ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Rev. Nathan Peitsch ◆ Head Elder: Bruce Mohr; Elders: Steve Gust, Jim Thies, Matt Leitz
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October 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This October, just like every October, we conclude with the celebration of a holiday. Many know it simply as Halloween, or "All Hallows Eve", but most Lutherans know it as "Reformation Day". October 31, 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses on the church door. This began for him a journey that would lead to excommunication and then the formation of a new church body, eventually to become known as the Lutheran Church.

The Reformation had an impact not just on the formation of the Lutheran Church, but several other church bodies can trace their beginnings back to this time as well. So with that in mind, let us pause to ponder the Reformation. What was Luther's goal? What was his main focus? Where has the church gone in the years since, and where is it going?

Of course, these questions cannot all be answered in one short letter. One long book would hardly be enough to answer these questions. But I ask you to consider what Martin Luther considered to be one of the key passages of the Reformation, Ephesians 2:8-9:

> **For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

Luther took this passage and rightfully concluded that works don't obtain us salvation. The things we do cannot redeem us. We are sinners. We fall short. And so, we come to the solas of the Reformation.

Sola Gratia - Grace Alone: We are saved not by our works, but by God's grace alone. Grace is often explained using the acronym "God's Riches At Christ's Expense". The free gift of God, given to us that we might be saved, saved through "sola Christus" or "Christ alone". Our salvation is God's gift to us, we could never do enough to earn that gift or to be worth of God's favor. Yet, in His great love for us He gives us His grace because of Christ.

Sola Fide - Faith Alone: We receive the free gift of God, just as St Paul told us in Ephesians 2:8-9, we receive it by faith alone. Faith in Christ alone saves. And this is a saving faith that is worked in us by the power of the Holy Spirit, not by works, not because we can believe so well ourselves, but by the free gift of God, given to us at baptism. And how do we know these things?

Sola Scripture - Scripture Alone: The things we know about God, about the grace of God shown to us in Christ, are not things we would know apart from Scripture. God has given us His Word, His Truth, that we might know what has been done for us, the sacrifice Christ made in giving Himself for the sins of the whole world. In HIs Word, He tells us of the hope of eternal life He has bought for us and shown to us through His resurrection on the third day. These things we believe, hope, and trust in, because of Scripture alone. Because God has spoken them to us in His Word. And in the Lutheran Church, we teach that this is the only thing that can form what we believe and teach. Only God's Word serves as the ultimate authority.

As we celebrate the Reformation this month, remember these truths that Martin Luther strove to bring back into the church. The truth that it is not because of our good works that we are saved, it is because of God's good grace shown to us in Christ. It is not because we have earned that grace that He shows us, but because we have put our faith in the one who bought that grace with His own blood, Jesus Christ. And we know these things through God's Holy Word, this is how we know the truth about God. May we focus on this truth, studying His Word, taking it to heart, trusting God, trusting in His grace alone, to save us, now and always. May He continue to preserve this truth in His church in the years to come that we may proclaim it always.

In Christ alone,
Pastor Nathan Peitsch

CHURCH RECORDS

Wedding

Kade Ohlmeier and Olivia Steadham was united into marriage on September 26th.

LWML SUNDAY

We will celebrate LWML Sunday on October 4th. You are invited to wear something purple for that Sunday to support the LWML. A noisy collection will be taken for a mite offering which supports the mission of the church throughout the world.

LCW MINUTES

The LCW meetings will be Thursday, October 1st at 5:30 pm.

