

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. Nathan Peitsch • Head Elder: Bruce Mohr; Elders: Steve Gust, John Thies, Gary McCall

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

December 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:
The time is fast approaching when Christmas will be here. I'm sure many of you have started making preparations. Perhaps you've started checking wish lists. I suspect many of you have at least thought a little about Christmas decorations. We have just under a month until Christmas is here.
I suspect many of you feel the urgency of making sure you have all your plans in place. There are cards to send out, things to bake, and gifts to buy. Or maybe you're thinking you've got all sorts of time. After all there's still three or four weeks until Christmas is actually here, plenty of time to get everything done. This time of year is always one of preparation. We make ready our homes, our gifts, our food, our cards... and on the list goes. But this season we also take some time to remember someone else who called for preparations to be made. Matthew 3 tells us of John the Baptist who was that voice in the wilderness calling for the people to be prepared:
"For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" - Matt 3:3
This time of year isn't just about us getting ready for our Christmas parties and other celebrations. This time of year is also a reminder that we should always be prepared for Christ to return. Jesus himself warns about this time and again throughout the gospels. We see it in Mark's Gospel as Jesus tells them a parable of a master who went

away on a journey and came back unexpectedly to find his servants unprepared. There we read, "Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning—" - Mark 13:35
Jesus knows the day when He returns will come as a surprise to those who follow Him. And so He warns them time and again to be ready for that day. So then, how do we make ourselves ready? What is there that we can do to be prepared for his coming if it is going to be so unexpected? Jesus tells a parable of 10 women waiting for a wedding party in Matthew 25. Five were ready, lamps ready to go and extra oil on hand so they could light the way. Five were unprepared, they brought no extra oil and when the time came in the middle of the night they were unprepared. Our lives should be lives of expectation and anticipation of His coming. And so we should always be ready. Making our preparations by continuing to study His Word. Keeping our lamps trimmed and our oil stocked by continuing week after week to be filled with the good gifts He has to give us of forgiveness and His freely given Spirit. God regularly offers us His food that we might be properly nourished so that when the day comes we are ready. This He does through the Lord's Supper where He feeds us with His own body and blood. He encourages us through our brothers and sisters in Christ as we gather together to support one another and build

up the body of Christ.
We prepare for that day as we make the house ready, not literally, but remembering our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit as St Paul reminds us in 2 Cor 6:19. All these preparations are made so that when the day comes we are ready to meet Him with joy. And the beauty of all this is, He too is preparing.

In John 14, Jesus tells us,
"In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?" - John 14:2

He has gone to prepare a place for you. So let us prepare for Him this advent season as we look forward to His coming. In the midst of your gift buying, decorating, baking, card making, and whatever else you're doing to prepare, may you be reminded to make ready for

His return as well. That together we may all be prepared for that final day.

A blessed Advent time and

Christmas to you all!

In Christ,

Pastor Nathan Peitsch



ADVENT SERVICES

We will be having Midweek Advent services on Wednesday night, December 6, 13 and 20 at 7:00 p.m. with supper starting at 6:00 p.m.



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

Tuesday, December 5th

5 pm - Elders Meeting

7 pm - Council Meeting

SPECIAL VOTERS MEETING

We will have a Special Voters meeting on December 17th, after the worship service. On the agenda is the 2024 Budget and 2024 Election Ballot.

CHRISTMAS EVE PRACTICE

Christmas Eve practice starts this
Sunday, December 3rd

Sunday School will begin at 9:00
a.m. with Christmas Eve practice
first. All children who plan to be in
the Christmas Eve Program must
come to practice.



Christmas - Day - Service

Our Christmas Day Service with
Holy Communion
will be held at 10:00 a.m.
on December 25th

CATECHISM CLASSES

On December 6th and 13th catechism class times will
change to:

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. - 5 & 6 Grades

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

On December 20th & 27th there is no catechism
classes. Catechism class will resume on January 3rd
with the normal schedule.

SUPPORT OUR CATECHISM FAMILIES

We need volunteers to provide a simple snack
every Wednesday for our Catechism students
from 5:30-6:00 pm. Sign-up sheet is on the back
table.

LYF BIBLE STUDY

LYF Bible Study is Sunday, December 17th from
7:00-8:30 pm in the LYF room. We'll be diving
deep into God's Word, so make sure to bring a
Bible if you have one. If you don't or forget, we
have some on hand for you to use. Bring a
snack to share! We'll also provide some if you
forget or run out of time. Inviting friends is
encouraged, even if they can only come once.



