

Crossings

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

Volume 14 Issue 11

November 2019

Pastor's Epistle

Dear friends in Christ,

1 Corinthians 13 is one of my all-time favorite scriptures. It talks about God's love in us and through us in relationship with others that is practical and yet impossible to fully express without the help of God's Spirit within us. Below I have included, with permission, an excerpted article written by Scott Stoner, found on Livingcompass.org.

Love Is Greater Than Hate

Some of the most beautiful words ever written about love were authored two thousand years ago by the apostle Paul. The words appear in the Bible's New Testament. If you have attended a Christian wedding this summer, you may have heard his words read at the ceremony. No matter how many times any of us have heard or read these words, they are always a good reminder of how we are to live in relationship with others. I, for one, am always moved by them. Here are Paul's words from his first letter to the Corinthians written almost two thousand years ago.

Love is patient; love is kind.

Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude.

It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

It does not rejoice in wrong doing, but rejoices in the truth.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. [1 Cor 13.4-8,13 – my words].

Sometimes we are better able to understand something when we reflect on its opposite. And so when I read the words below this week about hate, I found that they made me appreciate even more the power of Paul's words. These words are intended to help us deepen our understanding and commitment to living out the words from 1 Corinthians 13 by looking at its opposite.

Hate is impatient; hate is cruel.

Hate is jealous; it puts on airs.

It is snobbish; it is always rude.

It is self-seeking; it is prone to anger.

Hate rejoices with what is wrong, but does not rejoice with the truth.

There is no limit to hate's malevolence, to its untrustworthiness, its despair, its weakness to sustain.

Hate never wins.

There are in the end three things that fail:

Deceit, despair, and hate.

And the weakest of these is hate. (Rob MacSwain, shared with permission.)

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

Each of us must do our part to stand up and speak out against hate, both in our public, and private lives. We must work to ensure that “Hate never wins” and that, “Love never ends.”

Vital communities of faith, such as the people here in St. Paul’s, are called by Jesus Christ to be this person of love in every time and place. We may be overwhelmed by this calling, but Jesus promises in Mat 19.26 – “But Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but for God all things are possible.” We each bear within us the power of Jesus Christ in the Holy Spirit, so with God, all things are possible! Be of good cheer, strong of heart and open to the Spirit’s direction for your next chapter going forward. You cannot fail as long as God’s love is alive in your hearts.

Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy

Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp updates:

Every summer Jesus is changing and transforming lives at Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp. This past summer they had a total of 1,907 campers that heard the Gospel.

4 of those were sponsored by St. Paul’s.

Over \$59, 000 dollars were given in camperships, to ensure that all people who God leads to camp are able to come.

St. Paul’s also sponsored 3 youth to the Fall Recharge weekends in Oct. & Nov.

Riverside is a great way for our youth to have wonderful experiences, while keeping Jesus at the center.

Please encourage your children to attend camp next year. We have camperships available.



Confirmation

Congratulations to
Lydia Dobson
And
Grayson Kelley
Who affirmed their faith on Oct. 27.
We welcome them into the
Adult Community of St. Paul’s.





St. Paul's Shut-ins:

Harold Benson
Ruth Johnson

**Education/
Prayer Team**

RECENT PRAYERS

Judy Bail & Family
Lois & Gene Behrens
Mitch & Judy Brown
Carrie Burgland
Nancy Clouse
Charlene Crall
Judy Framzmeier
Linda Sales Harvard
Robin Holien
Lowell Johnson
Kevin Klingbeil
Mike Kahmann
Mary Ann
Carol Sovern
Mary Tripplett
Amber Witte
(2018)
Eleanor Anderson
Nate Baggett
Donny Ballard
Sharon Burman
Tony Daggett
Mark Dreier
Shari Kisner
Mary Ann Lewis
Roger Lewis
Shara McDonough
Sam Mahoney
Dakota Miller
Samantha Sabovitch
Misty Smith
Sam Smith
Greg Rickie
Carla Wahl
Phil Whitson

Continuing Prayers

(2017)

Susan Anderson
Linda Bills
Mary Datschefski
Ryver Lane
John Pasuit
Suzie Smith
Ron Swanson

(2016)

Pat & Gerry Anderson
Gene Dobson
Leo Oye
Leeta Sanger
Scott Sanger

(2015)

Ella Teno

(2014)

Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Pat Mason

Continuing Prayers

Brantley Hemann
Trisha Raven



**WELCA Bible Study:
Weds.—Nov. 13 at**

Earlier start time 10:30 am.

Theme: No hard feelings?



God of Comfort – We pray for the family and friends and all who mourn the death of John Clouse

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

Family Faith Formation Gathering: Weds. Nov. 20 at 6:30 pm.

Please join us for supper, Christmas ornament decorating mission project and faith sharing.

We will have chili, chicken noodle soup and macaroni & cheese for supper.

Chrismon Christmas ornaments: as we decorate the ornaments, we will learn what they mean.

We will decorate a second ornament to give to a nursing home.

All our families and other congregation members are encouraged to come. Bring a friend.

(Just let the office know **how many are attending**, so we can prepare enough food and crafts.)



