

AUGUST, 2016
VOLUME 20 | ISSUE 8

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Clark Olson-Smith

715 South Third Street, Clinton, IA 52732
563-242-4102 | office@saintpaulclinton.org
www.saintpaulclinton.org

SHARING GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND PROMISE IN JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE

THE EPISTLE

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY 9:15 am
WEDNESDAY 7:15 pm

OFFICE HOURS
MON.-THUR. 9:00-4:00



Blessing of the Backpacks/Bags
will take place in worship on
Sunday, August 21.

All students, teachers, administrators
and support staff
are invited to bring your packs/bags and
receive a blessing
for the new school year!



Have a
Great
2016-17
School Year!



I was named after Superman. The story goes like this. Just before I was born, my parents saw Superman II. After the movie, my dad suggested they

name me, *Clark Kent Smith*.

My mom did not like that idea. Long before Superman, she liked Christopher. So she countered, *Clark Christopher Smith*. But she was smart. *Christopher*, she said, like *Christopher Reeve*—who played Superman/Clark Kent in those movies.

But Dad wanted my initials to be C. K. S., so he suggested changing the “Ch” to a “K.” Mom spelled it out and didn’t like it. So she made her final offer, *Clark Kristofor Smith*.

People have been misspelling my name ever since.

What we call the Old Testament started out as stories told and learned by heart. It lived like this within God’s people for generations, in an ancient form of Hebrew.

In Hebrew and the Old Testament, names are stories. Take Israel. Israel is two words put together—*isra* (meaning “to struggle”) and *el* (meaning “God”). Israel means “one who struggles with God.”

A bigger story is held in the name. Jacob cheated his older brother Esau out of his birthright. Decades later, the rival brothers were about to reunite, and Jacob feared Esau would kill him in revenge.

The night before their reunion, Jacob did not sleep but wrestled with God (or an angel) all night long. As the sun rose, God/the angel struck Jacob on the hip, giving him a limp and a new name, Israel.

In the morning, Esau took hold of his wounded and vulnerable brother, but he wasn’t wrestling. It wasn’t a throw or takedown. Esau gave Israel (formerly Jacob) a forgiving embrace.

The message: Israel struggles with God, and God fights back with lifesaving grace.

Sara and I named our daughter, *Susannah Jane Olson-Smith*. Susanna is named in Luke 8, as one of several women who “provided for” Jesus. She was a major funder, a big donor. With other women, she bankrolled Jesus’ ministry. Ancient tradition puts Susanna with “the other women” who found Jesus’ tomb empty and became the first evangelists.

Jane is for the main character of the book *Jane Eyre*. Jane suffered willingly for her sense of integrity and justice. She also saw through

the false, hypocritical religion of those who abused her.

Amos, our son, is *Amos Mark Olson-Smith*. Amos was a biblical prophet. With the rest of the prophets, Amos was among the sharpest critics of any society. His vision of judgment and hope echoed in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who quoted Amos 5 in a famous speech.

Because they “trampled the poor,” God hated the peoples’ worship and refused to listen to their sacred music. God said, “But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

Mark is for Mark Olson—a Lutheran pastor, an author and visionary, and Sara’s dad, who died as we started seminary.

Your name is a story, with or without a naming story. Your name includes the story of who you are and why you are here—the story of your identity and purpose.

In baptism, God affirms all our names and adds to them. We receive birth names and rebirth names. *Beloved child of God. Reborn. Cleansed. Forgiven. Raised to life. Sealed by the Holy Spirit. Marked with the cross of Christ forever.* Together, we share this identity even as we retain our individuality.

Our stories become *our story*, made one in Christ. Now our identity and purpose are not only our own. Our story is also Israel’s story, Esau’s story, the story of Israel’s prophets, and the Easter story.

We the church are Israel—prophets and evangelists of the God of life, who on the cross, named, claimed, and sent us in God’s name.

We in particular are God’s people named St. Paul. With that name, we have received grace upon grace and a great deal to live up to.

Thanks be to God.

