

July 30, 2023 9th Sunday of Pentecost



Come Dream with us at an IDEAS CAFÉ!!

Between Sept. 10 and October 8, you will receive a postcard inviting you to join in an Ideas Cafe.

You and a cohort of about 20 neighbors will be invited to come together in the Fellowship Hall at the St Paul Church to engage in the first level of conversation about our campus and future. In our 90 minutes together, we will pray, recall our vision and mission statements, and have brief discussions around 7 questions while recording ideas.

It is critical that we hear many voices and your voice as we gather information for future projects and so, hence invited, RSVP yes or no to Barb Kleis at kleis.barb@gmail.com or by phone at 319-462-4061. If you are unable to attend the Ideas Café you are invited to, Barb can tell you about other dates that you can join the discussion.

After all the IDEA CAFÉs have been held, the ideas will be collated and shared before the next round of gatherings.

Outdoor Service at the Park

We will be having our services, weather permitting, on the following dates at the Anamosa Park:

July	30th @ 10:30 a.m.
August	6th, 13th, 27th @ 10:30 a.m.
August 20	Centennial event at LCC
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.



First Reading: Proverbs 8:1-11, 22-36 NIV

*Does not Wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? At the highest point along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; beside the gate leading into the city, at the entrance, she cries aloud: "To you, O people, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, set your hearts on it. Listen, for I have trustworthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness. All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse. To the discerning all of them are right; they are upright to those who have found knowledge. Choose my instruction instead of silver, knowledge rather than choice gold, for wisdom is more precious than rubies, and nothing you desire can compare with her. "The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be. When there were no watery depths, I was given birth, when there were no springs overflowing with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before he made the world or its fields or any of the dust of the earth. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was constantly at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind. "Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it. Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For those who find me find life and receive favor from the LORD. But those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death." {pause} Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God***

Proverbs is included in the Wisdom Literature of the Jewish faith. People looked at their experience of life and asked questions about moral living. Over time, their observations led to sayings that seemed to capture aspects of truth for good living. These sayings, many attributed to the great King Solomon who asked God for and received the gift of Wisdom, were collected over a period of time ranging from about 800-500 BC. Many proverbs originated in family and tribal customs and their purpose was for education. A person's heart was believed to be the seat of thinking, reasoning, and decision making, and so the parables were directed toward the heart. It was commonly held among ancient people that wisdom, or the ability to live an ethical life, was within the grasp of all humans and the clearest sign that God dwelt among His people.

The Book of Proverbs tends to disregard the faith element presented in the Torah and the Prophets, and focuses instead on gaining understanding as it is derived through life's experience. This particular passage today seems to challenge the notion that wisdom is human in origin. The feminine figure of Wisdom is equated with God's creative activity from the beginning. She is God's "darling and delight." She says, "I played on the earth while it was still new, and took delight in humans." Wisdom, personified, chooses to dwell with humans but is not limited to nor takes her origin from humanity. Wisdom is divine and her presence among humanity is a gift bestowed {ironically, it was when Solomon forgot this and started to rely on himself as the seat of wisdom that he began to worship false gods and fell from grace; then division occurred within the Kingdom of Israel.}

This passage is being read because Christianity teaches that Jesus became Wisdom incarnate (enfleshed). Wisdom despises deception. Jesus' masculine gender did not hide the creative, life-giving feminine characteristics of Wisdom: i.e. unity, oneness, healing, reconciliation, compassion..., nor did he shrink from any opportunity to point out the lies and deception being promulgated by fellow countrymen. Many times, we also hear of Jesus delighting in humanity. It certainly would suggest a helpful reason as to why he would allow himself to suffer for the same.

Psalms 23

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD, Forever.

Gospel: John 8:56-58 NIV

*Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad." "You are not yet fifty years old," they said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" "Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You Oh Christ***

John was writing this gospel for his community in about 90 A.D., a full sixty years after the Jesus event. His community members wanted to know how they could tell which teachers were presenting them the truth about God's Kingdom: the Gnostics, the Judaizers, or other inspired members of the group? John reminded them that Jesus said Holy Spirit would repeat to them the same "Word" revealed in His life and this is to be their litmus test when others speak with authority in His name: is it consistent with the life of Jesus? Does the teaching or action point to the glory of humans or to the glory of God?

