



Crossings

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

Volume 14 Issue 3

March 2019

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Grace and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am grateful that Lent starts with Ash Wednesday this coming March 6th, with worship and the imposition of ashes beginning at 6:00 pm. I need it now, for I have been unfaithful in my prophetic voice and I lament my weakness to call myself and others to task.

You and I, as part of the Body of Christ on earth, are called to be the voice of peace in the midst of violence, the voice of justice in the face of racism, classism, sexism, LGBTQIA issues, border issues, wealth inequality, and/or equal access to the opportunities that many reading this have enjoyed. Jesus calls us to follow him, to do what he does, and to speak as he speaks. He calls you and me to advocate for people on the margins, who have no wealth, influence, or access to facilitate their own advocacy.

Faced with these complicated issues that aren't a quick fix, we need to see and hear the results of our timidity, our fear at being rejected or ridiculed for doing the right thing, saying prophetic utterance for the voiceless. In the poem which follows, written by Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes, I hear God's prophetic voice, speaking to me. I hope it touches you also.

O God, you built your house with skilled hands. You fashioned it with strong beams, a roof and a bed and a table for all, and a name at every place at the table.

But now your enemies have taken your dwelling; they have seized it for themselves.

They have walled off its rooms, and have thrown out your children, they have planted thorns by the doorways

and posted sentries at the gates, that none may enter but by hatred, that none may dwell here but in fear.

Your beloved, cast out, go homeless, your children walled out from your love.

You who dwell in your people have no home now, but wander the streets.

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

Woe to those who have shut the temple door; their house now a prison.

Woe to those who have done evil dressed in priestly robes, their house is forever empty of love.

Loving One, receive our sorrow, and fashion it into wisdom. Mighty One, hold our rage, and grow it into courage.

Creating One, take our despair and turn it to hope. O Homeless One, gather the refugees fleeing the house of hatred.

Shelter the condemned, and bless them with your glory.

Open our eyes to see, God, that from the rubble of injustice you are building a beautiful house with strong beams, a roof and a bed and a table for all, and a name at every place at the table.

For your love will prevail, now and forever.

Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy

Unfolding Light by Steve Garnaas-Holmes
429 Central St. Acton, MA 01720 USA



Hypocrites in Good Company

Critics of Christianity often point out that Christians are hypocrites. Christians publicly espouse a certain set of rules for living—including care for creation, serving God and neighbors in need, and loving our enemies—and, just as publicly, fail to live up to those rules every day and in every way.

Pastor Tony Campolo often tells the story of people who say they don't want to go to church because of all the hypocrites. He reassures them that they should feel right at home. Church is for real people, and real people fail to do and say the right things—real people are hypocrites. Campolo argues that the Christian ideal is to know you're a hypocrite and earnestly work at being less hypocritical.

All the same, we don't want to be hypocrites or show-offs. We question the motives behind our public and private spiritual practices; we question our neighbors' motives too. In today's gospel we hear about fasting cheerfully and praying in secret. And yet, as we leave the church building we bear a public and very noticeable sign of faith right on our foreheads. Lent begins with a bold, visible, unmistakable reminder of who we are: simultaneously mortal dust and baptized children of God. Simultaneously saint and sinner. Simultaneously hypocrites and earnest, hopeful Christians.



St. Paul's Shut-ins:
Ruth Johnson

Education/
Prayer Team

<u>RECENT PRAYERS</u>	<u>(2018) Continuing</u>	<u>(2016)</u>
<u>2019</u>	Eleanor Anderson	Pat & Gerry Anderson
Don Benson	Nate Baggett	Gene Dobson
Harold Benson	Donny Ballard	Maya Griebel
John Clouse	Sharon Burman	Richard McDonough
Mark Dreier	Tim Cox	Leo Oye
Ruth Johnson	Tony Daggett	Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL
Shari Kisner	Clint Johnson	Leeta Sanger
Molly McCombs	Mary Ann Lewis	Scott Sanger
Sam Mahoney	Roger Lewis	Lyle Spieler
Randy Maule	Shara McDonough	<u>(2015)</u>
Dakota Miller	Samantha Sabovitch	Linda Ulrich Johnson
Duayne Newhart	Misty Smith	Ella Teno
Ashley Peterson	Sam Smith	<u>(2014)</u>
Colleen Putnam	Greg Rickie	Sharon Glenn
Carla Wahl	<u>(2017)</u>	Nick Griffin
Phil Whitson	Susan Anderson	Pat Mason
Carl Witte	Jim & Linda Bills	<u>Continuing Prayers</u>
Dorcas Wolfe	Jerry Carr	Brantley Hemann
Father Mark Yates	Linda Christensen	Laura Moore
=====	Mary Datschefski	Trisha Raven
	Betty Foster	=====
	Ryver Lane	
	John Pasuit	
	Suzie Smith	
	Ron Swanson	
	=====	

Confirmation Class

Every Wednesday in
March
@ 6:00 pm

Bible STUDY
Join us!

Wednesday, March 13 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.

Condolences

Our Sympathy goes out to Pastor Roger Henry, for the loss of his sister, Linda and his step-father, Frank Hodge; both died in February.

