

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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February 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Coming up this February 14, we have a rather odd pairing of holidays. As I'm sure you're all aware, February 14 is traditionally Valentine's Day. And of course, we all know this as a day set aside to celebrate love. People give flowers, and hearts are the common symbol for the day.

What makes this year unique is that February 14 is also Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is a day set aside to remember our sinfulness, our guilt over sin, our shame. Instead of flowers, we are given ashes. Instead of the symbol of a heart we have the symbol of a cross placed upon our foreheads. Instead of "be my valentine", we are told, "you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a time usually designated for repentance and reflection as we consider our sinfulness and our need for the savior God sent to the cross for us. These 40 days of Lent are a time for us to consider how as St Paul tells us,

"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," - Rom. 3:23-24

We remember our unworthiness before God as we consider His commands and our failure to keep them all, that we might be driven back to the cross. Sent to the one place where we can find God's grace and mercy held out to us lovingly and freely.

It may be odd from a symbols and statements point of view to share Ash Wednesday with Valentine's Day, But from God's perspective it makes perfect sense. We are reminded that we are dust, we are reminded of our sinful state, and we are reminded of our need for the savior. However, each one of these reminders drives us back to the love of God shown for us in Christ Jesus. St Paul reminds us of this love in his epistle to the romans:

"but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." - Rom. 5:8

While we were still sinners Christ died for us. He didn't die for us because we were the perfect children, but because of His love for us and our need for His salvation.

The Bible gives us so many examples of God's great love for us. Many of them are centered around our need for His salvation. The most familiar being one I may not even need to cite here for you, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." God loves His world. He loves you, His children, whom He created from dust. He loves you and I, sinful though we are. And so throughout this lenten season, as we remember our sinfulness, our shame, our guilt, may we also remember that it was for these very reasons that Christ came, suffered, and died. And through His resurrection we have the promise of His eternal love. Though we will return to dust He will raise us at the last that we may live in His love forevermore. So may your February 14 be filled with reminders of God's love, even as we remember our need for that love in Christ.

Blessed Lent to you all,
Pastor Nathan Peitsch

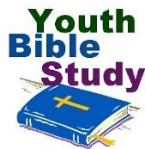
PASTOR OUT OF TOWN

Pastor will be out of town Sunday, February 4-Thursday, February 8th. John Stacy and pastor is going to St Louis for SMP Orientation.



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.

For 2025, you will need to request envelopes by either calling the church office or there is a sign-up sheet on the back table.



LYF Bible Study is Sunday, February 18th 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.

CATECHISM

During lent, starting February 14th, Catechism class times will be:

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. - 5 & 6 Grades

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

ACOLYTES SIGN-UP SHEET

Catechism students the sign-up sheet for acolyting is in the back on church on the bulletin board.

LENTEN SUPPER

We are in need of volunteers to provide Lenten suppers. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church.

ASH WEDNESDAY

"Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." On February 14th we will have our Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm. with supper served at 6:00p.m. During the service we will place ashes on our foreheads in the sign of the cross to reflect on the prayerful and penitential season of the church year.

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Mid-week Lenten Services will be at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday starting February 21st with supper at 6:00 p.m.



LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Every year Lutheran Hour Ministries makes available Lenten devotions. Copies of this devotion can be picked up from the back table in church.

In *Lamb of God*, we have God's Son come to earth as the eternal Word, Jesus Christ. Throughout John's Gospel, Jesus is made known to us as both



God and Man, full of grace and truth. He has come into the world to seek us out—you and me—to rescue us from the power of evil, and to make us His beloved children forever.

Jesus was born for sacrifice and servanthood. As God's beloved Lamb, He intimately joined our lives in the flesh, compassionately healing, teaching, and loving us as our Good Shepherd. On the cross, He gave His life for our transgressions, and three days later He rose triumphant in victory over sin, death, and the devil.

LUTHERAN WITNESS SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you would like to get your own Lutheran Witness the cost of one year subscription is \$28.25/yr. (\$2.35/per issue). This new subscription will start with the May issue. Just place your \$28.25 in cash or check (payable to St. Paul's) in an envelope (marked with your name and for Lutheran Witness) and place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church before February 26th. The church will also have 2 to 3 copies that you can borrow.



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

You can pick up the 2024 Annual Report from the back table in church.



