

REMEMBERING 125 YEARS AGO - PART 3

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ute 125th Anniversary



St. Paul's 125th Anniversary Schedule August 18-20, 2023

Friday, August 18 - 7:00 PM
Open Time Capsule, Public Welcome
Free Ice Cream Social, on lawn
View St. Paul's Historical Information & Artifacts
on display inside church

Saturday, August 19 - 2:00 PM
Ute Fun Day's Parade Replica of St. Paul's Church
in Parade

Sunday, August 20
10:00 AM 125th Worship Service with guest speaker,
IDW Pres., Rev. Dr. Steve Turner
11:30 AM 125th Anniversary Dinner-Staley's Chicken
Free to Public, at Ute Town & Country



This is a picture of St. Paul's on Dedication Day in 1917.



This is a picture of the original St. Paul's church. It was dedicated on February 10, 1901.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and tomorrow"- Hebrews 13:8

St. Paul's, from page 1

Several fundraisers have been held throughout 2023. They included meals before Lenten services, bake sales, Grateful Heart concert, soup cookoff, serving Memorial Day lunch at the Senior Center, church in the park followed by a "Pie in the Face" contest. T-shirts featuring St. Paul's logo were designed by John Thies and are available to purchase.

Pastor Nathan said they held a variety of activities to get everyone involved. All gifts to St. Paul's "Penny Fund" will be divided between two Thank Offerings:

- 1.) Lutheran Family Service of Iowa provides adoption services, pregnancy help, marriage counseling, mental health support, and counseling for behavioral issues, early childhood development and more.
- 2.) St. Paul's Jeremiah Fund encourages and provides spiritual growth opportunities to the youth of St. Paul, Ute (youth, elementary, junior high, high school and college levels).

These gifts will be presented as a special Thanks Offerings with thanks and praise to God for 125 years of His grace, mercy and blessings upon the congregation and its members.

Bruce Mohr said the church also put together a new "pictorial" directory of the congregation. Following a "Pack the Church" service in April, members gathered at the front of the church for a group picture.

Following their 125th theme of "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and tomorrow," Hebrews 13:8, the committee organized three special services for 2023.

On May 21, former Pastor Marcus Manley was the guest preacher with his sermon's focus on "Yesterday" (past). A potluck meal followed worship, to allow members time for fellowship with former Pastor Manley.

On July 23, Pastor Nathan gave his sermon on "Today" (present) at St. Paul's outdoor worship service at the Ute Park. The 125th Steering Committee grilled burgers and hot dogs. There were games for the kids and adults with a special game of "Pie in the Face." Pastor Peitsch, President John Greder, Head Elder Bruce Mohr and 125th secretary/high school senior Emily Sorensen all got several pies in the face as part of a 125th fundraiser.

On August 20, Rev. Dr. Steve Turner, Iowa District West President, will be given the sermon on the church "Tomorrow" (future).

"OUR MEMBERS HAVE A STRONG DESIRE TO PRESERVE WHAT GOD IS DOING IN OUR COMMUNITY."

PASTOR NATHAN PEITSCH

Changes over the past 25 years

St. Paul's Lutheran Church has seen many changes and faced many challenges in the last 25 years. God has blessed the church in many ways. For a small town that once has five churches, St. Paul's is the only remaining church in Ute.

McCall said, "Over the years, St. Paul, like so many congregations nationwide, has had their share of challenges. Membership has decreased over the years, budgets continue to increase and Pastor shortages are nationwide. However, God continues to bless St. Paul with faithful Pastors, member's faithful support and continue to offer their service to our Lord and St. Paul in various ways."



St. Paul has pictures of each confirmation class. In the past 25 years, 82 students have been confirmed.

Pastor Nathan Peitsch, who has served at St. Paul's for five years, said for example, he can't drive himself but he has a list of volunteer drivers from the church that are willing to drive him to whatever ministry things he needs to get to (hospital visits, nursing home, shut-in visits, funeral meeting, etc). "Our members have a strong desire to preserve what God is doing in our community," Pastor Nathan said. "It is encouraging to see how much people desire to be a part of this church."

The church is an important part of the community not only offering Sunday worship service but they hold Bible Study, Sunday School, Youth Group, Youth Gathering, Confirmation classes, and in the summer, Vacation Bible School.

The 125th steering committee said, "What a blessing Pastor Nathan and his family have been to our congregation."

Five of the eight members on the 125th steering committee, numerous others within St. Paul's general membership, have a "great grandfather" who helped found St. Paul in 1898.

Like every building, the church has received a number of improvements in the past 25 years.

Some of the projects have included: new steps and sidewalks out front, trees trimmed and cut down, new carpet on outside steps, new Live-Streaming camera and equipment, new flag pole and light installed, women's bathroom downstairs was updated, new parlaments purchased, new communion ware, new roof put on overflow room and an elevator was installed in 2003.

Technology has also changed in the church in the past 25 years. Recent additions of modern technology include: live streaming capabilities, computers, printers, software programs, utilization of group text messages and "Zoom" conferences for meetings has provided innovative and positive changes within the church.

While COVID in 2020 cancelled in-person services, Pastor Nathan started live streaming service on his cell phone so members could watch at home. The church moved to a video camera to stream the services and now they have a mounted camera in the back to stream the service live on Facebook every Sunday.

