



**August 14, 2022 10th Sunday Pentecost**

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

The Pulse deadline is noon on Monday for the upcoming Wednesday/Sunday Pulse.

# Mission trip 2022



Mission Trip this year was at the Quad Cities with Middle School-High School youth. We were able to serve at Arc, Grace Fellowship Food Pantry and The Brick House. There were over 76 youth on this trip! 9 of them from St. Paul.

Above: Garrett, Seth, Noah, Sean, Skylar & Rodney were able to completely clean 5 homes along with another group that was on the mission trip with us.



Above: We started each day with Devotional Time.



Left: Some of our group at Meal Time

Right: Allie, Elijah, Conner & Kaileen Tobi (Not pictured) all got to serve part of the time at Grace Fellowship Food Pantry bagging eggs and carrying boxes of food for those in need.



## Please Pray for the Following

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

We pray for Garrett Weckwerth, nephew of Betty Hunter, for the return of strength for all those recovering from illness, for peace in our nation and world, for those seeking a safe home. To add a name call or email Lois at 462-4841/stpaulanamosa@gmail.com. Names will be listed for 4 weeks and may be renewed.

## August 21<sup>st</sup> Readings:

Isa 58:9b-14  
Ps 103:1-8  
Heb 12:18-29  
Luke 13:10-17

**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:** Urgent help is 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: canned vegetables, canned fruits, beef stew, 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 your own delivery arraignments (462-4343)**

### Bread Bakers:

August: Brian & Michelle Lubben  
September: Marcy Pate

### Deliver Food to Food Bank:

August: Ralph & Sandy Andresen  
September: Myra Powell

**Introduction:** The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

## 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday post Pentecost & 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in

Jesus has set his face towards Jerusalem, the city where he will confront the powerful and the hypocritical. He knows the stories of the prophets well enough that he can surmise his future. He makes a prediction about his own suffering/passion then invites his followers to walk the road to Jerusalem with him while he teaches about the meaning of being his true disciple. In just four chapters (9-12) leading up to today, Luke has presented a number of poignant virtues for would be disciples to discern in themselves. A disciple: does not return inhospitality or violence, does not make excuses, speaks with healing authority in God's name, lives simply and accepts people's generosity, humbly listens, prays "*Abwoon bishmaya*" the "Our Father" with intention, responds as neighbor to whomever is in need or is vulnerable, does not hoard, is not greedy nor focused on gaining material wealth for personal prestige, is dependent on God to provide, seeks unity and inclusivity, and is gracious in caring for the community. Today's gospel signals a critical decision time: will you go to Jerusalem with Jesus despite your insecurities, and anxieties, and unanswered questions?

## First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

In the 7<sup>th</sup> century BCE, the nation of Israel suffered division under the leadership of weak and self-serving kings. The northern kingdom of Israel fell into the hands of the Assyrians, while the southern kingdom of Judah, which included Jerusalem, was sustained due to its wealth and defensibility (Jerusalem sits atop a steep hill and only needs to be defended on one side.) However, in the 6<sup>th</sup> century, the Chaldeans from Babylonia laid siege to Jerusalem. They set up camps outside the city and waited while the people starved. As reported in today's story, the siege had been going on long enough that the cisterns (water pits) had become mud and the food resources were diminishing. The people's patience was running out as their fear grew. The leaders had two possible responses: they could follow the words of the "false prophets" and try to withstand the siege, or, they could follow the words of the prophet Jeremiah and surrender to the Babylonians in an effort to maintain the nation of Judah, although it would no longer be independent. The latter choice meant that the rulers and royalty would be dethroned but the city and her people would remain intact. Jeremiah promised that if they did not relinquish control to Nebuchadnezzar, the city would be destroyed by fire. Jeremiah insisted that this was the will of God, and he

