

Crossings

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

Volume 13 Issue 3

March 2018

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, ⁹but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. ¹⁰Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong." 2 Cor 12: 7b - 10

In light of the Major Stoneman Douglas School shooting, my soul aches, and my prayers clamor at God's door. Government and Big Business are more interested in a limited pool of stakeholders, than the vast majority of the people in this country. What does scripture say about a Christian response to the chaos within our country? Why do so many Christians demand more secure borders, greater access to guns, and demonstrate an attraction for anything, any news which generates fear? What is going on in the Church? Where is Jesus in all of this?

Looking for something to help guide my thoughts, I came across some Bonhoeffer quotes, one of which I would like to share with you:

In 1934 a young pastor watched in sadness as his democratic, educated, and Christian country discarded more and more of its core values. Fear-mongering politicians lured patriotic citizens to throw out their Bibles and worship at the altar of National Security instead, and to behave terribly toward foreigners, minorities, the disabled and the mentally ill. Three weeks after Adolf Hitler was proclaimed Der Führer, nine months after the 'Law for the Prevention of Hereditarily Diseased Offspring' took effect, that young pastor preached a sermon to his flag-waving, nationalist colleagues about how Christians in a crisis should behave. Maybe we Americans who are Christians could learn from his words today:

"There is no way to peace along the way of safety. For peace must be dared, it is itself the great venture, and can never be safe. Peace is the opposite of security... To look for guarantees is to want to protect oneself. Peace means giving oneself completely to God's commandment, wanting no security, but in faith and obedience laying down the destiny of the nations in the hand of Almighty God, not trying to direct it for selfish purposes. Battles are won, not with weapons, but with God. They are won when the way leads to the cross."- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1934 [Renate Bethge's Dietrich Bonhoeffer: A Brief Life]

I am not saying we are heading towards some sort of fascism. I do see the eroding of compassionate care for "foreigners, minorities, the disabled and the mentally ill" in the name of greater security both from the budgetary decisions made at the local, state, and national levels and in the heightened generalized fear and anxiety which exists in our families, towns, country, and around the world.

During Lent, we are directed to consider what God in Jesus Christ has done for us, and surprisingly, God's power is most clearly demonstrated by the total giving of God's life on the cross – in total weakness and completely vulnerable – for you, me, and for all people by his death on the cross.

God's utter weakness on the cross gives way to total and complete victory through his resurrection! God chooses to work through the weak to confound the strong. That's us, my friends. That's you, me, and all who proclaim Jesus as their Lord and Savior – we are the weak who fight for the refugee, minorities, the mentally ill, the disabled, the elderly, homeless, and powerless. We fight not with guns, building walls, shutting borders, limiting numbers, hoarding food, or judging others; we fight "in faith and obedience" giving ourselves totally into God's command to love the other.

This is the discipline of Lent. This is the joy of the resurrection – giving oneself completely for the other; being open to God's power rushing in and through our weakness for the sake of the world. As the hymn puts it – let us ever walk with Jesus – to the cross, from the empty tomb, into the world!

Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy

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."

1 John 4:10-11



The Water and the Witness

Our Lenten Focus

Each year as Lent comes around the foreheads of believers are left both fresh and raw in the dust of ash. Those ashes superimposed over the mark with which they are sealed in the covenant of baptism serve as reminder that in baptism life can only come from death, and that baptism is a daily death and resurrection. Baptism does not stand alone in the life of a Christian. At best, with the water also comes the witness, the sharing through of God's transforming love through word and deed.

We will be journey through Lent with the Water & Witness theme. As we navigate through Scripture, Christian traditions, and life experience as communities and people that encounter the waters of baptism as both raging and peaceful. Still, seeking to be about more than water, we hope to draw you into a deeper encounter with the One who both calls and stirs these waters, the One who draws all creation into his own life, death, and resurrection. Bound together in baptism these promise-filled waters carry the faithful people forth to become the creation God intends, to proclaim God's transformative powers, to live a reconciled life.



Palm Sunday March 25 @ 9:00 am With the procession of palms into worship

We commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, but we also meditate upon Jesus' passion and death. We hear in the scripture readings that is so central to our faith; though Jesus is obedient even unto death on the cross, he is exalted by God. We gather to remember his offering for the life of the world, and to be fed by his life-giving mercy.

Maundy Thursday March 29 @ 6:30 pm With Holy Communion

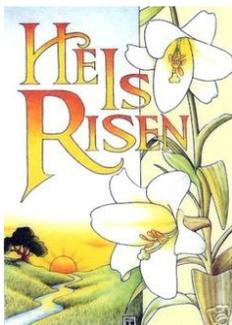
At the heart of Maundy Thursday is Jesus' commandment to love one another. As Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, we are called to follow his example as we humbly care for one another, especially the poor and the unloved. At the Lord's table we remember Jesus' sacrifice of his life, even as we are called to offer ourselves in love for the life of the world.

