ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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January 2023

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin 2023, we find ourselves in a year for celebration. This year we celebrate our 125th Anniversary as a congregation here in Ute. Praise God for all the years He has given us here as His people! As part of our celebration this year, our congregation has chosen to gather in a thank offering and to use that thank offering to serve God's kingdom in various ways.

Before we talk about how the offering will be used though, let's take a moment to talk about what a thank offering is. In the Old Testament book of Leviticus, God outlines a number of different offerings that the people are to give. There are burnt offerings, sin offerings, grain offerings, and peace offerings. And in Leviticus 7, we learn that peace offerings can fall under one of three categories: a thank offering, a freewill offering, or what some call a "confession offering". The thank offering is just what it sounds like, an offering given in thanksgiving to God for something. It could be given in thanks for answered prayer, a life event of some sort, healing from an ailment, or any other blessing from God. This was an offering that went above and beyond what God's people were normally expected to give to Him.

We remember this ancient concept of the thank offering in our regular Sunday worship services. After the offering, we sing what is known as the Offertory, which includes a line from Psalm 116, "I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and call on the name of the LORD." This serves as a reminder to us that we are to give God our thanks, and one of the ways we can do that is through our offerings.

With this in mind, for 2023 we are collecting a thank offering to praise God for the many years He has given our congregation the opportunity to serve Him and our community here in Ute. Thank offerings in the Old Testament could be any spotless animal from the herds and flocks of the people of Israel. We no longer practice these sort of offerings, but the concept still stands that as our thank offering, we are free to give to God whatever we can from the blessings He has given us. And so, as many of you have already seen or heard, we have brought back the Penny Fund Jug from years ago. The penny fund reminds us of a time in our congregation's history when, despite short funds, we were still able to meet our budget and cover our debts due to 1/2 cent donations from our members.

Our 2023 thank offering will be divided between two different ministries. Three-fourths of this offering will go towards Lutheran Family Services. This organization has served members of our congregation and community over the years and continues to offer various forms of counseling, parental and disability support services, adoption services, and other family support services. In thanksgiving to God for the loving support He has given to our congregation over the years, we have the opportunity to help support others through our support of Lutheran Family Services.

The other fourth of our 2023 thank offering will go towards the St Paul's Jeremiah Fund. God has richly blessed our congregation over the years through the growth of our families, the addition of new members, and new friends in our community. And in thanks to Him for the work He has done in our congregation, a portion of that thank offering will go towards the continued growth and enrichment of our youth. The Jeremiah Fund helps our youth to participate in Youth Gatherings both in our district and synod that they may be encouraged in their Christian faith and grow as members of God's family, the Church.

God truly has blessed us in more ways than we can count over the years as we have served Him here. And so I encourage you to consider how you can contribute to our thank offering, whether it is a penny here and there tossed in the jug, a contribution mailed to the church, or simply saying a prayer of thanks to God for His continued blessings and care. Let

2023 be a year of thanksgiving to God for all the good He has done in our congregation.
In Christ,
Pastor Nathan Peitsch

THANK YOU

ADVENT SUPPERS: Thank you to everyone that served the Advent Suppers.

JESUS BIRTHDAY PARTY: Thank you to everyone that helped with the party. There were about 15 kids that attended the party.

CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM: Thanks to our Sunday School children and teachers for a wonderful program on Christmas Eve.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

On Tuesday, January 3th the Elder's Meeting will meet at 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, January 10th the Church Council will meet at 7 p.m.

On January 15th, there will be a Voters Meeting after church in the fellowship hall. Main agenda items will be the year end reports and the election of officers.

LYF BIBLE STUDY

On Sunday, December 8th there will be a LYF Bible study after the worship service.

125th ANNIVERSARY PLANNING

The next 125th Anniversary planning meeting will be on Monday, December 9th at 7:00 p.m. Thank you to everyone that came to the Advent suppers to help support our 125th Anniversary.

POINSETTIAS WERE DONATED IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

John Neddermeyer	Love, Joan & Family
Loved Ones	Love, Gloria Barnett
Norman & Donna Timm	Love, Family
Duwayne, Marilyn, Kevin, Korey	Love, Meseck Family
JoAnn Thies	Love, Family
Rudy & Hazel Thies	Love, Family
Gary & Lynn Vinke	Love, Vinke's
Swede Aronson, Craig Olson, Aaron Olson	Love, Aronson Family
Family	Love, Gary & Karen McCall
Family	Love, Gary & Sally Goslar

DRIVE UP COMMUNION

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

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.

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.

For 2024, you will need to request envelopes by either calling the church office or there is a sign-up sheet on the back table.

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

GOOD SHEPHERD HOUR

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

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

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:

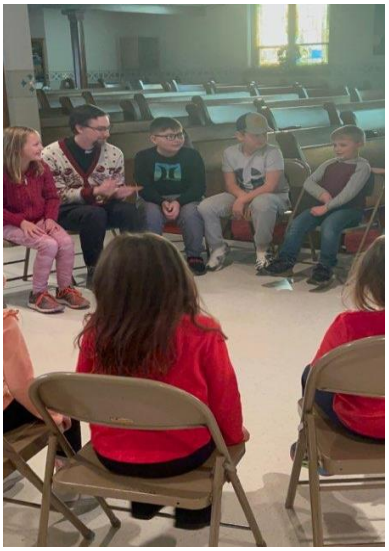
Keivin Hennings, Jayden Young	2
Alexis Mordhorst, Bethany Mordhorst, Colin Mordhorst, Laurie Mordhorst, Candace Seward, Elizabeth Meadows	3
Carla Teut	4
Joan Neddermeyer, Daniel Vogt	5
Justin Hageman, Leonard Trimpe	14
Matthew Savery	15
Hannah Peitsch	20
Aaron Gosch, Donna Watke, Mariah Nutt	21
Audrey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

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.

Jesus' Birthday Party



CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

303 E. 4th Street Ute, Iowa

1ST ANNUAL SOUP COOK-OFF

Saturday,
January 28, 2023
5:00pm - 7:00pm

Come Eat and Help Judge!
FREE WILL DONATION!

FIRST PLACE WILL RECEIVE A TROPHY!

FREE TO ENTER

Sponsored by

141 STOP — CHARTER OAK, IA — GAS · FOOD · BEER · ICE

FAREWAY MEAT & GROCERY

bomgaars

To register contact John Greder @ (712) 269-8337
All entries must be received by January 22, 2023