

June 18, 2023 Lectionary 11



**FEATURING OUR
FAVORITE LOCAL 60'S
COVER BAND FROM
5:30-8:00 P.M.**

Put on your dancing shoes and plan to have a rockin' good time.

This band is eager to get you involved! All ages welcome! No fee.



*We will move to the Lawrence Community Center in the case of inclement weather.

*Bring your own chairs

GET IN TOUCH

Office Number
319-462-4841

EMAIL ADDRESS:
stpaulanamosa@gmail.com

WEBSITE:
stpaulanamosa.com

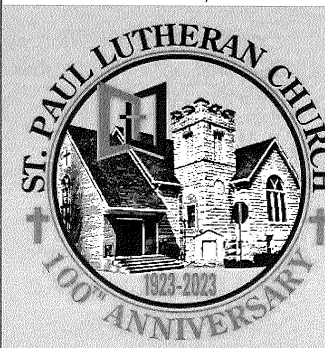
SOCIAL MEDIA:
St Paul Lutheran Church on Facebook
or <http://www.stpaulanamosa.com>

JOIN US FOR A BLOCK PARTY

Friday, June 23

5-8 p.m.

East side of the St. Paul Lutheran Education Building 103 E. Cedar St. Anamosa, IA



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

5-5:30 Vacation Bible School Youth performing songs from HERO HOTLINE.

- Face-painting
- Thrivent Yard Games
- Bounce House
- Anamosa Area Ambulance
- Local Law Enforcement
- 4-H STEM Display
- VBS Science/Crafts table

-- Soles for Souls is an international shoe redistribution org working with the Anamosa United Congregational Church

FOOD VENDORS

- Las Brasas Mexican
- Kona Shaved Ice
- Lion's Club Ice-Cream
- Congregational Church Cookies
- Popcorn
- Hotdogs

Bring new or slightly used shoes to donate to Soles for Souls



Animal Welfare Friends

OUR FEATURED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION: SAVING STRAY ANIMALS B/C EVERY ANIMAL COMPANION DESERVES A PEACEFUL, SAFE, AND HEALTHY LIFE!

Stop by the Animal Welfare Friends table to meet some of our rescues and make a donation to support their efforts.

<https://animalwelfarefriends.org/>

Leadership Council Members Needed



The St. Paul faith community will be electing four new members to our Leadership Council this July 16th at the annual meeting. Are you being called by God to serve your faith community in this way? Is there a member you'd like to invite to consider being nominated for election? If so, contact me at 319-389-6153 and share the good

news. To help in your prayerful discernment, consider this Basic Job Description for a St. Paul Church Council member:

- Be installed at worship.
- Attend Council Retreat.
- Attend monthly, (typically) second Monday, All Leadership/council meetings setting aside 6-9 pm, beginning the second Monday in August.
- Be prepared by reading consent agenda materials {finance report, pastor's report, and relevant materials prior to the monthly meeting.}
- Serve as liaison for one of the church committees/teams working with the members to conduct regular meetings.
- Know and be able to give voice to the mission of St. Paul Lutheran Church.
- Discuss in a respectful and truthful manner keeping the good of the community at heart.
- Resolve issues by first talking with the person/people most directly involved.
- Follow through on agreed upon action items.
- Support the vitality of the faith community by sharing your spiritual gifts and calling them forth from others.
- Extend hospitality.

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah 55:10-13 {NIV}

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples. Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.” Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, I do so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper, and instead of briers the myrtle will grow. This will be for the Lord’s renown, for an everlasting sign, that will endure forever.”

