A Newsletter for the Families & Friends of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Crossings

"Making known God's deeds among us."
Isaiah 12:4

Volume 14 Issue 4

April 2019

Our Mission Statement

*Called by Christ to love God & neighbor through **deepening prayer**, **broadening fellowship**, and **expanding worship**.*

"In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loves us so much, we also ought to love one another."

I John 4:10-11

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Friends in Christ - Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The work we do in Lent is really about you and I assessing our relationship with God in conversation with God, during our daily business and as we gather together in worship, serving others, around the sacraments, and in fellowship. This assessment process happens all year long, but is laser-focused during the 40 days of Lent when we walk with Jesus to the cross.

In that conversation we are called to think about what is broken in our relationship with God (our sin), how God's law figures into that assessment, and how God's love, mercy, and grace weigh in as well. So let's begin . . .

God is the creator of the universe, the mysterious Other who, with a word, spoke the universe into being not in six days as we know a "day"; but through the beautiful, mysterious, complex, creative, joy-filled and elegant way of evolution we find in Genesis chapter one. God set the physical, chemical, and biological rules of the universe, AND God set up the rules for how human beings are to relate to each other, God's creation, and, most importantly, with God. These rules are known as God's Law, and are passed down through the generations most notably through the 10 commandments (Deuteronomy 5: 6-21) and the Royal commandments (Leviticus 19:18; Mathew 22: 37-40). God sets the bar high and human beings, through our OWN efforts, can never attain perfection. Unlike human law, which allows for people to make "mistakes", (such as saying a white lie about a neighbor), and you are still considered to be a good person by yourself and your neighbors, God's law demands and expects perfection in keeping the whole law. Any failure in one law, results in that person breaking the entire law (Deut. 27:26; James 2: 8-10). We humans are constantly at war within ourselves, trying to do what's right, and so often failing to do so. St. Paul writes about this condition, a.k.a. "sin", in Romans 7: 14-24, in which he ends the section with, "Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

At this point, Martin Luther explains that the purpose of the LAW is to drive us all back to God, that is, to repent –to turn away from our ways and run back to God. Why? - Because God is love, and will not turn away from anyone. In fact, like the father in the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 11-32) God runs toward us to meet us with a kiss, a heavenly embrace, and heart-filled joy, so great is God's love for each of us, and for all people in every time and place. God's love for us, God's endless mercy poured out for us through Jesus Christ on the cross, through the tomb and out the empty grave, makes it possible to stand before God clean, whole, and beautiful. Through the waters of baptism, we die in Jesus, and are raised up into a new life embodied in Christ, filled with God's Holy Spirit. The weight of our life's failures, disappointments, hurt, and unresolved anger are washed away and we rise up light, filled with life, renewed possibilities, and a future filled with joy. This work of God in Christ for each of us, in known as the Gospel – the Good News.

Continued on Page 2

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Because of this Good News, that Jesus died and rose for us and for all people, we are now empowered to live for others. People we might have resented, hated, felt indifferent about before, are now people we can see as people who are also loved by God in Christ. We can now serve them and do what is needed to help them know Jesus as their Lord and Savior and to help them in their daily lives. ***They can be our friends, we can learn from them, and work with them for a better world.***

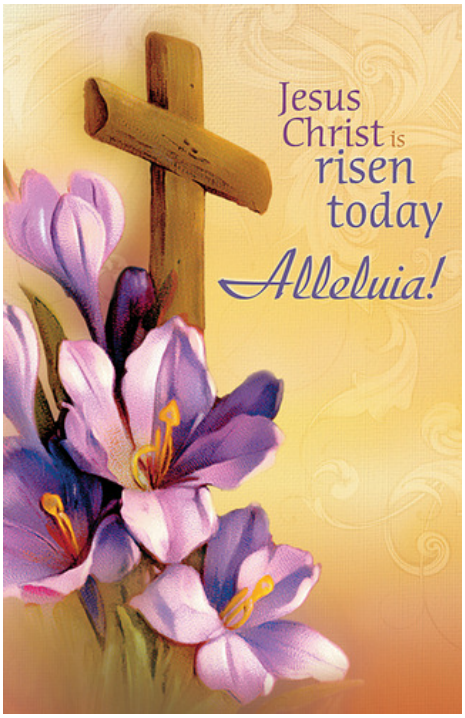
This, in a brief summary, is the Lenten journey for each of us. How is your journey going these 40 days? Talk to God, read the bible, and talk with each other. Prayerfully assess your relationship with God. Repent and run back to God in Christ.

Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy

April 14 @ 9 am
Procession with Palms

April 18 @ 6 pm
Holy Communion

Worship
April 19 @ 6 pm



Easter Sunday Worship
April 21 @ 9 am

Easter Brunch after worship

St. Paul's Shut-ins:
Ruth Johnson

Education/ Prayer Team

RECENT PRAYERS

2019
Don Benson
Harold Benson
John Clouse
Molly McCombs
Sam Mahoney
Randy Maule
Dakota Miller
Carla Wahl
Phil Whitson
Father Mark Yates
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(2018)
Eleanor Anderson
Nate Baggett
Donny Ballard
Sharon Burman
Tim Cox
Tony Daggett
Mark Dreier
Clint Johnson
Ruth Johnson
Shari Kisner
Mary Ann Lewis
Roger Lewis
Shara McDonough

(2018)
Duayne Newhart
Samantha Sabovitch
Misty Smith
Sam Smith
Greg Rickie
Carl Witte
Dorcas Wolfe

(2017)
Susan Anderson
Linda Bills
Jerry Carr
Linda Christensen
Mary Datschefski
Betty Foster
Ryver Lane
John Pasuit
Suzie Smith
Ron Swanson
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(2016)
Pat & Gerry Anderson
Gene Dobson
Maya Griebel
Richard McDonough
Leo Oye
Dr. Marridee Randall
Leeta Sanger
Scott Sanger
Lyle Spieler

(2015)
Linda Ulrich Johnson
Ella Teno

(2014)
Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Pat Mason

Continuing Prayers
Brantley Hemann
Laura Moore
Trisha Raven
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Wednesday
April 3 @ 6:45 pm
after worship
April 10 @ 6:45 pm
after worship
April 24 @ 6 pm

Wednesday, April 10 at 11 am
The Gospel of John: Meetings with Jesus
by Julie A. Kanarr

Session one: Come and see:
Seeking and finding faith
In this session, we meet John the Baptist, who bears witness to Jesus. As the circle of Jesus' disciples grows, we share in the invitation to "come and see." At the wedding in Cana and during the cleansing of the temple, we reflect on how the character of God is revealed in Jesus.

Our Sympathy goes out to family and friends of
David Jeffries, Rob Eells' cousin
and Hilda Doten, Gloria Smallwood's aunt.

May the peace and hope of the resurrection comfort them in the days and months ahead.

Fellowship Team Ministries

Senior Fellowship Pot Luck Lunch

Wednesday, April 3 at 11 am– Join us for our monthly meal. We will be playing Bingo this month. Please bring a white elephant item for prizes.

3rd Sunday Pot-luck

April 21

WOMEN of the ELCA

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, April 25. We are planning to eat out at Louie's at the Lake. Car pool from the church at 6:15 pm. (or meet us there about 6:45 pm).

WELCA Bible Study: Weds., April 10 at 11 am. (See more information on page 3)

Spring cleaning?? We are having a garage sale on June 8 from 8—1 pm. We welcome everything in good shape. No clothing please.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

2. Donald Niebuhr
7. Maxwell Butler
9. Anita Simmons
9. Andy McCombs
11. Pastor Nancy Reed
11. Cameron Stocker
13 Jacob Hemann
16. Mike Duea
18. Meghan Lettington
19. Kelly Hilton
20. Leland Sherman
20. Mary Ann (Preston) Hatfield
24. Erin Heaton
25. Avery Fuhs
29. Stephanie Sparks

Baptismal Birthdays

2. Lana Kaldenberg
3. Judy Van Polen
3. Nate Dorpinghaus
3. Tyler Simmons
4. Jo Diers
5. Sarah Fuhs
7. Sheela Clouse
7. Wesley Clouse
7. Tyler Clouse
7. Louie Clouse
14. Emma Fuhs
15. Karter Spieler
20. Robert Zarn
28. Logan Dorpinghaus

Anniversaries

19. Brent & Jean Lozano
20. Don & Karen Niebuhr
28. Mark & Mary Ann (Preston) Hatfield

Bereavement Ministry
2nd Quarter:
April—May-June
Anita Simmons &
Evelyn Sharpe

2019 Graduates: We need your help, please let the church office know if you have anyone graduating in 2019; from High School or College.
We will honor them with a reception on May 12.

Council

Council meeting: to be announced

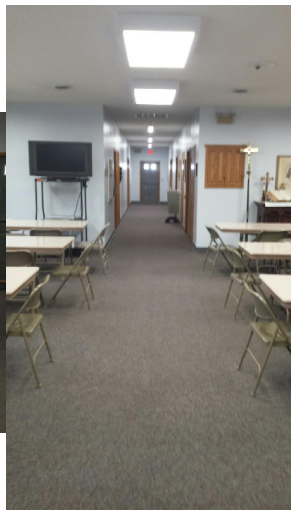
Treasurer's Report
Jan & Feb 2019

Expenses	$14,682.66
Offering	- 10,766.27
Other income	- 426.00
Transfer from Edward Jones (for youth camps)	- 1,500.00
Year to Date Deficit	**- $1,990.39**

YTD average weekly offering: $1,345.78
Weekly average need for 2019 budget $1,641.00
Weekly average deficit -$295.22

Church Fellowship Hall Painted and New Carpet Installed

Before



AFTER

What a wonderful way to welcome visitors and member to the fresh, updated new look of our church. We were very blessed with donation from the from the Anderson Memorial Fund for the carpet and the Smallwood's for the paint & painting the walls. Thank you to everyone who helped moving furniture out of the space and putting things back after the carpet was installed.

Mark your calendar for the **Active Threat Training** that will be on Monday, May 6 from 6-8 pm. Deputy Matt Scharff as trainer and presenter. This will take place at the River of Life Church.

