

April 30, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Easter



St Paul Lutheran Church is planning an opportunity for us to come out and help Clean Up the Empty Lot of all the extra's (nails, screws, twigs, etc) on Saturday, April 29th starting at 9am. Looking to get about a dozen or so who are able to joyfully serve and creatively connect with other members of St. Paul. This shouldn't take very long if we can get enough people to help.

Please bring your work gloves if you have some and help make the empty lot a clean, safe place.

Dear Friends,

Happy Easter and Blessed Springtime!

As the weather warms and you find yourself spending more time outside, take a few minutes now and then to walk around the vacant lot to the east of the Education Building, where the Lumberyard stood for many years. As you stroll, or stand next to, or pass by, ask the land, "What do you want to become?" and then pay attention. As we move closer to a time of community conversations about our future plans, let's take some time to listen first: to the land, to God, to our own hearts, to our dreams. This way, we know that the future we live into together will be pregnant with the desires of God.

Shalom, P Rodney

We ARE all connected

One of our St Paul Members (and an amazing caregiver) gave Nancy Lyon Douglas a copy of this and it is so very true. Actually, it is true about being a Christian, as well, don't you think?

Being a Caregiver means...

- You will never be bored.
- You will always be frustrated.
- You will be surrounded by challenges, so much to do and so little time.
- You will carry immense responsibility and very little authority.
- You will step into people's lives and you will make a difference.
 - Some will bless you.
 - Some will curse you.
- You will see people at their worst—and at their best.
 - You will never cease to be amazed at people's capacity for Love, courage and endurance.
 - You will experience resounding triumphs and devastating failures.
 - You will cry a lot.
 - You will laugh a lot.
 - You will know what it is to be human and to be humane.

Melodie Chenevert

First Reading: Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18 NIV

Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk. When the crowd saw what Paul had done, they shouted in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have come down to us in human form!" Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul they called Hermes because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose temple was just outside the city, brought bulls and wreaths to the city gates because he and the crowd wanted to offer sacrifices to them. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting: "Friends, why are you doing this? We too are only human, like you. We are bringing you good news, telling you to turn from these worthless things to the living God, who made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them. In the past, he let all nations go their own way. Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." Even with these words, they had difficulty keeping the crowd from sacrificing to them. St. Paul, John Mark, and their companion Barnabas (his name means "son of encouragement") were taking the good news (gospel) of Jesus' resurrection to those living outside Israel. Paul had been sent by the Lord Jesus to the Gentiles (non-Jews). Paul and Barnabas experienced frequent confrontations with the powerful Jewish leaders in the towns they visited. In today's reading, which took place somewhere around 52 A.D., they have traveled into Phrygia from Pisidia (west central Turkey) to a town called Antioch. This is different than Antioch of Syria where Peter had refused to eat with Gentiles, Luke and Matthew penned their gospels, and the followers of Jesus were first called Christians.

As the story unfolds, the two men are first welcomed in the local synagogue by virtually the entire city, so hungry were the people to hear the good news of Adonai (the Lord). Not only were the Jews excited about the fulfillment of the promises made to Israel, but the Gentiles to whom they later took the message accepted the belief that Jesus' resurrection overcame death. By following Jesus, everyone could experience the joy of the Kingdom now, and receive salvation in the next life. However, when the response to the story of Jesus the Messiah was so positive, the Jewish leaders became threatened and rallied the prominent leaders to have Barnabas and Paul thrown out of the city. As frequently happened in Acts, initial success was met with a set-back. The spread of the gospel was impeded but not defeated by the power structures and collective egos of the established leadership. The Jewish Law that judged non-Jews harshly had existed in this community for hundreds of years; could it really change in order to welcome Gentiles? The Jewish leaders tried to protect what they thought was the will of God for them. Despite being cast out, the disciples of Jesus were filled with Holy Spirit and joy.

Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18a NIV

I will sing of the LORD's great love forever; with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known through all generations. I will declare that your love stands firm forever, that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself. You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to David my servant, 'I will establish your line forever and make your throne firm through all generations.'" Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you, who walk in the light of your presence, LORD. They rejoice in your name all day long; they celebrate your righteousness. For you are their glory and strength, and by your favor you exalt our horn. Indeed, our shield belongs to the LORD.

Matt 10:40-42 niv

"Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet as a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person as a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward. And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones who is my disciple, truly I tell you, that person will certainly not lose their reward."