When the Prophet Isaiah began his second period of writing, the Hebrew people had been in exile for about fifty years in the land of the Babylonians, 500 miles to the east, across a desert and some mountains from their homeland. Two generations earlier, Jerusalem had been destroyed and the people either scattered or killed. The City of Peace remained desolate though not completely uninhabited. In 539 BCE, Cyrus of Persia conquered the Babylonians, and much to the Jews’ surprise, released them so they could return to the land of their forefathers in Judea. Second Isaiah was writing from this place of exile in the advent (time of waiting and preparation) of their return home. While he is filled with jubilation, the Jewish people are filled with fear and anxiety because most of them do not know how they will make the treacherous 1500 kilometer trek or what to expect when they get to Jerusalem. Most had only heard about Jerusalem from their elders. The sound of the prophet’s words turn from trying to make sense out of their suffering and punishment to accolades for Yahweh God who had been taking care of them all along. Isaiah is using highly poetic language to lift the hearts of his fellow Israelites as they prepare for an arduous journey. For the most part, they are very poor people; most with money chose to remain in Babylonia to participate in the merchant world. They had lost their king and the royal family. You can hear them asking, “Freedom, great! But who will lead us? Who will be the mouthpiece of our God? Where is the chosen one? The city of our God is destroyed.” Isaiah responds by telling them that they need not expect a new king in the line of David (in fact, Isaiah breaks with tradition when he intimates that Cyrus is the messianic figure for them, but cannot serve as their leader because he is not Jewish.) Isaiah encourages the people to understand that their covenant with Yahweh has not been broken. Even though the king had previously been the witness of God to the world, in the absence of a king, **they** are called to be Yahweh’s witnesses to the world. They are being formed by God into the people of the New Jerusalem (God’s reign) where they will no longer languish in their poverty but sit down to a lavish banquet with no additional cost to them. Their faithfulness alone has repaired the injured relationship with God. They have endured their suffering, separation, and emptiness; now God will fill them up again with wine and milk, the fruits of the Promised Land. **This meal is one of fellowship with God;** a real act of conciliation and friendship offered to anyone who will come to Zion (the more ancient name for Jerusalem.) It is perhaps difficult for us who live in comfort and luxury to place ourselves in this story. We are more like the Hebrew people before they fell into exile: wealthy, distracted, self-confident, and disassociated from the poor, crippled, troubled, and destitute. Our tendency to be self-sufficient is exactly the sin, according to Isaiah, that led the Jewish people to their time of separation. The time in exile, away from their creature comforts, bottomless wine skins, sprawling homes, and vast vineyards was to remind them that they need God and are to love one another as a mirror of God’s love. The second phase of writing under the name of the prophet Isaiah was directed to his people on the eve of their return to Jerusalem from the exile in Babylon (circa 529 BCE). Isaiah beckons his people to turn from their preoccupation with wanting to know the reason for their punishment in exile to accepting the mercy Yahweh God is extending. He also wants those who have taken interest in the Babylonian way of life and worship to reconsider a return to the Promised Land with their people. If we listen carefully to the readings throughout the common lectionary, we realize that messages of God’s mercy permeate the selections. We are often like the Israelites of Isaiah’s day in that we fear having offended God so profoundly that God will not listen, or we are filled with anger over things that are out of our control and so we do not seek conciliation. But Isaiah reminds all of us, it is not God who moves away from us or hides mercy, it is we humans who lose sight of that which is before us always. For many reasons, people think they must be found worthy of forgiveness before they can ask for it; an unfortunate mentality that often keeps people from ever truly seeking mercy. Anyone who is aware of the need for mercy should ask. The gift is promised. God is eager to forgive us. Perhaps the more common problem is that we lack awareness of our need for mercy or forgiveness. The great abundance of God’s mercy should be the message resounding in our hearts and minds this weekend. Through Isaiah, God reveals the truth that lets us off the hook of having to know everything: the whys, hows, and wherefores of life’s bumps and hardships. God tells us that He deals with us in ways that are different than our own. God never withholds mercy or grace or pardon, though we often do. The phrase: “Seek the Lord while He may be found” is not an allusion to God’s scarcity or that He is not normally available. Usually, it was a call to prayer; an invitation to come to the Temple where God’s presence would be felt. In this particular case, the Temple is not standing because the Babylonians had destroyed it before the exile, and so Isaiah was urging the Israelites to seek the Lord’s presence right where they were, in the exiled community, a place not traditionally identified as ‘holy.’ God’s presence and mercy were available to those who called upon Him, even from Babylon; after all, God desires to freely distribute mercy to those who make themselves available to it. This may seem silly to us but for the Jews who were used to associating God’s presence and power with a place (Jerusalem), particular rituals, and certain words, the invitation to seek the Lord where they were was an empowerment to act outside the norm. Isaiah knew that the rode to conversion was a long one. His encouragement was to not wait for the rebuilt Temple, reestablished priesthood, or convened community to seek a relationship with God, but to call upon the Lord today.

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down. The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.

The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

John 4:13-14 NIV

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

In this gospel, we hear about a deepening relationship in the way a woman addresses Jesus. She begins by calling him politely but superficially, "Sir." Later, she recognizes him as a prophet. And finally, after some conversation, she opens the way for Jesus to fully reveal who he is when she says, "When the Messiah comes he will teach us everything." To which Jesus replies, "I who speak to you am he." The water Jesus offers is greater than their common ancestor Jacob. Through the subsequent witness of the woman and their own encounter with Jesus, the townspeople come to faith and proclaim Jesus, "Savior of the World." This final proclamation is significant because it shows that Christ's saving action was universal, not just for the Jews. Recall, the Jews and the Samaritans despised each other. The fact that Jesus chose to reveal his messianic identity to a non-Jewish woman would have shocked the Jewish hearers of John's gospel. No longer was Israel identified as the "only bride of YHWH." Like the people of this Samaritan town, *any who profess faith in Jesus as savior are a part of the new messianic era, the Kingdom of God.*

Taking It Home

- For what are you thirsting right now?
- Today, ask Jesus for life giving water. Tell him you commit yourself to him. Ask him to show you the way.
- Who needs you to remain with her or him in a deserted place right now?
- Do you trust God? What evidence has been provided to show God is trustworthy?
- Recall a time you grumbled to or about God and you received "a favorable reply."

