



**November 20, 2022      24th Sunday after Pentecost**

Mailing/Offices: 103 E. Cedar Street, Anamosa IA 52205   Website: [www.stpaulanamosa.com](http://www.stpaulanamosa.com)   Fax: (319) 462-4843

The Pulse deadline is noon on Monday for the upcoming Wednesday/Sunday Pulse.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES YOU TO:

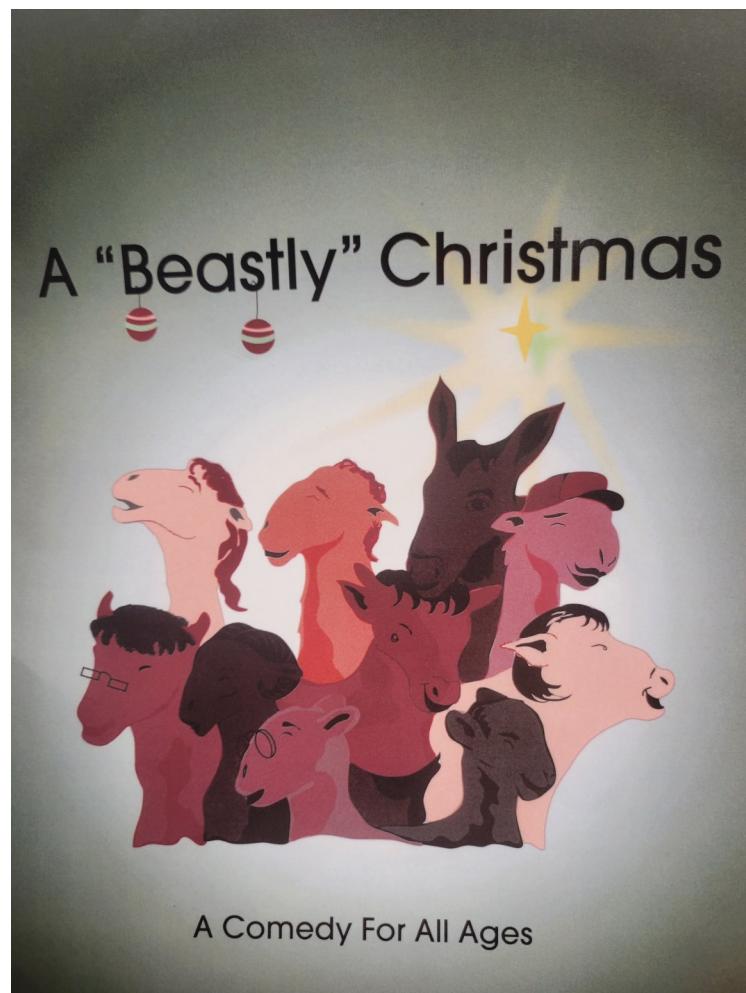
# *An Evening of Gratitude*

WE WILL HAVE A THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE  
THAT YOU WILL WANT TO ATTEND AS A FAMILY



Wednesday, Nov. 23rd at 6:00pm

We will not have our typical WD4 this evening.  
Our pre-school - 8th grade students will be singing  
during the service, some of our high school students  
will be playing brass, along with many other special  
things throughout the service.  
You won't want to miss it.



Wednesday, December 14th  
immediately following the  
service our Children & youth will  
be presenting "A Beastly  
Christmas"

This will include our Bell choir,  
children's choir, youth choir &  
WD4 participants. We will hear  
from camels, sheep, cows and a  
donkey as they tell us a very  
special story about what they saw  
happen that night.

Come enjoy the Christmas Story  
retold by the animals that  
witnessed this miracle take place!

The NEXUS Institute is one of 92 high school youth theology institutes funded by the Lilly Endowment, under the oversight of the Forum for Theological Enrichment. NEXUS exists to transform the landscape of the Lutheran Church through innovative and intentional development of young adults who want to be more involved in the nexus of faith, life, and the church.

