

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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

December 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we begin the season of Advent this month we move into a time of preparation. Homes are being decorated, gifts bought, and family gatherings planned. Advent is a season to prepare for what is to come. But it isn't just about getting ready to celebrate the holiday. Advent is about preparing for the coming of Christ.

And so we spend this time getting ready. We hear readings in church of how the world was made ready for the coming of Christ our Savior. Zechariah and Elizabeth were told of their son who would prepare the way. John the Baptist pointed everyone he could to the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Mary was told she would bear the promised Messiah. Joseph was told to take care of Mary. The list could go on and on of the ways God prepared the way for His Son.

St Paul tells us in Galatians 4 that God had the timing just right for His Son's coming. There we read:

"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons." - Gal. 4:4-5

God prepared everything and when it was all just right, He sent us His Son to redeem us. God knew exactly the right time to send His Son.

And so as Christmas approaches, we get ready to celebrate this perfect gift that God sent for us: His Son, our Savior. We decorate our houses with all sorts of beautiful decorations that remind us Christ. The tree, evergreen reminding us of the eternal life Christ brings to us. Others like to point out the shape of the tree pointing us up to heaven and the place Christ prepares for us. The lights remind us Jesus as John tells us in His gospel:

"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." - John 1:4-5
The light of Christ shines in the darkness of our sinful world and cannot be overcome. We could go on and on with all these great reminders we get of the blessed gift of Christ our Savior as we prepare to celebrate His birth.

But Advent isn't just about getting ready to celebrate Christmas. Jesus calls us to be ready for His return as well. And for that we need to be in His Word. It can be so easy for us to get caught up with preparing everything for Christmas that we lose sight of what it is all about.

Christmas is about celebrating the salvation God sent for us in sending His only Son to be born for us, as St Paul reminded us in Galatians 4. Jesus came to redeem us. And as we make ready our homes for our celebrations, we are called to make ready our hearts as well. St Peter reminds us of the importance of preparing ourselves. In 1 Peter we hear:

"Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." - 1 Pet. 1:13

Outward preparations are important, but we must prepare our hearts and minds as well. Through time in God's Word, repentance, prayer, worship, we prepare not just to celebrate Jesus birth for us, but we look forward to His promised return. And so, may this advent season be a time of preparation not just for Christmas, but for Christ's triumphant return, as we worship together either on Sunday, or at our midweek and Christmas services. A blessed Advent and Christmas season to you all!

In Christ,
Pastor Nathan Peitsch

LCW POTLUCK & SET UP DISPLAY

After the service on November 30th the LCW will have a potluck and will set up the Wreath and Religious Christmas Statues Display.

CHRISTMAS CRECHE SET-UP

We are needing some volunteers to help set up the outside Christmas creche on Sunday, November 30th. All are welcome to join the LCW potluck that day before or after setting up.



LYF

The LYF will be helping decorate and set up the Creche outside on November 30th after the service. They are welcome to join the LCW for the potluck.

On Saturday, December 20th at 10am the LYF will be cleaning the church.

Next LYF meeting will be January 18th after the service.

LYF BIBLE STUDY

LYF Bible Study is Sunday, December 21st from 6:30-8:00 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! Inviting friends is encouraged, even if they can only come once.



MONTHLY MEETINGS

- Tuesday, Dec. 9th, Elders Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 9th, Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

LCW MINUTES

November 6, 2025

Present: Gloria, Dar, Joanie N, Pastor, Deanna, Terri, Danielle, Gwen

Pastor opened with prayer.

Welcome to all in attendance.

Our Christmas display in the fellowship hall this year will be a display of wreaths and statues. Bring all your items to church on November 30 and we will set up our display after our church service, serve potluck and have our December meeting at this time.

December 6 – Blessing of the Creche 5:00 p.m., hot chocolate, coffee and cookies served in the fellowship hall. Display will be open to view.

January 18 – Annual Soup Cook off at 5:00 pm – open to public, newspaper will be notified in December.

Advent Services

- December 2 – LCW will serve
- December 10 – Open to anyone in the congregation
- December 17 – LCW will serve

Kitchen inventory, organization and wish list will be conducted next year in January or February (date to be determined)

Pastor shared the story of Rahab as a part of our ongoing study of women of the bible.