Pastor Clark Olson-Smith

Feel free to be in touch. You can reach me
at the office 563-242-4102
by cell phone 563-271-6176
or by email pastor@clarkolsonsmith.com

EVENTS



3	9:00-12:00, Quilters, Upstairs
9	1:00, Property Committee, Lounge 5:00, Executive Committee, Office
13	9:00-12:00, Quilters, Upstairs
16	6:00, Council, Lounge
17	5:00, Block Party, Lounge
19	9:00, <i>Epistle</i> Deadline
21	9:15, <i>Worship with Blessing of Backpacks</i>
24	10:00-3:00, First Circle Friends, FH 5:30, Music Picnic
28	4:00-6:00, <i>Block Party, Clinton Park</i>
29	5:00, <i>CROP Recruiters' Meeting</i> , Lounge
31	5:00, Block Party, Lounge

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH VISION 2020

By 2020 St. Paul Lutheran Church will be known as a progressive, inclusive, community of faith, recognized further by these characteristics.

- Connecting with the Holy Spirit in vibrant inspiring worship.
- Connecting with the local community and the world in solidarity with people who are poor, hungry, or in need.
- Connecting with each other in small groups and through engaging ministry.
- Connecting with youth through ecumenical, educational, intergenerational, and missional means.
- Connecting with the broader community through current and emerging modes of communication.

We are and will be generous Lutheran Christians who know who we are, to whom we belong, and why we are here.

GROUP MEETINGS

BIBLE READERS

Every Tuesday, 10:00, Zimmerman Library

COMMUNITY MEAL

No St. Paul Community Meal in August—Block Party August 28

HANNAH GROUP

Thursday, August 18, 1:00 (lunch before at Jenny's, 11:45)

LEARNING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 2, 5:15, Library

LYDIA CIRCLE

Tuesday, August 9, 7:00

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

Tuesday, August 2, 8:30, at Jenny's

RUTH | DEBORAH GROUP

Monday, August 8, 1:00 (lunch before at Pizza Ranch, 11:30)

SERVICE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 2, 3:00, Lounge

WELCA Board

Tuesday, August 2, 4:00, Lounge

We are looking for a good used (or new) room air conditioner for the big room in the basement that L'Arche occupies that is not cooled by the central air unit. It needs to be approximately 12,000 BTU. If anyone has one he/she would like to donate, please contact Gregg or Pastor Clark.

CAN'T ATTEND WORSHIP SUNDAY?

Come to "Evening Worship at the Foot of the Bridge" every Wednesday at 7:15 in the chapel. Worship is simple, interactive, and intimate with treats after.

What's God 2 @SPC?

BLOCK PARTY

The Neighborhood Block Party is Sunday, August 28. Saint Paul joins the downtown faith communities in offering this wonderful day of food, music, games, fellowship, and fun. This year it will be August 28 from 4-6 p.m. at the Clinton Park, which is across from the Fire Station. *We need a lot of help to make this happen!* There are cookies to bake, tables to move, food stations to staff, and games to staff. Cookie sign-up sheet is in corner of lobby. See Jean Grager to volunteer to help with activities!



Please plan to attend to enjoy the food and the fellowship!

INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY



Deadline to submit snapshots for this edition of directory is August 15. Your family may add a picture to the online directory by dropping off a family snapshot in the office to be scanned, asking Susan to take your picture after worship or during office hours Monday-Thursday, or emailing a family snapshot to office@saintpaulclinton.org.



LWR SCHOOL KITS

WELCA is collecting items for school kits for LWR. Items needed include: 70 sheet notebooks, wide- or college-ruled paper 280-300 sheets total (no loose paper), one 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other, one pencil sharpener, one pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well), five unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers—secure together with a rubber band, five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)—secure together with a rubber band, one box of 16 or 24 crayons, one 2 1/2 inch eraser, one sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14 inches by 17 inches with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)—recommended fabrics include sturdy cotton, canvas, denim and twill. Collection baskets are in lobby!

CROP WALK

Mark your calendars: CROP Walk is October 9 this year!



RALLY DAY!

Sunday School begins the year with Rally Day on September 11 at 10:30 a.m. (following worship). All children from three years old through 6th grade are welcome in Sunday School. Each week there is a Bible story lesson with crafts, prayer, and music or science. Children are taught and encouraged in hands-on use of the Bible. We would love to see your children, grandchildren, or neighbor children each week beginning September 11.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Saint Paul is in need of volunteers to co-teach or sub for Sunday School starting this fall. Please contact Donna Jean Holste if interested.



