

August 13, 2023 11th 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:

August	13th, 27th @ 10:30 a.m.
August 20	No 8:00 a.m. Service Held today
August 20	Centennial service & event at LCC @ 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.

First Reading - Song of Solomon 2:10-13; 8:6-7 NIV

My beloved spoke and said to me, "Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, come with me. See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me." Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame. Many waters cannot quench love; rivers cannot sweep it away. If one were to give all the wealth of one's house for love, it would be utterly scorned.
Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

As Phyllis Tribble and Ellen Davis have both argued, the Song is a reversal of the curses of Eden. The relationship between man and woman is restored. In place of Eve's punishment in Genesis 3:16 ("your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you"), the woman in the Song declares, "I am my beloved's, and his desire is for me." In fact, the woman's is the dominant voice in the Song. She is in a full, robust, and mutual relationship with her beloved. The rupture between humanity and the earth is also restored. Here, in the garden of the Song, there are no thorns and thistles (see Genesis 3:17-19). Indeed, the earth itself rejoices with the lovers. Finally, the rupture between humanity and God is restored, if one understands the Song allegorically, as interpreters have done for 2000 years. One of the dominant biblical metaphors for the relationship between God and Israel (and later, Christ and the Church) is that of marriage. This metaphor takes some troubling turns in the prophets (see Hosea), but in the Song, the marriage is healed and renewed and rooted in love, love as fierce as the grave, love unquenchable (Song of Solomon 8:6-7). This summer series ends with the Song of Songs. And it is appropriate that it does so because it is here, finally, in the Song, that we see what makes for the good life. That is, we see that the good life consists of right relationships—between man and woman, between humanity and the earth, and between humanity and God. In the love described in the Song, we see a reflection of the love that first called the world into being (Proverbs 8), that continues to sustain it season by season (Ecclesiastes 3), and that will bring it to new life beyond death itself (Revelation 21). Such love is worth preaching about, and the Song of Songs gives us evocative and lush language to do so. *Commentary offered by Kathryn M. Schifferdecker, Luther Seminary, Saint Paul, Minn.*

Psalm 136 {mantra}

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. *His love endures forever.* Give thanks to the God of gods. *His love endures forever.* Give thanks to the Lord of lords: *His love endures forever.* to him who alone does great wonders, *His love endures forever.* who by his understanding made the heavens, *His love endures forever.* who spread out the earth upon the waters, *His love endures forever.* who made the great lights— *His love endures forever.* the sun to govern the day, *His love endures forever.* the moon and stars to govern the night; *His love endures forever.* He remembered us in our low estate, *His love endures forever.* and freed us from our enemies. *His love endures forever.* He gives food to every creature. *His love endures forever.* Give thanks to the God of heaven. *His love endures forever.*

Gospel: Mark 8:34-37 NIV

Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"

As you listen to this account, picture yourself as one of Jesus' disciples walking with him on the dusty road to Philippi. You pass row after row of people dying on makeshift crosses. The Romans wanting to disgust and scare you into submission. You've been with Jesus for more than two years now. You've chosen to stay with him after many others abandoned and Jesus is about to ask you the most important question of your life. Mark makes explicit for us the fulfillment of Isaiah's promised Messiah in Jesus of Nazareth. In his questioning of the disciples about "Who do people say that I am?" Jesus is able to lead them to the first major crisis of their discipleship. The disciples were looking for a Messiah who would lead them against the Romans, remove their oppression, and fill their lives with great abundance. But, Jesus reveals to them that he is not the Messiah of war, the tribulation, or the new government. He is not the Messiah who will take away their pain or oppression. No, he is the Messiah of the cross; his way is the way of suffering for the glory of God; he will fill their pain with hope for new life. In some ways, these disciples of Jesus have already denied themselves and taken up their crosses. They have changed their relationships with their families, livelihoods, and villages. They have left their security in order to join Jesus' fictive family group. Now, with their expectations being threatened by Jesus, we wonder, "Will the disciples stay with him?" With the shock of his recent revelation still fresh in their minds, they are left standing before Jesus asking themselves, "Will I take up my cross each day and follow him? Is there honor in following him to Jerusalem? Do I want to see our Messiah-leader cruelly suffer and die? For what purpose? Do I believe in our cause strongly enough to risk pain and perhaps even my life?" All of these troubling questions certainly play into Peter's very natural rebuke, "No, you can't die!" We can sympathize with Peter, can't we? Yet, Jesus identifies his response as the voice of Satan, the personification of deceiving powers that lead one to act outside of God's will. Jesus is being tempted to turn away from the mission he believes the Father has asked him to undertake. Peter wants Jesus to hide his face, protect himself from insults and spitting, and turn his back on those who would strike him. Jesus hears Peter's words as an invitation to rebel against God and he'll have none of it. Jesus believes that despite the disbelief of those around him, God will be his defender and liberator. Jesus did not cast Peter or any of the hesitant disciples away; instead he attempted to draw them in closer through an invitation to do what he had done each day of his life: deny his own will for the sake of God's. In this way of life is found the hope that leads troubled disciples to the answer, "Amen."

