of you who have expressed your heartfelt desire to be back in church and no longer have to worry about this virus. With the vaccine rolling out to more and more people, and what appears to be a declining positivity rate, perhaps some of you are starting to consider just such a return.

This longing to return to the Lord is commendable. God makes it clear that time in His House is time well spent. In the psalms, we read,

"I was glad when they said to me,, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" - Ps. 122:1

Isaiah also saw the importance of dwelling in God's house, even going so far as to state some of the reasons and benefits of being in His House,

"and many peoples shall come, and say:

"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall

go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem." - Is. 2:3

God's house is a place to hear His Word, study His teaching, be fed by Him that we may walk in His paths. And it is good that we should desire to be here in His house.

Thankfully His house is not the only place where He has promised to be. In fact, God promised Joshua,

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." - Josh. 1:9

And we have the clear promise of Christ as He was preparing to leave this world,

"... And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." - Matt. 28:20b

God is with us wherever we are. And though a pandemic has caused us to separate for a time, St Paul reminds us that nothing can separate us from the Love of God (Rom. 8:38-39).

It is good that we should desire to be together in His house. He calls us to do so through His Word. The Third Commandment encourages us to set aside a day for worship as we are told to "remember the sabbath day." Perhaps some of you have heard the analogy of the hot coal. A coal removed from a fire will stay warm for a while, providing heat to whoever or whatever it is brought near, but kept away from the fire for too long, it will grow cold. Through technology, God has given us the means to warm our coal by the fire from a distance through Facebook Live or for some of you the use of the DVD we have been providing. For others, this simply hasn't been possible for various reasons.

Whatever the case, wherever you find yourself on this scale. I rejoice that so many of you long to be here worshiping our Savior. I too long for the day when we can all gather together in God's house safely once again.

Until that day, whether through technology or in person, as the writer of Hebrews states,

“[let us] not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” - Heb. 10:25

In Christ,
Pastor Nathan Peitsch



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to set clocks ahead an hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 13th.



DRIVE UP COMMUNION

On Monday, March 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.



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Midweek services continue until March 24th. Services will be at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday.



In the Book of Joel, the prophet paints a vivid picture of the coming judgment of God, the Day of the Lord. The imagery is bold and terrifying: hordes of locusts swarming over the land and decimating everything. Joel's prophecy has teeth even today as wars rage, natural disasters threaten and destroy, and our culture seems to be unraveling. But right in the middle of this frightening portent, we find a tender invitation from the Lord: "Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and He relents over disaster" (Joel 2:13). God's invitation and promise finds its fullness in Jesus Christ, who personifies and accomplishes all that God declares. During this season of Lent, we will consider the theme "Return to the Lord" and examine how the call to return played out in practical ways for the people who walked alongside Christ as He demonstrated and carried out God's grace and mercy on our behalf, taking God's wrath upon Himself, setting the stage for God to "turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind Him" (Joel 2:14).

MAUNDY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY

On April 1st Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion will be at 7:00 PM and on April 2nd Good Friday service will be at 7:00 PM.



Members are invited to bring an Easter lily to church Friday, April 2nd or Saturday, April 3rd. Please sign up on the sheets at either door by Sunday, March 28th, so the names of those you wish to remember can be included in the Easter bulletin.



CHURCH RECORDS

Baptism

Hailee Ray Meadows, daughter of Elizabeth Meadows, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on February 28th.



COUNCIL MEETINGS

On Tuesday, March 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.



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.

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH

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 March are:

Amy Riddle	4
Loretta Hinrichsen, Jaxson Thies	5
Emilee Meadows	8
Kade Ohlmeier	10
Norma Berens, Alyssa Thies	12
Lisa Thies	13
Gregory Hinrichsen	14
Kenley Bretthauer-Stephens, Breyah Kuehl	15
Ryan Goslar	18
Kevin Savery	19
Landon Mohr	20
Carter Leitz, David Pohlman, Rick Knuth	21
Bryan Rosburg, Brenda Savery, Logan Vinke	24
Sharon Gosch, Virginia Keating,	25
Carolyn Seieroe, Kaitlyn Conto, Quintin Conto, Zachary Kelm, Joseph Sorensen	
Duncan Purcell, Amanda Thies	26



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



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.

GOOD SHEPHERD HOUR

This program is a 1/2 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

- Mar. 1-6 Rev. Josh Keinath
Zion, Denison
- Mar. 8-13 Rev. Merle Mahnken
Immanuel, Schleswig
- Mar. 15-20 Rev. Chad Trunkhill
Our Savior/Bethlehem
- Mar. 22-27 Rev. Richard Merrill
Multi-Point, Charter Oak

**Mar. 29-Apr. 3 Rev. Nathan Peitsch
St. Paul’s, Ute**



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CALL MULTIPLIER

We have a new program called “Call Multiplier”. All of you should have received a message or a text message from St. Paul’s about church being canceled on February 14th. The call comes from Oklahoma – number 405-548-2251 and the text number is 712-214-5481. To make sure we have the best phone number and preferred method of contact, please fill out the information below or email the church at stpaulute@gmail.com. If you would like more than one family member to receive the message, please add them as well.

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
 Text Phone call

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
 Text Phone call

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____
 Text Phone call