Jesus has been talking to his apostles about the life of a disciple; this is a teaching for all followers of Jesus, especially for those who would go out in his name to spread the gospel message. Last week, he prepared them to stand firm in the face of persecution and possibly even martyrdom. He told the disciples that the greatest sin would be to give in to unbelievers by denying their relationship with him, especially if it was merely to save their physical lives. In denying God, one might preserve his life, but he will surely lose it to grief or guilt or the mistrust it would create within the community. Better to claim God and allow the presence of God to flourish in the soul of the living community, even if your testimony ends up costing you your physical life. In a similar way this week, Jesus is preparing his followers to deal with family members who will undoubtedly not agree with their new found faith and attempt to disown them. Family was the foundational element in the Jewish societal structure. Families were generally large, consisting of the patriarch (father) and all his married sons and their families who lived in a honeycomb-like structure called an insulae. Privacy really did not exist in the village. To choose to leave the security of the family, the village, and the land was tantamount to death in that culture. Someone who claimed to follow Jesus could very easily have been judged a heretic or a dissident. The reaction would be to set the person apart. Orthodox Jews would be unable to accept the followers of Jesus and families would be rent. Jesus did not want his disciples to recant their belief in him as the one sent by God to bring about the kingdom just because their family members did not understand. Disciples had to be able to deal with different kinds of death; separation from one's family would have been a real emotional death. This is what Jesus had in mind when he referred to his followers "losing their lives for his sake." As a comfort for those who experienced separation from their blood family, Jesus created a surrogate family whose bond was in him. This was crucial for the members of Matthew's community who faced this very situation. Baptism became their public commitment to care for each other as if they were blood kin. The followers of Jesus died to their former lives when they left their families, land, and livelihood, and began a new life after baptism in the community of his followers. Like the extended Jewish families they had left, the early Christians saw themselves in opposition to all the other groups who threatened their identity or sought to weaken their attachment. For the sake of survival, they placed their trust primarily in the other members of their newfound faith family. In contrast to the family members who refused to believe in him, Jesus points out that one who extends hospitality (or corporal acts of mercy: 1. Feed the hungry, 2. Give drink to the thirsty, 3. Clothe the naked, 4. Shelter the homeless, 5. Visit the sick, 6. Visit the imprisoned, 7. Bury the dead) to one of his followers, whether prophet, righteous one, or seeker (meaning a child or someone who is totally dependent on others), will receive the reward God has prepared for the righteous one to whom the kindness is shown. This helps explain the choice of today's first reading. In the catholic Christian tradition, we often call these rewards the "fruits of the Spirit": joy, peace, love, friendship, kindness, forgiveness, the ability to maintain hope despite suffering These fruits become the ideal marks of the Christian community.

Taking it to heart:

- YOUTH: as you listen to music this week, identify three songs that focus on selfishness and self-centeredness. Then identify three songs that talk about putting others first.
- Discuss this statement: “Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his or her life for my (Jesus’) sake will find it.”
- In what way is Jesus inviting you to lose yourself, to let go of selfishness?
- If you were baptized as a child, have you made a more mature commitment to care for the other baptized people of your community as if they are blood kin? Have you affirmed your baptism? Update your faith statement!
- List ways the Jedi or the Mandalorian are like the early Christian community?

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?) “This is the spiritual art of detachment, which is not taught much in capitalistic worldview where clinging and possessing are not just the norm but even the goal. You see how trapped we are. I promise you that the discovery of your True Self will feel like a thousand pounds of weight have fallen from your back. You will no longer have to build, protect, or promote any idealized self-image. Living in the True Self is quite simply a much happier existence, even though we never live there a full twenty-four hours a day. But you henceforth have it as a place to always go back to. You have finally discovered the alternative to your False Self. You are like Jacob awakening from sleep and joining the chorus of mystics in every age. “You were here all along, and I never knew it!” he says (Genesis 28:16). He anoints the stone pillow where this happened and names it Bethel, or “the house of God and gate of heaven” (28:17–18).⁴ Jacob then carries the presence with him wherever he goes. What was first only there is soon everywhere. The gate of heaven is first of all in one concrete place, better if carried with you, and best when found everywhere. That is the progression of the spiritual life.” — [Richard Rohr, Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self](#)