Taking it home:

- How does the language of the Song of Solomon open you up to new ways of thinking/experiencing God's love?
- Recall a time you endured hardship as a result of your faith.
- Do you expect God/Jesus Christ to take suffering out of your life, or do you expect Him to help you find hope and strength while suffering?
- Reflect on a time you realized new life, gained a new perspective, or came to greater faith because of a hardship or trial. {This is called the paschal mystery.}
- Be prepared to share one of your stories, reflections, or insights from the previous questions, with someone younger than you. The opportunity will show itself this week.
- Does your church community give you the tangible support you need to live the Christian life well? Can you find support there when you are challenged by dissenters or life's travails? Have you let your leaders know what you need?

Mindfulness (set aside three minutes. Breathe. Read slowly three times. Which words or ideas hold energy for you?

What images emerge in you?) "The most amazing fact about Jesus, unlike almost any other religious founder, is that he found God in disorder and imperfection—and told us that we must do the same or we would never be content on this earth.

" — Richard Rohr, *The Naked Now: Learning to See as the Mystics See*

"Before the truth sets you free, it tends to make you miserable."

— Richard Rohr, *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*

"Let's state it clearly: One great idea of the biblical revelation is that God is manifest in the ordinary, in the actual, in the daily, in the now, in the concrete incarnations of life, and not through purity codes and moral achievement contests, which are seldom achieved anyway." — Richard Rohr

No 8:00 a.m. Service Held on August 20th

Just a reminder, because of our church's Centennial Celebration on August 20th, we will not be having an 8:00 a.m. service that day. We will be having our 10:30 a.m. service at the Lawrence Center followed by the Centennial Dinner and Program. Hope to see all of you there!!

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.

Notice: Noisy Offerings Ahead...

There are so many ways to love our neighbors in need. One way is by working through Lutheran World Relief, creating Quilts and Kits that are sent out across the globe. St. Paul joins countless others across the country in reaching out through this ministry. We're encouraged to support LWR with our prayers and our gifts, and by remembering the Shipping Funds necessary to deliver these gifts. So let's prepare for very noisy offerings during services on August 23 and 27.



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.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adult Sunday School class will **begin Sunday, September 10th** and a new batch of study will be held each week in the fellowship hall at 9:20 a.m between services. All are welcome, we encourage you to attend for learning and discussion on the Word of God with your community.

Next Dinner with Friends

Your next opportunity to enjoy an evening out with friends will be Thursday, August 17th at Las Brasas Restaurant, 300 W Main Street, Anamosa at 5:00. Hope you can come to creatively connect while sharing a delicious meal with friends. Hope to see you there! Questions: Sherri Evans 319-981-0283.



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.



Stuff, Etc

Thanks to Tom Sabotta and Sherri Evans, St Paul now has an account at Stuff Etc in Cedar Rapids. That means that you are able to take things in for them to sell and the proceeds from what you donate will go directly to St Paul. If you are interested in doing this, Kathy has the terms of consignment and would be willing to give you a copy. Stuff Etc also has a website at shopstuffetc.com where you can see all their terms. This is a very good way to declutter your house and make a little money for the church. If you have any questions, feel free to call Kathy at the office at 319-462-4841 or Sherri at 319-981-0283



Build a support system with people who understand.