The institute is a life-changing opportunity where young adults engage in theological learning, leadership development, and vocational discernment, all in the context of intentional Christian community, and are sent out to transform their local communities. For more information: <https://www.grandview.edu/about/community/camps-clinics/nexus>

GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY

**NEXUS**

where God's call meets your life



**High school  
students!**

Dig into Lutheran  
theology

Immerse in  
community

Discern God's call  
on your life

**Apply to The NEXUS Institute at  
Grand View University!**

NEXUS is a week-long, on-campus experience that will change your life. Come live in the residence halls, explore Des Moines, & make new friends who are passionate about learning & living for Jesus, just like you! Space is limited - applications taken starting Sept 1! Preference given to those interested in working in vocational ministry.

**NEXUS Dates: July 16-22, 2023**

[www.grandview.edu/NEXUS](http://www.grandview.edu/NEXUS)

A special thanks to Pastor Rodney, Nancy Stout, Lori Reynolds and the crew who baked, served or cleaned up for Patricia Lubben's funeral and luncheon. During that time, it was so comforting to know our church family was there to help us along the way. We appreciated all that you have done during this difficult time.

Brian, Michele, Grace, Grant and Scott Lubben

**Debra Herren Weeks Memorial Scholarship**  
I am sincerely honored to have been a recipient of this scholarship. Thank you for your generosity which has allowed me to feel some financial relief as I get ready to start my first semester of college at Clark in Dubuque this fall.

Drew Pate



#### Collecting Pill Bottles

We are now collecting only amber colored pill bottles with no labels that are clean and dry for the Community Free Clinic in Cedar Rapids. Drop them off in the back of the church in the box underneath the table.

#### St Paul Staff Emails & Phone Numbers

**Pastor Rodney** blumlw@gmail.com  
(319) 389-6153

**Nancy Douglas, Treasurer** njldouglas@hotmail.com  
(319) 551-3358

**Kaileen Weaver** cyfmstpaulanamosa@gmail.com  
(951) 553-5728

**Kathy Brunssen** stpaulanamosa@gmail.com  
(319) 480-0943

Please call us if we can be of assistance. PLEASE leave a message if we cannot answer. We will return your call ASAP.

#### Members Transferring Out

Pat and I are moving to Ankeny to be near Kristi and Jenni.

Our new address is:  
1919 SE Snowberry Lane  
Ankeny, IA 50021

We have not looked for a new church yet.  
Thanks for everything.  
Sincerely, Mike Plueger

Dear St Paul,

After much prayer and consideration, I have decided to attend another church; therefore, I ask that I be removed from the membership of the Lutheran Church.

Thank you for all the teaching provided in my spiritual growth. Also, thank you for the love and friendship and support of St Paul's Lutheran Church.

Sincerely, Kathleen Cannon

#### New Address for current member:

Jerry & Christine Holtz  
12405 West North Lane  
New Berlin, WI 53151

They will remain members at St Pauls until they find a new church. Jerry and Chris would love to hear from you!



## Please Pray for the Following

(Why people want prayers isn't important, *the prayers are!*)

We pray for Kinsley Provin niece of Deb Oldham. For all who need healing, strength or comfort. For peace in our nation & world, for safety in our schools and communities and for those seeking a safe home. To add a name call or email Lois at 462-4841/  
stpaulanamosa@gmail.com. Names will be listed for 4 weeks and may be renewed.

Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:(3b-6) 17-19

Psalm 46

Matt: 26:36-38

**ALY Backpack Thursdays:** November is St. Paul's month to pack the backpacks. We will start at 10 am in the CE building lower level. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the entryway of the church.

**GriefShare** is available upon request.

Please contact Nancy Douglas if interested  
319-551-3358.

**AA meets** in the lower level of the CE building on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.

**Jones County Food Bank:** Urgent help is needed at the Jones County Community Food Bank - food and funds have fallen critically low. For the last few months, the number of families and individuals requesting foods has been increasing and the shelves are almost bare. Funds are also being diminished by the demands of purchasing food at higher prices.

To donate money, checks may be written to Jones County Community Food Bank and mailed to 105 Broadway Place, Anamosa IA 52205. Items needed this week: Peas, pancake mix and syrup, canned tuna, Mac & Cheese and personal care items. **Please place items in the back of the church for collection by St. Paul volunteers OR call the Food Bank to make delivery arraignments (462-4343)**

## Bread Bakers:

November: Dee Ihlenfeldt

December: Sheri Evans

Christmas Eve: Brian Lubben family

## Deliver Food to Food Bank:

November: Ralph & Sandra Andresen

December: Myra Powell

**Introduction:** Assyria threatens Jerusalem and King Hezekiah despairs. Isaiah says the city will be saved and nations will beat swords into plowshares.