Taking It Home:

- Take comfort today in the fact that God/Wisdom delights in you and that will never change. Repeat it to yourself three times. What have you done/thought/felt today that brought Lady Wisdom delight?
- Wisdom played among creation and took delight in humans. Think about the groups or communities to which you belong (be sure to include the worship community). When is the last time you “played?” List them and in what ways they bring you delight. How are they worthwhile? If you are having a hard time finding delight in a particular group, perhaps its time to change your affiliation....
- Pull out a letter/email/text from the past. Thank God for the person who wrote it.
- Put into a sentence or two “the truth” that has been taught to you by Holy Spirit. Write a few proverbs to pass on from your lived faith experience.
- Pray. In your most significant relationships, point out deceptions and superficialities.

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?) Now we know humans are made of the same recycled cosmic materials as the land, the plants, the clouds, and the sea.... It is simple ecological logic. You cannot separate the health of humans from the health of the environment. When the Earth becomes toxic, we become toxic. No matter how much we regulate our diet or intensify our exercise, it is impossible to be a healthy human on a sick planet.

Many of Earth’s living systems are under attack because of negligent human technologies developed within the Newtonian cosmology that dominated the last three-hundred years {i.e. a “clockwork universe” wound up at the beginning of time by God and now ticking along, like a perfect machine, according to the laws of physics. (In this image) Humans are essentially separate from and superior to the natural world which is lifeless and inert, serving merely as a stage for humans to live}. We need a new world view. Joseph Mitchell, *The Lens Through Which We See – Our Cosmology*, in *Loretto Earth Network News*, Vol. 19, No. 2

August Birthdays

Verna Lewison	8/1	Sara Chrisman	8/14	Fred Austin	8/25
Barry Anderson	8/6	Shelby Hollett	8/15	Janel Martensen	8/25
Olivia Christianson	8/6	Shawn Countryman	8/16	Hayley Paulson	8/25
Sandra Capron	8/7	Garrett LaDue	8/16	Matt Gregorich	8/25
Dorothy Wood	8/7	Summer Parks	8/17	Dennis Hora	8/27
Velma Hinrichs	8/8	Kyle Andresen	8/17	Dave Jacobs	8/28
Dorothy Postel	8/8	Neil Stigen	8/19	Jeff Fortune	8/29
Joyce Christenson	8/10	Vicki Wacker	8/20	Lynette Otten	8/30
Curtis Weaver	8/11	Deb Oldham	8/21	Rhonda Bickford	8/31
Donna Custis	8/12	Marlene Prout	8/24	Ruth Kray	8/31
Shaun Lambertsen	8/12	Brian Lubben	8/25	Lucas Sullivan	8/31



We Need Help on August 12th to Clean up the Church for our 100th Anniversary!!

Saturday, August 12th is our designated day to clean up the church inside and out for our 100th Anniversary!! Please bring any cleaning supplies that you think might work, gloves and anything else you think will help make the church shine!! We will work from 9 am until Noon. No need to respond just please show up!! If you have any questions, please send Fred Austin at text at 319-480-1274 or email him at fredlo29@yahoo.com.

St. Paul Lutheran Congregational Council Minutes July 10, 2023
Opening Prayer and call to order at 6:34pm by Jason Geltz

PRESENT: Pastor Rodney, Jason Geltz, Fred Austin, Scott Chrisman, Susan Koppenhaver, Nancy Stout, Dustin Paulson, Nancy Lyon-Douglas

NOT PRESENT: Angie Coyle

Council nominee observing the council meeting: Vicki Wacker

Thank you to Kaileen and Curtis Weaver for their hospitality and the delicious meal. Thank you to Nancy Stout, Angie Coyle, and Jason Geltz for service to St. Paul. Thank you to Addy Dales for your service as the youth council representation. We will miss you as part of the Council.

Consent Agenda Discussion and Approval

Financial Report, St Paul Council Meeting Minutes, Pastor's Report

Fred Austin motioned to approve the consent agenda. Dustin Paulson second the motion. Ayes Carry.