Pastor Nathan said, "It was important to continue to have these services during these times as God's word speaks to us

in the midst of all situations we find ourselves in."

He also started "Drive-Up Communion" during COVID, where members could pull up to the church in their car to receive communion. Pastor Nathan offered this for almost two years; now if one would still like to "drive-up" for communion, they call Pastor to set up a time and he meets them outside of the church.

The steering committee thanks St. Paul's membership, area businesses and non-members of our surrounding community for supporting our fundraisers throughout this year.

Pastor Nathan said, "Our congregation remains strong and we pray that it will remain that way."

St. Paul's Lutheran Church NUMBERS 1998-2023	
Baptisms.....	73
Marriages.....	24
Confirmations.....	82
Funerals.....	149

History of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

It was in the late summer of 1898, on the occasion of a mission festival at Charter Oak, that Engver Petersen and Claus Knutzen, Sr., farmers living in the vicinity of Ute, approached the Rev. A. Amstein, pastor of the Charter Oak congregation, with the request to conduct services in the town of Ute.

Pastor Amstein readily consented to do so, and shortly thereafter the first Lutheran service was held in Ute. This was on September 5, 1898, at the Methodist church. Three months later, on December 11, an organizational meeting was held and at constitution adopted, which was signed by thirteen members, seven signing that very day, six more in the course of the next three weeks. The names of the charter members and the order in which they affixed their signatures follow: Engver Petersen, Henry Brethauer, Sr., George Brandt, H.D. Lehmborg, Claus Knutzen, Sr., Peter Mohr, F. Mueller, Henry Godbersen, Dietrich Mahler, Herman Martensen, Carl Jensen, D. Bramstedt, and Fred Thies, Sr.

Pastor Amsted served the congregation in 1899 for a salary of \$56. Worship services were conducted in the Methodist Church until October of 1899, at that time the voters assembly decided to purchase a lot in the city of Ute for \$125 and build a new church. The church would be named St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Missouri Synod. Plans were formulated and construction was begun. February 10, 1901 is the date on which the new church was dedicated to service of the Triune God.

The services that began in 1898 met a great need in the Ute community, membership grew quickly, so much that the existing church could no longer accommodate the increased number of Sunday worshippers. St. Paul then resolved to erect a larger church building and plans and construction of the new church (at the present location) were begun in the spring of 1916. One March 4, 1917, the new church was dedicated to the Lord's Service.



The first event held as part of the 125th celebration was a chili-cookoff in February.



In May, the first of three Special Worship Services as Pastor Manley gave a sermon on the "Yesterday" (past) part of the church.



In July, they held a Service in the Park with a meal following and had a pie in the face fundraiser.



St. Paul's 125th Steering Committee - Front Row: Lynette Thies, Karen McCall, Tanis Watke, and Darlene Mohr. Back Row: John Thies, Emily Sorensen, Pastor Peitsch, Tammy Bramley, Gary McCall, Bruce Mohr, and John Greder.



St. Paul Church Council - Front Row: Lois Greder, Steve Gust, Audrey Gust, and Rick Knuth. Middle Row: Bruce Mohr, Deanna Sorenson, Tammy Bramley, Pastor Nathan Peitsch, and John Greder. Back Row: Jim Thies, Gary Goslar, Gary McCall, Andrew Kuhlmann, and John Thies.

PASTORS WHO SERVED ST. PAUL'S IN UTE, IOWA



Rev. A. Amstein: 1898-1911, Rev. Reinhold Amstein: 1911-1919, Rev. Carl Krog: 1920-1932, Rev. Elmer H. Widmann: 1932-1937, Rev. Hugo Hieting: 1937-1959, Rev. E.T. Lange: 1960-1972, Rev. Robert J. Leege: 1972-1987, Rev. Edgar W. Bode: 1988-2000; Rev. Edward Brandt: 2002-2011; Rev. Marcus Manley: 2012-2017; Rev. Nathan Peitsch 2018-Present

Some Vacancy Pastors Who Have Assisted Through The Years: Rev. E. Schwidder, Rev. Schlegelmilch, Rev. Hoemann, Rev. Greene, Rev. Gebhardt; Rev. Buckholz and Rev. Laboube



Rev. Nathan Peitsch came to St. Paul's in 2018 along with his family: wife, Megan and children: Micah, Josiah and Hannah.



CONGRATULATIONS, St. Paul's Lutheran Church on your 125th Anniversary

CATERING WITH A TOUCH OF CLASS

Weddings - Business Meetings - Reunions - Fundraisers

Staley's Food Service, Inc.

Rick & Allen Staley
42 Main St. · Charter Oak, IA · (712) 678-3567 · www.staleyscatering.com

We are proud to be apart of the

UTE COMMUNITY

Congratulations St. Paul's Lutheran Church on your 125th Anniversary!

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and tomorrow"

Guys & Gals SALON

Sue Kelm & Nina Leitz | Phone: 712-885-2681
103 East Main Street | Ute, Iowa 51060

GLC BEEF

HOME GROWN BEEF FROM THE HEARTLAND

Phone: 712.269.9763
124 Franklin St. | Dow City
glcbeef.com | glcbeef@gmail.com
Hours | Wed-Fri 10-6; Sat-Sun 10-2

Congratulations St. Paul's Lutheran Church on 125 Years!

Follow us on Facebook @ GLCBeef for specials!