Sign-up sheet in church for Advent meals.

Meeting close with prayer

The next LCW meetings is Thursday, January 8th at 5:30 pm.





*Blessing of the Creche
and
Christmas Wreath and
Christmas Statue Display*

**Lighting of the Community Nativity
Saturday, December 6th at 5pm
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Front Lawn**

**FREE Hot Chocolate, Coffee, and Cookies to
Follow in the Church Fellowship Hall**

Indoor Christmas Wreath and Christmas Statue Display
In the Church Fellowship Hall



Event Hosted by:
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
303 E 4th St
Ute, IA 51060



Giving Tree



During the month of December, help us decorate our Christmas Giving Tree in the back of church with hats, mitten & socks this Christmas season. The tree will be in the back from December 1 thru 31st. **All items collected will be donated to the local schools.**



Advent Schedule

Midweek Advent services will be on Wednesday night, December 3th, 10th and 17th at 7:00 p.m. with supper starting at 5:30 p.m.

Advent Sermon Series: The Jesse Tree

"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit."
- Isaiah 11:1 Here Isaiah shares with us God's promise of the one to be born from the stump of Jesse. This Advent season we will continue our study of the Jesse Tree or what we could call Jesus' family tree. Through Isaiah we hear of our Savior promised for us who will judge with equity, be filled with righteousness, and who will be the Prince of Peace. All through the Jesse Tree, we see hints of the shoot to come. So join us Wednesday nights for a meal starting at 5:30pm and our midweek Advent services starting at 7:00pm as we examine a few more characters from the Jesse Tree.



Sunday School Program

Sunday School Christmas program will be presented December 24th
Christmas Eve
at 6:00 p.m.

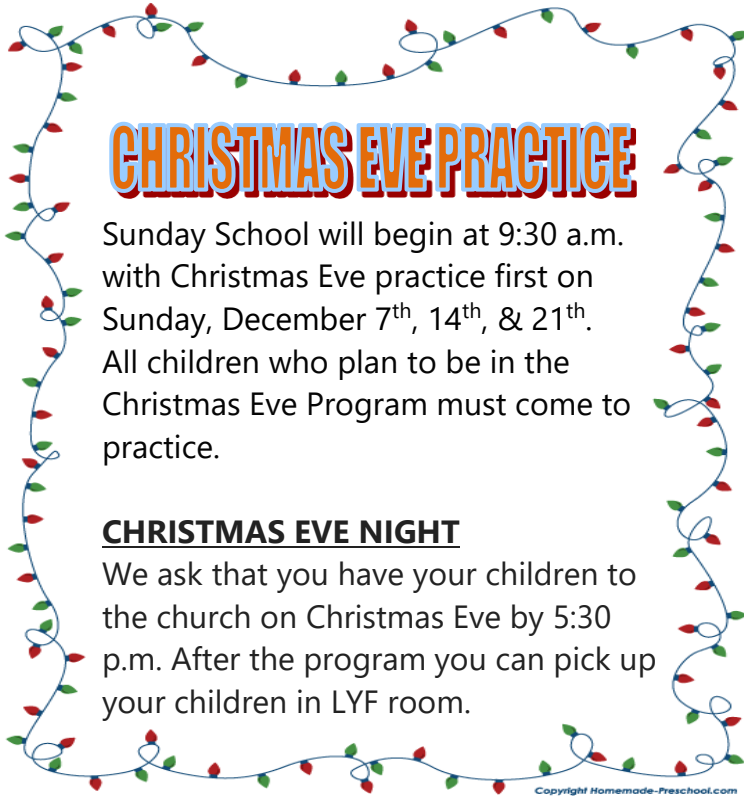


Christmas Day Service

Our Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion will be held at 10:30 a.m. on December 25th

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School kids will be singing on Saturday, December 6th at the Blessing of the Christmas Creche. Please have your kids at the church by 4:45 p.m.



CATECHISM

On December 3, 10 and 17th catechism class times will change to:

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. - 5 & 6 Grades

5:30 - 6:15 p.m. - 7 & 8 Grades

6:15 p.m. – Memory Work

There will be no catechism class on December 24th and 31st.