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?) "Somehow the True Self in all humans has a natural access to that "hidden" will of God—if the mind and heart and soul are open and undefended (which is always the spiritual task and not easily achieved). Jeremiah called it "the law written in your heart" (31:33). The Catholic tradition called it "natural law" or "natural theology." The soul or True Self has responded naturally to the soul of other things since the beginning of human consciousness. The False Self almost always distorts even good things, because it still thinks "it's all about me"—and it never is."

— Richard Rohr, [Immortal Diamond: The Search for Our True Self](#)

"It is important to know that the opposite of faith is not doubt, but in fact, certitude and the demand for certitude!"

— [Richard Rohr, Eager to Love: The Alternative Way of Francis of Assisi](#)

Two new summer prayer opportunities at St. Paul led by Pastor Rodney!

Create some intentional time for Focused Communal Silence {**Meditation**}- The benefits of meditation are real, but it is often difficult to make room for silence in our lives. Communal accountability can help uphold the commitment. Join with others in the St. Paul Church on Monday and/or Thursday mornings, 6:30-7:00 a.m. beginning in June for Meditation Prayer. We will pray out loud the Cantic of Zechariah, have 17 minutes of silent meditation, then close with the Cantic of Simeon.

Drumming Circle: Join others in the church chapel from 5:15-6:15 pm one of the last Tuesdays of each month for drum prayer. 10 hand drums are available; first come, first to choose. We will begin with sharing gratitudes and intentions, then drum, ending with a drum wash for those who wish it. Weather permitting, we'll drum outside.

Drumming is a form of contemplative prayer that invites us to be present to the Heartbeat of God. As we listen to and feel the drums, we experience the One pulse that gives rise to all the rhythms and energies of life. It is actually from the feminine energy of the divine that drumming emerges, and men drum to draw themselves from the head into the heart, seeking harmony.

Upcoming drumming dates for 2023 will be: June 20, July 25, Aug. 22. Sept. 26, Oct. 24. Nov. 21, Dec.19.

We Eloped

Our Love wouldn't wait
COME HELP US CELEBRATE!

SATURDAY

JULY 1, 2023

AT ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

103 CEDAR STREET

ANAMOSA, IOWA

FROM 1:00-4:00PM

Susan and Ed

PIC•COLLAGE

Outdoor Service at the Park

Beginning June 25th, we will be starting our services, weather permitting, on the following dates at the Anamosa Park:

June	25th @ 10:30 a.m.
July	2nd, 9th, 23rd and 30th @ 10:30 a.m.
July 16	10:30 at church followed by Annual Mtg
August	6th, 13th, 20th, 27th @ 10:30 a.m.
September	3rd @ 10:30 a.m.

This ends our Outdoor Service in the Park. All the 6:00 p.m. Wednesday and 8:00 a.m. Sunday services will be held at the church.





Date: June 19th- June 22nd
Age: Preschool-6th grade
Time: 9a.m. - 11:30a.m.
Where: St. Paul Lutheran
201 N. Ford St. Anamosa

Tell your family, friends and neighbors as All are Welcome to join us for a fun filled, action packed week as we learn how we as Individuals can bring Peace and Build Each Other Up!

This year we are putting on our capes and Calling on our Community Heroes! Come along as kids (called Heroes) experience these stories through music, Bible storytelling, games, arts and crafts, science, and even snacks, they'll learn that Heroes are called to Follow Jesus, Help Others, Work Together and Show Grace! And, best of all, they'll be invited to answer this call at VBS, at church, at home, and every area of their lives. We will begin answering that call to our Community through our VBS Mission this year giving to HACAP for food donations as well as change for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Each day we will be accepting non perishable food item as well as collecting \$ for these organizations. At the End of the week if we are able to raise \$200 or more I will draw 4 names from our tickets to slime me at our Community Block Party (must be present to redeem) We will put names in the raffle for each item/\$ brought each day. The kids will be showing off their song/ sign skills from the many Awesome songs they will learn during VBS at the start of our Block Party!