**ANNUAL
REPORT**



OLD TABLES

St. Paul's has some old folding tables that we no longer use and would like to find a new home for them. They are all upside in the room across the secretaries office. Please call Deanna (712)208-0024.



OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED:

Those elected as officers or board members included:

Elder: Steve Gust

Trustee: Diego Mordhorst

Board of Education: Tina Bernholtz

Chairman: Matt Leitz

Secretary: Audrey Gust

Treasurer: Deanna Sorensen

Stewardship Secretary: Tammy Bramley

Auditing Committee: Dave Seieroe,

Terri Mohr,

Mariah Nutt

Endowment Fund: Terri Mohr

Financial Committee: Marc Clemon, Gwen Clemon, Becky Mordhorst, Denny Mordhorst, Bruce Mohr, Terri Mohr, Linda Riddle, Dave Seieroe, Linda Seieroe, Elaine Vogt, John Thies, Harvey Thies

We give thanks for the faithful service of those who have completed their terms:

Chairman – John Greder

Trustee – Gary Goslar

Board of Education – Rick Knuth

Stewardship Secretary: Terri Mohr

Auditing Committee: Lois Greder,

Linda Riddle

Finance Committee: Audrey Gust, Lois Greder

NEW OFFICERS: We moved the installation of our newly elected officers to next Sunday, February 4th during the Divine service.



MONTHLY MEETINGS

Council Meeting is Tuesday, February 13th, at 7 p.m.

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS FOR FEBRUARY

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 February are:

Keri Lane, Steven Thies	1
Kailea Wray	2
Warren Thies, Brooklyn Leitz	4
Mark Bretthauer, Ryan Pithan	6
James Pohlman	8
Megan Peitsch	9
Becky Miller	10
Dennis Mordhorst	11
Kim Lane	12
Ethan Kuhlmann	13
Misty Rose, Tobias Teut	14
David Meadows	18
Brenner Jung	19
Torii Rose	20
Jane Ohlmeier, Linda Seieroe,	
Rustie Pithan	22
Gary Goslar	23
Emily Sorensen	27
Hailee Meadows	28



SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 20 – Bette Amunson (80 yrs old)
Feb. 27 – David Ehlers (82 yrs old)

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 \$40 to sponsor a newsletter.



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.



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

- March 16, 2024 – Rachel Krause –
Germany – 1:00 pm
- March 16, 2024 – Erin MacKenzie –
Dominican Republic – 1:30 pm

SPECIAL MISSIONS OFFERING

This year our special mission is Lutheran Braille Workers. Our goal is \$3,000.



**LUTHERAN
BRAILLE
WORKERS**

Lutheran Braille Workers exists to bring the Word of God to the 338 million people throughout the world who are Blind or Visually Impaired, completely free of charge, in Braille and Specialized Large Print.

Men, women, and children find hope in the Light of Christ through the Bible and other Christian materials provided by LBW in multiple languages in every part of the globe. LBW is one of the last remaining free resources available to them in which the Good News of Jesus is shared quickly and in high quality formats.

In over 80 years of ministry, Lutheran Braille Workers has produced and distributed over 15 million volumes of Christian material, in 40 languages, to people in 164 countries. LBW has never charged a recipient to receive these materials as we believe in freely sharing God's Word



GOOD SHEPHERD HOUR

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

"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

Feb 5-10 Rev. Richard Merrill

Multi-Point, Charter Oak

**Feb 12-17 Rev. Nathan Peitsch
St. Paul's, Ute**

Feb 19-24 Rev. Ted Torreson
Christ, Denison

Feb 26- Mar 2 Rev. William Wrede
Zion, Denison

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.



YOUTH CAMPS!

Camp Okoboji is committed to providing youth an experience within a temporary community using the outdoor setting and trained leaders to meet spiritual objectives. From their experience at Camp Okoboji, youth will be enriched in the faith, established in Christian Community, and equipped & emboldened to live out their faith in their regular routines of life. The following are Camp Okoboji's Youth Camps & their primary purposes:

KIDS' KAMP | To provide K-2nd Grade Students & Families an experience in which they are introduced and acclimated to Camp Okoboji where physical & spiritual refreshment occurs.

CUB WEEK | To provide 3-5th Grade students an experience within a Christian environment in which they are valued, create new friendships, learn about the faith in Christ, and participate in engaging activities.