## The Book of the Prophet Isaiah of Jerusalem (First Isaiah)

36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7 then 2:1-5

Historically, Isaiah of Jerusalem, a contemporary of Micah, was writing in about 725 BCE, shortly after Samaria and the northern kingdom of Israel had been captured and occupied by the Assyrians. Judah, or the southern kingdom, which included Jerusalem, remained safe because King Ahaz had made a treaty with Assyria to become a vassal state, which protected the established seat of authority. Simultaneously, he tried to gather the survivors from the northern kingdom into Jerusalem. Already, the City of Peace, which sits atop a mountain, was seen as the place of refuge and tribute to God. Hezekiah the Reformer had taken over the throne in Jerusalem from his father Ahaz. Hezekiah was a good king, a light to his people, the Prince of Peace. He abolished worship of foreign gods and destroyed the altars to other deities that the people might return to worship of YHWH God alone. Chapters 36&37 tell of the Assyrian siege of Judah and the anguish of the people. Hezekiah counseled restraint and fidelity to God, even as the villages and towns around them fell into the hands of the conquerors. The emissary from the Assyrian king brings threats so severe that the Hezekiah tears his robes and is reduced to grief. He is sure the people will revolt, abandon God, and give themselves over to the foreign king.

Hezekiah cries out to Isaiah asking him to pray for the nation. Isaiah responds to Hezekiah with words of encouragement: Do not be afraid! Don't be intimidated by words meant solely to incite fear. Don't fear the words meant to attack the integrity of your religious beliefs or your God. Trust God! Sennacherib will return home soon enough. God's justice will prevail.

This trust that all would be well was not blind faith or pie-in-the-sky hope but firmly rooted in the long-standing prophecy of Isaiah from an earlier time, recorded in chapter two. In that vision, God will settle the disputes and the people will no longer be interested in making war but instead will be intent upon producing healthy food to sustain the nation. This peace/shalom/harmony will be rooted in the reign of God and the right relationship of the people with their God.

Many different voices are in a rush to tell us that things are changing and we need to prepare to accept change. Advent is the season of readying for change; the change that comes with being awakened to Christ's mission and power. The announcement that preparation is needed comes as good news. It is both the proclamation that the world in God's reign will be without war (swords into plowshares =farming implements...) and that the Lord will return suddenly to mete out justice. For this reason, Advent has two faces. It looks back at the historical coming of Jesus into history, and it looks forward to the ongoing coming of Christ in mystery and glory.

As Christians, we have to be careful when we read Isaiah. Certainly, Isaiah was talking about a time of peace when the Jews would be rewarded for holistically living their covenantal

relationship with Yahweh. He believed that they had the fullness of God's revelation available to them and could walk in the Lord's (Elohim/Yahweh God, not Jesus') light. Isaiah believed that the nation of Israel would deliver the world from sin by being a light to the nations through their example of peaceful loyalty to God. They will turn their elements of battle into elements for preparing the earth to receive new life. Isaiah was not making a prediction about the arrival of Jesus 700 years later. As a prophet, he was speaking the will of God for the people of his time, "here and now." As Christians, we need to keep in mind that our faith tradition has taken the statements of Isaiah and applied them to Jesus. Isaiah believed that God's vision of the world would be realized when Jerusalem was hailed by all as the "home of God." Christians believe that Jesus became that "home of God" and so all nations should look to him, not a city, in order to establish true peace.

### Gospel: Matthew 5:14-16 NIV

Where and when is the Kingdom of God. ? In Matthew's gospel, Jesus tells us without hesitation that it is here and now; "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand" (4:17). His life was spent ushering in this reality; and so, those who committed themselves to following Jesus asked: "What does it mean to live in this kingdom of God that is as close as the end of your arm?" Jesus responded by teaching them over a period of years, but for his community and us, Matthew presents these teachings as the tidy Sermon on the Mount (chapters 5-7).

