



**February 22, 2023 Ash Wednesday**

## **Saturday March 11th Centennial Lent Event**

Hello Friends,

Part of the Lutheran Legacy is POTLUCKS, but when is the last time you actually participated in one? Well, we are going to have a good 'ole fashioned potluck noon meal at our Centennial Lent Event on Saturday, March 11, in the Reception Hall of the National Motorcycle Museum in Anamosa. Each family is being asked to bring a dish to share. People are assigned to a category based on the first letter of your last name (some outlets are available in the kitchen).

A-G Salads H-M Vegetable N-T Meat and Casseroles U-Z Desserts

Table service will be provided. Coffee and water will be available. There will be coffee, juice, and an assortment of rolls available during registration from 8:30-9:00 a.m.

The event is from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., and Dan Frachey will lead us in community building through reflection, prayer, songs, videos, sharing, and activities, including a lunch meal with Table Eucharist. The event is entitled, "**Legacies: Stories of Gratitude and Gifting.**" We will consider the heart of Christianity's legacy, our individual legacies, and our community legacy as disciples of Christ. The event is geared towards those middle school age and up; there will be a designated area for child care. **RSVP** to 319.462-4841 or [stpaulanamosa@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulanamosa@gmail.com) is appreciated for our planning.

**About our Presenter:** Dan Frachey's career path led him from roofing houses and working on a freight dock to serving as supervisor of an inner-city soup kitchen and leading a Springfield, Illinois, Habitat for Humanity Affiliate. He served his home parish of St. Jude as Director of Christian Formation while receiving his Masters in Pastoral Studies at the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. In March of 2021, he went back to his business roots and opened **Legacy Weavers Video** which now allows him the privilege and joy of commemorating and celebrating people's life story by creating beautiful visual memories that serve as gifts to one's family and friends.



# ALY

## Anamosa Lunch for Youth

This local charity  
provides weekend food  
parcels for school  
children grades K-12  
serving 60 to 65  
children weekly.  
Our March Noisy  
offering will go to this  
worthy cause.

## Volunteers Needed



During Lent, we are in need of several people to volunteer to bring bars and help prepare, serve and clean up for our Wednesday night Lenten meals. The volunteer sign up sheet is hung up in the back of the church. High school students, you can get silver cord hours. If you have any questions please call Lori Reynolds @ 319-821-0702.

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

### The View from the Pew....

You may have noticed the display of historical photos and stories sitting on a table on your right as you came into the sanctuary, (or on your left as you were leaving!) telling some of the story of St. Paul's first 100 years. We urge you to enjoy reading and viewing our history through these albums. Who knows...you may find your grandparents' wedding photo, or the baptism of your neighbor's Mom, or even your own confirmation day picture. More albums of memories will be coming soon, and we look forward to the stories to be told from our next 100!

Thank you to the 100th Anniversary Committee for reminding us of the people who were St Paul before those of us who have that honor now.



### Scripture Study Gatherings

Each Tuesday, a group of people interested in the Scriptures gather for conversation on a Zoom call from 1:30-3:00 p.m. We discuss the current week's Narrative Lectionary readings. If you are looking for some respectful, friendly, and provocative exploration of the Bible, feel free to join us at this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2391467917> or contact Pastor Rodney for more information.

### **Reading I: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 NIV**

*The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." Now the serpent was craftier than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.*

The first reading of this Lenten season is a reminder that we are indeed creatures of the earth, dependent upon it for our lives and forever tied to it in our spirits. From this understanding comes the story of Adam and Eve, the parents of humanity, who allowed sin to enter into their situation of original grace, peace, and holiness. They desired to be something they were not; they wanted to be gods, equal to and independent of God. It does not take long for us to get in touch with this basic drive within ourselves; the desire to control, create, destroy, and have ultimate power is always lurking just below the surface. This ancient Hebrew story strives to describe these ever-present human mysteries as well as the essence of humanity's relationship with God.

This story refers to the creation of "man" when describing God's actions. The Hebrew word translated here as man is actually "adam" which is closely related to the word "adamah," which means ground. The Hebrew people heard in these similar-sounding words the intimate relationship between humanity and the earth. Adam could be more appropriately translated "Humanity" or "earth-beings" and was considered inclusive of both genders, although these are later differentiated. Yahweh breathes life in "the Human" and it becomes a "living being." Humanity lives because Yahweh's breath is in it; without God's breath {RUACH}, humanity dies. This is true of individuals and of humanity as a whole. The section on the creation of woman is omitted today not because it is unimportant but because the event is not significant for the purpose of today's lesson. In the tenth century BCE, the author has woman created in order to explain the marriage relationship. Originally, the woman was equal to the man and a suitable helper in fulfilling their destinies as images of God. According to the author, it is one of the results of "the original sin" that the woman is made subordinate to her husband. {A helpful device when we hear the word 'sin' is to think of 'division, separation, or diminishment.'}