The ELCA is a church that rolls up its sleeves and gets to work. On September 11, ELCA congregations are being encouraged to **"get to work" in our own contexts.** Watch for more details about **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday!**

ZIMMERMAN LIBRARY NEWS

When I attended the Eagle Watch last winter at Clinton Community College, I found a remarkable book. It is a love story about *Wesley a Barn Owl and His Girl*. **This is not a children's book.** In 1985 biologist Stacey O'Brien adopted Wesley, a baby barn owl with an injured wing. Stacey studied Wesley with a **tender heart and a scientist's eye.** **This book was a learning experience for me.** I love all animals, and I found this book fascinating. Wesley and Stacey had a 19 year relationship. **Wesley died in Stacey's arms.** **This outstanding book is available in the non-fiction section of Zimmerman Library.**

The July issue of *The Lutheran* is available on the table in the library. I recommend **"What It Means to Be Lutheran"** by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and **"Flying Like an Eagle"** about a mentoring program working to help youth succeed. There is a lot we can learn about mission from this magazine.

Joan Guidebeck

MUSIC PICNIC

Attention All Choir Members, Hand Bell Choir Members, and Anyone Interested in Joining: Please join us Wednesday, August 24, 5:30, for a picnic at the church. Meat will be provided; please bring a dish to pass. We are looking for your input on the upcoming season. Come enjoy food, fun, and fellowship! Be prepared to share ideas!

Pastor Clark's Installation, July 3



St. Paul/Immanuel VBS, July 18-21



Thanks for making the Immanuel/ St. Paul VBS such a joy and success again this year. There were about 30 kids that attended. The Bible stories for the week were; Naomi and **Ruth, The Good Samaritan, God's Peaceful World, and Creation.** The openings and closings were led by Pastor Clark and Pastor Holmer. The kids rotated to singing, crafts, Bible story, outdoor fun, and science/scripture areas during the evening. Pastor Holmer composed a newsletter each night that was given to families. Offerings of money and personal care items for the Clinton Benevolent Society were collected each night, totaling \$456.98 and over 200 items. Paula Mallory, from the Benevolent Society, talked with the kids Thursday night and thanked them for helping the homeless and other needy people in Clinton. **In surpassing the goal...the kids very excitedly** threw water balloons at the pastors at the end of Thursday night VBS.

Thanks to leaders Pastor Clark, Pastor Holmer, Diane Guntzel, Gail Thompson, Indra Brewer, Liz Mink, Jeannie Etheridge, Christine Hartman, Lisa Gerwulf, and Donna Santiago.

Thanks to the kitchen crew: Roberta Jurgensen, John Monteth, Karl Wolf, Vivi Smith, Judy Doughty, Gary Cox, Lisa Thompson and Patsy Whiteside.

Special thanks to Gregg and Susan.

Thanks to the adult volunteers: Jean Grager, Roxanne Adams, Olivia Pelham, and Leigh Ann Houzenga.

Thanks to youth volunteers: Olivia Bailey, Kallyn Keefer, Keegan Birt, Marisa and Payten Heine, Kyla Schau, Caleb Charlson, Hannah and David Hartman.

Thanks for your prayers during the week, for donated food and/or money for the free family dinner and/or supplies.

Thanks also to Thrivent Financial for a monetary donation. I feel very blessed and grateful to be a part of a church family that is always so generous.

Donna Jean Holste

A'Cappella Reunion Rehearsals, July 15-16



St. Paul Piggy Banks Total \$1,023 for World Hunger!

When we met this pig in Seattle, he was amazed at the giving to the PIGGY PROJECT for the Synod Women's organization. Our Sunday School gave \$130 which **brought on a big "oink."** Then we said our congregation sent in \$1,023, and he said, "Oink, oink." But when we said the SWO Women's organization counted \$7,433 with more coming in, he just SQUEALED!! Thank you to all who gave to this project which will help many third world farmers have food for their family, manure for the crops planted, and future piglets to share with others.

Barb Larson



FINANCIAL REPORT

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH Statement of Financial Activities—General Operating—June, 2016