Today's gospel presents an image or metaphor Jesus used to describe the role of God's disciple/follower in the world. They were to be light. Like the images of Isaiah, the Jews are reminded that their worldly role is to be catalysts for the Kingdom. As light, his followers were to improve the quality of human life and to preserve it from destruction, primarily by a continuous reliance on the Law and the Spirit of God. As light, they were to cast away the shadows of doubt and fear and illuminate life with mercy, kindness, and generosity. The darkness of sin was to be overcome through the law of love. It is silly to think that a follower of Jesus would encounter him and take in his teachings only to hide away. This journey to faith in Jesus is not a private experience. On the contrary, Jesus' true followers can't help but shed his light and life upon all in their household; his is a public ministry.

It is a ridiculous idea to light a lamp and then place it under a basket. It is equally ridiculous to become a follower of Jesus and pretend your life will not reveal the power of God. Followers of Jesus have the ability to make the kingdom of God known to others by being light.

**Taped services are found on St. Paul website, YouTube page or Facebook page.**

### Wednesday, November 16

\*8:00am Men's scripture/book study LL CE

\*6:00pm Service

Greeters: Ken & Pam Humpal

Reader & Prayers: WD4 7th & 8th Grade

PowerPoint: WD4 7th & 8th Grade

Wine server: Beth Hora

\*6:00pm WD4

### Thursday, November 17

\*1:30pm Fellowship & Fun at Fellowship hall

\*3:00pm HACAP Distribution

\*5:00pm Dinner With Friends PrairieMoon on Main

### Sunday, November 20

\*8:00am Service

Comm Prep: Ed Gerst & Susan Koppenhaver

Greeters: Ed Gerst & Susan Koppenhaver

Reader & Prayers: Nancy Douglas

PowerPoint: Grant Lubben

Wine Server: Ed Gerst & Susan Koppenhaver

\*9:20am Viewing of "The Chosen" FH

\*10:30am Service

Comm Prep: Lori Reynolds

Greeters: Fred Austin Family

Reader & Prayers: Sally Clapp

Prayers: Sally Clapp

PowerPoint: Addie Dales

Wine servers: Sally Clapp

### Tuesday, November 22

\*1:30pm Scripture Study

\*Grief Support by request, call Nancy Douglas

\*7:00pm AA— LL CE building

### Wednesday, November 23

\*8:00am Men's scripture/book study LL CE

\*6:00pm An Evening of Gratitude

Greeters: Ralph & Sandra Andresen

Reader & Prayers: Ralph & Sandra

PowerPoint: Darcie Tenley

Wine server: Ralph & Sandra

\*6:00pm No WD4

### Sunday, November 27

\*8:00am Service

Comm Prep: Jim/Dolores Albrecht

Greeters: Kenny Family

Reader & Prayers: Lois Ocenosak

PowerPoint: Linda Kenny

Wine Server: Lois Ocenosak

\*9:20am Viewing of "The Chosen" FH

\*10:30am Service

Comm Prep: Linda Kenny

Greeters: Kenny Family

Reader: Shaun or Valerie Lambertsen

Prayers: Shaun or Valerie Lamertsen

PowerPoint: Samuel Kenny

Wine servers: TBA



### "Pounds for the Pantry" Food Challenge

We invite you to participate in collecting food for the Jones County Community Food Bank. The drive begins October 1st and runs through December 31st.

If you would like to make a monetary contribution to "pounds for the pantry" you may do so through the regular offering by indicating it is for the food pantry, every dollar donated will be worth one pound of food.

### Tree Walk: It is a GO!

I'm up for another year of organizing the St. Paul Cafe at the Tree Walk in the LCC.

Dates will be December 9, 10, and 11. I will have a sign up in the back of church in the next week or two. Please look it over and sign up for a shift to serve soup and sandwiches.

Please email me if you can help -  
[deb.hardersen@gmail.com](mailto:deb.hardersen@gmail.com).  
Thanks.

Deb Hardersen

### 100th Anniversary Directory

**Please keep in mind the photo deadline for the 100th Anniversary Photo Directory is Sunday December 4th\*.**

**Set those timers and take some family photos over Thanksgiving and send them in to  
stpaulanamosa@gmail.com**

\*Please note, professionally taken photos need a release from the company to be able to be printed in our directory. Your personal photos are greatly appreciated!



**\*Fellowship & Fun:** Are you retired and looking for an afternoon of fellowship and fun? Please join us for games on the **\*3rd Thursday of the month starting at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. We will provide the cards and dominoes. All you need to bring is a beverage and a snack to share. We're looking forward to a fun afternoon!

