

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 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's coming up on that time when the confirmands begin to think about their Confirmation. They've got questioning night to prepare for, a faith statement to write, sermon notes to finish up, and of course they've got their first communion to look forward to. And so with catechism review on my mind and looking ahead at what's to come in February I couldn't help but think of Jesus summary of God's Law. In Matthew 22 Jesus is asked what is the greatest commandment and He answers,

"And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." - Matt. 22:37-39

The ten commandments can be divided in these two ways, love for God and love for our neighbor. Which makes the summary of the law simply, "love".

The Bible is filled with passages reminding us of God's love for us. 1 Corinthians 13, which often gets read at weddings shows us what love looks like, patient, kind, and so forth. In Ephesians 5 as Paul tells us of the relationship between husband and wife and the love they are to share with one another we read,

"This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband." - Eph. 5:32-33

Love and respect, Christ and the church, it's all tied together. The love we share with each other ought to reflect the love that God has shown us.

Nowhere in Scripture does this become clearer than in 1 John 4.

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. 8 Anyone who does not love does not know God, because

God is love. 9 In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." - 1 John 4:7-9

And just a few verses later we are told, "we love because He first loved us." God calls on each of us to share His love, by loving Him with all our heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. And as Jesus is asked about who that neighbor is, He tells a familiar parable, the parable of the Good Samaritan.

This man didn't know the person he stopped to help. They were foreigners to each other. And yet he shows kindness and care, paying for his lodging, paying for his healing and care as he recovers, and promising to cover any further costs when he returns. Now of course, we are to see the Samaritan as Christ. Christ paid it all for us. He binds up the wounds sin leaves us with. He shelters us in the shadow of His wings, and He promises that when He returns He'll make sure everything is paid for. And yet we have John's words, "we love because He first loved us."

We've been shown God's great love and now He sends us forth to show that love to all. And so this month as we think about Valentine's Day, let us remember the love God has shown us and ask ourselves, "How can I love my neighbor?" How can you show God's love and care to those who may not know it?

As the familiar verse from John 3 states, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." - John 3:16

God gave His only Son for the whole world. Let us show that love to our neighbor to everyone we meet on the street or in the grocery store or wherever we find ourselves. God has shown us His great love in Christ. Let us now shine that light for all to see by loving God with all our heart, and our neighbor as ourselves.

In Christ,
Pastor Nathan Peitsch

LCW MEETING

The LCW meetings will be Thursday, February 6th at 5:30 pm in the LYF room.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

On Tuesday, February 4th, Elder's Meeting will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 11th, the Council Meeting will meet at 7:00 p.m.



SOUP COOK-OFF

Save the date for the Annual Soup Cook-off on Sunday, February 23rd at 5:30 p.m. More information to come.



OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS ELECTED

Those elected as officers or board members included:

Elder: Jim Thies

Bruce Mohr

Trustee: Chad Kiepe

Board of Education: Nina Leitz

Auditing Committee: Dave Seieroe,

Terri Mohr, Mariah Nutt

Endowment Fund: Audrey Gust

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, Gary Pohlman, Judy Pohlman

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

Elders – John Thies

Trustee – Jim Thies

Endowment Fund: Dave Seieroe

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 March 5th we will have our Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm. with supper served at 5:30 p.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.

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 at the end of February.

In Jesus Christ, God Himself enters our human condition.

In *Servant of the Lord*, we see Jesus as God's Son and our

Redeemer. He has made the Heavenly Father known to us. Proclaiming the kingdom of God, Jesus served us—lovingly, patiently, compassionately—as He died for our sins and rose three days later in Easter victory.

We have in Jesus the supreme example of devoted service. His teachings defined the lives we are to live—both in praise and honor to God and in love and peace toward one another. All this Jesus did as God's chosen Servant, sent from heaven to earth to be our King, Savior, and trusted Friend.



NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

The newsletter this month is sponsored in honor of all that serve and protect our country. Please contact the office if you'd like to sponsor the newsletter. The cost is \$40 to sponsor a newsletter.

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 23rd. The church will also have 2 to 3 copies that you can borrow.



ACOLYTES SIGN-UP SHEET

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

SUPPORT OUR CATECHISM FAMILIES

We need volunteers to provide a simple meal every Wednesday for our 14 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.

LYF BIBLE STUDY

LYF Bible Study is Sunday, February 16th 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.

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.



The offering envelopes for 2025 will be in the back of the church to pick up at the end of December beginning of January. Envelopes were ordered for the people who signed up to receive them. If you would like to receive a packet for 2025, 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.



FEBRUARY HELPERS

Elder: Steve Gust

Ushers: Dave Seieroe, Mona Pithan, Matt Leitz

Altar: Joan Neddermeyer

Altar Flowers: Deanna Sorensen

Finance: John Thies, Harvey Thies

Acolytes

Sunday, Feb 9: Josiah Peitsch,
Michael Sorensen

Sunday, Feb 16: Hannah Peitsch
Leah Kiepe

Sunday, Feb 23:

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
Brooklyn Leitz	4
Mark Bretthauer, Ryan Pithan	6
James Pohlman	8
Megan Peitsch	9
Becky Miller	10
Dennis Mordhorst, Allison Hlnds	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 (81 yrs old)

Feb. 27 – David Ehlers (83 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

*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.