MISSIONS TASK FORCE

<u>Lenten Mission:</u> We are joining the synods theme –

ONE Bread. ONE Body-

to support our local food pantry, Helping Hands,
and the Ministerial Emergency Assistance Office.
You can bring any non-perishable food item; as well as the items listed below:

All-purpose cleaning products	**Bathroom cleaners**	**Deodorant**
Female Hygiene Products	**Tooth paste**	**Laundry Detergent**
Body wash (not bar soap)	**Shampoo**	**Dish Soap**

Let's see how many **"bags"** we can fill during Lent.

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Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

What a great turn out we had this year.
The best we have ever had.
Donations were $850.00
Thank you to everyone who help make this event such a great success.

We had wonderful help setting up and serving in the dining room;
wonderful people cooking the sausage, bacon and pancakes. And thank you to all those behind the scenes and those who donate all the items needed.

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Community Note: Food Pantry at Lincoln Center- It is part of the Iowa Food Bank and is partnered with Hy-Vee. The district has pin-pointed the folks in the district who are food insecure and they pack backpacks for kids to take home over the weekend.

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WANTED: Old prescription glasses. The Albia Lion's will be collecting your old prescription glasses to be re-purposed for other who cannot afford glasses. Leave your glasses in the basket in the fellowship hall.

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Pat Johnson & Anita Simmons

April 7	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Dan & Pat Johnson
	Lector	Grayson Kelley
	Acolytes:	Eli –Candles
		Grayson-Communion Cups
April 14	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
Palm Sun.	Ushers/Greeters:	Mike & Kay Spieler
	Lector	Nikko & Lydia Dobson
	Acolytes:	Lydia–Candles
		Nikko-Communion Cups
April 18	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
Maundy	Ushers/Greeters:	???????
Thurs.	Lector:	Martin Reed
	Acolytes:	Morgan –Candles
		Morgan-Communion Cups
April 19		
Good Fri.	Lectors:	Marilyn Woods
		Gail Clouse
April 21	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
EASTER	Ushers/Greeters:	Larry & Sharon Wilkin
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods
	Acolytes:	Sophie –Candles
		Parker-Communion Cups
April 28	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	Hilton Family
	Lector:	Florence Heacock
	Acolytes:	Morgan –Candles
		Eli-Communion Cups

Holy Week

Palm Sunday Worship April 14 @ 9 am
Procession with Palms
Maundy Thursday Worship April 18 @ 6 pm
Holy Communion
Good Friday Worship April 19 @ 6 pm
Easter Sunday Worship April 21 @ 9 am
Easter Brunch after worship

Worship Team Ministries

CHOIR

8:15 am

April 7 Practice

April 14 Practice & Performance

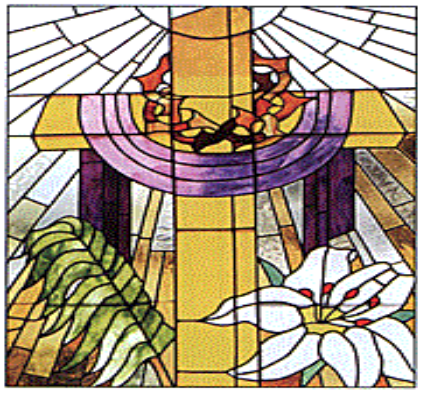
April 21 NO Practice

April 28 Practice

Our mid-week Lenten worship this year will be at 6:00 pm.

Join us as we share "Experiencing God in Our Daily Life."

Witness Reflections:
April 3rd – Karen Niebuhr
10th – Kelly Hilton



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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Web Site—http://www.splalbia.org
Office Hours: Tues.-Weds.-Thurs.
9 am-2 pm

Place Mailing Label Here

Get your newsletter by e-mail and in color. Send your e-mail address to the church office.

Links:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	www.elca.org
The Southeast Iowa Synod of the ELCA	www.seiasynod.org

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OFFICE HOURS: Monday 9:30 –11:30 am & 1-3 pm
Wednesday 10 am—Noon & 1—3 pm Friday 9 am—Noon

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WEB SITE: Check out St. Paul's Web site at http://www.splalbia.org.
You will find our newsletters, calendar and recipe. Please send the office anything you would like to share on our web site.

Radio Broadcast St. Paul's worship service is broadcast each Sunday on KIIC (96.7 FM) during their Sunday Son—Up programs starting at 8:00 am.

Mental Health Forum: Tuesday, April 9 from 6—7 pm at First Christian Church.
Topic: Teenage Mental Health.

St. Mary's will be having their annual Soup Luncheon every Tuesday in Lent; April 2, 9 & 16, they start serving at 11 am.

Come to the table: a dramatic reenactment of the life of Jesus. Presented by Lighthouse Church of the Nazarene on April 14 at 6 pm, April 17 at 7 pm and April 19 at 7 pm.

Community Choir Performances: Their concerts will be performed on Thursday, April 4 at 7:00 pm at Trinity Methodist Church in Albia. They will also perform on Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 pm at First United Methodist in Centerville.