

## April 11, 2021 2nd Sunday Easter

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

### First Communion Retreats



First Communion Retreats were held on March 25 and March 27. Activities included a tour of the church, making bread, and making frames and banners. They learned the Lord's Prayer and learned about the different elements of Communion (bread & wine and their receptacles). The children had the opportunity to taste the fruit of the vine. Other fun activities included trying on Pastors Alb and ringing the church bell.

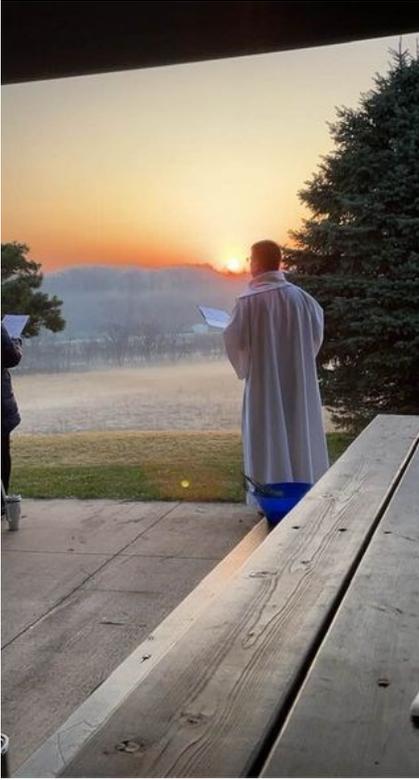
Sam VonSprecken and Lillie, Preston & Allie Geltz received their First Communion on Maundy Thursday.

Waiting to receive on April 18 are Brynn Austin, Reese Lansing and Addi Tjaden.

We congratulate all these students in the celebration of First Communion.



## Sunrise Service Easter Sunday at Rotary Pavilion Wapsipinicon State Park



Photos and comments from member's Facebook pages.

Sunrise Easter service today. Really beautiful and moving. I forgot my sermon notes at the church. I've never had so many affirming comments. . . Blessings all! RJB

Holy Spirit at work! MH

Christ is Risen indeed, It was a beautiful sunrise service. CS

It was a spirit moving service! SK

It was a truly a memorable morning. SE

We saw the moon go down, sun rise over the trees . . . CS

Such a beautiful and inspirational service! NS

Beautiful scenery, Happy Easter!!! PK

One of our favorite Easter services. He is Risen! ML

Beautiful! CB

It was Wonderful! DI

Fifty-Eight people attended the Easter Sunrise Service at the Rotary pavilion in Wapsipinicon State Park on April 4, 2021. The promise of new life and return to community is anticipated.





## Person Care Kits Thank You

Thank you for your donations to the Personal Care Kits. We have 50 complete sets to send off. Keep the list of items in mind as you shop and pick things up when they are on sale. Then we will be prepared to donate the next time we put kits together. Thank you so much! Dee Ihlenfeldt

The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide a chance to regain some dignity in situations of fear and uncertainty. Each kit includes:

- One new lightweight bath towel, preferably dark colors
- Two or three bath-size bars of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult toothbrush in original packaging (**note: we have enough at this time**)
- One sturdy comb (no picks or fine-toothed)
- One metal nail clipper



**LWR Quilt Project update...** Covid 19 protocols have limited us to sewing at home during the past year, but with vaccinations being completed, your LWR team is now offering a way to finish the waiting quilts. A frame has been set up in the church lower level, and we invite anyone who wants to tie knots to work at any time on the current quilt. As each quilt is finished, we will pin another to the frame. For now, we will limit volunteers to 4 at a time, with masks. We also could use sewers to help bind the finished quilts that will be taken to the in-gathering on April 17th. For further information, contact Virginia at 462-4625. Thank you, St. Paul!

**RAGBRI Team of eight** older gentlemen are looking for a basement to spend the night. The group has all had their COVID shots and include a lawyer, banker, and farmer. Please call Lowell at 712-887-1427 for more information. Edge and out of town okay.



**We're putting our best foot forward this spring!** With days of uncertainty still ahead of us, we need to make sure that our community stays strong. Together, we can forge a new path in 2021 and start the year off right!

Donate at the **Anamosa Community Blood Drive** and be a champion for local patients. If you are available, please sign up today to give on **April 22**.

