

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Church Office Number: 885-2221

Pastor Nathan Peitsch

Elders: Bruce Mohr: 269-8771; John Greder: 269-8337; Deryl Hennings: 885-2877; John McCall: 269-5163

DECEMBER 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Christmas is coming. We are entering the season of Advent, a time of preparation, a time to look forward to our Christmas celebrations. And so throughout the coming month, we will be finalizing travel preparations, buying Christmas gifts for our family and friends, baking cookies, decorating the house, enjoying the wonderful assortment of Christmas music available to us, and so much more.

But as this season comes, it can be easy to lose sight of why we celebrate. We decorate to help us remember the story. The Christmas tree points us up to the Lord. The lights remind us of the light of God revealed to the world. The star or the angel on top of the tree remind us of the appearances in the sky proclaiming the birth of Jesus Christ. And of course, there is the creche, depicting that Silent Night, Holy Night, when Christ the savior was born.

Which brings us to the Christmas music we know and love, the songs proclaiming Christ is born: Joy to the World, and Gloria in excelsis Deo! There are so many different ways to prepare for this celebration, so many ways to get in the mood for celebrating Christmas.

But what exactly are we getting ready to celebrate? The answer seems simple: "Jesus is the reason for the season." or "let's keep Christ in Christmas". But are we really just gathering to celebrate another birthday for Jesus?

Well, yes... and no. What we are celebrating isn't just that somebody was born. We are celebrating, as the Nicene Creed puts it, "Jesus, who for us men and for our salvation, **came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary.**" We are celebrating God willingly, freely, and sacrificially coming down from heaven to dwell on earth and save His people.

We gather at Christmas to celebrate the fact that Christ Jesus, gave up his power and authority in heaven and humbled himself. The writer of Hebrews confirms this:

But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. - Hebrews 2:9

We rejoice that Jesus became like us so that He could die for us. We give thanks to God that Jesus became lower than the angels for a time, that He might taste death for everyone: you, me, the whole world. This is why we celebrate Christmas because it is then that God became incarnate. It is then that God took on human flesh that He might redeem all flesh.

Jesus was born. He was born for us all. He was born under the law, born of a woman, born to give us His place as sons of God, and as sons, heirs of eternal life. St Paul reminds us:

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. -Galatians 4:4-5

Jesus was put under the same law, the same rules, the same flesh, that we are under that He might redeem us, lost and condemned sinners.

This is why the angels sang. This is why the shepherds came to worship. This is why the star appeared and the wise men travelled. It wasn't to celebrate a birthday. It was to give honor and glory to God, who came down to earth to die in the place of, in the very flesh of His sinful fallen people. Thanks be to God for this glorious mystery.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Nathan Peitsch



ADVENT SERVICE

We will be having Midweek Advent services on Wednesday night December 4, 11, and 18th at 7:00 p.m. with supper from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.



CATECHISM

During the month of December, Catechism class times will change:

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. - 5 & 6 Grades

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



**CHRISTMAS EVE
PRACTICE**

Sunday School will begin earlier at 8:30 a.m. during the month of December for Christmas Practice.

On Sunday, December 15th we will have an additional practice at 4:00. After rehearsal we will go Christmas caroling around town weather pending. The LYF is also invited. We will then go back to the church and have a Pizza Party with chips and some desserts. The pizza party and food will be paid for with a grant from Thrivent. If anyone would like to bring a plate of goodies to share during this time, please feel free too.

Congregation members are invited to donate poinsettias to beautify the church during the Christmas season. They may be brought in and left 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.



**Christmas
Day
Service**

December 25th at 10:00 a.m. we will be having our Christmas Day Service with Holy Communion.



MONTHLY MEETINGS

Tuesday, December 3rd the Elders Meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting is Tuesday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m.



LYF

On December 13 the LYF will be having a lock in. More information to come.

EVERYONE IS INVITED!!

Men, Women & Children

LCW CHRISTMAS POTLUCK



St. Paul's Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, December 11th
12:00 p.m. Noon

You can bring a dish to share.



2020 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 or Sunday School Superintendent please contact the church or anyone on the Nomination Committee: Pastor, Bruce Mohr, Gary Goslar, Korey Meseck, Barb Mordhorst. On the back table in church you can find more information on the job descriptions.

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The offering envelopes for 2020 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 2021, you will have to notify the secretary or the pastor. 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.



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, Sue Kelm	1
Gloria Barnett	10
Barb Lorenzen, Johannes Bumsted	13
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



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 \$37.

WELCOME

Miles Wesson Rains and Josphehine Marie Rains, son and daughter of Tyler and Sierra (Sorensen) Rains, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 30th.



“THY STRONG WORD”

‘Thy Strong Word’ is a daily devotion airing at 6:25 a.m. Monday through Saturday on KDSN 107.1FM).

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|----------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Dec. 2-7 | Rev. Merle Mahnken
Immanuel, Schleswig |
| Dec. 9-14 | Rev. David Loeschen
Bethlehem/Our Savior |
| Dec. 16-21 | Rev. Richard Merrill
St. John, Charter Oak |
| Dec. 23-28 | Rev. Nathan Peitsch
St. Paul’s, Ute |
| Dec. 30-Jan. 4 | Rev. Mark Kluzek
St. John, Kiron |

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 of the Denison area and sponsored by area congregations including St. Paul’s. 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.



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.

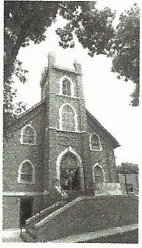
If the weather is so severe that services are cancelled, it will be announced on KDSN radio: 107.1 FM and 1530 AM, and posted on church facebook and website. We will also use membercaller in the event of a cancellation. Please make sure we have your current phone number.

CAMP OKOBOJI

We’d like to announce our 2020 Camp Theme! “Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:2

Upcoming Events in 2020!

- January 24-26 Family Ice Fishing Retreat
- January 25 Family Festival for University of Okoboji Winter Games
- January 26 Omelet Brunch and Worship Service
- February 14-15 CHAOS



ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 139
Ute, IA 51060
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*O come,
O come,
Emmanuel*



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Sunday School & Bible Class:
Sundays 9:00-9:50 A.M.

Worship Time:
Sundays 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday Bible Class:
11:00 A.M.

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

December Events

Dec. 4 – 5:30-6:45PM Advent Supper
7:00 PM Advent Service
Dec. 11- 12PM LCW Christmas Potluck
5:30-6:45PM Advent Supper
7:00 PM Advent Service
Dec. 18 – 5:30-6:45PM Advent Supper
7:00 PM Advent Service
Dec. 24 – 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Program
Dec. 25 – 10:00 AM Christmas Day Service
with Holy Communion