

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

MARCH 2020

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have entered the season of Lent. This time of the church year is often surrounded by many different church practices. In some areas, they precede Lent with a day dedicated to sweets. Some call it Pączki Day, Mardi Gras, Pancake Day, the list goes on.

Then there is the celebration of Ash Wednesday, as ashes are placed upon the foreheads of church goers, reminding us that we are dust and to dust we shall return. Ashes were often used in the Scriptures as a sign of remorse or mourning. On this day, the mourning and remorse are for our own sins.

But many of the practices surrounding Lent are related to the practice of giving something up for Lent. Mardi Gras, or whatever you happen to call it, came about as a way of clearing the house of all sweets and other rich foods before giving up these things for Lent. Some people give up the eating of meats on the Fridays during Lent, and instead they choose to eat fish.

This practice of giving things up for Lent has many different reasonings, some suggest it is to help us remember what Christ has given up for us. Others will suggest that the practice of fasting or giving up something else for Lent is a matter of self-discipline. A practice encouraged in Scripture:

But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. 1 Cor. 9:27

or again
for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. 2 Tim. 1:7

Self-control and discipline: these are virtues encouraged in us by Scripture. But just like anything, they need to be practiced in order for us to be good at them. So we practice with things like sweets, certain foods, coffee, Facebook, or TV, as a way of training ourselves in self-control.

But there is one further reason why many give something up for Lent. And this is to allow them to dedicate devotional time to God. The time they would have spent on one of these other activities would instead be spent studying God's Word or praying.

Lent is often used as a time to increase our time spent in these activities. As a way of strengthening our faith and furthering our growth in God's Word. Lent can be seen as a dark time as we ponder our own sinfulness and our dire need for a savior. And in the midst of that darkness we have the words of the Psalmist:

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Ps. 119:105

And so if you gave up something you would do on a regular basis like scrolling through the internet, perhaps you spend that time scrolling through God's Word instead. If you gave up desserts, perhaps you use the dessert time of the meal as a devotional time.

But giving up or not, it is a good spiritual discipline for us to spend time devoted to God. And Lent is often seen as a time to pick that up. To that end, I encourage you, spend some time in God's Word.

Time in God's Word is never time wasted. God assures us,

So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. Is. 55:11

So this Lent, whether you've given something up or not, practice that self-control, that discipline. Pick up your Bible, let God's Word be the lamp to your feet and the light to your path.

In Christ,

Pastor Nathan Peitsch

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Don't forget to set clocks ahead an hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 8th.



MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Mid-week Lenten Services will be at 7:00 p.m. each Wednesday, with supper to be served from 5:30-6:45 pm. Free will donation



ADULT INSTRUCTION CLASS

The Adult Instruction class is on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. through March 16th.



MEETING

Elders Meeting is Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting is Tuesday, February 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the LYF room.



LCW MEETING

LCW Meeting is Wednesday, February 11th at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

LWML ZONE PRAYER

The LWML Zone Prayer will be held at St. John, Charter Oak on March 19th. Coffee & rolls will be served at 9 AM with the Prayer Service beginning at 9:30. ALL Ladies are welcome.



LYF MEETING

LYF Meeting is Wednesday, February 11th at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sunday March 29th the Sunday School students will be singing during the service.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 19-23 Save the date for Vacation Bible School



PHOTO DIRECTORY

Please be a part of our new family directory. Pictures will be taken at St. Paul's March 19-21. You can sign up by calling the church, there is a link on our facebook page: www.facebook.com/stpaulsute or there is a signup sheet on the back table in church to schedule your own appointment.

PACK THE CHURCH

We invite you to our "Pack the Church Sunday" on March 29th. For this special day, we are challenging every member to attend. Weather permitting, we will be taking a large group picture outside for our new church directory. A free meal will be served afterward.



CUB WEEK SCHOLARSHIP

The Camp Okoboji auxiliary will be giving away 6 scholarships for Cub Week. You can pick up a scholarship application from the church office. The application needs to be completed & returned to Camp Okoboji by April 15th.