Sunday School Program

Sunday School
Christmas Eve Program
December 24, 2023
6:00 p.m.

pageborders.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



We welcomed are new members on November 19th during the service and had donuts and coffee after.

Our new members of 2023 are Gary & Judy Pohlman, Raymond & Elaine Holst, Jean Berg, Carmeron Blunk and John & Maria Mordhorst.

Thank you everyone that donated to the bake sale on November 19th and bought the goodies.



NEW TIME CAPSULE

On November 19th the new time capsule was buried and will be opened in 2048



2nd ANNUAL SOUP COOK OFF

Our 2nd Annual Soup Cook off was on November 19th. There were 8 different soups. Enjoyed by all.



IOWA DISTRICT WEST



On November 12th we had a guest pastor from Iowa District West, Pastor Keith Haney. After the service he had a short presentation about what our donations to Iowa District West goes.

Our 2023 goal is \$6,000 to donate to Iowa District West. We have \$4,940.00 so far. We still need \$1,060.00. We are so close let's finish the year off by meeting our goal.



- 1st Place -Terri Mohr
- 2nd Place -Troy & Jen Greder
- 3rd Place – Gwen
- 4th Place – Mona
- 5th Place – Raymond & Elaine Holst
- 6th Place – Gary Goslar



OLD SPIRES



We are needing to make room in the church shed. So we are look for people that would like to be entered into the drawing for 1 of the 4 old spires that were atop the church for many years. If you are interest, put you name in the box in the back of church. The drawing will be hold on January 14th at the Voter's meeting.



OLD TABLES

St. Paul's has some old folding tables that we no long use and would like to find a new home for them. For more information please call Gary Goslar (712) 269-9021.



The offering envelopes for 2024 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 2024, you will have to notify the secretary. 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.

OFFERING

Please put your name on the offering envelopes especially if using an envelope from another year. This will help make it easier for the treasurer to know who is making this donation so she can credit you for income tax purposes.

CHURCH RECORDS

Baptism

Archer Charles Wray, son of Kailea & Andrew Wray, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 19th.

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
Landen Meseck	7
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



SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 1 – Marilyn Neddermeyer (91 yrs old)
Dec. 3 – Aaron Gosch (81 yrs old)
Dec. 13 – Deryl Hennings (84 yrs old)
Dec. 16 – Gordon Carritt (91 yrs old)
Dec. 20 – Donna Watke (90 yrs old)

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

Dec. 1 – Kenny & Bette Amunson (60 yrs)
Dec. 15 – Gordon & Lillian Carritt (72 yrs)
Dec. 28 – Gary & Judy Pohlman (54 yrs)

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Ken and Bette Amunson are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on December 1st. Their family would like to honor them with a card shower. Cards of celebration may be sent to: Kenny & Bette Amunson, 626 South Smith Ave., Ute, Iowa 51060.

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



100th ANNIVERSARY TAPE

If anyone would like a DVD copy of the 100th anniversary tape that was in the time capsule please talk to pastor.



SPECIAL MISSION PROJECT

This year our Special Mission Project is the same as the 125th Thank Offering which is Lutheran Family Service and St. Paul's Jeremiah Fund. Our goal is \$3,000 to go to the Special Mission Project. We have \$1,550.00 so we need \$1,450.00 in donations to make our goal for this year.



125th COMMEMORATIVE T-SHIRTS

Get your 125th commemorative T-shirt to celebrate our congregation's anniversary. Basic shirt is \$20.00
Last day to place an order is December 6th. Your order will be to you by



Christmas. Order here:

<https://isntitonic.com/collections/st-pauls-lutheran-church-125th-celebration>

Or use your cell-phone camera to scan the QR code.



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. Starting in January 2024 the cost is \$40 to sponsor a newsletter.



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

Dec. 4-9 Rev. William Wrede
Zion, Denison

Dec. 11-16 Rev. Merle Mahnken
Immanuel, Schleswig

Dec. 18-23 Rev. Chad Trunkhill
Our Savior/Bethlehem

Dec. 25-30 Rev. Richard Merrill
Multi-Point, Charter Oak



Mission Central – Visiting Missionaries 2023

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

- December 2, 2023 – Stinnett family – Ethiopia – 1:00 pm
- December 30, 2023 – Sharp family – Uruguay – 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.



ADVENT DEVOTIONS FROM LHM

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



What Child Is This?

In Jesus' birth, God came down to earth for us. In *What Child Is This?* we see how Jesus, foretold by the prophets and confirmed by God as His own Beloved Son, is the Father's ancient promise

fulfilled. Born to save us from our sins, this lowly Child triumphed over sin and death to become our Savior.