Please be sure to follow us on our St. Paul Anamosa Facebook page for any Updates or Changes! <https://www.facebook.com/stpaulanamosa/?ref=bookmarks>

If you have Any questions please feel free to contact **Kaileen Weaver** via email: cyfm-stpaulanamosa@gmail.com

Youth Training Event for grades 8-12

- Do you know of youth, currently in grades 8-12
- who care deeply about others and would benefit from learning real-life relational skills that they can use to help their peers who are going through difficult times?
- This is a 4 day event that will provide both training and opportunities to put relational leadership skills to use. We will be at Camp EWALU near Strawberry Point, Iowa, June 19-22, learning PML skills, interacting with and leading younger campers, and doing fun camp activities. We will stay overnight at the EWALY Stone Center which provides hotel- style accommodations.

HELP NEEDED

St Paul needs people who are willing to serve our congregation by doing the PowerPoint projection at the 8:00 am Sunday worship service or at the 6:00 pm Wednesday service. This truly is as easy as following along/participating in worship and clicking one button on the computer. The computer is even on and the PowerPoint is ready to go before you come. If you would be willing to help or have any questions, please email or text Barb Kleis at kleis.barb@gmail.com or call at 319-480-1196.

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 especially Brenda Downing (daughter of Pat Merritt), Brenda Biere (daughter-in-law of Karen Biere), and family of Pastor Lavern Beener for his passing. Funeral is June 24th, 1 pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hinsdale, IL. Cards and/or memorials may be sent to Beverly Beener, 300 Claymoor Road, Unit 1C, Hinsdale, ILL 60521. 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 319-462-4841/stpaulanamosa@gmail.com. Names will be listed for 4 weeks and may be renewed.

Week June 25th Readings

Isaiah 61:1-11

Luke 4:16-21

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:

June: Sandra Andresen

July: Sherry Evans

August: Brian/Michelle Lubben

Deliver Food to Food Bank:

June: Myra Powell

July: Barb Kleis

August: Ralph & Sandy Andresen

Wednesday, June 14

* 8:00 am Men's Worship Group—CE Building

* 6:00pm Evening Service

Greeters: Marlene Serbousek

Comm Prep: Paula Sisler

Readings & Prayers: Paula Sisler

Comm Server: Paula Sisler

PowerPoint: Darcie Tenley

Sunday, June 18

* 8:00 am Service

Comm Prep: Jan Allaire/Verna Lewison

Greeter: Orlyn/Kathy Brunssen

Readings & Prayers: Brian Lubben

Comm Server: Brian/Michele Lubben

PowerPoint: Grant Lubben

Livestream: Skyler

* 10:30am Service

Comm Prep: Lori Reynolds

Greeter: CJ/Stacie Sullivan

Readings/Prayers: Amy Fuller Belding

Comm Server: Amy Fuller Belding/Greta Lundsgaard

PowerPoint: Addie Dales

Livestream: Ingrid Vaughn

Tuesday, June 20

* 1:30pm Scripture Study

* 6:00pm Grief Support by request, call Nancy Douglas

* 7:00pm AA—LL CE Building

Wednesday, June 21

* 8:00 am Men's Worship Group—CE Building

* 6:00pm Evening Service

Comm Prep: Ken/Pam Humpal

Greeters: Ken/Pam Humpal

Readings/Prayers: Darla Algae

Comm Server: Ken Humpal

PowerPoint: Myra Powell

Sunday, June 25

* 8:00am Service

Comm Prep: Linda Kenny

Greeter: Dale/Pat Jensen

Readings/Prayers: Pat Jensen

Comm Server: Dale/Pat Jensen

PowerPoint: Linda Kenny

Livestream: Skyler

* 10:30am Service (at the park)

Comm Prep: Barb Wilson

Greeter: Clapp/Dales Family

Readings/Prayers: Shawn/Valerie Lambertsen

Comm Server: Shawn/Valerie Lambertsen/Sally Clapp

PowerPoint:

Livestream:

Tuesday, June 27

* 1:30pm Scripture Study

* 6:00pm Grief Support by request, call Nancy Douglas

* 7:00pm AA—LL CE Building

Wednesday, June 28

* 8:00 am Men's Worship Group—CE Building

* 6:00pm Evening Service

Comm Prep: Barb Kleis

Greeters: Summer Parks

Readings/Prayers: Polly Chalstrom

Comm Server: Polly Chalstrom

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

June 14	Flag Day
June 18	Father's Day (Root Beer Floats!!)
June 19-22	Vacation Bible School (9-11:30 am)
June 23	VBS youth sing at Block Party 5-5:30 p.m.
June 23	Block Party 5:00-8:00 pm
June 25	Outdoor Service at the Park in Anamosa begins
July 9	Centennial Ice Cream Social
July 16	Annual Meeting, following second service