

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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March 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This letter finds us nearly halfway through the season of Lent. Our upcoming calendar already lists our worship services for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. Already we look forward to celebrating the resurrection. And in that celebration we give thanks to God for the gift of life with which He has blessed us, the promise of eternal life through His crucified and risen Son, Jesus Christ.

In the midst of this time, we find ourselves in the middle. We recall the purpose and aim of Lent, a time for penitent reflection on our own sinfulness and need for a savior. This season serves as a time for us to focus on God's Law, the things He requires of us, and the ways we have fallen short of that requirement. It serves to drive us to our observances of Holy Week, as we see Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, His institution of the Lord's Supper on Maundy Thursday, and His death for the sins of the world on Good Friday.

It can be tempting to gloss over this time. After all, we know we are sinners. We know the bad things that we have done and we regret those things. We've confessed them privately before God and publicly with the rest of the congregation at our weekend worship. We know where we've fallen short of God's will for us. So, why dwell on them? Why spend the time pondering God's Law in detail. After all, all it seems to do is multiply our sins. But that's just the point: the more we know of God's Law, the more we realize our sin, and the more we realize our need for the Savior.

This, after all, is the reason for the season of Lent, just as it is the reason for the Law. The Law shows us our sin so that we truly understand our need for the Gospel and the salvation that can only come from Christ Jesus. This meditation on God's Law is even encouraged by the psalmist.

**"I will meditate on your precepts  
and fix my eyes on your ways." Ps. 119:15**

We meditate on God's precepts that we might know His will for us. But it's not just that. Just a few verses earlier the psalmist says,

**"I have stored up your word in my heart,  
that I might not sin against you." Ps. 119:11**

We spend this time in Lent, focused on God's Law and our own sinfulness so that we might not sin further.

And the beauty of this season is that it culminates with Holy Week and Easter. All the meditation, the self-reflection, the penitence, and the repentance push toward Easter and they help to make our celebration that much more joyous. St Paul points this out as well:

**"And if Christ has not been raised, then our  
preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." 1  
Cor. 15:14**

Without the resurrection none of the things we do matter, our observance of Lent, knowing God's Law, guilt, repentance, these are empty without the good news of the resurrection and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We may spend some time in the sorrow and repentance of Lent, but not to beat ourselves down. Instead we spend the time we do in Lent to add to our joy at Easter. And so this Lent we spend some time pondering Psalm 41 and Christ's fulfillment of all His Word. We spend some time singing more somber songs, setting a tone of penitential reflections. I encourage you to consider picking up a Large Catechism this Lent and reading through Luther's explanations of the Ten Commandments as a reminder to each of us of our need for Christ. You could also simply pick up a book of the Bible and study a chapter with a friend or loved one. Whatever the case, use the time we have in Lent to meditate on His precepts, to hide His Word in your heart, and to lead us all to a full appreciation of the joys of Easter.

In Christ,

~Pastor Nathan Peitsch~



**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME**

Do not forget to set clocks ahead an hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.



**PALM SUNDAY READING**

There is a sign-up sheet on the back table for anyone that would like to help with the reading on Passion Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>.



**MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES**

Midweek services continue until March 20<sup>th</sup>. Services will be at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday, with supper to be served from 5:30-6:45 pm. Free will donation

**LENTEN SUPPER**

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



**HOLY WEEK**  
**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

On March 28<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday service with Holy Communion will be at 7:00 PM and on March 29<sup>th</sup> Good Friday service will be at 7:00 PM.

On March 31<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunrise service with Holy Communion will be held at 6:30 a.m. and led by Rev. Nathan Peitsch, Easter breakfast at 7:45 a.m., Sunday School will be at 9:00 a.m. and Easter Divine Service will be at 10:00 a.m. led by Vicar John Stacy.

St. Matthews, Mapleton will have Holy Communion Service at 10:00 am with Pastor Peitsch leading the service.

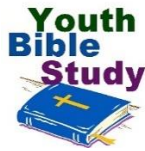


Members are invited to bring an Easter lily to church Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up on the sheets at either door by Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, so the names of those you wish to remember can be included in the Easter bulletin.



**LCW**

We are look to see if anybody is interested in restarting the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Women group (LCW). If you are interested or have questions, please call or text Terri Mohr (712)269-8598.



LYF Bible Study is Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 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 Catechism class times will be:

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. - 5 & 6 Grades

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

There will be no catechism on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

On March 28<sup>th</sup> during the Maundy Thursday service the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade catechism students will help with the Christian Questions and their Answers

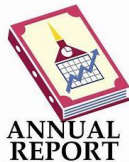
**ACOLYTES SIGN-UP SHEET**

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



**2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

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



**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

Council Meeting is Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m.

**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. They are all upside in the room across the secretaries office. Please call Deanna (712)208-0024.



**CHURCH RECORDS**

**Funeral**

Memorial Service was held on February 10<sup>th</sup> for Dorothy Gust who was called to his eternal home on January 30, 2024.

**Baptism**

Allison Irene Hinds, daughter of Phil & Dawn Hinds, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on February 11<sup>th</sup>.



