



Crossings

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

Volume 14 Issue 5

May 2019

Pastor's Epistle

Hello my sisters and brothers in Christ!

I have a few thoughts about compassion and suffering, their link, and their place in our lives as followers of Jesus. I will try to be concise, but please set that bar rather low as "concise-ness" is not my strong suit!

Compassion is the act of or capacity for sharing the painful feelings of another. Other elements that fill out compassion are **pity** – the ability to feel a tender sorrow for another individual or group, and, **sympathy** which suggests a tender concern for and/or a power to enter into another person(s) emotional experience. (Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary online).

Our risen Christ demonstrated compassion many times, for both individual people, and for the crowds following him. In the synoptic gospels alone (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) he has **compassion** on the crowds 5 times: Mat 9:36; 14:14; 15:32; Mark 6:34; 8:2) and 3 times for individuals – Mat 20:34; Luke 7:13; 15:20. These verses actually use the word **compassion**, so we can say that Jesus had the capacity for sharing the painful feelings of others; he felt tender sorrow for the crowds following him as well as the individuals he interacted with; and he had the power to enter into another person's emotional experiences and the crowds emotional experiences. He was vulnerable.

Suffering (again, according to Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary), means the state of being in great trouble and implies conscious endurance of pain or distress. Breaking it down further, its components are: **distress** which implies an external and usually temporary cause of great physical or mental strain and stress; **misery** emphasizes the attendant unhappiness experienced during sickness, poverty, or loss; and **agony** suggests pain too intense to be borne. Jesus was and is able and willing to enter into and share our suffering, which he did every moment of his ministry on earth, and continues to do so for everyone who calls on his name.

That is exactly what he did for all people on the cross, but even more so, he conquered the power of suffering and death by rising from the dead. Our pain and suffering are not the last words of our life because, in his death, the baptized have already died and with that death, taken away the power of suffering. We, too, have risen in Christ to a new life, a new song, a new dance, and a new way to live in our world. Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!!

One gift from God through our baptism is that the Holy Spirit now lives inside us. We now have the capacity for sharing in another person's suffering just as Christ did then and does now for us. We can experience compassion for others, and extend the tender love of God because of that compassionate response to another person. Sometimes, this might lead to compassion fatigue.

Compassion fatigue is when we just get exhausted from carrying all that compassion for others. I often think that is why Jesus went off to pray by himself – he needed to re-center himself in prayer with his Father. Christ-followers need to follow Christ's example and practice self-care. We, too, have a heavenly Father who desires to keep us healthy and centered, and is available 24/7 for as long as we need to talk with him, and rest in him. Sometimes, we just need to get away from it all, so we can once again enter the fray; so we too can respond to the suffering in the world with love and compassion.

Make time and then take time to rest in the embrace of God, to talk with Jesus about your suffering and the suffering of others; to complain, whine, yell, and whimper into the listening ear of Jesus. And then, in your exhaustion, experience the healing infusion of God's grace, hope, and love. We too become vulnerable. Energized anew, we can walk back into the world that God loves so much that God sent his Son to die for us, so that all who believe might have eternal life with God.

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



What: Graduation Reception
When: Sunday, May 12
Time: After worship



Albia High School:

Carson Stocker Parents: Dan & Julie Stocker

Grandparents: Larry & Sharon Wilkin

BCLUW High School:

Madison Wessel

Grandparents: Fred & Jo Diers

St. Paul High School:

Tommy Clark Jr.

Grandparents: Fred & Jo Diers

College:

Bryan Raskie

Parents: Richard & Ruth James

Alexis Van Polen

Parents: Jeff & Michelle Van Polen

Grandmother: Judy Van Polen



Open House: St. Paul's members are invited to an open house to celebrate Carson Stocker's graduation
May 11 from 1-4 pm
 Heritage Hall at 1st Iowa State Bank.

**Albia High School
 Graduation:
 May 18 at 7 pm.**





St. Paul's Shut-ins:
Ruth Johnson

Education/ Prayer Team

RECENT PRAYERS

2019

Don Benson
Harold Benson
Robin Bode
John Clouse
Linda Sales Harvard
Barbara Jeffries
Landon
Molly McCombs
Sam Mahoney
Randy Maule
Dakota Miller
Dean Miller
Mary Tripplett
Carla Wahl
Phil Whitson
Dorcas Wolfe
Father Mark Yates
=====

(2018)

Eleanor Anderson
Nate Baggett
Donny Ballard
Sharon Burman
Tim Cox
Tony Daggett
Mark Dreier

(2018)

Mary Ann Lewis
Roger Lewis
Shara McDonough
Ruth Johnson
Shari Kisner
Duayne Newhart
Samantha Sabovitch
Misty Smith
Sam Smith
Greg Rickie
Carl Witte

(2017)

Susan Anderson
Linda Bills
Jerry Carr
Linda Christensen
Mary Datschefski
Betty Foster
Ryver Lane
John Pasuit
Suzie Smith
Ron Swanson
=====

(2016)

Pat & Gerry Anderson
Gene Dobson
Maya Griebel
Richard McDonough
Leo Oye
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL
Leeta Sanger
Scott Sanger
Lyle Spieler

(2015)

Ella Teno

(2014)

Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Pat Mason
Continuing Prayers
Brantley Hemann
Laura Moore
Trisha Raven
=====



Wednesday
May 1 at 6 pm



Wednesday, May 8 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 Joe Campagna, Martin Reed's Brother-in-law.

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

Fellowship Team Ministries



Senior Fellowship Pot Luck Lunch

Senior Fellowship: Weds., May 1 at 11 am. Join us for food and fellowship. This month we will be celebrating Cinco De Mayo; Mexican type of food is encouraged.