SUPPORT OUR CATECHISM FAMILIES

We need volunteers to provide a simple meal every Wednesday for our 10 Catechism students from 5:30-6:00 pm. Sign-up sheet is on the back table. This will be for the months of January & February.

ACOLYTES SIGN-UP SHEET

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



Poinsettias

Congregation members are invited to donate poinsettias to beautify the church during the Christmas season. Starting December 1st, you may bring them in and leave them 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.



2025 CHURCH OFFICER VOLUNTEERS

If anyone has interest in serving as a church officer: Chairman, Elder, Trustee, Board of Education, Secretary, Treasurer, Stewardship Secretary, Auditing, Endowment Fund, Finance Committee, please contact the church or anyone on the Nomination Committee: Bruce Mohr, Andy Kuhlmann, Tammy Bramley, Angie Kroll or pastor.



ALTAR GUILD & ALTAR FLOWERS: We are looking for volunteers to help with altar guild and altar flowers. If you would like more information on what you do for either committee or if you would like to serve, please talk to Deanna.



2025 SPECIAL MISSIONS OFFERING

This year our special mission is STEM.

STEMM

To learn more, you can go to their website:

<https://stemm.org/> **STEWARDSHIP**

There are special offering envelopes on the back table to give to these missions.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As some of you may know, our general fund is running low, and our giving to Iowa District West is also behind. This isn't easy news to share, but we want to be open with the congregation about where things stand.

We're not sharing this to worry anyone or to pressure you. We simply ask you to consider, as you are able, whether you might give a little more in the weeks ahead. Each gift—given freely and cheerfully—helps support the work God has given our congregation to do, both here and in our district.

We are grateful for how faithful this congregation has always been. We worship together, care for each other, and support the ministry God has entrusted to us. We believe we can meet this challenge as well. Please keep our church and its ministries in your prayers, and consider how the Lord may be leading you.

In Christ,
Stuart Secretary

Updates will be done the second Sunday of each month			
Next update will be December 14, 2025			
	General Fund	Missions	Special Mission
Projected for the Year	\$165,744.84	\$4,000	\$3,000
As of 10/31/2025	\$ 93,492.71	\$ 2,870	\$2,997.10
Still Needed	\$72,252.13	\$1,130	\$2.90

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.



DECEMBER HELPERS

- Elder:** Gary McCall
- Ushers:** Jim Thies, Denny Mordhorst
- Altar:** Teresa Mordhorst
- Altar Flowers:** Deanna Sorensen
- Finance:** Terri Mohr, Bruce Mohr,
Gary Pohlman, Judy Pohlman

Acolytes

- Wednesday, Dec. 3:** Hannah, Kelly
- Sunday, Dec. 7:**
- Wednesday, Dec. 10:** Samantha, Kelly
- Sunday, Dec. 14:** Morgan, Wyatt
- Wednesday, Dec. 17:**
- Sunday, Dec. 21:** Max, Samantha
- Wednesday, Dec. 24:** Samantha, Morgan
- Thursday, Dec. 25:** Samantha, Hannah
- Sunday, Dec. 28:** Hannah, Kelly



SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS

Sunday Bible Class is on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sunday of the month at 9:30 am and we now meet in the LYF room. The topic we are studying now is "The minor prophets".



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.

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 (93 yrs old)
- Dec. 3 – Aaron Gosch (84 yrs old)
- Dec. 16 – Gordon Carritt (93 yrs old)

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES

- Dec. 15 – Gordon & Lillian Carritt (74 yrs)
- Dec. 28 – Gary & Judy Pohlman (56 yrs)

*We list Special Birthdays 80 years old and above.

*Anniversaries for one & every 5 years & every year 40 above.

We will include them unless we receive a request not to.