*All donors will earn limited edition donor socks (pictured above) or a \$5 e-gift card!*

### **Anamosa Community Blood Drive**

*Sponsored by F&M Bank and the Anamosa HS NHS*

**Thursday, April 22nd**

**2:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**St Paul Lutheran Church – 201 N Ford St**

To sign up online, [https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/90187](https://login.bloodcenter.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/90187)

or contact Trevor Hulett at [thulett@fmbank.biz](mailto:thulett@fmbank.biz) or Stephanie Erps at [serps@anamosa.k12.ia.us](mailto:serps@anamosa.k12.ia.us)

**APPOINTMENTS AND MASKS ARE REQUIRED.**

*Please note – If you have been diagnosed with and recovered from COVID-19, you will be eligible to donate whole blood again after you have been symptom free for 28 days.*

*Contact [mdee@mvrbc.org](mailto:mdee@mvrbc.org) for more information. If you have received the COVID vaccine, you ARE eligible to donate.*

## Please Pray for the Following People

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

Cindy Koppenhaver, Pat Herren, Ed Allaire; for all facing challenges from the corona virus and natural disasters; and for the family of Diane Koppenhaver (Tom).

To add a name call or email Lois at 462-4841/[stpaulanamosa@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulanamosa@gmail.com). Names will be listed for 4 weeks and may be renewed.

**The Koppenhaver Family** is asking for healing prayers for their daughter and sister, Cindy Koppenhaver. Thank You.

**GriefShare** will meet on Tuesday Evenings at 6:00 pm in the lower level of the CE building. Masks are suggested but social distancing will be enforced. If you would like to attend please call Nancy Douglas for details at 319-551-3358.

**AA meets** in the lower level of the CE building on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 pm. Masks and social distancing are required.

**Jones County Food Bank:** To donate money, make checks payable to Jones County Community Food Bank and mailed to 105 Broadway Place, Anamosa IA 52205. For appointment to drop off/pick up call Julie at 462-4343. They are in need of green beans, pork & beans, and canned tomatoes. **You may also drop off food donations to the church office during regular business hours or during WD4. Please place items under the table in the entryway. A church member will contact Julie to make arrangements for delivery.**

**Readers, Ushers & PowerPoint techs:** If you would like to help at one of our Wednesday or Sunday taped or in-person services call or email Barb Kleis to get on the schedule. (319) 480-1196 [kleis.barb@gmail.com](mailto:kleis.barb@gmail.com)

**Psalm 133** <sup>1</sup>How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!

**Introduction:** The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through the glorious Gospel of John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self in the broken bread. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

--Create a Zoom or live interaction with at least two other people this week. Ask each other the Take It Home Questions found at the end of the reading commentary. Have a good talk!

## First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35 {all readings NIV}

Luke, the author of Acts, writing about 50 years after the life of Christ, wanted to impress upon his readers the magnitude of transformative power found in the resurrection event. The early church was still under threat of harm from the Jewish leadership who had rejected Jesus, and to some degree hostile Roman authorities. But the early followers of Jesus showed that those who believed in the resurrection of Christ were so filled with love that their concerns for the body of the faithful became tantamount to personal concerns for safety. Under the Apostle's Spirit-filled leadership, they were united in "heart and mind," through preaching, healing, and acts of generosity. The believers experienced care from other members of the larger Christian community, and people came to faith because of the love they showed one another.

The actions of the early Christian community in sharing all they had {not from their surplus} seem idealistic and are frequently considered unrealistic in the minds of Americans who have been groomed to place personal property, rights, and privileges ahead of the community's. Perhaps this is so, but according to these original Easter people, to follow Christ meant to die to self, to consider the other as more important, and to defer to community needs first. This ideal was not new to the believers, but how they were asked to apply it did stretch them. For those who had grown up Jewish, holding common property with fellow Israelites was expected, but the command to share with Gentiles (non-Jews) was absurd. Likewise, the Gentiles were generally familiar with Greek philosopher Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* in which he claims, "Friends' goods are common property" and "Brothers have all things in common" (8.9.1-2). How these titles "Friend" and "Brother" were applied varied from group to group.

What then set the Christian community apart? Paul reminds us in his letters that the Christian community was not perfect, however, when the Apostles received gifts and contributions from those who were inspired by their preaching and prayer, unlike the Jewish Temple officials and other civil leaders with whom the Christians were competing, they did not spend it on personal projects. In following the requests of the Lord, they modeled selfless sharing for the sake of the whole community. A common table open to believers from various backgrounds broke many traditional and cultural barriers, and it became the hallmark of the "Jesus' followers" throughout the first century.

**Psalm 133**

## Second Reading: 1 John 1:1--2:2

John is writing to a community split by lack of faithfulness to Christ's law of love, disregard for the truth {understood as the guidance of Holy Spirit}, and a lack of mutual love between members. Some people were leaving his community over disputes, refusing to attempt reconciliation. John exhorts them to see that everyone who believes in Jesus as the Christ is a child of God and needs to be respected as such. The *power of love* flowing from faith in Jesus as the Christ is what has conquered the divisive forces of this world and death, and this power is available to anyone who claims Jesus as the Christ.