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.



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.



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

2025 SPECIAL MISSIONS OFFERING

This year our special mission is STEM. Our goal is \$3,000.



OUR VISION

Christ centered.

Spirit led.

Relationally driven.

Mission Statement: Changing lives for Christ through compassionate care.

Vision: Develop Tanzania into a vibrant Christian community

Core Values: Christ, Compassion, Caring, Commitment, Change
STEMM is an inter-denominational Christian ministry.

STEMM was founded in 1996 and organized in 1997. The founders, Dr. Steve Meyer, Dana Meyer, Rev. Jon Gerdt, and Lazaro Nyalandu, led a group of 10 Siouxland residents on the first trip to Tanzania in 1997.

From that experience, Dr. Meyer and his wife Dana were inspired to find a means to provide ongoing assistance to the beautiful and desperate children of Tanzania. They also felt compelled to facilitate a means for others to experience this life-changing journey.

STEMM was specifically created to develop a relational bridge between Siouxland and Tanzania by addressing the priorities of spiritual growth, medical care, and educational opportunities. In building this relationship, the overwhelming AIDS orphan crisis was one that was brought to our attention and today is an integral part of the STEMM ministry.

Since inception, STEMM groups have traveled to Tanzania on a semi-annual basis – January and July each year. As the

demand grows, so do the number of trips. It is through these “hands-on” mission trips that many Christians from all denominations and all walks of life have experienced life change and renewal in their own personal spiritual journey. To learn more, you can go to their website: <https://stemm.org/>



Registration is Now Open! Visit campokoboji.org to register for youth and family camps.

NEEDS/WANTS: Gas grills Outdoor Rocking Chairs Laundry soap, bleach and hand soap Queen size mattress pads New commercial grade vacuums, coffee pots, toasters, crock pots Thrivent Action Team Cards (contact Kellie Jones for potential projects; 712-337 3325) Also, ask us about our Amazon Wish List!

Summer Staff Needed! Summer Staff recruitment continues! Please encourage youth within your congregations to consider serving as Summer Staff. Invite youth (at least 16 years of age) and college students to consider serving with us in 2025 for an unforgettable summer at the lake. Application profiles can be completed at NLOMA.ORG.

IDW CAMP/YOUTH GATHERING SCHOLARSHIP

Iowa District West Camp/Youth Gathering Scholarships Assistance for those who need financial aid is available from the district for youth attending camps at Camp Okoboji and for district youth gatherings. The application should be filled out by the pastor or church worker from the congregation of which the applicant is a member. Applications are then sent to the district office. Click on the link and select “Youth Events Financial Aid.” <http://idwlcms.org/forms-and-links.php>

January 26, 2025, Voters Meeting Recap

Chairman Matt Leitz was not in attendance, so Head Elder Bruce Mohr called the meeting to order, and Pastor had an opening prayer. A motion was made and carried to accept the agenda. The minutes of the previous 10/13/24 meeting and the 12/22/24 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 2025. Treasurer Deanna Sorensen was not in attendance, so Bruce Mohr presented the Treasurer's Report for 2024. Motion made and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report. Election results: Elder-Jim Thies, Bruce Mohr. Trustee-Chad Kiepe. Education-Nina Leitz. Auditing Committee-Mariah Nutt, Terri Mohr, Dave Seieroe. Endowment Fund-Audrey Gust. Finance Committee-Marc Clemon, Gwen Clemon, Becky Mordhorst, Denny Mordhorst, Linda Riddle, Dave Seieroe, Linda Seieroe, John Thies, Terri Mohr, Bruce Mohr, Elaine Vogt, Harvey Thies, Gary Pohlman, Judy Pohlman. Pastor reported that Catechism classes and the mid-week and Sunday adult Bible classes are going well. The circuit pastors meet regularly and are working on a course on preaching and writing sermons. The District Convention will be held in June, and a new President will be voted on as President Turner is retiring. Our constitution updates, which have been submitted and approved, will be formally voted on at the convention. John Stacy's vicarage is continuing at St. Matthew's, and he and Pastor meets every Wednesday. Pastor continues to go to St. Matthew's every Tuesday morning and does visitations in the afternoon. Bruce Mohr presented the attendance figures for October, November, and December. The elders are trying to track the numbers viewing the online services to use for the attendance count, and encouraged everyone watching to leave a comment in order to be counted. The elders completed their visitation and funeral policy updates to the handbook, and copies were available for the voters to review. Motion made and carried to accept the updates. No trustees were present, so Bruce Mohr reported that the roof is completed, and Pastor said the kitchen upgrades should be starting soon. Angie Kroll said the average Sunday School attendance is 10-15 each week, and the kids will be singing Palm Sunday on 4/13 and the last day of class on 5/11. Stewardship Secretary Tammy Bramley was not in attendance but had had gotten Council's recommendation that STEMM be the 2025 Special Mission Project. After discussion a motion was made and carried that \$3,000.00 will be the goal with STEMM as the 2025 Special Mission Project and that collection plates will be set out for California fire relief. Marc Clemon volunteered to be our lay delegate to the IDW Convention in June, and a motion was made and carried that he do so. A motion to adjourn was made and carried, and Pastor closed with a prayer.