May Birthdays

| | | | |
|----------------------|------|---------------------|------|
| Dorothy Albrecht | 5/2 | Kamry Carpenter | 5/19 |
| Nancy Stout | 5/2 | Wilma Anderson | 5/21 |
| Mikayla Schmieg | 5/2 | Dorothy Kula | 5/21 |
| Knox Fairbanks | 5/2 | Brylee LaDue | 5/23 |
| Ella Vaughn | 5/4 | Carol Pate | 5/23 |
| Nathan Hollett | 5/5 | Lee Hardersen | 5/23 |
| Luke Fairbanks | 5/6 | Sara Schmieg | 5/23 |
| Charlie Lambertsen | 5/9 | DJ Condry Jr | 5/24 |
| Renee Dooley-Colbert | 5/10 | Barb Switzer | 5/25 |
| Marshall Fowler | 5/11 | John Jones | 5/25 |
| Bob Goodyear | 5/12 | Mark Jacobs | 5/25 |
| Dan Rickels | 5/13 | Sylvia Albers | 5/27 |
| Ashlann Elliott | 5/13 | Cullen Hubler | 5/27 |
| Ava Huck | 5/13 | Jeffrey Swisher | 5/27 |
| Carlene Vavricek | 5/14 | Charlotte Goldsmith | 5/28 |
| Larry Theilen | 5/15 | Carol Stiffler | 5/29 |
| Logan Elliott | 5/16 | Valerie Lambertsen | 5/30 |
| Marlaine Wilken | 5/18 | | |

Collecting Pill Bottles

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

The Clothes Closet @ the Anamosa Methodist Church

May is the month that St. Paul Lutheran Church is responsible to work on Thursdays from 10-1. They also could use volunteers to work on any other day of the week to help fold clothes, hang up clothes, etc. They are open from 9-2 each day. If you have any questions, you can reach out to Jeannette Clayton at 319-560-1364 or 319-462-6020.



Dinner With Friends

If you haven't had a chance to try Dinner with Friends, your next opportunity will be: **Thursday, May 11th at Edisons**, 475 Northland Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids at 5:00 pm.

Good Food, good friends, good times!!

Hope to see you there.

Questions, call Sherri Evans @ 319-981-0283



Mother's Day Carnations

Mother's Day Carnations & Honorariums: Once again we are offering an opportunity to honor mothers with a carnation and listing in the Pulse. If you would like to participate please fill in the information on the envelopes either at the back of church or on the table inside the CE building. Carnation donation is \$3.00 and deadline is **Wednesday, May 3**. Any extra Proceeds will go towards the Youth Mission Trip.

Synod Assembly

Are you interested in being one of the two voting members from St. Paul to

attend the Synod Assembly this year? The 2023 Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly will gather virtually via Zoom on Monday, May 15, and Tuesday, May 16, 2023, from 5:30-8:30 PM both evenings. The assembly agenda will primarily be the business of the synod.

If so, contact PRodney @ 319-389-6153 or Jason Geltz @ 319-533-3189



**2023 Southeastern Iowa
Synod Assembly - Online**



SYNOD REVIVAL

IMAGINE

NOW TO GOD WHO BY THE POWER AT WORK WITHIN US IS ABLE TO ACCOMPLISH ABUNDANTLY FAR MORE THAN ALL WE CAN ASK OR IMAGINE...
EPHESIANS 3:21



BISHOP AMY CURRENT
SEIA SYNOD - ELCA



BISHOP YEHIEL CURRY
METRO CHICAGO SYNOD - ELCA



RACHEL KURTZ
MUSICIAN

SATURDAY MAY 20
10:00 AM TO 3:00 PM

GRAND VIEW UNIVERSITY
DES MOINES

SCAN ME




- WORSHIP
- INSPIRATIONAL MUSIC & SPEAKERS
- LEARN ABOUT VARIOUS MINISTRIES
- BRING A CHAIR OR BLANKET
- RAIN OR SHINE (INDOORS IF RAIN)
- FOOD AVAILABLE
- ALL AGES, ALL ARE WELCOME
- FREE! NO RSVP NEEDED

PRESENTED BY:



Southeastern Iowa Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 20 for all ages, all are welcome, day of learning about ministry, music, worship, great speakers and fun. Go to synodrevival.org for more information,



Viewing of the Chosen, will be Sunday morning between services. 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.

Birthday Buddies!!