Old Business

Approval of May 2023 Minutes (provided at meeting) - Dustin Paulson to approve the May minutes. Fred Austin second the motion. Ayes Carry

Block Party summary - 300+ attended. Thank you to those who helped to set up. Lots of good positive energy. Blue 60 had a great time. Las Brasas did a great job. Dave saved the day bringing his popcorn maker. Lions Club gave water away and sold beverages and ice-cream. Teressa was there for Thrivent and had a good experience. Animal Welfare made \$103 at the event and had a number of people stop to talk to them. VBS start to the night was fun as well. A lot of good affirmation and energy for the community. Any visitors we should follow up with? No, not that we were tracking for this event. Perhaps at the Centennial event that would be a better time to identify interest in attending St. Paul. Las Brasas gave a donation to St. Paul as they were very appreciative for their involvement. Kids enjoyed the face painting.

New Business

- Meeting with Koch - Nancy summarize
- Dave Koch met with Nancy Stout, David Oldham, and Scott Chrisman to discuss what they can do to transition to a new Treasurer. Going forward, we will not be using QuickBooks or the Realm accounting program. It can all be summarized via a spreadsheet. The salary worksheet is submitted to Portico however Koch indicated he would like to see this identified in Koch reporting. There will still be a few items to be sorted out. Nancy indicated thanks to Nancy Lyon Douglas for her service as St. Paul Treasurer. This will likely not occur until August. Jason also expressed his thanks for her hours, time, and talent to God and St. Paul in the Treasurer role.
- Cleaning our church home in preparation for the centennial as many may be paying visits and enjoy seeing things the way they are in 2023.
- A lot will be visiting our church so we would like to be proud of the space. Weeds are an item that will need to be on the list. Custodial staff are keeping things very clean, we are thinking about more organization of items. They may also have a few ideas for ways we can help as well.
- Proposed: August 12, 9 am -noon, those volunteers can work from the list of duties that will be generated with Linda Kenny. Fred will talk to Linda. Fred will send a list of items in The Pulse so people are aware of what may need to be cleaned up to prepare for our centennial event.

Communication

Pumpkinfest is coming up on October 7th. A letter was sent to St. Paul from Blair from the Anamosa Chamber of Commerce. This year is the 30th year celebration. The Chamber is requesting consideration of sponsorship for the event. We could provide monetary or prize sponsorship. There are certain types of recognition depending on what type of sponsorship St. Paul provides. There was a question regarding whether or not there will also be a float for the Pumpkinfest parade. The centennial committee may be organizing this. Verna was doing some homework for this last year. Don Hardersen will be providing the trailer and hay rack. Verna was thinking about having older and newer congregation membership to represent our 100 year celebration. A brainstorming session ensued. Something like...As the seeds are sown, you can see how it (St. Paul faith, the Pumpkinfest, etc. grows...)

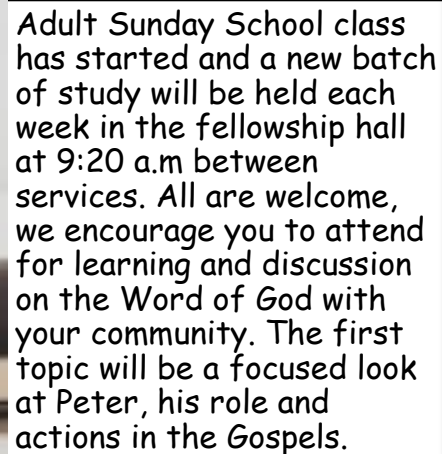
There was also a question related to donation focus and if free will offering will be all shared with this area of focus. Is it for this event or for the month? Susan clarified it was for the event. Susan will let Nancy know after they meet. The prior donations were deposited into the general account under miscellaneous giving. Rodney clarified the animal welfare had their own donation at their booth. The free will donation for the food was specifically to support the band and food purchase. These are two separate funds. The donation focus is to offer the entity the ability to have a venue to promote their cause.

St. Paul is creatively connecting! See our upcoming events:

- Motion to adjourn at 7:27pm by Jason Geltz and second by Susan Koppenhaver. Ayes Carry.

Date and time for next meeting: August 14, 2023 after All Leadership Meeting beginning 6:00 p.m. in the CE Building.