LCW Minute Meeting 9-3-26
Present: Dar, Elaine H, Gwen, Deanna, Joanie, Dar, Pastor, Terri
Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer
Terri shared information from the Pre-Fall Rally
Mapleton Zone has an opening for 2 positions, Treasurer and Vice President if anyone is interested in having their name put on the ballot.
Tammy Bramley will be on the ballot. Election at the Fall Rally September 23, 2026
Sunday, September 19 LWML Fall Retreat, Registration Handed Out
Terri – order Lutheran Women's Quarterly
Sunday, September 13, start for church will be 10:00 am, Fellowship to follow with donuts and coffee
New Member Welcome will be November 22, 2026
Soup cook off will be January 31, 2027
Loving Your Neighbors – discussion held
Pastor Merrill card shower is September 13
Humble Service will be discussed in the October meeting
Closed w/prayer

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) has set aside the month of October and other special days throughout the year to highlight different kinds of church workers and their service.
On Sunday October 11, we begin our year of church worker appreciation by thanking God for our pastors, who stand in the stead of Christ as they bring us His gifts of Word and Sacrament.

Monday, Oct. 5th, Budget Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 13th, Elders Mtg at 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 13th, Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 18th, Voter's Meeting after church.
Here's a few items on the Voter's Agenda:

- Budget
- Nomination Committee

SUPPORT OUR CATECHISM FAMILIES

We need volunteers to provide a simple meal every Wednesday for 12 Catechism students from 5:30-6:00 pm. Sign-up sheet is on the back table.

LYF MEETING

LYF Meeting is after church on October 18th

LYF BIBLE STUDY

LYF Bible Study is Sunday, October 18th 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.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS

Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour before going to bed on Saturday, October 31st.

ALL SAINTS DAY

Join us All Saints Sunday, Nov. 1st for recognition of the faithfully departed in this last year.

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS FOR OCTOBER

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 October are:

Sara Purcell-Landon Kiepe	2
Joyce Vinke	4
Sandy Bauman	6
Liam Gray	7
Duane Mordhorst-Ethan Jones	9
Karen McCall	10
Dylan Hanson	11
Shirley Gosch-Lynette Thies- Angela Kroll	14
Joanna Newsom	15
Aaron Folk	18
Darin Wood	21
Wyatt Hinds	23
Dennis Nelson-John Thies-Keegan Bretthauer	24
Alyse Bretthauer-George Hull-Becky Meadows-Mike Ohlmeier	26
Sally Goslar	27
Shane Sorensen	28
Ivy Christophersen	30
Nisha Hull	31

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

OCTOBER HELPERS

Elder: Bruce Mohr
Ushers: Matt Kelm, John Mordhorst, William Sorensen, Michael Sorensen
Altar: Joan Neddermeyer
Altar Flowers: Sharon Gosch
Finance: Ray Holst, Elaine Holst, Linda Riddle
Acolytes:

Oct. 4 – Kelly
Oct. 11 – Lydia, Leah
Oct. 18 – Bailey
Oct. 25 – Morgan, Lydia

STEWARDSHIP

AUTOMATIC DEBIT - An automatic debit from your checking account to St. Paul's account may be an option if you would like to give to the church on a regular basis or you just want to simplify our giving without writing a check each week or month. You can specify an amount and how often this amount should be transferred from your checking account to St. Paul's account at Community Bank, and it will automatically be done for you. Your bank can help you fill out a short form. This debit can be stopped or changed at any time by contacting your bank. You will want to let the Treasurer know who is making this donation so she can credit you for income tax purposes.

GRAIN - As the harvest approaches, St. Paul's Stewardship committee would like to remind the farmers that one option for giving is the gift of grain. You can ask Deanna for a form if you want to do this. This gift is not tax deductible, but you will not declare the amount of the grain as income.

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.

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.

SPECIAL MISSIONS OFFERING

This year our special mission is Lutherans for Life. Our goal is $3,000. Here is some information about Lutherans for Life.

website: https://lutheransforlife.org/

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

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.