Good Friday March 30 @ 6:30 pm With special candle lighting service

John shows us the passion of Jesus in which proclaims that he is a triumphant king who reign from the cross. John reminds us that the church gathers not to mourn this day but to celebrate Christ's life-giving passion and to find strength and hope in the tree of life. In the ancient bidding prayer we offer petitions for all the world for whom Christ died.

Easter Sunday April 1 @ 9:00 am Resurrection of Our Lord

On this day the Lord has acted! Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. We celebrate in the waters of baptism and in the feast of victory.



RECENT PRAYERS

Donny Ballard
Linda & Jim Bills
Jerry Carr
John & Helen Champe
Trish Clouse
Tony Daggett
Mary Datschefski
Great Great Uncle Larry
Clint Johnson
Elizabeth Moore
Amy Payne
John Pasuit
Mike Randall
Rick
Ty Rogerson
Suzanne Roberts
Samantha Sabovitch
Bill Sailor
Misty Smith
Sam Smith
Ron Swanson
Rachel Thiede
Heidi Williams
(2017)
Susan Anderson
Nate Baggett
Linda Christensen
Betty Foster
Ryver Lane
Jaxson Osmundson
Ashley Reeves
Suzie Smith
=====

St. Paul's Shut-ins:

Ruth Johnson

Continuing Prayers
(2016)

Anthony Allen
Pat & Gerry Anderson
Gene Dobson
Gerry Gillette
Maya Griebel
Wendy Henexson
Richard McDonough-
Cathy Tietje
Osmundson
Leo Oye
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL
Leeta Sanger
Scott Sanger
Lyle Spieler
Greg Tilton
Fred Witte

(2015)
Linda Ulrich Johnson
Ella Teno

(2014)
Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Pat Mason

Continuing Prayers

Brantley Hemann
Laura Moore
Trisha Raven
=====

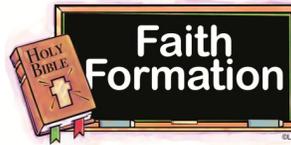
Education/
Prayer Team



BIBLE March 14 @ 11 am

Study

Session one -(Mark 7:1-12)
Washing hands with distant hearts.



Faith Formation

Gathering: Feb. 21.
The parents and kids met at the Monroe care center to visit and play

games with the residents. The valentine hearts were also given to many of the residents.

We would like to thank everyone that decorated the hearts, they were very appreciative of the gift.



After visiting the care center we met at church for the weekly home huddle lesson, shared highs and lows and ate dinner together.



Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Connie Rue (Evelyn Sharpe's Sister-in-Law) who died in February. May the peace and hope of the resurrection comfort them in the days and months ahead.



Easter Flowers: If you would like to bring flowers for Easter please sign-up on the sheet in the fellowship hall.



Special Easter Sunday Potluck Breakfast Brunch:

Everyone is encouraged to bring a breakfast type food for brunch.



Roman Catholic – Lutheran Dialogue

"Declaration On the Way; Church, Ministry and Eucharist"

Part of the group that participated in the year long study. We had a ball.

Fellowship Team Ministries



BRUNCH
March 18

Senior Fellowship

Pot-luck Luncheon: February 7 at 11:00 am.
Get your thinking caps ready

WOMEN of the ELCA (WELCA)

Our **March meeting** will be on Thursday, the 22 after Lenten Worship, about 7:15 pm
Come to worship and join us for food, fellowship and quick meeting after wards. Our hostess is Gloria Smallwood.

We have a monthly **Bible Study** on Weds., March 14 at 11 am. See more details on page 3.



Birthdays

1. Nathan Dorpinghaus
3. Hayley Dobson
6. Kara Tomlin
19. Robert Zarn
22. Grayson Kelley
25. Mike Spieler
29. Larry Wilkin

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Time to
Spring Ahead

Be sure to set your clock ahead on Sat. March 10 before you head to bed.



Baptismal Birthday's

3. Betty Hohneke
8. Marilyn Johnson
10. Rhonda Mason
11. Carson Stocker
21. Ron Hohneke
22. Sophie Hemann
27. Nikko Dobson
27. Lydia Dobson
27. Hayley Dobson
- Kay Spieler

Tajik Dinner

What: International event where to can experience: Tajik Traditional Foods: *plov* (pilaf-style rice mixed with meat, onions and carrots and other things), *osh*, a pilaf-like rice dish made with carrots, onions and meat, Tajik Dance



Presentation about Tajikistan (Behruz's country)

Why: Raise money to help Tajik student with school supplies and uniforms

Where: St. Paul's Lutheran

When: March 11 from 5—6:30 pm

FREE Will Donations

You can also make donation on line at the following website:

<https://www.gofundme.com/help-tajik-children>



Council



Council Meeting will be March 11 after worship.

A NOTE OF



To the Kelley family for 2 repairs to the woman's bathroom toilets .
To Gail Clouse for painting the easel .
To Colleen Putnam for new kitchen towels.
To Charlie Smallwood for fixing folding chairs and ceiling duct filters..

Usher & Lector rotation is on the bulletin board above bulletin/usher stand.
Usher duty check list is on bulletin stand by gray attendance book.



