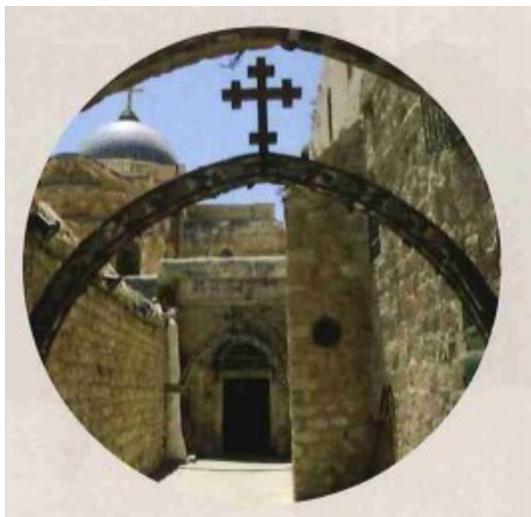


August 15, 2021 12th Sunday of Pentecost

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



Is that unused travel money from 2020 asking to be put towards a life-changing adventure? If yes, then come join ELCA pastors Trish Decker and Rodney Bluml on a pilgrimage to the Holy Lands, Feb. 14-25, 2022. Not sure but you want to know more? Come to our information evening, 7-8:30 p.m. on Mon., Aug. 23, hosted at Faith Lutheran Church in Marion (155 Boyson Rd, Marion, IA 52302). Talk with past pilgrims. Ask questions. Share your dreams and expectations for going to the place where Jesus walked.

Do a little preliminary investigating by going to the Magi Travel website - <https://web.cvent.com/event/6d71654e-2f0a-47d8-bcbd-a4cbdd47b554/summary?RefId=Magi2221&rt=3MOqqt1A0ycaqto3Ks03A> Or to our trip registration page at <https://cvent.me/WY0eGG> If you have questions or want to let us know you'll join us, contact Trish at 319.540-5105 or Rodney at 319.389-6153. Shalom!

You are Smart, Valuable & Unique and WD4 Needs YOU!! Do you have a special gift that you would like to share with the children or young people in our Community? Are you looking for intergenerational interaction? Then St. Paul NEEDS you and our children and youth do too! If you would like to teach, be a classroom helper, make snacks or have a gift or hobby you would like to teach our young people then please contact me and I can help find a good fit for you in our WD4 program! We meet every Wednesday night from 6-7pm in the C.E. building. If you are looking for something that will challenge you, encourage you, make you smile and give you a sense of fulfillment then I have JUST what you need :-)

Kaileen Weaver- 951-553-5728
cyfmsstpaulanamosa@gmail.com

WD4 Teacher & Helper Meeting August 15th after the outdoor Service- Lunch provided.



Back to School Blessing

Bring your backpack

August 15, 2021

10:30 WapsiAna Park Service

(or at church if moved)

Bring your bag chairs!

Stay for lunch provided by Hog Rollin
Smoke serving pulled pork, sliced pork
loin, macaroni and cheese, cheesy potatoes,
and baked beans.

August 29, 2021 Worship in Central Park - WD4 Rally Day

Please come join us at Central Park to kick off the new WD4 school year! We'll begin at 10:30 with a beautiful outdoor worship service (rain or shine at the Pavilion). After the service, we'll have games, lunch, and a chance to meet our youth leaders for the year. Registration forms will also be available that day and online to get your students signed up.



Above: Everything changes, as the leaves bud, grow, change color and fall, so does life all around us, and the color of the rooms change too!

Left: Mother/daughter team, Lindsey Austin and Julie Weers put a fresh coat of paint on yet another room to prepare for this fall's WD4. Rooms are being moved with a flip from upstairs to downstairs to better accommodate the needs of the students and teachers.

33rd Annual Convention of the Women of the ELCA is being held at The Hotel at Kirkwood Center on September 10th and 11th. If you would be interested in attending see Lois at the office for registration information. The deadline for registration and hotel is August 19.

Some of the activities on the schedule are vendor stations, prayer and worship time, bible study by Bishop Amy Current, message from Church Wide, Women in Ministry—Pastor Trish Decker and Paula Land from the Catherine McAuley Center

Lutheran World Relief School Kit time again.

Now is the time to start collecting school items for Lutheran World Relief school kits. With back to school sales going on you can get more items for your generous donation. The items we need this year are:



School Kit Supply List

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 4 spiral notebooks, 70 sheets each | 5 unsharpened #2 pencils |
| 1 rule, 12" and 30 centimeters | 5 black or blue ink pens, no gel ink |
| 1 pencil sharpener | 1 box 16 or 24 crayons |
| 1 pair blunt scissors | 1 eraser, 2-1/2 inch |

Please bring your donation to church on Wednesday or leave at the CE building during regular summer hours. Call the office if you need additional options. **Our goal is to make 125 bags!**

Donations for the local school drive can be dropped off at the Anamosa Journal/Eureka during their regular business hours. This list is published in the Journal/Eureka or at Walmart.

Please Pray for the Following People

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

Harry Schmidt (grandson of Kent & Lori Reynolds), Rosie Austin, Ed Allaire, Leslie Schwartz, Marty Rowland, Angie Keller.

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 3:30-5:30 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. Confirmation is scheduled for May 1, 2022. 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 25** (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.

GriefShare will meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm in the lower level of the CE building. If you would like to attend please call Nancy Douglas for details at 319-551-3358.

AA meets in the lower level of the CE building on Tuesday evenings at 8:00 pm.

Jones County Food Bank: To donate money, make checks payable to Jones County Community Food Bank and mail to 105 Broadway Place, Anamosa IA 52205. For appointment to drop off/pick up call Julie at 462-4343. They are in green beans, pork & beans, canned tomatoes and Hamburger Helper. **You may also drop off food donations to the church office during regular business hours or during WD4. Please place items under the table in the entryway. A church member will contact Julie to make arrangements for delivery.**

Introduction: Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

Reading I: The Book of Proverbs 9:1-6 NIV

Verses 1-6 of chapter nine give us half of the story presented by its author. Wisdom is contrasted to Folly, and here we hear of Wisdom's banquet. In contrast to Folly's banquet (discussed in verses 13-18), which turns out to be a poison that brings death, Wisdom's bountiful celebration of food, drink, and dance offers true life. While this is true, people who lack understanding frequently choose Folly because it is easier and takes less commitment/dedication. ***A relationship with [Lady] Wisdom requires discipline, thoughtfulness, awareness, and community involvement.*** The rewards are present but it takes longer to realize them. A truly wise life is spent seeking God's will and in seeking, finding that one has indeed lived into the likeness of God. The purpose of the Book of Proverbs was to educate a distracted generation in the ways of life. Even in the centuries before Christ, people struggled to uphold the inherent wealth of education and to make "the higher road" attractive to the young without making it another commodity for profit.

The number seven is used here in its symbolic nature to communicate a couple of things to the readers. The majority of the sage sayings collected in The Book of Proverbs are attributed to King Solomon who is regarded as the wisest sage in Israel's history (he had to manage a household with one hundred wives, after all.) Lady Wisdom has built a dwelling for those who seek God to gather, and it has the same dimensions as the Temple first built by Solomon in Jerusalem. Both dwellings had seven pillars, an impressive sign of perfection. The "simple" are welcomed to Wisdom's school where they can feast on her teachings about the ways of God. You are invited!

Because this is a celebratory feast of abundance, Dame Wisdom may have mixed her wine with spices to enhance the flavors. If not that, then it may reflect a practice found among most people of the ancient Middle East; the wine was so potent it had to be cut with water. This practical act is still preserved with a spiritual meaning in the Roman Catholic Eucharist when the priest adds water to the chalice, saying, "By the mystery of this water and wine may we share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity."

Wine was a staple in the diet and contained important nutrients. Drunkenness was not desired nor intended so cutting or mixing the wine lessened its inebriating effects.

Psalm 34:9-14

Reading II: The letter to the Christian community in Ephesus, Turkey and beyond: 5:15-20 NIV

The first century readers of this letter were once Gentiles [non-Jews] who lived in darkness without the Good News (gospel) of Christ, but now having heard Paul's message they existed as Gentiles in the Lord; they had become light. **As children of light, their conduct was to look different:** they must be examples to others, living in the Spirit, sharing freely in community, singing praise and thanksgiving to God. In this way, they could forsake their previous lives of sin and together grow in understanding of the Lord's love. Listen to this reading as if you were a newly baptized member of the Christian community.

As newly baptized people, they would have understood from experience that grasping the ways of God and reaping the fruits of Lady Wisdom's offerings took time. Most would have gone through a lengthy period of conversion leading to their baptisms, the structured portion often lasting up to three years. They would have practiced judging and avoiding the "evils of the age" within the context of a faith community. Debauchery, or acts of sensual indulgence (like drunkenness, recreational sex, over eating to the point of being sick, viewing lustful plays, etc), is a clear sign of immature foolishness. The fool is known by his/her grasping for immediate gratification, shortsightedness, greed, and self-absorption. These conflict with the traits of a wise person who experiences "out of body experiences" not through alcohol or other mood altering substances, but rather through committed relationships and the activity of the Spirit in songs and hymns and circular movement. This comparison makes more sense if we reflect for a minute on the types of music found throughout the Mediterranean area. Some of the music of that region is written in such a way as to induce trance-like or hypnotic episodes; it functions like a mantra, lifting the singer or dancer out of her or himself and making possible an encounter with the divine. The same four or five measures are repeated over and over with slight variations and usually gain speed as the song continues. After a period of time, the person usually experiences euphoria and a deep sense of gratitude. The Whirling Dervishes, the Hora, and Native American Circle Dance are examples of this kind of mantra dance.

Gospel : John 6:51-58 New International Version

John is delivering a homily to his late 1st century community and in it includes what has been traditionally referred to as "the Bread of Life discourse." In it, John reveals Jesus as the Bread of Life by connecting him to all the salvific* acts of the Jewish story. Jesus is the new Moses pointing out the bread provided by God to those who are hungry {manna in the desert}. He is the *bread of wisdom* and revelation nourishing all who accept his preached Word in faith. He is the sacrificial lamb whose blood and flesh are offered out of gratitude and for nourishment. Finally, he is the sacramental source of community and eternal life for all who eat and drink in this "heavenly" banquet. To eat his flesh suggests that a person is willing to enter fully into the life he lived, joys & sorrows, blessings and

Sunday, August 15 we welcome Samantha and Joshua Fairbanks as new members to St. Paul and celebrate with them in the baptism of their son Knox.

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

Wednesday, August 11

- * **6:00pm Worship**
Comm. Prep: TBA
Greeter: Clapp/Dales Family
Reader Clapp/Dales family
PowerPoint: Myra Powell

Sunday, August 15

- * **10:30am Worship** at Wapsiana Park
Comm Prep: Barb Wilson
Greeter: Dan/Marilyn Lambertsen
Reader: Dan Lambertsen

Tuesday, August 17

- * 1:30pm Scripture study (in person CE bldg.)
- * 6:00pm Grief Support—LL CE building
- * 8:00pm AA— LL CE building

Wednesday, August 18

- * **6:00pm Worship**
Comm. Prep
Greeter: Ben & Angie Coyle
Reader: Ben Coyle
PowerPoint: Barb Kleis

Thursday, August 19

- * 3:00pm HACAP Distribution

Sunday, August 22

- * **10:30am Worship** at Wapsiana Park
Comm Prep: TBA
Greeter: Ed & Susan
Reader: Shaun Lambertsen
Prayers: Valerie Lambertsen

Address Change: Karol and Paul Pinney have moved to Village Place in Marion. Their address is 345 Marion Blvd., Apt. 201, Marion, IA 52302 Phone number is 319-289-8098. Pastor recommended we put this in the bulletin for our members to see in case they would like to contact them. It's been a hard and I know they would appreciate any mail or phone calls.

Thanks, Carlene Vavricek

tribulations, loves and sacrifices....

The image of eating “flesh and drinking blood” must be kept in perspective of its historical symbolic meaning. John is implying what the pagans already believed in their rituals: when you consume the sacrificial animal’s flesh, you are taking in the life energy of the animal and the god to whom the sacrifice was made. But John wants to make it clear that this is not some ritual done to convince “the god” to do something. The meal in which his community and all believers partake is the gift of Jesus already presented and inspired by the love of God. They ate the bread and drank the wine because it was the clearest sign to them of the relationship they already had with the Savior. The action of the meal implies so much more than just physically feeding the body; the entire person is nourished by the intimate encounter with Christ through The Word/scripture stories, song, hymns, and psalms, remembering past events, recalling the actions of the community in service and justice, and finally in the physical encounter of sharing the kiss of peace with fellow believers. Most often, the Eucharistic meal was attached to a potluck. The Eucharist was fulfilling because it brought the participants into spiritual contact with their God and each other. The potluck meal then filled them physically. The two experiences together speak most fully of the reality to which Jesus was speaking when he proclaimed himself, “The Bread of Life.”

**salvific (sal-vif-ik) having the intent or power to save or redeem from a tragic end; i.e. the salvific life and death of Christ.*

Fr. Raniero Cantalamessa, a former preacher to the pope’s household, offers these reflections in his book, *The Eucharist, Our Sanctification*: “An atheist philosopher said, ‘Man is what he eats.’ . . . Once again, without knowing it, an atheist has expressed the Christian mystery in the best way. Because of the Eucharist, a Christian is truly what he eats. “The Fathers of the Church took the example of physical nourishment to explain this mystery. It is the stronger form of life, they said, that assimilates the weaker and not vice versa. So, to those who receive him, Jesus says: ‘You shall not change me into you. Instead you shall be changed into me.’ So, while the food that nourishes the body is assimilated by the body and forms human blood, the complete opposite takes place with the bread of life. This bread gives life to those who receive it. It assimilates them and transforms them into itself. Jesus makes us like him in our sentiments, desires, and our way of thinking; in a word, he creates in us ‘the mind that was in Christ Jesus’ (Philippians 2:5).

Taking it home:

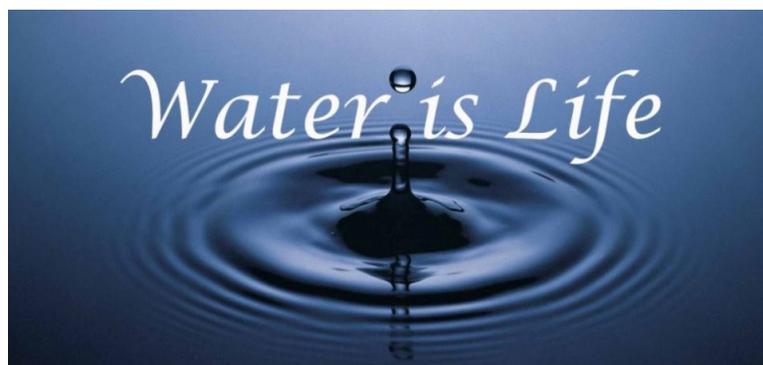
- Reflect upon a time you chose Folly as a partner: the easy way, rashly, immediate gratification. What were the consequences and long term effects? Did your decision bring life and love or death (division, insensitivity, gossip, scandal?)
- Reflect upon a time you chose the pursuit of Wisdom. What were the long term effects? If the answers are not clear, ask for the assistance of someone who knows you well.
- Why do you think Biblical people lift up Wisdom as such a prize? Who exudes Wisdom for you?
- What wisdom do {did} you gain from participating in Eucharistic Worship this week?
- How do you reflect the light of Christ? [Do not let yourself be known by your hypocrisy.]

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

“Acceptance is the universal currency of real friendship. . . .It does not warp or shape or wrench a person to be anything other than what they are.”

— “It is precisely women’s experience of God that this world lacks. A world that does not nurture its weakest, does not know God the birthing mother. A world that does not preserve the planet, does not know God the creator. A world that does not honor the spirit of compassion, does not know God the spirit. God the lawgiver, God the judge, God the omnipotent being have consumed Western spirituality and, in the end, shriveled its heart.”

— [Joan D. Chittister, *Heart of Flesh: Feminist Spirituality for Women and Men*](#)



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

Return Service Requested



**Lois will be on vacation
August 12-20. Volunteers will
be in the office from 9:00 A.M.
to 1:00 P.M. on Monday-
Thursday during this time.**

Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, August 29, 2021

Worship in Central Park—Rally Day

10:30 a.m. Service

Meal following