challenged the leaders to keep the best interest of the people in mind. Such pessimism caused discouragement among the soldiers. The princes of Jerusalem stood to lose much, so they twisted Jeremiah's words around against him in an effort to sway the waffling puppet king Zedekiah. The king did not want to lose honor with those who made up his support network, so he eventually agreed to let them drop Jeremiah into one of the muddy cisterns to die. But, one of Jeremiah's friends named Ebed-melech (which means, servant to the king,) a Cushite from Ethiopia who held a high enough position in the royal court to catch the king's ear, rescued Jeremiah. This was made possible by King Zedekiah's secret fascination with Jeremiah's prophecies and his personal fear of injuring God's chosen one, even though Jeremiah made it difficult for him to rule in peace.

Zedekiah is a tragic character in this history because like Herod Antipas with John the Baptist, and Pontius Pilate with Jesus, he was being pressured by those surrounding him to end the life of one whose words made people uncomfortable but in whom he personally found no fault deserving death. In many ways he was a pawn. Despite the fact that Jeremiah had originally been punished for speaking the truth (Judah fell to the Babylonians in 587 BCE), he experienced new life, a resurrection from the muddy grave, because he and Ebed-Melech had loyalty to the truth.

### **Second Reading: the letter to the Hebrews 11:29--12:2**

The early Jewish Christians to whom this letter was written had grown weary in their faith. The demands of the Christian life can be burdensome, especially when one loses sight of the reason for living this way. The author of Hebrews is trying to encourage his fellow Christians to stay focused on Jesus who is both the ultimate role model of faith and the one whose spirit sustains them in this race of life.

This encouragement takes the form of three distinct thoughts. First, the same faith that led Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, & Jacob in their lives drove Jesus to make the sacrifice he did, enduring the cross despite the shame attached to it. Second, while these people of faith from The ancient days now comprise a "cloud of witnesses" to Yahweh's fidelity, Jesus' reward for his faithfulness is the personal prestige he receives as he sits at the right hand of God. Through this power, Jesus now reaches out to guide sinners towards righteousness. Third, while the savior had to endure the trials of the cross, these baptized Hebrew followers of his had not yet faced oppression from others ("struggle against sin") to the point of shedding blood. In 70 A.D., the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. The Jewish

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

#### **Wednesday, August 10**

- \* 6:00pm  
Greeters: Marge Bohlken  
Reader & Prayers: Nancy Stout  
PowerPoint: Myra Powell

#### **Sunday, August 14**

- \* **10:00am Service at WapsiAna Park**  
Comm Prep: Amy Christianson  
Greeters: Scott Chrisman Family  
Reader: Chrisman Family  
Prayers: Chrisman Family

#### **Tuesday, August 16**

- \* 1:30pm Scripture Study (pastors office or zoom)
- \* Grief Support by request, call Nancy Douglas
- \* 7:00pm AA— LL CE building

#### **Wednesday, August 17**

- \* 6:00pm  
Greeters: Ken & Pam Humpal  
Reader & Prayers: Polly Chalstrom  
PowerPoint: Myra Powell

#### **Thursday, August 18**

- \* 3:00pm HACAP Distribution

#### **Sunday, August 21**

- \* **10:00am Service at WapsiAna Park**  
Comm Prep: Ed Gerst & Susan Koppenhaver  
Greeters: Ed Gerst & Susan Koppenhaver  
Reader & Prayers: Kathy Dornbusch

Thursday August 25 **Dinner with Friends @ Jones**  
Local 4:30 pm call Sherri Evans with questions  
(319) 981-0283

#### **St Paul Staff Emails & Phone Numbers**

**Pastor Rodney** blumlwa@gmail.com  
(319) 389-6153

**Nancy Douglas, Treasurer**  
njldouglas@hotmail.com  
(319) 551-3358

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

**Lois Ocnosak** stpaulanamosa@gmail.com  
(319) 721-9893

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

community was scattered throughout the world, again. The synagogue then became the center of Jewish life. The Jewish Christians attended the synagogue with their brethren on the Sabbath {Saturday} and then celebrated the Eucharist after sundown (Sunday). This eventually led to tension with the Jewish community and the expulsion of the Christians from the synagogue. In this sense, the gospel reading for today became very real as members of families had to choose whether or not they were going to remain followers of Jesus and risk being excluded from their families.