On February 25 we welcomed into the family of God, Preston Michael Hatfield, son of Michael & Mary Ann Hatfield. Guiding Preston in his faith journey are his sponsors Anne Marie Jenkins & Daniel Lewis Hatfield.. His grandparents are Tom & Linda Preston and Don & Fran Hatfield.



Talia Elizabeth Lee Sherman
Baptized February 4, 2018



Shrove Tuesday



THANK YOU:

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Thank you to everyone who help this year. It was great having over 20 people helping with cooking, serving and set-up and clean-up. We served about 85 people and donations was \$538.76. Thank you to everyone who donated the food items that was needed to put on this wonderful community fellowship.



March 21

Mission Task Force



Boxes of Hope Continuing Mission: for the Emergency Assistance Office.

Items that are in the greatest demand are:



© Can Stock Photo

All-purpose cleaning products & Bathroom cleaners

Dish soap

Laundry Detergent

Toilet paper

Toothpaste

Shampoo

Men & Women Deodorant

Body wash (not bar soap)



These items can not be purchased with the SNAP card (food stamps)

+++++

Mission Project for Lent

The WATER & The WITNESS

The Water and The Witness calls us to make the connection between the waters of our baptismal witness and the world's water-related need.

We take for granted that we can quench our thirst at any water tap anytime without worrying about illness. Water is essential. And the waters of baptism are a reminder of what this project is all about.

Water facts

- Research in eastern Uganda found that a family spends an average of **660 hours** a year collecting water. This represents two full months of labor.
- Close to **half of all people** in developing countries are suffering at any given time from a health problem caused by contaminated water or unsanitary conditions.
- Globally, 1.8 billion people – that's about **one out of every four people** – drink from contaminated water sources. Unsafe water leads to illnesses that claim the lives of 840,000 people each year, almost half of whom are children under the age of five.
- **2.5 billion people** live without basic sanitation.
- More people have access to a mobile phone than a toilet.
- On average, women in Sub-Saharan Africa walk more than **three miles** each day to fetch water for their families. A traditional five-gallon jug, usually used for this purpose, weighs **40 pounds** when full!

We encourage everyone to make donations in our water bucket.

Sometimes, it feels like how can our small church help with the global water crisis; we are just a drop in the bucket. Our shared donations with the other churches in the SEIA Synod can lead to a global change and another way for us to witness to the world by helping those in need.

Our bucket is starting to fill up:



With your help, hope we can match or exceed our donations of last year; when we purchased 45 pigs. (\$1350.00).

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Karen McCombs & Gloria Smallwood

<u>March 4</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Spieler Family
	Lector:	Gail Clouse
<u>March 11</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Kelley Family
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods
<u>March 18</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Smallwoods
	Lector:	Gloria Smallwood
<u>March 25</u> Palm Sun.	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Ushers/Greeters:	Don & Karen Niebuhr
	Lector:	Jessica Hemann
<u>March 29</u> Maundy Thurs.	Worship Assistant:	??????
	Ushers/Greeters:	????
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods & Gail Clouse
<u>March 30</u> Good Fri.	Worship Assistant:	????????
	Ushers/Greeters:	?????
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods & Gail Clouse



Schedule for March

March 4	Sophie light & put out the candles Parker collect communion cups
March 11	Eli light & put out the candles Morgan collect communion cups
March 18	Lydia light & put out the candles Nikko collect communion cups
March 25	Parker light & put out the candles Sophie collect communion cups

Special activity for Palm Sunday (March 25) **Pizza and a Movie**

After worship, we will be watching a video from the *A.D. the Bible Continues* series about the events of Jesus' journey to the cross during Holy Week.

Please sign-up if you are able to join us, so we know how many pizzas to order.

We will be continuing this DVD series each Sunday after Easter.

Worship Team Ministries



March 4	Practice
March 11	TBA
March 18	TBA
March 25	TBA



Mid-Week Lenten Worship

Every **Thursday in Lent** we will have a Contemplative Lenten Service of Renewal.

Worship will be @ 6:30 pm
 March 1
 March 8
 March 15
 March 22

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
335 North Eighth Street
Albia, IA 52531

Phone: 641-932-7270
Email: splalbia@iowatelecom.net
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
The Southeast Iowa Synod of the ELCA

www.elca.org
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



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.

Lenten Soup Lunch: St. Mary's every Tuesday from 11 am—12: 30 pm.
March 6, 13, 20 & 27.



Tajik Dinner: When: March 11 from 5—6:30 pm



What: International event where to can experience Tajik Traditional Foods, Tajik Dance & a Presentation about Tajikistan (Behruz's country).

Why: Raise money to help Tajik student with school supplies and uniforms.

Where: St. Paul's Lutheran, Albia **FREE Will Donations**

Live Christian Music & Great Food at "Its All Relative" restaurant at 200 hwy 5, Lovilia:
March 9 from 5-7 pm. Music by H2A Redeemed

Blood Drive: Tuesday, March 27 from 3— 7 pm at the Trinity United Methodist Church. Sponsored by the Albia Ministerial Association.