"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

- Mar. 2-7 Rev. Chad Trunkhill
Bethlehem/Our Savior
- Mar. 9-14 Rev. Richard Merrill
Multi-Point, Charter Oak
- Mar. 16-21 Rev. Nathan Peitsch**
St. Paul's, Ute
- Mar. 23-28 Rev. Mark Kluzek
Faith, Deloit/St. John, Kiron
- Mar. 30-Apr. 4 Rev. Josh Keinath
Zion, Denison



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
Kade Ohlmeier	10
Norma Berens, Alyssa Thies	12
Lisa Thies	13
Gregory Hinrichsen	14
Kenley Bretthauer-Stephens	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
Carolyn Seieroe, Kaitlyn Conto, Quintin Conto, Zachary Kelm, Joseph Sorensen	
Duncan Purcell, Amanda Thies	26

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.



NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

Please contact the office if you'd like to sponsor the newsletter. The cost is \$37.

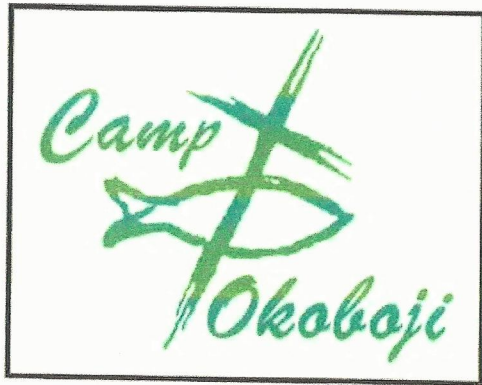


MAIN STREET LIVING

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.



What's Coming Up?

March 20-21

Higher Things Retreat

April 18

Camp Okoboji Annual Meeting

April 23-25

Wittenberg Academy

May 1-2

Spring Women's Retreat

May 1-3

Volunteer Work Weekend



Summer Staff Needed!

Do you know someone who is committed to serving others and glorifying God? Refer them to us! Camp is in need of hard-working, committed young adults to serve guests and campers on our Summer Staff. To learn more and to apply, check out our webpage:

campokoboji.org/summer-jobs.php

Higher Things Retreat

On March 20-21, Camp Okoboji is hosting a Higher Things Retreat! Bring your 7th-12th grade youth to this retreat. Pastor Donovan Riley will guide learners through what it means for Christians to embrace being sinful and justified at the same time! Find more information on Camp's website!

HIGHER THINGS RETREAT



march 20-21

Speaker: Rev. Donovan Riley

Simul Justus et Peccator



Volunteer Work Weekend

Join us at Camp Okoboji on May 1-3 as we prepare the grounds for the Summer Season! Breakfast and lunch will be on us! For more information, call the Camp Office at 712-337-3325! See you at the Lake!



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

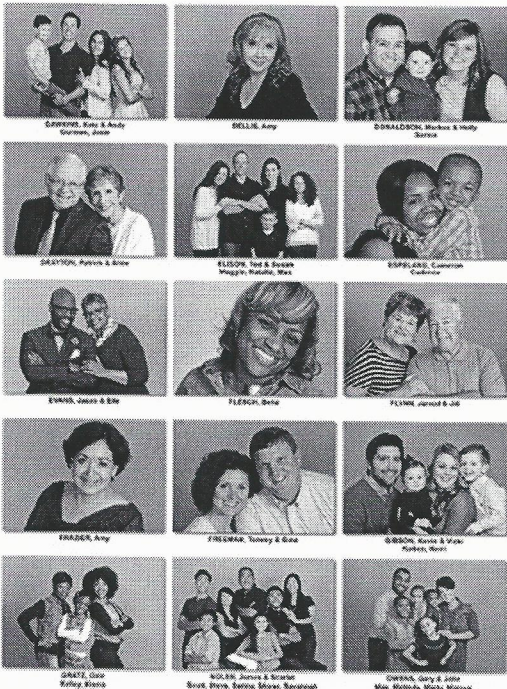
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Sunday School & Bible Class:
Sundays 9:00-9:50 A.M.

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
 Website: www.stpaulsute.org



Be included
 in the new St Paul's Lutheran
 directory

Photography dates
 March 19-21

More information inside
Lifetouch.