\*Denotes a change to 3rd Thursday!

### Taking it to heart

Youth: identify an older person who can provide sure footing for you during these times of change and challenge (grandparent, neighbor, teacher, parish minister). Don't be afraid to develop a relationship of trust.

Name the people you know who claim to be Christian but spend more time covering it up than revealing it. Can you be light for them?

Now name the people you know whose faith, joy, and love readily flow through their actions. Tell them what that means to you.

Recall a time you were really down and someone unexpectedly stepped in and lifted your spirit. Thank God for that person. If you can, write that person a note of gratitude.

Instead of dropping your child off at an activity this week, request to spend the time together. Be emotionally available to your family. Take a risk and tell someone you haven't told in a while, "I love you." Play a silly simple game as a family: Crazy 8's, King's Corners, Chutes and Ladders, Yahtzee, Charades.

Mindfulness (set aside five minutes, breathe and read through three times Which words or ideas hold energy for you? What images emerge in your imagination?) Being "rooted in compassion" - Compassion is a global language of love, a deep listening to and suffering with people, creatures, and all creation Being "rooted in compassion" means this language of mutual love is a foundational, grounding impetus and vehicle for our basic human vocation It compels us to heal the planet and all Earth's inhabitants. Compassion draws us out of isolation, or "me (or us) against the world" thinking, into communion, or me/us for others and the world" thinking inter-connection, inter-dependence, or the web of life is real and more real than "me, myself, and I" or parochial, self-reinforcing static world views that places "us" and "our side" in opposition with "the world" or "them". Synthesis from The Compassionate Life, Walking the Path of kindness, Marc Ian Barasch and ideas from performance poet Drew Dellingler.



**Blue Christmas:** There are those in our midst who have not experienced 2022 as a year of favor, and some who struggle to find joy in the season of wonder. Some of us are grieving recent losses, others are carrying deep wounds from past hurts or broken relationships, and many are separated from loved ones by time or miles or fear of sickness. We want to gather as a faith community in prayerful support of each other, to pray for those unable

to pray, and to be a loving presence when the world seems cold. We will hold a Blue Christmas service from 5:10-6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 19. Through a series of reflective readings, songs, candle lightings, and prayers of intention, we will be reminded of God's incarnational love and healing power. All are welcome. This year, we will have a Simple Soup Supper in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service. Your RSVP for the service and/or meal is always appreciated to help with our planning (call 319.462-4841 or 319.389-6153 by 12/18).

Peace to your hearts as you consider joining us for this prayerful experience.



A Weekly Men's Scripture/Book Study is meeting at 8:00 A.M. on Wednesday mornings in the lower level of the CE building. All are welcome.

Questions call Serge Sisler or Ed Gerst.

**Mailing Address:**  
**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**103 East Cedar Street**  
**Anamosa, IA 52205**



## December Birthdays

Gabriel Goodyear	12/1	Phyllis Kula	12/10	Mariah Farr	12/23
Rodney Bluml	12/1	Addi Tjaden	12/10	Jude Lansing	12/24
Paul Pinney	12/2	Don Hardersen	12/10	Cade Folken	12/26
Cruz Winekauf	12/2	Charlotte Hoover	12/11	Nicholas Lehrman	12/28
Kenneth Humpal	12/2	Ernest Ulferts	12/14	Emily Meyer	12/30
Linda Kenny	12/3	Ben Carpenter	12/14	Kyle Vavricek	12/30
Dennie Hinrichs	12/4	Deb Zumbach	12/14		
Faith Ewing	12/5	Ella Snider	12/18		
Pat Plueger	12/6	Sammie Joens	12/18		
Arlie Willems	12/6	Barb Wilson	12/19		
Dan Lambertsen	12/6	Langley Miller	12/19		
Daniel Paulsen	12/6	Steven Dornbusch	12/20		
Ralph Andresen	12/7	Sam Von Sprecken	12/21		
Bing Postel	12/8	Connor Paulsen	12/22		
Janice Kurtz	12/9	Lance Toenjes	12/23		



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

*If your birthday was omitted from this list, we do not have the date in our records! If you would like your birthday listed in our newsletter, please call Lois at (319) 462-4841 or email her at [stpaulanamosa@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulanamosa@gmail.com) and she would be happy to include it.*