3rd Sunday Pot-luck



May 19

WOMEN of the ELCA

Monthly Meeting: Will be May 23 at 7 pm. Gail Clouse will be our hostess.

WELCA Bible Study: Weds., May 8 at 11 am.
(See more information on page 3)

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



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

2. Tyler Simmons
5. Nikko Dobson
11. Mark Mitchell
14. Katie Johnson
20. Karen McCombs
21. Louie Clouse
22. Jenna Clouse
22. Richard Lettington III
23. Fred Diers
26. Gail Clouse
29. Doug Sparks
30. Mark McClure
31. Parker Anthony Hemann

Baptismal Birthdays

5. Stephanie Sparks
5. Jenna Clouse
5. Clark Sherman
5. Leland Sherman
5. Morgan Sherman
7. Jacob Hemann
8. Andy McCombs
8. Mike Dua
11. Richard Lettington III
18. Kedan Philip Johnson
20. Lynn Heaton
28. Gail Clouse
31. Cameron Stocker



Anniversaries

4. Richard & Ruth James
25. Richard & Meghan Lettington

Bereavement Ministry

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



Just a note from the Conductor of the Albia Community Choir

To: the women of St. Paul's Lutheran, Thanks so much for the food and reception for the Centerville concert (April 7) of the Albia Community Choir! The food was wonderful (many went back for seconds!) and you worked well in an unknown kitchen!
Thanks again! Paul Peterson



Council



**Council meeting: Sunday,
May 19 after worship.**



Mowing & Property Upkeep WE NEED YOUR HELP.

It's that time of the year: If you can help with keeping the church property looking good this summer, please sign-up on the sheet for mowing or trimming.



St. Paul's Council Reminder

**As we head into vacation time, please
faithfully remember your
giving even in your absence.**

**You can also sign-up for Auto-Tithe to make
your giving even easier all year long.**

TITHES & OFFERINGS

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING



Yard Sale and Bake Sale: WELCA will be having a garage sale **on June 1st**; so as you start your spring cleaning, please set items aside for the sale. (Please note we are unable to sell anything that needs repairs.) Bake sale is on that day as well. Please have your items to the church by May 30. We will be setting up on Friday, May 31.



Active Threat Training: is a passive response to an active shooter situation in a congregation. Anyone interested from all congregations are invited to attend on Monday, **May 6 from 6-8 pm** at the River of Life Church in Albia. Deputy Matt Scharff is the trainer and presenter. This is provided by Monroe Co. Sheriff Department.



Albia Ministerial is also designating **May as Law Enforcement Appreciation Month**. Each church has picked a time to bring food stuff for the Albia Police and Monroe Co. Sheriff Department during the month of May.

St. Paul's has signed up for 4 dozen cookies. Please let Pastor Nancy know if you making the cookies; you can bring them to the church on Sunday, May 12 and she will get them to the Law Center on Monday, 5/13.



Lenten Mission: *Final* Sunday to Contribute to

ONE Bread. ONE Body- May 5

This supports our local food pantry, Helping Hands, we have filled 4 bags and the Ministerial Emergency Assistance Office, we have filled 5 bags. Lets see if we can fill a couple more before May 5.

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



Sunday, May 5th, we will be sending the offering plates around twice - once for our usual offering, and then a special offering to take to Synod Assembly on Friday-Saturday, 5/11-12.

The Special Offering will go to the synod to help their ministry partners such as Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI), Lutheran colleges and seminaries, Lutheran Disaster Response, and various other ministries throughout the synod.

Please prayerfully consider what you are willing to give to these ministries.



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: Gail Clouse & Karen McCombs

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|---|
| <u>May 5</u> | Worship Assistant: | Marilyn Woods |
| | Ushers/Greeters: | Marilyn Johnson & Evelyn Sharpe |
| | Lector: | Lydia Dobson |
| | Acolytes: | Lydia-Candles Lydia-Communion Cups |
| <u>May 12</u> | Worship Assistant: | Marilyn Woods |
| | Ushers/Greeters: | Kelley Family |
| | Lector: | Grayson Kelley |
| | Acolytes: | Grayson -Candles Morgan-Communion Cups |
| <u>May 19</u> | Worship Assistant: | Marilyn Woods |
| | Usher/Greeter: | Hemann Family |
| | Lector: | Jessica Hemann |
| | Acolytes: | Parker -Candles Sophie-Communion Cups |
| <u>May 26</u> | Worship Assistant: | Anita Simmons |
| | Usher/Greeter: | Kelley Family |
| | Lector: | Anita Simmons |
| | Acolytes: | Grayson -Candles Eli-Communion Cups |

Worship Team Ministries



CHOIR

8:15 am

May 5 Practice & Performance

Choir Bar-B-Que
May 27 @ 5 pm
Hemann Home

Southeastern Iowa Synod



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's Work. Our Hands.

Pastor Nancy, Gloria and Anita
will be attending SEIA Synod
Assembly on May 10 & 11.

Out of Office



**Pastor Nancy will be
out of the Office:
May 25—June 2.**

Guest Pastor's

**May 26 — Pastor Dean Baer
June 2 — Pastor Dave Abrams**

Gloria out of the office: May 3-6



Mid-week Lenten Worship Testimonies

Thank you to those who shared how they experience God in their daily life. As the Holy Spirit worked within you; we saw your courage and as we heard your faith stories; hopefully we will find it easier to share our faith with others.

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.



Soul Barn Food Bank in Lovilia: Valerie Hughes is the one in charge. It's open on Wednesday's from 2-4 pm. Only for Lovilia residents. She can be reached at 641.931.0305.

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.



May 27, 2019



Luke 1:37
For with God, nothing
will be impossible