A person who claims to love God but despises a sister or brother in Christ is a liar. The Spirit that Christ sent to his followers is the one who unites them and reveals the truth. This does not magically happen. A disciple must be in relationship with the Spirit and live out the truth of love in daily communal relationships. This is a decision that needs to be made over and over again, perhaps even being the source of daily petitionary prayer (i.e. God, help me not to despise my neighbor). John was beckoning his church to grow towards the ideal apostolic community presented in our first reading.

## Gospel: John 20:19-31

How do people come to faith in Jesus as the resurrected Christ? John shared this story of the apostle's first encounters with the Risen One to show his own community in 90 A.D. how their own doubts and struggles to believe were matched by those who originally walked with the Lord.

Thomas serves as an example for those who struggle to remain loyal to Jesus. His name, *Didymus*, is Greek for "Twin." Whose twin he was is unknown to us. Earlier in John's gospel, Thomas is the strong one who encourages the rest of the disciples to follow Jesus into hostile Judea when Jesus announces his intentions to go to Jerusalem. Thomas seems to be fully aware that they may be heading towards death. Perhaps his actions convey a similarity to Jesus' own strength and seem twin-like.

Strangely, after Jesus' death, Thomas is filled with uncertainty about Jesus' mission and whereabouts. Fortunately for us, Thomas had the luxury of encountering the risen Jesus and probing the emptiness of his own doubt in Jesus' nail holes and side. The good news is that Jesus does not chastise Thomas but instead invites him to commune. Jesus blessed him for his proclamation of faith "my Lord and my God," and also blessed all future doubters who come to faith when he said, "Blest are they who have not seen and have believed."

John is intentional in using certain passages. The fact that Jesus says, "Peace be with you" when he greets the disciples might very well reflect the greeting Christians in John's community were already expressing to each other in liturgy. With regard to Thomas, he wanted his readers to see that strength and doubt can rear their heads at different times in even the most dedicated follower. Perhaps

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

**Reservations are appreciated, please call the office at 462-4841. Thank You**

### Wednesday, April 7

- \* 6:00pm Worship (reservations please)  
Greeter: Curtis Weaver  
Reader: Virginia Danielson  
PowerPoint: Darcie Tenley
- \* 6:00pm WD4—CE Building

### Sunday, April 11

- \* 8:30am Worship (reservations please)  
Greeter: Deb Hardersen  
Reader: Virginia Danielson  
PowerPoint: Lois Ocenosak
- \* 10:30am Worship (reservations please)  
Greeter: CJ Sullivan family  
Reader: Kristy Robertson  
PowerPoint: Ruby Robertson
- \* 3pm Confirmation Retreat

### Monday, April 12

- \* 6:30pm Council Meeting

### Tuesday, April 13

- \* 1:30pm Scripture study Zoom
- \* 6:00pm Grief Support—LL CE building
- \* 8:00pm AA— LL CE building (**masks & social distancing required**)

### Wednesday, April 14

- \* 6:00pm Worship (reservations please)  
Greeter: 8th Grade WD4 Student  
Reader: Annette Wheeler  
PowerPoint: Miken Wheeler
- \* 6:00pm WD4—CE Building

### Thursday, April 15

- \* 3:00pm HACAP Distribution

### Sunday, April 18

- \* 8:30am Worship (reservations please)  
Greeter: Brian/Michele Lubben  
Reader: Mary Lou Schipper  
PowerPoint: Grace/Grant Lubben
- \* 10:30am Worship (reservations please)  
First Communion  
Greeter: Polly Chalstrom  
Reader: Polly Chalstrom  
PowerPoint: Elijah Secrist

**The Pulse is published weekly**  
the deadline is NOON on Mondays.

Thomas is your twin. John also wanted his readers, and us, to look around and see the wonders still being performed by Holy Spirit, especially the ones being performed through us!

### Taking it home:

Today, you will be asked to follow Jesus as your Risen Lord. Are you ready to say, "YES?" If not, what can you do to get to know him better? Make a commitment to do it, even if others don't consider it cool.

If you don't already have one, find a "faith hero." Try to imitate that person's qualities.

Name a role model you have for generosity. For doubt turning to faith. For forgiveness.....

Where did you see the action of the Holy Spirit this past week? Right now?

Do you consider/experience the parish as a community of faith? How are you a part of that experience for others?

When you have doubts about faith, do you linger in your doubt or do you try to find answers? To whom do you go for faith information? Even Jesus had teachers!

Picture in your mind one person whom you can be nicer to this week. Keep picturing it happening everyday and eventually you will make the picture come true.

Can you identify a modern group of people that remotely resembles the early Christian community?

For whom or for what would you be willing to give your life?

**Mindfulness** (set aside three minutes. Breathe. read slowly three times. Which words or ideas hold energy for you? What images emerge in you?)