	2016		2015		
	June, 2016	Monthly Budget	Amount +/- Jan.-June, 2016	Budget to Date Jan.-June, 2015	Budget to Date
INCOME					
40100 - Pledge Offerings	\$14,781.27	\$16,666.67	-\$1,885.40	\$100,481.22	\$98,335.45
40105 - Non-Designated Offerings	\$2,480.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,230.00	\$9,559.21	\$7,024.69
40300 - Interest/Dividend Income	\$0.00	\$12.50	-\$12.50	\$19.51	\$110.91
Bridge of Blessing Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,997.81
New Hope Gift/Endowment	\$2,000.00	\$2,083.33	-\$83.33	\$12,000.00	\$2,602.19
TOTAL INCOME	\$19,261.27	\$20,012.50	-\$751.23	\$122,059.94	\$115,071.05
EXPENSES					
60100 - Worship Expense	\$462.49	\$250.00	\$212.49	\$1,187.27	\$1,375.27
60200 - Learning Expense	\$223.64	\$93.75	\$129.89	\$312.12	\$502.89
60300 - Outreach Expense	\$0.00	\$29.17	-\$29.17	\$195.60	\$214.94
60400 - Service Expense	\$1,728.13	\$2,041.67	-\$313.54	\$11,548.13	\$11,333.56
60500 - Property Expense	\$1,574.69	\$2,527.33	-\$952.64	\$17,552.10	\$15,163.98
60600 - Office and Administration	\$706.14	\$812.50	-\$106.36	\$5,481.89	\$5,206.58
60700 - Stewardship	\$0.00	\$50.00	-\$50.00	\$198.00	\$312.46
60800 - Salaries	\$9,171.82	\$10,456.83	-\$1,285.01	\$61,971.49	\$60,127.04
61000 - Other Staff Expenses	\$690.40	\$339.58	\$350.82	\$2,734.89	\$2,076.00
66000 - Payroll Expenses	\$3,891.10	\$3,315.33	\$575.77	\$20,372.23	\$19,891.98
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,448.41	\$19,916.16	-\$1,467.75	\$121,553.72	\$119,496.96
NET INCOME OR LOSS (-)	\$812.86	\$96.34	\$716.52	\$506.22	-\$4,134.69
					\$11,099.88

2016 General Operating expenses exceeded 2016 G.O. income by **\$1,187.14 for June, 2016**;

2016 General Operating expenses exceeded 2016 G.O. income by **\$11,513.29 for the whole 2016 year**.

As of June 30, \$12,000 has been transferred from Endowment to General Operating.



2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 8:30 Men's Breakfast, Jenny's 10:00 Bible Reading 3:00 Service Committee 4:00 WELCA Board 5:15 Learning Committee	3 9:00-12:00 Quilters, Upstairs 5:00 Knitters, Library 7:15 Worship	4	5	6 9:00 Knitters, Library
7 9:15 Worship	8 1:00 Ruth/Deborah (lunch before at Pizza Ranch, 11:30)	9 10:00 Bible Reading 1:00 Property Committee 5:00 Executive Comm. 7:00 Lydia	10 5:00 Knitters, Library 7:15 Worship	11	12 	13 9:00 Knitters, Library 9:00-12:00 Quilters, Upstairs
14 9:15 Worship	15 	16 10:00 Bible Reading 6:00 Council	17 5:00 Block Party, Lounge 5:00 Knitters, Library 7:15 Worship	18 1:00 Hannah (lunch be- fore at Jenny's, 11:45)	19 9:00 Epistle Deadline	20 9:00 Knitters, Library
21 9:15 Worship BLESSING OF BACKPACKS	22	23 10:00 Bible Reading	24 10:00-3:00 First Circle Friends, FH 5:30 Music Picnic 5:00 Knitters, Library 7:15 Worship	25 	26	27 9:00 Knitters, Library
28 9:15 Worship 4:00-6:00 BLOCK PARTY (No Community Meal)	29 5:00 CROP Recruiters' Meeting	30 10:00 Bible Reading	31 5:00 Block Party, Lounge 5:00 Knitters, Library 7:15 Worship		Rally Day is September 11!	

SERVER SCHEDULE

PLEASE SIGN UP to serve as Lector, Communion Assistant, Altar Guild, Greeter, or Assisting Minister.

		AUGUST 7	AUGUST 14	AUGUST 21	AUGUST 28
ACOLYTE	9:15	Payten Heine	Paige Boisen	Keegan Birt	Jack Pelham
ALTAR GUILD	9:15	Ardena Zirbes Susan Daniels	Ardena Zirbes Susan Daniels	Ardena Zirbes Susan Daniels	Ardena Zirbes Susan Daniels
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	9:15	Liz Mink	Judy Doughty		
LECTOR	9:15	Barb Larson	Judy Doughty	Joan Guidebeck	Ardena Zirbes
GREETERS	9:15	Ardena Zirbes Liz Mink	Barb Larson	Ardena Zirbes	
ASSISTING	9:15	Jean Grager			Liz Mink
USHERS	9:15	Wally Schilling L.T. Waterman	Wally Schilling L.T. Waterman	Wally Schilling L.T. Waterman	Wally Schilling L.T. Waterman
FLOWERS	9:15				