May the peace and hope of the resurrection comfort their family and friends in the days and months ahead.

Fellowship Team Ministries



Senior Fellowship

Wednesday, March 6 at 11 am. For fun lets think of green food or Irish food this month. Join us for fun, food and fellowship. Bring a friend.

3rd Sunday Pot-luck Brunch



March 17

WOMEN of the ELCA

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, March 28 at 7 pm.

WELCA Bible Study: Weds., March 13 at 11 am.
(See more information on page 3)

Cluster 9 Spring Gathering: March 30 at First Lutheran Church in Chariton. St. Paul's, in Albia, will be bringing items for breakfast.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

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

Baptismal Birthdays

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



Congratulations

Lana Kaldenberg
and
Rob Eells
were married on
Saturday, February 23, 2019
at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Albia, IA
God Bless them in their new life together.



On March 3, we are blessed to have
Mark and Carol McClure
join our church family, here at St. Paul's.
God Bless them on their faith journey
with us.



Council



**Council meeting:
March 24 after worship**

Gloria will be out of the office
March 21 and March 26.

TITHES & OFFERINGS

ALL I HAVE IS YOURS



Auto-Tithe: Is a great way to donate to St. Paul's weekly (or monthly) on a scheduled basis. If you are unable to attend worship because of other obligations, out of town, or on vacation you are able to support the ministry of church. Great time to join the other 8 St. Paul's members, who have found this tool useful. See Gloria for the form to start your Auto-Tithe.

**2019 WEEKLY OFFERING
AMOUNT NEEDED
\$1641.00**

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper:



On **March 5 from 5-7 p.m.** -St. Paul's Lutheran Church is having our annual **All You Can Eat Pancake Supper.**

Celebrating Fat Tuesday as we prepare for Lent, come and join us as the men of St. Paul's make regular pancakes and blueberry pancakes at this annual men's ministry. Be sure to enjoy the other items on the menu: sausage patties, bacon & fruit cocktail. We will have special fruit toppings of strawberries & blueberries with whip cream for your pancakes as well.

Your free will donations help with maintenance and church projects during the year.

What is Lent?

Lent is an important season in the Church's year. Every year Christians use Lent to prepare themselves for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, on Easter Sunday.



When is Lent?

Lent is the forty days before Easter. Christians do not include Sundays in the forty days because they celebrate Jesus' resurrection every Sunday. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday.





Boxes of Hope Continuing Mission: for the Albia Ministerial Emergency Assistance Office. Items that are in the greatest demand are:

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

"AND MAY THE LORD REWARD YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS..."

RUTH 1:8



CrossCards

37 Soldier Care Packages were filled.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this mission. There will be a lot of soldiers enjoying these boxes in the next month. God is so good to us, that we may share our blessings with others.



Albia Ministerial received \$8700.00 from the Salvation Army this year. Your willingness to give of your time, to ring bells in December, helped get the donations, that will help out our neighbors here in Monroe Co. Thank you & God's blessings to everyone who helped with this mission.



Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Gail Clouse & Julie Stocker

<u>March 3</u>	Worship Assistant: Gail Clouse Ushers/Greeters: Mike & Kay Spieler Lector: Gail Clouse Acolytes: Lydia –Candles Nikko-Communion Cups
<u>March 10</u>	Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Ushers/Greeters: Hilton Family Lector: Marilyn Woods Acolytes: Eli –Candles Morgan-Communion Cups
<u>March 17</u>	Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Ushers/Greeters: Andy Fuhs & Fred Driers Lector: Andy Fuhs Acolytes: Sophie –Candles Parker-Communion Cups
<u>March 24</u>	Worship Assistant: Anita Simmons Usher/Greeter: Don & Karen Niebuhr Lector: Anita Simmons Acolytes: Nikko –Candles Lydia-Communion Cups
<u>March 31</u>	Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Ushers/Greeters: Hemann Family Lector: Marilyn Woods Acolytes: Parker –Candles Sophie-Communion Cups

Worship Team Ministries



8:15 am

- March 3 Practice
- March 10 Practice
- March 17 Practice
- March 24 Practice
- March 31 No Practice

Everyone is welcome to join us as we share God's message through music.

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:

- March 13th –Curtis Kelley
- 20th – Carol McClure
- 27th – Martin Reed
- April 3rd – Kelly Hilton
- 10th – Karen Niebuhr



Worship—March 6 @ 6:00 pm with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes

Assistant: Marilyn Woods
Ushers: Smallwood's
Lector: Grayson Kelley
Acolyte: Grayson Kelley

Healing Worship on Sunday, March 31. It will include the laying on of hands, anointing with oil and individual prayers.

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.



New Food Pantry in Lovilia: "Soul Barn Ministry" is located in the Community Church Building.

**St. Paul's Shrove Tuesday all you can Eat Pancake Supper:
March 5 from 5—7 pm.**

More info on page 5.



SHROVE TUESDAY



Saturday night, March 9, be sure to set your clocks ahead 1 hour.
(or you will be late for church on Sunday morning, 3/10)