JUNIOR HIGH WEEK | To provide 6-8th Grade students an experience within a Christian environment in which they are valued, encouraged to build Christ-based friendships, participate in engaging activities, and are built up in the faith in Christ.

YOUTH WEEK | To provide students an experience within a Christian environment in which they are valued, establish and build Christ-based friendships, participate in engaging activities, reflect upon their Christ-given identity & purpose in life, and challenged to develop Christian character.

January 21, 2024, Voters Meeting Recap

Chairman John Greder and Head Elder Bruce Mohr were not in attendance, and Pastor met with the elders that were present. Motion made and carried that Elder Gary McCall head the meeting. Pastor had an opening prayer. Motion made and carried to accept the agenda. The minutes of the previous 10/15/2023 meeting and the 12/17/2023 special voters meeting were printed out for everyone to read. Motion made and carried to approve the minutes as presented. Ballots were passed out and everyone voted on the slate of candidates for 2024. The Treasurer's Report for 2023 was presented. Motion carried to approve the Treasurer's Report. Pastor reported that the Advent services went well despite his Covid during the first week, with the elders stepping up to help out, and Bruce Mohr led the church service on December 10. John Stacy handled St. Matthew's Advent services this year. The Mapleton elders wish to discuss Lenten and Holy Week services with St. Paul's elders soon. February 4-8, 2024, Pastor and John Stacy will be in St. Louis for the SMP program orientation. Catechism classes and the mid-week and Sunday adult Bible classes are going well. Pastor and elders are working on better tracking shut-in visits, and everyone was asked to let Pastor know if they are aware of any shut-ins. The livestreaming of services on Facebook is going better with the new equipment and having written instructions for the order of turning on the various parts. The election results were ready, but there was a tie for the Chairman position, so paper ballots were passed out for another vote on that office. Official attendance figures were not available with Bruce Mohr's absence, but Gary McCall said the attendance is close to the five-year average. The Christmas Eve service had 230 in attendance, and there is an average of approximately a dozen on-line viewers weekly. The elders will be focusing on membership and reaching out to infrequent attendees this year, as well as working through a book on the responsibilities and duties expected of elders. They are continuing to monitor the effects of St. Matthew's vacancy on Pastor and the congregation. Election results: Elder-Steve Gust. Trustee-Deigo Mordhorst. Education-Tena Bernholtz. Chairman-Matt Leitz. Recording Secretary-Audrey Gust. Treasurer-Deanna Sorensen. Stewardship Secretary-Tammy Bramley. Auditing Committee-Dave Seieroe, Terri Mohr, Mariah Nutt. Endowment Fund-Terri Mohr. Finance Committee-Marc Clemon, Gwen Clemon, Becky Mordhorst, Danny Mordhorst, Linda Riddle, Dave Seieroe, Linda Seieroe, John Thies, Terri Mohr, Bruce Mohr, Elaine Vogt, Harvey Thies. Installation of officers will be in two weeks, on February 4. Motion was made and carried to approve the trustees' recommendation of gifting the old amplifier from our old PA system to the Ute Town and Country Building. The trustees are continuing to be in contact with the insurance company regarding the roof, and they will keep the congregation informed as it develops. A \$23,000.00 check from the insurance company was received and deposited. Sunday School is continuing as planned, and more people are needed to sign up to be teachers/helpers in future months. Jesus's Birthday Party was held December 10, and thanks from the board of education were expressed to all who helped or participated in the Christmas Eve Children's Program. The envelopes for 2024 are in and labeled and ready to go, and the finance committee schedule for 2024 is ready. The 2024 Special Mission Project is Lutheran Braille Workers, and Tammy Bramley and Pastor will reach out to have a representative come to speak this year. The trustees can be contacted regarding the old tables that are available for a donation to the church. Ronnie Kroll, Kerri Lane, Deanna Sorensen, and Angie Kroll were the winners of the drawing for the four church spires. Gary McCall reported that the Jeremiah Fund Advisory Committee met, and the committee is up and functioning and will meet again soon to review guidelines and discuss the 125th Anniversary donation that was received. A motion was made and carried to take \$1,736.00 from the general fund to apply to the 2023 Mission Budget. \$6,000.00 had been pledged, while only \$4,264.00 was received. Everyone was encouraged to invite others to attend church with us. A motion to adjourn was made and carried, and Pastor closed with a prayer.