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

Oct. 5-10	Rev. Ted Torreson	Christ, Denison
Oct. 12-17	Rev. Jeffrey Wade	Zion, Denison
Oct. 19-24	Rev. Merle Mahnken	Immanuel, Schleswig
Oct. 26-31	Rev. Chad Trunkhill	Our Savior/Bethlehem

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

- November 21, 2026 – James and Angie Sharp – Puerto Rico – 1:00 pm
- December 5, 2026 – Rev. Christian and Lula Tiews – Germany – 1:00 pm

Camp Okoboji Update

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sept. 9-11: OUTDOOR EDUCATION SESSION 1
Sept. 16-18: OUTDOOR EDUCATION SESSION 2
Sept. 23-25: OUTDOOR EDUCATION SESSION 3
Oct. 2-4: IDW SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING
Oct 4: 9:30 AM TO 1:00 PM OMELET BRUNCH
Oct. 9-10: CAMP OKOBOJI FALL VOLUNTEER WEEKEND
Oct. 9-11: IDW PASTORS WIVES RETREAT

Camp Executive Director, Adam, loves to visit congregations to share greetings and tell the members more about Camp Okoboji. I have the following Sundays available this fall: Oct. 11; Nov. 15; Nov. 22; Dec. 13.

CAMP OKOBOJI FALL VOLUNTEER WEEKEND
October 9-10

Fall Volunteer Weekend is a great way to share your time and talents while you enjoy God's Creation at Camp Okoboji. Help prepare Camp Okoboji for the upcoming winter. Please save the date and make plans to come and help! Room and board will be provided for volunteers, please call the office at (712) 337-3325! We will also host a dinner at 5 p.m. on Saturday evening to honor and celebrate our volunteers that help us throughout the whole year. If you plan to attend the dinner, even if unable to help with volunteer weekend, please let us know by calling the office at (712) 337-3325 or emailing dawnf1531@gmail.com.

PERSONNEL: We are already thinking about staff for next summer! It's never too early to begin recruitment, please encourage youth (at least 16 years of age) and college students to consider serving with us in 2027. The summer staff receive a weekly salary plus free room and board. Even if the youth you know can't work the whole summer, we'd be happy to have them help us even for part of the summer.

Thank You!

THANKS to volunteers and groups who give so generously of their time and talents in serving Camp Okoboji.

- A huge thanks to the gentlemen that mow the grass for us throughout the season and treat our grass to prevent weeds to keep the grounds looking top-notch.

Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life

LIFE NEWS—OCTOBER 2026

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

lutheransforlife.org

Life Newsbytes

Dr. Päivi Maria Räsänen, Finnish legislator and medical doctor, was the recipient of this year's Dominus Vitae Award from Lutherans For Life at the 2026 LFL Fall Gala in Des Moines, Iowa. Dr. Räsänen, shown above with LFL President Diane Albers and Executive Director Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, and her husband, Nilllo, has endured public persecution over the past several years for being a leading voice in support of religious liberty, freedom of expression, and the right to live and speak in accordance with convictions rooted in the Bible. Dr. Räsänen is also a former Minister of the Interior. Born in 1959 in Sonkajärvi, Finland, she completed her Licentiate of Medicine at the University of Helsinki in 1984 and subsequently worked as a physician in hospital-based clinical practice. Dr. Räsänen is the mother of five children and grandmother to twelve grandchildren.

Speaking up For Life

"We shouldn't expect to know or understand the ways of God. We simply live in trust and ask God's blessing on our lives of sanctification, lived in love and thanksgiving to Christ." *Marie MacPherson, author*

"We care about that precious baby, but we also care about the mom. We care about that woman who is haunted by the guilt and shame of a past abortion … We care because Jesus cares for us. We love because God first loved us. And this we know! Our Lord Jesus—who died for us and took away all of our sin and guilt and shame—is risen and ascended to the Father's throne. JESUS LIVES! THE VICTORY'S WON!" *Pastor Paul Clark, LFL of Michigan*

"You and I are made for life, abundant and everlasting. And this Gospel is made for all our neighbors, every genetic member of humanity." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life*

"We need pro-life laws and alternative-to-abortion options to provide bridges and buy time for us to share the Gospel of salvation in Christ. Yet we cannot settle for a favorable court ruling, a strong piece of legislation, or a life-favoring politician … Ultimately, though, changed hearts provide the alternative of eternal hope when despair and desperation tempt us to do bad things." *Pastor Robert Fleischmann, Christian Life Resources*

MY TIME IN CASPER, WYOMING

In September, I had the opportunity to spend a day with the students at Luther Classical College (lutherclassical.org) in Casper, Wyoming.