In the original relationship of creation, animals and humans were closely linked as well because both were creatures of the ground animated by God's breath. Humans were different because Yahweh spoke to them which led them to the ability to reflect on their existence (consciousness). In the second half of the story today, which attempts to explain not the origin but the reality of sin in the world, we experience a rupture in this relationship. The "serpent" referred to here has in some traditions been equated with Satan or the devil; an association that doesn't show up until the first century BCE. This association was not in this author's mind. He simply knew that the serpent (not a snake) was the voice of doubt and distrust or curiosity that influences the exercise of human free will. Again, a word play is employed to create an allusion. The Hebrew word for cunning is *arum*, and the word for naked is *arummim*. Thus, humans became aware and ashamed of their nakedness through cunning and deceit. {Later in the story, when confronted with their disobedience, the humans will hurriedly blame one another.}

Why a serpent? The idol-worshipping pagans of the author's time represented their fertility gods with serpents. The author is trying to discourage the Hebrew person from succumbing to the temptation of idol worship by showing the adversity between the pagan gods and Yahweh who ultimately controls all things. In an agricultural society, it was/is a constant temptation to call on gods that purportedly control weather and reproduction.

And so, what are the main themes of this reading? Yahweh created humanity out of the earth. Humans are tied to the earth (remember you are dust...humility). Yahweh provided enough for humans to be happy. Temptation and the ability to choose was present from the beginning. Deceit and misrepresentation of God led to the "original sin" and separation. Humans tried to cover their shame, but only God can make the relationship right. While the humans grasped at the knowledge of good and evil, they unfortunately lacked the divine wisdom needed to apply it justly in life.

### **Psalms 32 NIV**

### **Matthew 18:15-35 NIV**

*"If a fellow disciple sins against you, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector. "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. "Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him twenty years' worth of wages was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay*



back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred days' wages. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

### Taking It Home:

- See if you can recall the number of times and situations in which you forgave someone in the last three months. Would you say you are more like the master, the first servant, or the second servant from the Matthean parable?
- Write a letter offering forgiveness to someone you have found hard to forgive. When you finish, decide whether you want to send it or not. If not, you can burn it, chew on it, or hold onto it with the possibility of sending it when you're ready....
- Turn the tables: wouldn't you want to know if you hurt someone's honor or feelings? Well then, if someone has hurt you, give her or him the chance to make it right by telling him or her. People can't act on what they don't know.
- Invite someone to church with you next weekend.
- Evaluate your own method of dealing with bruised relationships: do you talk to the person who has offended you before sharing it with others? Do you try to win arguments by proving the other person wrong? Do you have a habit of using social media to tear others down. Have you built up resentment because a hurt was never healed? Make up your mind to learn to settle disputes peacefully and respectfully.
- Think of the people you most enjoy being around. Do they tend to think of themselves or others first? Is there a pattern?
- How do you respond to destructive temptations?

**Mindfulness** (set aside five minutes. breathe and read through three times. Which words or ideas hold energy for you? What images and feelings emerge in your imagination?)

Turning back to the beasts, birds, plants and fish, it now becomes clear that in the framework of continuous creation the correlative to the vivifying (*life giving*) presence of the Spirit of God throughout the natural is the blest character of the world itself. The inner secret of the entangled bank is the dwelling of God's spirit within it. Instead of being distant from what is holy, the natural world bears the mark of the sacred, being itself imbued with a spiritual presence. This is not to say it is divine. But unlike gnostic views that disparaged the material world, or the natural-supernatural distinction that divorced it from God's graciousness, the doctrine of continuous creation sees the natural world in its own integrity as the dwelling place of God. The Giver of Life creates what is physical – stars, soil, water, air, plants, animals, ecological communities – and moves in these every bit as vigorously as in souls, minds, ideas. Earth is a physical place of extravagant dynamism that bodies forth the gracious presence of God. In its own way it is a sacrament and a revelation. (Elizabeth Johnson, *Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love*, London: Continuum, 2014, 150)

### Easter Lily Orders:

To decorate the church for Easter, a Lily order sheet is located in the church. The lilies are \$12 and will be ordered and delivered to the church for you. Make checks payable to **Anamosa Floral** and place in the envelope.

**Deadline for orders is Wednesday, March 29th.** If you want the lily in honor or in memory of someone, you can indicate that on the order form to be noted in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. **Please print clearly.**



**Wednesday's during Lent:** service times will be at 5:00 pm and 6:30 pm



# BRING YOUR CHANGE

***A NOISY OFFERING WILL BE  
TAKEN AT OUR SERVICES  
DURING THE MONTH OF  
MARCH IN SUPPORT OF ALY***

### A Call...

....to gather for a St Paul Celebration Singers choir for the Lenten and Easter Season. Virginia Danielson has volunteered to organize and lead the group, with the hope that we could continue as a 100th Anniversary and seasonal choir. Barb Kleis offered to continue as accompanist.



This is an open invitation for you, your family and friends, which certainly includes everyone in our St Paul family. We know there are many groups and organizations in our community, meeting at almost any hour during a week, so adding one more won't be easy.