Alzheimer's Association caregiver support groups, conducted by trained facilitators, are a safe place for caregivers, family and friends of persons with dementia to:

- Exchange practical information on caregiving challenges and possible solutions
- Share feelings, needs and concerns
- Talk through issues and ways of coping
- Develop a support system

Dementia Caregiver Support Group

The 3rd Wednesday of each month at 4:30 pm

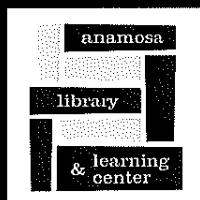
This support group will be held monthly at

The Anamosa Public Library

600 E 1st Street, Anamosa, IA 52205

For more information please contact

Diane Gray, Alzheimer's Association Support Group Facilitator,
at 319-480-2055.



Prayer (by Hazel Kellogg)

When you get up in the morning, Do you quietly kneel and pray?
And ask that God will guide you, And lead you through the day?
Do you honor, love and praise Him, and ask forgiveness from above?
As He holds His arms out to you, With His unending love?
Do you thank him for the sunshine, And a night of peaceful rest?
Do you feel His presence near you, And know how much you're blessed
If you do, you'll have assurance, No matter what the day may bring. If
you will put your hand in His, And trust Him for everything.
He will lead you through the valleys, And up to the mountain high
So your happy soul within you, Can almost Touch the sky.
So praise Him every morning, Before you do another thing,
And you'll go forward through the day, In the presence of the King.



The Serenity Prayer (by Reinhold Niebuhr)

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
Courage to change the things I can, And wisdom to know the
difference. Living one day at a time, Enjoying one moment at a
time. Accepting hardship as a pathway to peace. Taking, as Jesus
did, This sinful world as it is, Not as I would have it. Trusting that
you will make all things right, If I surrender to Your will, So that I
may be reasonably happy in this life, And supremely happy with
You forever in the next. Amen

the nine key teachings of Jesus

radical **love**
lavish **generosity**
extravagant **forgiveness**
inclusive **hospitality**
compassionate **action**
selfless **service**
a passion for **justice**
creative **nonviolence**
simple **living**

Karl Struckmeyer, An Unorthodox Faith

FOLLOWING JESUS

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 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 Tuesdays of each month listed below 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 Jerry Crowe and Brenda Biere (daughter-in-law of Karen Biere). 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 20 Readings
Gen 1:1-5
Matt 6:30-34

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, 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: Polly Chalstrom
Comm Server: Ken Humpal
PowerPoint: Myra Powell

Sunday, August 13

* 8:00 am Service

Comm Prep: Jeff / Kristi Fortune
Greeter: Orlyn / Kathy Brunssen
Readings/Prayers : Nancy Lyon Douglas
Comm Server: Jeff / Kristi Fortune
PowerPoint: Lois Ocenosak
Livestream: Skylar

* 10:30am Service

Comm Prep: Nancy Lyon Douglas
Greeter: Weaver Family
Readings/Prayers: Sally Clapp
Comm Server: Weavers (2) / Sally Clapp

Tuesday, August 15

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

Wednesday, August 16

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

* 6:00pm Evening Service

Comm Prep: Marlene Serbousek
Greeters: Summer Parks
Readings/Prayers: Barb Kleis
Comm Server: Marlene Serbousek
PowerPoint: Myra Powell

Sunday, August 20

* 10:30am Service (At the Lawrence Center)

Comm Prep: Ralph/Sandra Andresen
Greeter: Ralph/Sandra Andresen
Readings/Prayers: Scott Chrisman
Comm Server: Ralph/Sandra Andresen / Scott Chrisman

Tuesday, August 22

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

Wednesday, August 23

* 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: Darcie Tenley

Sunday, August 27

* 8:00 am Service

Comm Prep: Ed Gerst / Susan Koppenhaver
Greeter: Ed Gerst / Susan Koppenhaver
Readings/Prayers : Virginia Danielsen
Comm Server: Ed Gerst / Susan Koppenhaver
PowerPoint: Linda Kenny
Livestream: Skylar

* 10:30am Service

Comm Prep: Dave / Deb Oldham
Greeter: Dan / Marilyn Lambertsen
Readings/Prayers: Dan Lambertsen / Kathy Dornbusch
Comm Server: Dan Lambertsen / Dave/Deb Oldham

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	NO 8:00 a.m. Service on the 20th only
August 20	Centennial Dinner following 10:30 service @ Lawrence Center
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