Next Dinner with Friends



Note from Pastor Rodney

Is God calling you to affirm your baptism! If you have completed 8th grade and would like to prepare to publicly affirm your baptism (be Confirmed), you are invited to join our process of growth and formation this year. We typically meet once a month on Sunday from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in small and large groups for process, story telling, prayer, and activities. People of all ages are involved. You will have a mentor or guide to join you on the journey. We will have a retreat day on Jan. 6, and Confirmation is scheduled for April 28, 2024. If you are curious or feeling nudged by Holy Spirit to grow in your relationship with God, come (with a parent or mentor) to our information evening, 7-8 p.m. on Wednesday, August 23 (following worship) in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Please contact me directly at 389-6153 to let me know you'll be there so we can plan for you. We will have the full calendar and details available at that time.

Funeral Luncheons

We are implementing a revised process for serving funeral luncheons, in which many members of St Paul will be invited to provide hospitality. Each month, a designated portion of the alphabetized membership list will be asked to provide a dessert or salad for a funeral luncheon which occurs during that month., In addition, assistance in serving may also be requested. Members will receive a phone call asking for your assistance in providing food or serving. We encourage you to willingly accept this invitation to joyfully serve others in a loving and caring way.



Centennial T-Shirt Orders

If you missed out ordering a Centennial T-shirt earlier, we are going to have another order going in if we have enough response. You need to fill out an order form and those can be pick up at the office. Our deadline now is July 30th. You can order short sleeved or long sleeved and we also have youth t-shirts available. Payment is due when you submit your order. Order blanks are at the greeters table at church if you need one or Kathy can email one to you too.

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. for Meditation Prayer. We will pray out loud the Canticle of Zechariah, have 17 minutes of silent meditation, then close with the Canticle 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: Aug. 22. Sept. 26, Oct. 24. Nov. 21, Dec.19.

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) and Marlene Warner. 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.

*Next Week August 6 Readings
Ecclesiastes 1:1-11; 3:1-17
Luke 13:1-3*

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:

August: Brian/Michelle Lubben
September: Marcy Pate
October: Verna Lewison

Deliver Food to Food Bank:

August: Ralph & Sandy Andresen
September: Myra Powell
October: Barb Kleis

Wednesday, July 26

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

* 6:00pm Evening Service

Comm Prep: Darla Algoe
Greeters: Darla Algoe
Readings/Prayers: Darla Algoe
Comm Server: Darla Algoe
PowerPoint: Myra Powell

Sunday, July 30

* 8:00 am Service

Comm Prep: Jim / Delores Albrecht
Greeter: Dale / Pat Jensen
Readings/Prayers: Pat Jensen
Comm Server: Dale / Pat Jensen
PowerPoint: Shelby Hollett
Livestream: Skyler

* 10:30am Service

Comm Prep: Cathy Crowe
Greeter: Austin Family
Readings/Prayers: Shaun/Valerie Lambertsen
Comm Server: Shaun/Valerie Lambertsen / Cathy Crow

Tuesday, August 1

* 1:30pm Scripture Study

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

* 7:00pm AA—LL CE Building

Wednesday, August 2

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

* 6:00pm Evening Service

Comm Prep: Marlene Serbousek
Greeters: Summer Parks
Readings/Prayers: Polly Chalstrom
Comm Server: Summer Parks
PowerPoint: Darcie Tenley

Sunday, August 6

* 8:00am Service

Comm Prep: Wilma Anderson
Greeter: Lyn / Cindy Decious
Readings/Prayers: Barry Anderson
Comm Server: Tom Sabotta / Sherri Evans
PowerPoint: Susan Koppenhaver
Livestream: Skyler

* 10:30am Service (at the park)

Comm Prep: Linda Kenny
Greeter: DJ / Stacie Sullivan
Readings/Prayers: Amy Fuller Belding
Comm Server: Amy Fuller Belding / Shawn Giegerich / Scott Chrisman

Tuesday, August 8

* 1:30pm Scripture Study

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

* 7:00pm AA—LL CE Building

Wednesday, August 9

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

* 6:00pm Evening Service

Comm Prep: Ken/Pam Humpal
Greeters: Ken/Pam Humpal
Readings & Prayers: Paula Sisler
Comm Server: Ken Humpal
PowerPoint: Myra Powell

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 14	All Leadership/Council Mtg @ 6:00 pm
August 20	Centennial Dinner following 10:30 service @ Lawrence Center (Reservations are needed!!)
Sept 4	Labor Day (office closed)
Sept 11	Council Mtg 6:30 pm
Oct 7	Octoberfest
Oct 9	All Leadership/Council Mtg @ 6:00 pm
Oct 31	Halloween