First rehearsal: Sunday, March 5 from 4-5 pm. For more information or to volunteer, contact Virginia Danielson at 319-4810-0466

## St Patrick Church FISH FRY

Friday March 3<sup>rd</sup> 4 PM TO 7 PM



Lawrence Community Center  
600 E Main St. Anamosa IA

Serving: Fish, Homemade Rolls, Coleslaw,  
Party Potatoes, Mac & Cheese, Beans,  
Homemade Pies, Desserts and Drinks.

Adults: \$15.00  
Children ages 5-10: \$8.00  
Under 5 FREE

50/50 Raffle Prize  
Carry-Outs Available

**Viewing of the Chosen, Season Three** will continue between services. The third showing of Season Three will be shown this Sunday February 26. Thanks to Scott Chrisman for facilitating this opportunity and for leading the discussion.

The chosen is a drama series created and directed by American filmmaker Dallas Jenkins. Jenkins' intention was not only to dig deeper into the people who encountered Jesus and to see Jesus through the eyes of those who met him, but also to show him in a way that is more "personal, intimate, and immediate." The series writers made use of a consultation team that included a Rabbi, a Catholic priest, and an evangelical theologian to assist in the authentic portrayal of Jesus as a first century Jewish man in the Roman Empire.

## St Paul and ALY

March is the month for St Paul to pack the bags of food for the ALY Weekend Backpack Program. We plan to be packing on Thursday, March 2, 16 and 30 beginning at 10:00 am in the lower level of the Ed building. The bags will be delivered to the schools every Thursday in March. A volunteer signup sheet is posted on the bulleting board in the back of the church.

ALY is the local organization being honored during March as part of St Paul's 100th Anniversary Celebration.



National Suicide Prevention Lifeline  
Available 24 Hours  
Languages: English, Spanish  
800-273-8255

**Please Pray for the Following**

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

We pray 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 Kathy at 462-4841/stpaulanamosa@gmail.com. Names will be listed for 4 weeks and may be renewed.

**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 arrangements (462-4343)**

**Bread Bakers:**

February: Valerie Lambertsen  
March: Staci Sullivan  
April: Kaileen Weaver  
May: Pat Merritt

**Deliver Food to Food Bank:**

February: Ralph & Sandy Andresen  
March: Myra Powell  
April: Barb Kleis  
May: Ralph & Sandy Andresen

**Church Envelopes**

Just another reminder that unfortunately, our church envelopes are still backordered I called them again and they are doing everything they can, but we are probably looking at the end of February before we will get them. There are some blank ones in the pews for your use. Again, we apologize for the delay.

**Wednesday, February 22—Ash Wednesday**  
**\*8:00am Men's scripture/book study LL CE**

**\*12:00 pm Service**

Greeters: Ken/Pam Humpal  
Reader/Prayers: Virginia Danielson  
Comm Prep: Ken/Pam Humpal  
PowerPoint: Luke Chrisman

**\*6:00pm Service**

**\*6-7:30pm WD4**

Greeters: Summer Parks  
Reader/Prayers: Shawna Giegerich  
PowerPoint: Luke Chrisman

**Sunday, February 26**

**\*8:00am**

Comm Prep: Ed Gerst/Susan Koppenhaver  
Greeters: Ed Gerst/Susan Koppenhaver  
Reader/Prayers: Virginia Danielson  
PowerPoint: Linda Kenny  
Comm servers: Ed Gerst/Susan Koppenhaver

**\*10:30am**

Comm Prep: Ralph/Sandra Andresen  
Greeters: Ralph/Sandra Andresen  
Reader/Prayers: Ralph Andresen  
Comm servers: Ralph/Sandra Andresen  
PowerPoint: Samuel K  
Livestream: Elijah S.

**Wednesday, March 1**

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

**\*5:00pm Service**

Comm Prep: Darla Algoe  
Greeters: Darla Algoe  
Prayers: Darla Algoe  
Comm Service: Darla Algoe  
PowerPoint: Myra Powell

**\*6:30pm Service**

Comm Prep: Darla Algoe  
Greeters: Curtis Weaver  
Prayers: WD4  
Comm Server: Curtis Weaver  
PowerPoint: WD4

**Sunday, March 5**

**\*8:00am**

Comm Prep: Jim/Delores Albrecht  
Greeters: Mike/Nancy Bickford  
Reader: Tom Sabotta  
Prayers: Nancy Stout  
PowerPoint: Darcie Tenley  
Comm servers: Tom Sabotta/Sherri Evans  
Livestream: Skylar

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

**\*10:30am**

Comm Prep: Paula Sisler  
Greeters: Fred Austin Family  
Reader: Bryan Austin  
Prayers: Paula Sisler  
PowerPoint: Eli L.  
Comm servers: Fred Austin/Paula Sisler  
Livestream: Dean L.

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



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 11	Centennial Lent Event / Dan Frachey (see article in Pulse)
March 30	1st Communion Retreat (6-8pm)
April 1	1st Communion Retreat (9am-11am)
April 2	Palm Sunday Pancake Breakfast (More info to come later)
April 5	Wednesday, No service
April 6	Maundy Thursday (service @ 6:00 pm)
April 7	Good Friday (service @ 6:00 pm)
April 9	Easter (Service @ 6:30 am @ Rotary Lodge) Service @ 8:00 am and 10:30 am at church