

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Nathan Peitsch • Elders: John Greder-Head Elder, Steve Gust, John Thies, Bruce Mohr

Phone: 712-885-2221 • e-mail: stpaulute@gmail.com • website: stpaulsute.org • facebook: facebook.com/stpaulsute

December 2022

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Where has the time gone? It's hard to believe that we're beginning another Church Year already. And yet here we stand at the start of another Advent season.

Advent can be such a crazy time. Technically it's not Christmas, but it sure feels like it with all the songs on the radio and in the stores, trying to put us in the mood for Christmas buying. It seems at times now that Advent preparations are starting to become Christmas celebrations.

Christmas is such a big holiday, that to really get geared up for it, we do tend to need these four weeks of Advent. They serve as a time to prepare, a time to decorate, a time to bake, and a time to buy. That said, these four weeks can also serve as a chance for us to remember part of our job as God's children.

Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas, but it's not just a time for preparing our homes, our kitchens, and our presents. Advent is a time for us to prepare our hearts. As we enter the season of Advent, we prepare our hearts to celebrate the coming of Christ. We celebrate him coming as a baby, born in that stable in Bethlehem.

Advent isn't just preparing to celebrate Christmas though. Advent is also a time for us to look forward to Jesus 'coming on the Last Day. This is where Advent really plays into our Christian walk. As Christians we are to be constantly preparing for the coming of Christ. We pray about it in the Lord's Prayer: "Thy Kingdom come." We are to be working to prepare our hearts for the coming of our King.

We even pray about it in our common table prayer, "Come, Lord Jesus". We are constantly reminded of the coming of the Lord. After all, Advent means "coming". It is a time

for us to prepare for the coming of Christ our savior and King. A time for us to talk about the different ways that God comes to us. He comes to us in His Word. He comes to us in Baptism and the Lord's Supper. He comes to us in the flesh, our celebration at Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. And he has promised to come again.

Advent is our time to remember the coming of our Lord at Christmas and to prepare our hearts for His coming again. So prepare your home. Prepare your cookies. Prepare the presents. But don't forget to prepare your heart. As John the Baptist cried, "Prepare the way for the Lord."

Let us put our faith and trust in Him. Let's not get caught up in the lights, the music, and the gifts and miss seeing how Christ our savior comes for us. Let's get caught up in the celebration. Let's get caught up in the praise and honor we are giving to the newborn King.

This is our celebration at Advent. This is the reason we gather as families and friends. This is the reason we light the candles and count down the days. It's because we are preparing. Getting ready for the day when Christ returns.

There is an Advent hymn that states it quite well. The hymn "The Advent of Our King" says:

"The Advent of our King,
Our Prayers must now employ,
And we must hymns of welcome sing
In strains of holy joy."

May your preparations this Advent season keep you looking ahead to the promised coming of Christ. God's richest blessings on your Christmas celebrations. In Christ,
Pastor Nathan Peitsch



Pastor and his family would like to invite you to a Christmas Open House at the parsonage on Saturday, December 3 from 2-4pm.



ADVENT SERVICES

We will be having Midweek Advent services on Wednesday night December 7, and 14 at 7:00 p.m. with supper starting at 6:00 p.m.



All children are invited to Jesus' Birthday Party from 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 11
Everyone is welcome to join us.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Anybody with in the town of Ute who would like the Sunday School kids to carol at their home on the afternoon of December 11th can sign up on the sheet at the back of church. You can also call the church and leave a message to be added to the list.



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.



CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE

Practice will be during the Sunday School class this year. A practice for the Christmas eve program will be held Saturday, December 17th from 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.





Christmas -Day- Service

Our Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion will be held at 10:00 a.m.



DRIVE UP COMMUNION

Drive up Communion is available by calling pastor at (712)885-2221 and setting up a time during the week.



The offering envelopes for 2023 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 2023, you will have to notify the secretary or pastor. IDW Mission and 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.

CATECHISM

During the month of December, Catechism class times will change:

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. - 5 & 6 Grades

5:30 - 6:30 p.m. - 7 & 8 Grades

LYF BIBLE STUDY

On Sunday, December 11th there will be a LYF Bible study after the worship service.

SENIOR YOUTH GATHERING



Emily and Megan attended the Senior Youth Gathering on November 18-20. They had a great weekend.



MONTHLY MEETINGS

Tuesday, Dec. 6th, Elders Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 13th, Council Meeting at 7 p.m.

125th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING

125th Anniversary next planning meeting will be on Monday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m.

The 125th committee is also serving meals for the 3 advent services. There will be a free-will donation basket out for the meals.

The Thank offering and penny fund will be split: 75% to Lutheran Family Services and 25% of funds will go to Jeremiah fund.



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. It is aired at 6:25 a.m., Mon.-Sat. on KDSN, FM107.1

- Dec. 5-10 Rev. Chad Trunkhill
Our Savior/Bethlehem
- Dec. 12-17 Rev. Richard Merrill
Multi-Point, Charter Oak
- Dec. 19-24 Rev. Nathan Peitsch**
St. Paul’s, Ute
- Dec. 26-31 Rev. Mark Kluzek
St. John, Kiron/Faith, Deloit

GOOD SHEPHERD HOUR

This program is a ½ hour worship service heard on Sioux City, KSCJ, 1360 AM, at 8:00 am.



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
Kallen Nutt	12
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



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.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS FROM LHM

Every year Lutheran Hour Ministries makes available Advent devotions. Copies of this devotion can be picked up at the back of church. You can also read the devotion each day at www.lhm.org/advent



In *A Son Is Given*, we look at the promise of God to send His Messiah as fulfilled in Jesus. The Heavenly Father made good on His ancient pledge. In Jesus we have the love of God come to earth in the form of a Child, who is for us the Savior of the world.



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.

WINTER EVENTS

Family Ice Fishing Retreat January 27-29, 2023
This Ice Fishing Retreat is for families of all ages and for anyone who loves to fish or wants to learn! Expect good food, good fellowship, and good fishing at this weekend retreat. Looking forward to seeing you at the (FROZEN) lake!

Winter Games Family Funfest Saturday, January 28, 2023 Join us for some family winter fun during the University of Okoboji Winter Games. More details will be coming soon, so be sure to check our website, Facebook Page, and Instagram Profile. See you for some fun in the snow!



Mission Central – Visiting Missionaries

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