The Member Care Team is forming a ministry group called, "Birthday Buddies." This group will visit our homebound friends on their special day. If

you are interested in serving as a "Birthday Buddy", please contact the church office. Be sure to provide your phone number and/or email address. You will be notified of the time and place of our friend's celebration. We may visit them in their home or do a drive-by with an outdoor visit. We are excited to offer this opportunity for bringing cheer and love to our homebound friends.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ST PAUL DIRECTORY

Staff

Pastor: Rodney Bluml

blumlwa@gmail.com
(319) 389-6153

Administrative Assistant:

Kathy Brunssen

stpaulanamosa@gmail.com
(319) 462-4841

Children's Youth Family Ministry (CYFM)

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

Custodial Care: Alex Kenny

(319) 350-3323

Church Address:

201 N Ford Street
Anamosa, IA 52205

Mailing/Office Address:

103 E Cedar Street
Anamosa, IA 52205
(319) 462-4841

Church Website:

www.stpaulanamosa.com

CHURCH COUNCIL and COMMITTEES

Council President: Jason Geltz

Stewardship (319) 533-3189

Council Vice President: Nancy Stout

Member Care (319) 480-1336

Council Secretary: Michele Countryman

Discipleship (319) 480-5948

Council Member: Fred Austin

Grounds & Maintenance (319) 480-1274

Council Member: Scott Chrisman

Discipleship (319) 854-7718

Council Member: Angie Coyle

Youth & Family (319) 480-6987

Council Member: Jamie Hamblin

Member Care (319) 389-8033

Council Member: Susan Koppenhaver

Outreach (319) 423-1976

Council Member: Dustin Paulson

Grounds & Maintenance (563) 299-0114

Council Member: Addi Dales

Youth & Family (319) 404-9609

Treasurer & Visitation Ministry:

Nancy Lyon Douglas

njdouglas@hotmail.com (319) 551-3358

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



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

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 those who are grieving . 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: Help is always 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)**

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

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

Bread Bakers:

May: Pat Merritt
June: Sandra Andresen
July: Marilyn Lambertsen

Deliver Food to Food Bank:

May: Ralph & Sandy Andresen
June: Myra Powell
July: Barb Kleis

Wednesday, April 26

*** 6:00pm Evening Service**

Comm Prep: Paula Sisler
Greeters: Summer Parks
Reader/Prayers: Paula Sisler
Comm Server: Paula Sisler
PowerPoint: Darcie Tenley

Sunday, April 30

*** 8:00am Service**

Comm Prep: Jim/Dolores Albrecht
Greeter: Mark/Rhonda Bickford
Reader & Prayers: Barry Anderson
Comm Server: Ed Gerst/Susan Koppenhaver
PowerPoint: Lois Ocenosak
Livestream: Skyler

*** 10:30am Service**

Comm Prep: Nancy Lyon Douglas
Greeter: CJ Sullivan Family
Reader: Shawn Giegerich
Prayers: Ella Giegerich
Comm Server: Shawna Giegerich/Nancy Lyon Douglas
PowerPoint: Andrea G.
Livestream: G&L Chrisman

Tuesday, May 2

- * 1:30pm Scripture Study
- * 6:00pm Grief Support by request, call Nancy Douglas
- * 7:00pm AA—LL CE Building

Wednesday, May 3

*** 6:00pm Evening Service**

Greeters: WD4
Comm Prep: WD4
Reader & Prayers: WD4
Comm Server: WD4
PowerPoint: WD4

Sunday, May 7

*** 8:00 am Service**

Comm Prep: Ed Gerst/Susan Koppenhaver
Greeter: Ed Gerst/Susan Koppenhaver
Reader & Prayers: Lois Ocenosak
Comm Server: Ed Gerst/Susan Koppenhaver
PowerPoint: Darcy Tenley
Livestream: Skyler

*** 10:30am Service**

Comm Prep: R/S Andresen
Greeter: R/S Andresen
Reader & Prayers: Ralph Andresen
Comm Server: R/S Andresen
PowerPoint: Eli L.
Livestream: Dean L.

Tuesday, May 9

- * 1:30pm Scripture Study
- * 6:00pm Grief Support by request, call Nancy Douglas
- * 7:00pm AA—LL CE Building

Wednesday, May 10

*** 6:00pm Evening Service**

Comm Prep: Paula Sisler
Greeters: Summer Parks
Reader/Prayers: Beth Hora
Comm Server: Beth Hora
PowerPoint: Darcie Tenley

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

| | |
|------------|--|
| April 26 | Church Service @ 6:00 pm |
| April 30 | Church Service @ 8:00 am & 10:30 am (Confirmation @ 10:30 Service) |
| May 3 | Last day of WD4 until fall |
| May 8 | Council Mtg @ 6:30pm |
| May 14 | Mother's Day (order carnations—page 3) |
| May 29 | Memorial Day |
| June 12 | All Leadership Mtg 6:00 pm |
| June 12 | Council Mtg 6:30 pm |
| June 19-23 | Vacation Bible School |
| June 23 | Block Party 5:00-8:00 pm |