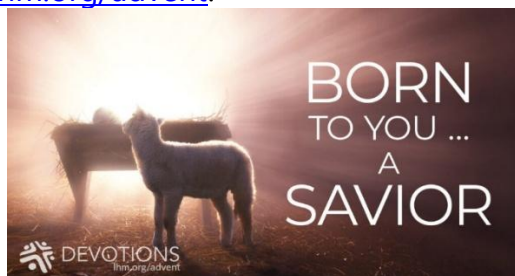
PLEASE GIVE US A CALL

- before going to the hospital
- birth of your baby
- death in the family
- making wedding plans
- address and name changes
- private communion



ADVENT DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

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



Born to You ... a Savior

God in His incomparable love has made a way for us through the wilderness. He did this by giving us His Son, our Light in the darkness. In ***Born to You ... a Savior***, we embrace the Christmas joy and wonder of Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

At Christ's birth, God the Father did a new and everlasting thing in our lives: He gave us His one and only Son for our redemption. In divine humility, Jesus joined us as a human being. Born of a woman, bearing the sins of the world, Jesus comes to us as our Protector, our Deliverer, our Savior.

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.

NORTH PARKING LOT: Be cautious of the north parking lot for ice, especially on mornings after a thaw and refreezing.



Mission Central – Visiting Missionaries

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

- December 20, 2025 – Chelsea Irwin – Czech Republic – 1:00 pm

“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 1-6 Rev. Chad Trunkhill
Our Savior/Bethlehem
Dec 8-13 Rev. Richard Merrill
Multi Point, Charter Oak

**Dec 15-20 Rev. Nathan Peitsch
St. Paul’s, Ute**

Dec 22-27 Rev. Ted Torreson
Christ, Denison

Dec 29-Jan 3 Rev. Vacancy Pastor
Zion, Denison

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.




St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 2025

Elders: Gary McCall; **Ushers:** Jim Thies, Denny Mordhorst;

Finance Committee: Terri Mohr, Bruce Mohr, Gary Pohlman, Judy Pohlman; **Altar Flowers:** Deanna Sorensen; **Altar:** Teresa Mordhorst

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9:30 AM Christmas practice/Sunday School Bible Class 10:30 AM DS w/Holy Communion</p> <p>Acolytes:</p>	1	2	3	4	5	6
<p>9:30 AM Christmas practice/Sunday School Bible Class 10:30 AM DS w/Holy Communion</p> <p>Acolytes: Morgan, Wyatt</p>	8	9	10	11	12	13
<p>9:30 AM Christmas practice/Sunday School Bible Class 10:30 AM DS w/Holy Communion 6:30-8 PM LYF Bible Study</p> <p>Acolytes: Max, Samantha</p>	15	16	17	18	19	20
<p>9:30 AM Christmas practice/Sunday School Bible Class 10:30 AM DS w/Holy Communion 6:30-8 PM LYF Bible Study</p> <p>Acolytes: Morgan, Wyatt</p>	22	23	24	25	26	27
<p>No Sunday School 10:30 AM DS w/Holy Communion</p> <p>Acolytes: Hannah, Kelly</p>	29	30	31	<p>Office Closed</p>  <p>10:30 AM Christmas Day Service w/Holy Comm</p> <p>Pastors Family Day</p> <p>Acolytes: Samantha, Hannah</p> <p>All Worship Services will be in person and live-streamed. You can find the Live-stream at www.facebook.com/stpaulsute/live</p>		



PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 139
Ute, IA 51060
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Permit No. 4
Ute, IA 51060



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Sunday School – 9:30-10:20 A.M.

Worship In Person/Live Stream
Sundays 10:30 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Class:
11:00 A.M.

Live Streaming at:
www.facebook.com/stpaulsute/live

Church Office: 712-885-2221
 Fax: 712-885-2020
 E-Mail: stpaulute@gmail.com
 Pastor email: pastornpeitsch@gmail.com
 Website: www.stpaulsute.org

<u>December Events</u>	
Dec. 3	5:30 PM Advent Supper 7:00 PM Advent Service
Dec. 6	5:00 PM Blessing of the Creche Christmas Wreath & Statue Display
Dec. 10	5:30 PM Advent Supper 7:00 PM Advent Service
Dec. 17	5:30 PM Advent Supper 7:00 PM Advent Service
Dec. 24	6:00 PM Sunday School Christmas Eve Program
Dec. 25	10:30 AM Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion