

## July 28, 2023 FRIDAY FLASH

Greetings Beloved in Christ!

Many thanks to Steve Loucks and all who worked to organize a wonderful welcome for RAGBRAI riders this week, and to all who volunteered to serve, greet, and extend Radical Hospitality. The riders were very grateful for clean restrooms, a cool building to recoup from the heat, a generous spread of food to nourish their bodies, and conversation to fill their souls.

Our Southeastern Iowa Synod Bishop, Amy Current, was among the riders who stayed as the Iowa Bishops are riding RAGBRAI to raise funds for hunger. Council made a donation to this effort, and donations are still being collected. If you would like to help the bishops make their goal of raising \$50,000 to support anti-hunger ministries, you can do so or find out more here (here is the [link to the anti-hunger ministries page](#)). As of the last report, \$31,000 had been raised toward their goal.

Addressing hunger is one of the many ways we as Church participate in the inbreaking of God's kingdom – described by Martin Luther King Junior as the Beloved Community. In this weekend's readings Jesus describes to the crowds and the disciples what that beloved community is like –

- Like a tiny seed that starts small and grows to effectively provide safety, though it is never giant. But it gets the job done, bringing life and help and hope to all.
- Like yeast, a small amount produces dramatic, transformational change.
- Like treasure hidden in a field, those who seek it abandon all and risk loss to possess a treasure they never expected to find
- Like the pearl, one must give up that which is prudent to pursue something amazing that is of little obvious use.
- And like the tale of the fish—the whole earth—holds the good and the bad all mixed up together. And the reign of God is transforming it all.

And this is such GOOD, gospel, news! Tiny acts, baby steps, small efforts lead to the BIG result of transformation. Everything doesn't have to happen in one moment. And every moment matters. As we look to the Committee Workshop that the Visioning Task Force will lead August 20, keep this in mind. There are many goals this congregation has identified to undertake in the next four years. And altogether it looks like a lot. Yet, the work takes place moment by moment, one at a time.

And, as our Romans text for this Sunday reminds us, we are not alone. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. We are freed to dream big, take risks, and tackle big projects one small step at a time, because ultimately it is God's work. We join in for a time, doing our part.

I look forward to digging in further on Sunday!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Sonja

~THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S~

- Sunday, *Summer Worship Service*, 9:30 am, Sanctuary & [Livestream](#)
- Sunday, *Fellowship*, 10:30 am, Fellowship Hall
  - If you have trouble with this link, go to [St. Andrew's YouTube Page](#)
  - [Last Week's Livestream Recording](#)
- Wednesday, *Faith Book Study Meeting*, 7 am, Hy-Vee West Market Grille
- Thursday, *Pine Ridge Donation Time*, 6-8 pm, Room 2 at St. Andrew's
- Thursday, *St. Andrew's Night at Food at First*, 5:20 pm, First Christian Church in Ames
- *For a full listing of events, check out the St. Andrew's calendar at [standrewsames.org/calendar/](http://standrewsames.org/calendar/)*

## **Message from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services**

Lutheran Services in Iowa strongly supports the Afghan Adjustment Act ([S.2327](#) and [H.R.4627](#)). Lutheran Services in Iowa is proud of a long history of resettlement work and welcoming immigrants and refugees to Iowa from around the world. LSI helped resettle 262 Afghan individuals in Des Moines and 28 in Sioux City in the last 18 months, between December 2021 through June 2023. In addition, hundreds more Afghan Humanitarian Paroles came to Iowa and surrounding states through community partners or local employers.

Across the twenty-year war, Afghans who supported the U.S. mission stood shoulder-to-shoulder with our brave military veterans, and the Afghan Adjustment Act (AAA) honors the promise the United States and its forces made to them: if they stood by us, we would forever protect them and their families. The AAA ensures that the United States Congress honors the sacrifice and commitment of our Afghan allies.

Without an adjustment act for Afghans who are here on humanitarian parole, there is a complex process that lies ahead in pursuing lawful permanent residency. This places Iowa workers and families in situations where they still don't feel like they are truly secure here in the US. Those in support are encouraged to email your legislator with this helpful tool ([LINK HERE](#)) from our community partners at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS). Read more about LIRS support of this act here ([LINK HERE](#)).

## **Committee Workshop on August 20**

***Did you know?*** St. Andrews recently crafted a mission, vision, and goals that reflect our core values and highlights "radical hospitality." Now is the time for us to translate that vision into reality. The visioning committee is asking **all committee members** to be involved in a committee workshop on **Sunday, August 20th after worship in the Fellowship Hall** (lunch provided). We will work within and across committees to create a plan to reach our goals. If that sounds interesting to you, but you are not on a committee, no worries! Anyone who wants to be involved is invited. I encourage you to embrace this opportunity to contribute your expertise, ideas, and energy, as we move our aspirations to action.

## **Free online course - for anyone - Why Resurrection Still Matters**

This free online community education course, Living Faith Out Loud: Why Resurrection Still Matters, will be led by noted speaker and writer, Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen, on August 1, 8, and 15. The three-session course will explore key terms, history, and future vision for how the good news allows Christians to live their faith out loud. By the end of the course, participants will have new knowledge for understanding the good news of God in Jesus Christ and how the church can respond to that good news. Join us via Zoom on August 1, 8, and 15 from 6:30 - 7:45 pm. [Learn more and register online.](#)

## **60th Anniversary of St. Andrew's Sanctuary – Looking for Photos, Memorabilia**

A celebration commemorating the 60th anniversary of the sanctuary will be held sometime this fall. The construction for the sanctuary began on March 17, 1963, and was dedicated on November 17, 1963. If you have photos of the constructions, memorabilia, or anything regarding the sanctuary please get in touch with Nora Nelson at 515-231-5663 or [marvnora@mchsi.com](mailto:marvnora@mchsi.com).

## **Opportunity to Support Events at St. Andrew's – Hiring Event Coordinator**

The Personnel Committee is looking for an individual with the time and interest in coordinating breakfast for Sunday morning Service and Learning offerings and providing support for community-wide events (RenFaire, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas Event). Sunday morning breakfast coordination would be a combination of coordinating volunteers to provide breakfast and supplementing with breakfast ordered to be brought in when volunteers are not available. Even Coordinator would handle coffee, breakfast setup, and cleanup. If you or someone you know would be interested in this part-time (10-hour) role, please contact Personnel Committee Chair Randy Sacco ([randysacco77@gmail.com](mailto:randysacco77@gmail.com)) or Pastor Sonja ([pastorsonja@standrewsames.org](mailto:pastorsonja@standrewsames.org)) for more information.

## **The Blessings Box Needs Assistants to Check and Stock the Box**

This box is an outreach to our church neighborhood and was started by the youth group. Thank you to all who have donated and volunteered to stock the Blessings Box (located on the east side of the church). The monitoring of the box is for a 2 weeks time spot and you can stock it once, twice, or more often if you wish. The sign-up is at the table outside the sanctuary. There is a cart outside the fellowship hall for donated items. You can use those items or provide your own. For questions contact: Monica Behning ([mbehning31@gmail.com](mailto:mbehning31@gmail.com)) social concerns committee

*Items suggested for the summer months:* sunscreen, ChapStick, portable water bottles, socks, toiletries, baby wipes, toilet paper, paper towels, tablets, bubbles for kids, markers, colored pencils, coloring books, children's books, snack items, non-perishable food items.

### **~NOTABLES~**

#### **Worship Assistants This Week (7/30/2023)**

Assisting Minister –  
Reader – **Jennie LeGates**  
Greeter – **Paul & Cheryl White**  
Ushers – **Monica Behning, Al Jergens**  
Communion Setup – **Paul & Cheryl White**  
Communion Servers – **John Kovar, Lynn Miller**  
Tech – **Don Behning**  
Fellowship – **Outreach**

#### **Worship Assistants Next Week (8/6/2023)**

Assisting Minister – **Janeen Christy**  
Reader –  
Greeter –  
Ushers – **John Kovar**  
Communion Setup – **Sharon Prochnow**  
Communion Servers – **John Kovar, Margaret Sherve**  
Tech – **Brent Anderson**  
Fellowship – **Fellowship**

### **Happy July Anniversary**

Steve and Laurie Hoifeldt (9), Laura and Mike Van Vertloo (11), Joel and Lori Paulson (14)

### **Happy July Birthday to**

Amanda Kress (1), Margaret Sherve (2), Carol Putz (4), Joel Paulson (9), Violet Tweed(10), Timmy Larson (12), Sheri Krumm (13), Cole Van Vertloo & Edwin Van Vertloo (14), Sawyer Larson (15), Lynn Miller (15), Kristine Andersen (16), Don Boyle (17), Jeanine Strodman (18), Shirley Parsons (23), Hayes Larson (24), Fritz Wehrenberg (25), MaryJune Cain (28), Linda Houk (30)

### **~PRAYERS~** (*most recent requests are listed first*)

**Akishige Ikeda** (Cousin of Etsuro Uemura), **Travis Acheson** (brain tumor), **Catherine Buck** (daughter of **Ben Buck**), **Helen Gjerde**, **Jo Ann Kovar**, **Thomas Mulligan** (colleague of **Al Jergens**), **Andy Bice** and **Glenda Stormes-Bice**, **Charles Hagen** (Nephew of **Sharon Mott**), **Gene Pollmann**, **Marvin Hitchings** (Nora Nelson's Husband), **Alice Thompson**, **Lowell Elwick**, **John Sherve** (brother of Margaret Sherve, battling cancer), **Annette (Thompson) Bodnar** (niece of Alice Thompson), **Anita Whitaker** (Mother of Sheri Krumm), **Troy Eagen** (Sharon Anderson's son-in-law), **John Litzel**, **Libby Litzel Gull**, **Mark Ekeren** (brother of Sarah Buck), **Wayne Thompson** (brain tumor), **Marilyn Saunders** (Gene Pollmann's sister), **Gene Takle**, **Lou Jordan** (Dagmar Frank's cousin), **Nancy Owen** (Carol Putz's cousin, battling cancer), **Roxanne Labandz** (niece of Alice Thompson), **Pat Fawcett**, **Kolleen Tweed Sogard** (daughter of Violet Tweed), **Robert Pollmann** (Gene Pollmann's brother), **Mike & Kayla Endorf** (cousins of Dagmar Frank), **Diane** (Carol Putz's sister w/long COVID), **Ben Buck**, **Stu Endorf** (Dagmar Frank's cousin), **James Loritz** (nephew of Alice Thompson), **Karen Hardy** (Rita Peterson's sister), **Susan Teas**, **Douglas John Putz** (brother of Dave Putz)

### **~PRAYERS FOR FAMILIES WHO HAVE LOST LOVED ONES~**

**John Kovar and family** on the death of his father.

For all those suffering from loneliness and grief, addiction and illness-both mental and physical, poverty and need, war and strife; we pray to the Lord to bless them and give them peace. We continue to pray for the health and needs of the people in the Ames Community, the Pine Ridge Reservation, the Hedaru and Agape Parishes in Tanzania, and all communities throughout the world.