

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

January 2024

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we look to the beginning of a new year, I find myself remembering the days when we would use B.C. or A.D. to mark the times. As many of you probably know, these have been replaced in our history books with C.E. and B.C.E.

What do all these abbreviations mean? As far as the new designations are concerned, C.E. and B.C.E. stand for "Common Era" and "Before Common Era" respectively. But what about the old usages? Many are familiar with B.C. as referring to the time "before Christ". Some mistakenly take A.D. to mean "after death." When in fact, A.D. refers to the Latin "Ano Domini" which translates to "The Year of the Lord."

This way of thinking of time is quite appropriate. God is ultimately in charge of time. What happens to us, what is coming down the line, and when our time will end, these are all things that are left up to God. The psalmist writes:

"My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!" Ps 31.15

He understands whose hands his time is in. And we should too. And so as we begin a new year, we begin it recognizing God is the one in charge of the times and seasons. God is the one who will determine what will happen this new year.

It is tempting for us to try to rush things along as far as God is concerned. We think we know best when things should happen, and how those things should take place. It is for this reason that the writer of Habakkuk writes to encourage us:

"For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end—it will not lie. If

it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay." Hab. 2:3

If it seems slow, wait for it. Many read the book of Revelation and try to determine when the end will come. They will look at some of the signs of the end that St John warns about and draw correlations between these and current events. With that in mind, these signs should remind us of Jesus' warning to be ready. We should take to heart the words from Habakkuk, "wait for it, it shall surely come."

Sure, we don't know when it is going to come. It could be centuries down the line. Jesus himself warned us that we do not know when it will come. Before He left His disciples, He spoke to them:

"[Jesus] said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority." -Acts 1:7

It is not for us to know. We don't know when, but we have God's assurance it will happen. We simply have to wait.

While you wait though, God gives us a few things you can be doing.

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." Gal. 6:9

First, do not grow weary of doing good. Keep at it. Stay strong in doing the good works God has prepared in advance that you should walk in (Eph. 2:10). What sustains us in doing these good works? Knowing that in due season we will reap. When the proper time comes, we will receive our reward. So do not give up. Stand firm. Your time is in God's hands.

Second, St. Paul encourages us to share the word. No matter the time, no matter the place, we should be ready to proclaim the good news God has given us.

“Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.” 2

Tim. 4:2

Third, Paul says to have patience, speak the word, and be ready no matter the time or the season. You never know when you may be called on to share God’s Good News.

I recall running through an airport to catch a plane because the people I was traveling with were late getting there. We missed the flight, but ended up talking with a gentleman about how we, myself and two friends, were preparing to go to seminary. We talked about our faith, the Bible, and what this person believed. Who knew that God would give us this opportunity? Our time was in God’s hands. He knew what He was preparing us for. He knew how He could use that time for His Kingdom. We just had to be ready.

So, whether it’s A.D. or C.E. doesn’t really make that big of a difference. The time is still God’s time. We are still in His hands. God bless the new year, and keep us ready.

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.

GIVING TREE

Thank you to everyone that donated mittens, socks, and hats for the local schools.



CHRISTMAS *Open House*

Pastor and his family would like to invite you to a Christmas Open House at the parsonage on Saturday, January 6 from 2-4pm.



On Tuesday, January 2nd the Elder’s Meeting will meet at 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, January 9th the Church Council will meet at 7 p.m.

On January 14th, 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.

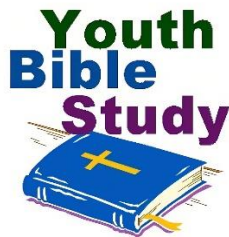


The offering envelopes for 2024 will be in the back of the church to pick up. Envelopes were ordered for the people who signed up to receive them. If you would like to receive a packet for 2024, you will have to notify the secretary. IDW Mission and Special mission offering envelopes can be found in 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 2024, you will need to request envelopes by either calling the church office or there is a sign-up sheet on the back table.

OFFERING

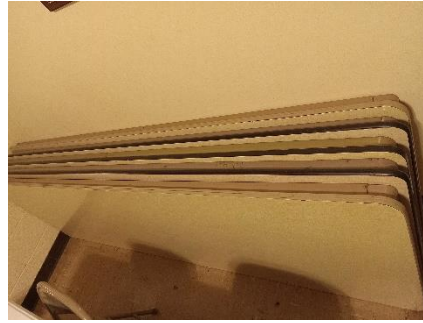
Please put your name on the offering envelopes especially if using an envelope from another year. This will help make it easier for the treasurer to know who is making this donation so she can credit you for income tax purposes.



LYF Bible Study is Sunday, January 21st 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.

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. For more information please call Gary Goslar (712) 882-3066

OLD SPIRES

We are needing to make room in the church shed. So, we are looking 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 interested, put your name in the box in the back of church. The drawing will be held on January 14th at the Voter's meeting.



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.

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



SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

Jan.12 – Warren Thies (90 yrs old)
Jan. 14 – Leonard Trimpe (81 yrs old)
Jan. 22 – Evelyn Thies (82 yrs old)
Jan. 28 – Loretta Hinrichsen (80 yrs old)

NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

The newsletter this month is sponsored in honor of Warren Thies 90th birthday on January 12th.

Please contact the office if you'd like to sponsor the newsletter. Starting in January 2024 the cost is \$40 to sponsor a newsletter.



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
-

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

Jan. 1-6 Rev. Nathan Peitsch
St. Paul's, Ute

Jan. 8-13 Rev. Ted Torreson
 Christ, Denison

Jan. 15-20 Rev. William Wrede
 Zion, Denison

Jan. 22-27 Rev. Merle Mahnken
 Immanuel, Schleswig

Jan. 29-Feb. 3 Rev. Chad Trunkhill
 Our Savior/Bethlehem

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



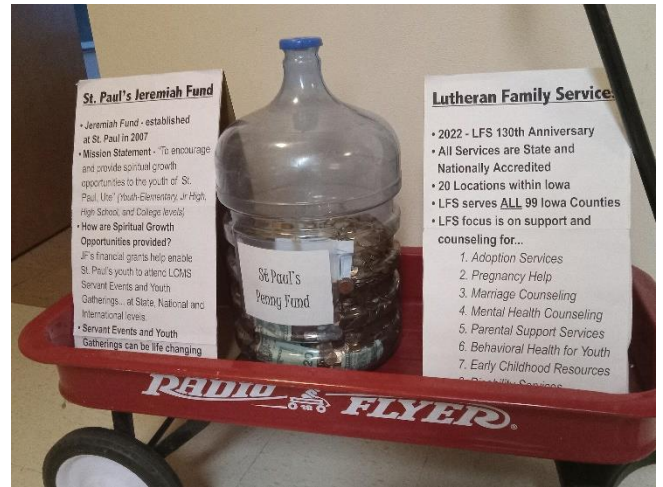
CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM





125th ANNIVERSARY & PENNY FUND

On December 15th the Penny Fund was opened and took to the bank. In the penny fund jar, there was \$1,410.31. Thank you to everyone that donated.



Jesus' Birthday Party

Jesus' birthday party was on December 10th. They frosted cookies, crafts & went caroling. Thank you to everyone that attended and helped plan the party.