"The beginning of love is the will to let those we love be perfectly themselves, the resolution not to twist them to fit our own image. If in loving them we do not love what they are, but only their potential likeness to ourselves, then we do not love them: we only love the reflection of ourselves we find in them" – **Thomas Merton, No Man Is an Island**

"We must be honest here, and not defensive; the issues are now too grave and too urgent. Our inability to see our personal failures is paralleled by our inability to see our institutional and national sins too. It is the identical and same pattern of addiction and denial. Thank God that Pope John Paul II introduced into our vocabulary words like "structural sin" and "institutional evil." It was not even part of the conversation in most of Christian history up to now, as we exclusively concentrated on "personal" sins. The three sources of evil were traditionally called "the world, the flesh, and the devil." We so concentrated on the flesh that we let the world and "the devil" get off scot-free." – **Richard Rohr, Breathing Underwater**



### Ewalu News: Sign Up Now For Summer 2021

Registration for summer camp 2021 is now open!

Forms received or postmarked by April 19th will be eligible for the second early discount. See [program descriptions](#) for early discount amounts.

Visit our [online registration](http://ewalu.org/registration/) (http://ewalu.org/registration/) site to sign up!

**Camperships available through St. Paul, contact Kaileen for more information. [cyfmstpaulanamosa@gmail.com](mailto:cyfmstpaulanamosa@gmail.com) or (951) 553-5728**

Ewalu camp flyers are available on the table inside the CE building entryway.

### St. Paul Scheduled Office Hours

Lois: M-9-2; T 9-1:30; W&Th 9-2; F- 9-noon.  
Kaileen: M, Tue, Th 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (or by phone)  
Call for an appointment: Pastor Rodney, Nancy, or Brie.

### St Paul Staff Emails and Phone Numbers

<b>Pastor Rodney</b>	<a href="mailto:blumlwa@gmail.com">blumlwa@gmail.com</a>	(319) 389-6153
<b>Nancy Douglas, Treasurer</b>	<a href="mailto:njldouglas@hotmail.com">njldouglas@hotmail.com</a>	(319) 551-3358
<b>Kaileen Weaver</b>	<a href="mailto:cyfmstpaulanamosa@gmail.com">cyfmstpaulanamosa@gmail.com</a>	(951) 553-5728
<b>Brie Wittenburg</b>	<a href="mailto:cyfmstpaulanamosa@gmail.com">cyfmstpaulanamosa@gmail.com</a>	(319) 975-8186
<b>Lois Ocenosak</b>	<a href="mailto:stpaulanamosa@gmail.com">stpaulanamosa@gmail.com</a>	(319) 721-9893

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

**Balances of St. Paul Bank Accounts as of 02/28/2021:**

<b>CHECKING</b>
<p><b>General Fund Checking Acct.</b>                      Beginning Balance \$69,445.74                      Ending Balance \$65,076.41</p>
<p><b>Land Maint &amp; Repair Checking Acct.</b>                      Beginning Balance \$25,148.96                      Ending Balance \$26,968.96</p>
<p><b>Memorial Trust Checking Account</b>                      Beginning Balance \$6,315.11                      Ending Balance \$6,615.11</p>
<p><b>Memorial Money Market Account</b>                      Beginning Balance \$15,088.68                      Ending Balance \$15,093.31</p>
<b>SAVINGS</b>
<p><b>Land Development Savings Acct.</b>                      Beginning Balance \$36,850.05                      Ending Balance \$36,855.70</p>

**RIP Medical Final Update**



Thanks to all the generous donors during our Lenten giving project for RIP medical. Since last week we have had an additional \$744.00 donated for a grand total of \$4,113.76.

Thanks to your generosity RIP Medical can now forgive \$411,376.00 in medical debt. The check is on its way to support those in need.

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

Return Service Requested



**Generous Giving We are grateful for:**

- to Pat Soyer for the use of his original artwork during the reflection on Good Friday.
- To the environment crew who changed the banners, arranged the flowers, and decorated/undecorated the altar during Holy Week. Your creative skills are appreciated.
- for Vicki Whacker who secured the use of the Rotary Pavilion for the Easter Sunrise Service.

(e-mail Lois if you have seen Creative ways congregants have connected who need a word of gratitude.)  
stpaulanamosa@gmail.com

**COVID-19 Vaccine Interest Form—  
Jones County**

Jones County Public Health encourages anyone who is interested in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine to fill out our vaccine interest form. It can be found on our website at [www.jonescountyiowa.gov/public\\_health](http://www.jonescountyiowa.gov/public_health). If you need help with the form, you can also call 319-462-6945 and leave a message including your name and phone number. We will call you back to help you fill out the form and answer any questions.

Submitting this form will allow us to notify you when vaccine is available for you and provide you with information on scheduling an appointment. COVID-19 vaccination clinics held by Jones County Public Health and our partners will take place in Anamosa and Monticello on Saturdays, by appointment only, on a routine basis. Frequency of clinics will depend on the frequency and volume of vaccine allocated to Jones County by the Iowa Department of Public Health.