**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



## **BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS FOR MARCH**

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 March are:

Amy Riddle	4
Loretta Hinrichsen, Jaxson Thies	5
Emilee Meadows	8
Judy Pohlman	9
Kade Ohlmeier	10
Alyssa Thies	12
Lisa Thies	13
Gregory Hinrichsen	14
Kenley Bretthauer-Stephens, Breyah Kuehl	15
Ryan Goslar	18
Kevin Savery	19
Landon Mohr	20
Carter Leitz, David Pohlman, Rick Knuth	21
Bryan Rosburg, Brenda Savery, Logan Vinke	24
Sharon Gosch, Virginia Keating,	25
Kaitlyn Conto, Quintin Conto,	
Zachary Kelm, Joseph Sorensen	
Duncan Purcell, Amanda Thies	26
Kaia Mordhorst	30



## **SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS**

- Mar. 6 – Lou Anna Goslar (81 yrs old)
- Mar. 11 – Irvin Thies (87 yrs old)
- Mar. 12 – Elaine Holst (80 yrs old)
- Mar. 16 – Lillian Carritt (88 yrs old)
- Mar. 97 – Virginia Keating (97 yrs old)

## **SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES**

- March 6 – Deryl & Joan Hennings (53 yrs)

## **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.



## **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

- Mar. 4-9      Rev. Merle Mahnken  
                         Immanuel, Schleswig
- Mar. 11-16    Rev. Chad Trunkhill  
                         Our Savior, Bethlehem
- Mar. 18-23    Rev. Richard Merrill  
                         Multi-Point, Charter Oak
- Mar. 25-30    Rev. Nathan Peitsch**  
                         **St. Paul's, Ute**

## **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 Okoboje 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 Okoboje, 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 Okoboje'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 Okoboje 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.

**Jeremiah Fund (JF) Meeting**  
**Thursday, 7:00 PM, February 22, 2024**

St Paul's **Jeremiah Fund Advisory Board** met to review and discuss Jeremiah Fund's Mission and Guidelines.

**Purpose of Jeremiah Fund Advisory Meeting-** To provide spiritual growth opportunities for St Paul's youth through participation in IDW/LCMS sponsored servant events and youth gatherings.

**What is a "servant event"?** When a volunteer "goes and serves" our Lord, others, in various locations and capacities.

**Jeremiah Fund Grants** - Available to St Paul's students - elementary through college age.

Discussion followed on JF's criteria to receive JF's Grants...

- a. **JF's Grant Application Forms** – disclosing applicant's reasons for attending event and need for financial support are submitted to Pastor, Pastor submits form(s) to JF's Advisory Board.
- b. **JF's Advisory Board-** gives consideration to applications and grants the final approvals for all grant requests.
- c. **Grant Funding Available** - each grant shall be capped at 50% of cost (registration, lodging) for an event. However, this requirement may be waived when extraordinary circumstances apply.
- d. **Adult Chaperones-** LCMS/IDW youth events/gatherings often require adult chaperones. A maximum of \$100 per chaperone/married couple are available, when requested.

**Jeremiah Fund - Board Meetings-** Advisory Board will meet on an "as needed basis".

**Future Funding for Jeremiah Fund-** Were suggested as follows....

- e. Increase membership/students' awareness of Jeremiah Fund, its Grants, ongoing need of financial support.
- f. Utilize periodic updates to membership- occasionally insert JF info about servant events/gatherings/JF Grants in St Paul's Bulletin Inserts, Newsletters.
- g. Students seeking financial support should look to family, friends, and IDW/LCMS Grants as well.
- h. Provide JF as another option on St Paul's Memorial List—(a listing of St Paul projects funded in memory of deceased).
- i. Add Jeremiah Fund onto St Paul's yearly "Special Mission Project List", when cash balance low.

**Terri Mohr-** will inquire at IDW, seeking IDW criteria/forms for their grants, funding requests. Will report findings to JF Board.

**Tina Bernholtz** - volunteered to inquire about various servant events available/online at IDW and LCMS websites and report back to board.

Adjourned at 8:30 PM

Jeremiah Fund Advisory Board Members

-Bernholtz, Tina	<b>712 885 2800</b>	<a href="mailto:tinaleitz@hotmail.com">tinaleitz@hotmail.com</a>
-Goslar, Gary	<b>712 882 3066</b>	<a href="mailto:gsg@iowatelecom.net">gsg@iowatelecom.net</a>
-McCall, Gary	<b>712 269 9021</b>	<a href="mailto:mccallgk@gmail.com">mccallgk@gmail.com</a>
-Mohr, Terri	<b>712 269 8598</b>	<a href="mailto:btmohr05@outlook.com">btmohr05@outlook.com</a>
-Peitsch, Rev. Nathan	<b>712 885 2667</b>	<a href="mailto:pastornpeitsch@gmail.com">pastornpeitsch@gmail.com</a>
-Seieroe, Dave	<b>712 269 5163</b>	<a href="mailto:dmseieroe@yahoo.com">dmseieroe@yahoo.com</a>
-Vogt, Elaine	<b>712 263 7668</b>	N/A