ATTENDANCE	
June 26/29	75
July 3/6	146
July 10/13	83
July 17/20	75

PEW CARE	
AUGUST 8	Bonnie M.
AUGUST 15	Elayne G.
AUGUST 22	
AUGUST 29	

TELLERS	
MON., AUG. 1	Elayne G., Judie C., Barb L.
MON., AUG. 8	Judy D., Elayne G., Lois S.
MON., AUG. 15	Donna Jean H., Judy D., Darlene C.
MON., AUG. 22	Barb L., Judy D., Elayne G.
MON., AUG. 29	Barb L., Donna Jean H., Elayne G.

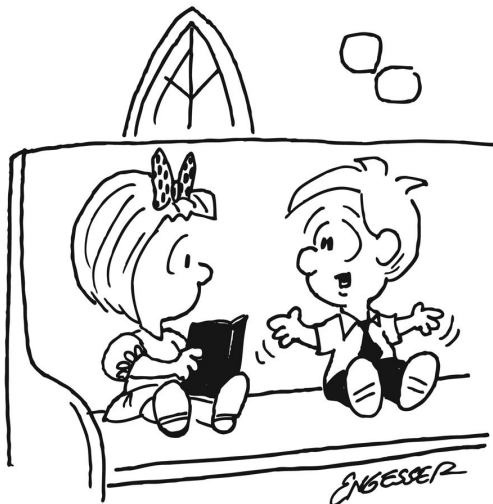
CONGRATS



Jean & Russ Black	8/02/1986
Betty & Rev. Pete Hagglund	8/04/1979
Amy & Aaron Meyers	8/05/2006
Carla & Rick Kowzic	8/07/1976
Gail & Al Thompson	8/07/1976
Michelle & Roy Goodwin	8/09/1980
Jean & Marv Grager	8/11/1973
Jan & Richard Ketelsen	8/16/1959
Debra & Steve Frieden	8/16/2008
Dorothy & Ron Pietscher	8/19/1995
Danielle & Andy Wiebenga	8/22/2009
Darlene & Jack Merten	8/28/1965

August 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



"If we're all dust, why take a bath before the service?"

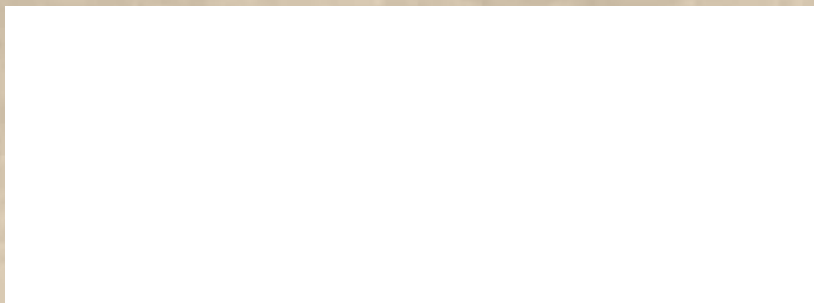


Chris Appuhn	08/01
Leigh Goff	08/01
Roy Goodwin	08/01
Lois Schmidt	08/02
Pat Clark	08/05
Roberta Gee	08/05
Robert Petersen	08/11
Beverly Downey	08/13
Larry Schmidt	08/13
Anna Black	08/15
Vernetta Goff	08/15
Nicholas Jacobs	08/16
Danielle Wiebenga	08/16
Vern Paulsen	08/17
Margaret Broadrick	08/18
Caleb Charlson	08/18
Judy Doughty	08/19
Kiersten Housenga	08/19
Diane Petersen	08/19
Betty Hagglund	08/22
Jerry Paisley	08/22
Lindsey Stonestreet	08/22
Steven Clarke	08/23
Veling Schmidt	08/23
Ruth Meyers	08/24
Tom Nelson	08/24
Lanny Reed	08/25
Sandra Birt	08/27
Kathy McAllister	08/29
Marjorie Marlowe	08/30
Paul Schnack	08/31



If you have a family member or friend who is ill or in distress and you would like for the members of the prayer chain to pray for them, call 242-4102 or email the office at office@saintpaulclinton.org. Please also notify us when

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715 SOUTH THIRD STREET, CLINTON, IA 52732



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EPISTLE ONLINE:

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