**Gospel: Luke 12:49-56**

This gospel passage has real potential to be shocking. It seems as though Jesus is speaking in riddles. He says today that in fact he hasn't come to the earth to establish peace, but rather division. What kind of Messiah is he, and how does this fit into his teachings on being a disciple?

His disciples (including us) have a decision to make and Jesus is not candy coating the message anymore. While Jesus very much prays for unity among his followers and shalom balance/harmony in their hearts through an assurance of God's loving kindness, he correctly identifies that those adults who make a public profession of faith in him will experience "a baptism of death." His was a physical death at the hands of those who rejected him and his message. By comparison, those baptized in Jesus' name might experience death through rejection from neighbors or family, loss of employment, or in some areas, even having physical life taken away. The fire he speaks about lighting is one which will purify the world, similar to the one a smelter uses to separate metals. This fire is what accompanies a converted heart and compels a person to act differently. The division comes when people are unable to feel comfortable around the one whose heart is burning within and/or are so intent on living the divided life of hypocrisy that they cannot see the signs of God's Kingdom.

Jesus does not desire division among the people; he is naming what he sees and knows to be true. These words may sound harsh but they follow several chapters of encouragement for his disciples to be prepared, to be fully committed, to be prayerful, to be servant minded, and to be attentive and

compassionate. By living this way, they will be able to be loving and patient when they are filled with the intense fire that separates and purifies.

Luke's bottom line is this: those who follow Jesus whole-heartedly will encounter conflict, death, and division, but it can be endured and overcome by committing oneself to life in a local praying community, which Holy Spirit is happy to animate.

**Taking it home:**

- Do Jesus' words in today's gospel make you feel anxious to follow him, or nervous, angry, irritated, apathetic, suspicious...? Have you made an adult decision to live for Christ and His community?
- Randomly choose a family from your community to pray for this week. Communicate to them that they are being prayed for.
- Recount a time you suffered a type of death because of your faith (perhaps you had to change friends, or you were ridiculed, ignored, or felt like you missed out on the fun because you chose not to or weren't allowed to participate.) If this hasn't happened to you, maybe you know of someone who experienced a conversion and then seemed "different." Did you support the person or did you set yourself against her/him?
- Name some of the people who are in your "cloud of faith witnesses." What does their faith communicate?
- Share about a time you were punished while telling the truth as you understood it. How did you feel and what resulted?
- Compare Jeremiah and Jesus of Nazareth. Why might someone say Jeremiah is the Old Testament character most like Jesus?



## 2023 Directory Photo Sign Ups Are Available on St. Paul Website (stpaulanamosa.com)

### EVERYONE can help by choosing to:

- ◆ Submit a digital photo of your family to Lois at stpaulanamosa@gmail.com **OR**
- ◆ Make an appointment (the link to Sign-up Genius can be found the first page of our webpage “2023 Directory Sign Up”) **OR**
- ◆ **You get written permission** from your new professional photography session to use their image in our directory. **Additional option: (If you want to use your Lifetouch photo from the 2018 or 2019 directory please call Lois.** We would like as many new photos as possible but we now have permission to use the Lifetouch photos from before.)

Deadline for photos will be December 1st. (Sooner is always appreciated)

Directory set up will look like the example below. There will be an opportunity to proof the directory before it goes to print. We hope to have 100% participation in the photo and paragraphs!



**Ed & Jan Allaire**  
17982 E 23 County Home Road  
Monticello, IA 52310

**(319) 462-4223**  
**(email if provided)**

**Ed & Jan Allaire:** Jan started coming to St. Paul between 1959 and 1960. I was going into 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. I went to church, Sunday School and VBS. In 1965 I was confirmed by Pastor Beener. In the 1980's I did VBS for a few years. I help out when ever asked. On May 31, 1997 I married Ed Allaire and . . .