It was both refreshing and encouraging to meet with such a faithful group of young Lutherans, all zealous to uphold the sanctity of each human life.

What a blessing to know that the next generation is eager to pick up the mantle and continue to share God's Word of life with their neighbors.

Yet, as I reflect on our discussion and the questions they had for me, it is clear that the next generation of Gospel-motivated voices For Life is facing challenges unlike anything we've had to deal with over the past 50 years. Ever-evolving technologies, increased individualism and entitlement, and the seemingly endless attacks on marriage and sexual identity all make the fight for life a completely different arena than it was when most of us first became involved with Lutherans For Life. Like the mythical hydra, as soon as we address one life issue, another one—an even more devious one—pops up in its place.

Again, I am encouraged to know that our younger brothers and sisters are willing and eager to face these challenges head on. But they will need help. Of course, the Lord is our Rock and our Redeemer, who has promised to uphold and provide for His Church. We can trust that He will continue to provide, strengthen, and equip His children for the task.

We also know that God works through means. He will use some members of His Church to share His blessings with the others. Those who come behind us will need resources and support to keep up with the constant barrage of new attacks on life.

Lutherans For Life is poised to provide those resources and support for years to come.

And you play a major role in that!

Your continued gifts are helping ensure that Lutherans For Life will be able to equip the next generation of Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life into the foreseeable future.

Additionally, your patronage is providing an example of faithfulness and godly stewardship to be emulated by our children and grandchildren.

Thank you for your willingness to help us share God's Word of truth with this generation and the next! You are a blessing to Lutherans For Life and to all of God's children.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 2026

Elders: Bruce Mohr; **Ushers:** Matt Kelm, John Mordhorst, William Sorensen, Michael Sorensen;
Finance Committee: Ray Holst, Elaine Holst, Linda Riddle; **Altar Flowers:** Sharon Gosch; **Altar:** Joan Neddermeyer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Worship Services will be in person and live-streamed. You can find the Live-stream at www.facebook.com/stpaulsute/live				1 5:30 PM LCW Meeting	2 Pastors Family Day	3
4 9:00 AM Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 AM DS w/Holy Communion Acolytes: Kelly	5 7:00 PM Budget Mtg	6	7 11:00 AM Bible Class 4:30 PM Catechism 5-6 5:30 PM Memory Work/Meal 6:00 PM Catechism 7-8	8	9 Pastors Family Day	10
11 9:00 AM Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 AM Divine Service Acolytes: Lydia, Leah	12	13 5:30 PM Elders Mtg 7:00 PM Council Mtg	14 11:00 AM Bible Class 4:30 PM Catechism 5-6 5:30 PM Memory Work/Meal 6:00 PM Catechism 7-8	15	16 Pastors Family Day	17
18 9:00 AM Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 AM DS w/Holy Communion LYF meeting after service Voters Meeting after service 6:30 PM LYF Bible Study Acolytes: Bailey	19	20	21 11:00 AM Bible Class 4:30 PM Catechism 5-6 5:30 PM Memory Work/Meal 6:00 PM Catechism 7-8	22	23 Pastors Family Day	24
25 9:00 AM Bible Class & Sunday School 10:00 AM Divine Service Acolytes: Morgan, Lydia	26	27	28 11:00 AM Bible Class 4:30 PM Catechism 5-6 5:30 PM Memory Work/Meal 6:00 PM Catechism 7-8	29	30 Pastors Family Day	31 Reformation Day

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Ute, IA 51060
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 4
Ute, IA 51060

Sunday School & Bible Class
– 9:00-9:45 A.M.

Worship Service – In-Person/Live-Stream
Sundays 10:00 A.M.

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

Church Office**: 712-885-2221**
E-Mail: **stpaulute@gmail.com**
Pastor email: **pastornpeitsch@gmail.com**
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