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## St Paul will celebrate it's 100th Anniversary in 2023!

The Anniversary Committee has been working hard collecting and planning for our year-long celebration. Time is drawing near and we still need **YOUR help**. Did you know as of August 7 there are only **146 days left** until January 1, 2023? There is a lot of planning and work yet to be done.

### Things we still need:

- Wedding Photos of anyone married at St. Paul (especially from 1990 to present).
- Photos of interest at St. Paul Activities.
- Several people to plan and carry out 4-6 activities of celebration during the year. Activity possibilities: If this symbol appears after the event we have a leader! ☞ Can we get volunteers for all six ☞?
  - ◆ **Game night (January/February)**
  - ◆ **Kickball/volley ball at WapsiAna Park (March/April)**
  - ◆ Block Party (May/June) ☞
  - ◆ Meal w/program (August, anniversary month) ☞
  - ◆ Ice cream, pie social (September/October) ☞
  - ◆ **Caroling (November/December)**
- For the 2023 Church Directory
  - ◆ Family Photos
  - ◆ Family Paragraphs



## NAMI Family-to-Family

**For Family/Friends of Adults with Serious Mental Illness**

**IN-PERSON at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Anamosa or ONLINE**

**Register now for the FREE eight-session class starting Sept. 12, 2022**

- Conducted by trained family members, using evidence-based methodology and text
- Eight-week program covers symptoms, causes, treatments, and coping skills
- Learn about anxiety, depressive disorders, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and more
- Other topics include communication, problem solving, setting limits, and recovery
- Classes at **St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 201 N. Ford St., Anamosa** or online via Zoom

**Classes at 6 p.m. Mondays begin Sept. 12. Registration required by Sept. 7.**

Send name, address, and daytime phone number to [nami-lc@hotmail.com](mailto:nami-lc@hotmail.com) or phone **319-221-1184** (please leave a voice message)

## FIND HELP, FIND HOPE.

### *You are never too old to affirm your baptism!*

If you have completed 8th grade and have not yet publicly affirmed your baptism (been 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 ask a mentor or guide to join you on the journey. Confirmation is scheduled for April 30, 2023. If you are curious or feeling nudged by Holy Spirit to grow in your relationship with God, come to our information evening, 7-8 p.m. on Wednesday, August 31 (following worship) in the Fellowship Hall of the church.

Please contact Kaileen or me directly at 462- 4841 to let us know you'll be there so we can plan for you. We will have the full calendar and details available at that time.

### Introducing Starlighters II Production of LOST MEMORIES...

LOST MEMORIES is the story of a family in rural Iowa as they navigate through the realization that one of their members is suffering with Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease. The play was written by Shawn Carr, a Cascade native and long-time Starlighter, and is being presented for the first time on stage.

Carr found inspiration from the world he grew up in, and from that he created a script that he hopes will touch people's lives with its warmth, caring and humor.

Live talk-backs after the performances on August 5, 6, and 7 will allow audience members to talk with memory care professionals. The show continues through August 12, 13, and 14.

*Tickets go on sale on July 25, and can be purchased online at [www.starlighters.org](http://www.starlighters.org) or through the Starlighters box office at 319-462-4793*



## 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  
Beginning on Wednesday, August 17, 2022

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.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

Call Lois at 319-462-4841 to let her know which activity you would like to plan and to help choose the date for our calendar.

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



## Lutheran World Relief Update...

Well, St. Paul family, we are well on our way to meeting our goals for the 2022 Lutheran World Relief Kits.

Still needed for the School Kits:

- 70-sheet Spiral Notebooks
- 12 in./30 cm Rulers
- Pencil Sharpeners
- 2-1/2 inch Erasers
- Ball Point Pens, blue or black ink, no gel

Watch for news about a sewing day!