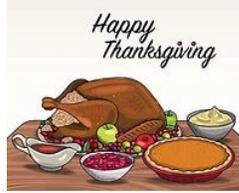
Fellowship Team Ministries



November 17



Senior Fellowship
Pot-luck Luncheon: Wednesday, Nov. 6 at 11 am.
 Bring a friend to join the fun and fellowship.
 Last month we had 17 folks for lunch and we all enjoyed Lana & Rob's travel experiences in Ireland, Scotland and York. Thank you Lana & Rob.



WOMEN of the ELCA

DATE CHANGE for November's Meeting:

Thursday, Nov. 21. Thanks giving supper and Christmas Gift Exchange.

Everyone will bring something to eat for supper.
 Gift Exchange: Bring a **WRAPPED** White Elephant gift to exchange. (No Christmas Tea in Dec. this year.)

**WELCA Bible Study: Weds. , Nov. 13
 At 10:30 am (Note New Time)**



Birthday's

8. Brad Johnson
12. Alyssa Marie Butler
14. Blair Butler Thomas
15. Laura Loveland
16. Catherine Benson
23. Lynn Heaton
27. David McCombs
29. Wilmer Blomgren, Jr.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Baptismal Birthday's

4. Chuck Clouse
17. Blair Butler Thomas
22. Stryker Lettington
23. Evelyn Sharpe
25. Henry Dustin Dowdy
25. Anne Preston Jenkins



Anniversaries

1. Andrew & Gina McCombs
18. Michael & Pamela (Wirtjes) Butler

Pastor Nancy will be out of the office Nov. 10 through Nov. 16.

Gloria will be out of the office from Nov. 22 through Dec. 3.



WELCA Soup Lunch and Supper will be Thurs., Dec. 12
 Lunch 11 am-1 pm Supper from 5—7 pm.
 Chili, Chicken Noodle & Vegetable Beef soup Home Made Desserts.



Thank you
 to Ruth James
 And
 Marilyn Woods for new
 Cross stitch Chrismos.



To everyone who brought items to the Confirmation Reception.

To Richard, Ruth, Carol, Joan and Gloria for helping clean out the shed.

To Carol & Mark for the storage room shelves as well as helping to move stuff to fill them.

Council



MEMBERS NEEDED
Called to Serve



Meeting on November 17 after worship.

COUNCIL MINUTES from October 13 will be sent as a separate attachment.

Definition of church council: a lay group appointed to assume responsibility with and assist the pastor in spiritual guidance and in such practical matters as the handling of church property and the collection and distribution of money for benevolences

St. Paul's is looking for council members.

Please prayerfully consider being on council. You would have a chance to help make decision as we go forward, into exciting times, doing ministry.

We have 5 council members who are listed to go off at the end of this year.

(3 of which could stay on for another 3 year term.)



Richard James, Thank you for keeping the church property looking so nice the last 2 months. We hope the lawn mower can be put away for the winter, now that is November.



Call Committee Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 5 at 6 pm



The Pumpkin Carving Event was so much fun. We had 11 youth and 18 adults enjoying the food and fun.

Thank you to everyone who brought food and helped to put on this event.

Thank you to Carol (and Mark) for the pumpkins.

Thank you to Fred & Jo for getting the fire ready for the Smore's. They were a big HIT.



MISSIONS



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers Desperately needed at the Albia Ministerial Emergency Office.

The only have 2 people a couple hours a week right now. It is very hard to help people in need when hours are so limited. Please pray fully consider volunteering 3 hours a once a week for this very needed ministry.



© Can Stock Photo

Boxes of Hope Continuing Mission for the Emergency Assistance Office.

Items that are in the greatest demand are: **Food.....**

All-purpose cleaning products & Bathroom cleaners

Dish soap

Laundry Detergent

Toilet paper

Toothpaste

Men & Women Deodorant

Shampoo

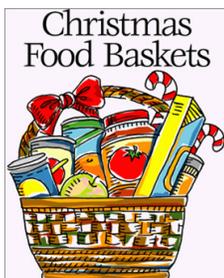
Body wash (not bar soap)

Diapers

Female Hygiene items

Kleenex tissues

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



Christmas Food Baskets

Helping Hands Christmas Baskets: This year Helping Hands is asking different churches for specific items to bring for the Christmas Baskets. We will know soon what Item St. Paul's will provide.

SPECIAL THANKSGIVING OFFERING will be on Sunday, Nov. 17 for the Albia Ministerial Emergency Office. All the ministerial churches are taking a special offering during the month of November that they would have done at the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service. Please donate to help those that need help in our community.



VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Ring a bell...Take a Stand Help Others



St. Paul's will be ringing Bells on Friday, December 13 at Peoples Bank from 8:30 am– 3:30 pm. Please sign up to help. 90 % of collected funds stay in our Community.

October Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Linda Preston & Gloria Smallwood

<u>Nov. 3</u> All Saints	Worship Assistant: Ushers/Greeters: Lector Acolytes:	Gail Clouse Richard & Ruth James Gail Clouse Sophie—Candles Parker—Communion Cups
<u>Nov. 10</u>	Worship Assistant: Ushers/Greeters: Lector: Acolytes:	Marilyn Woods Marilyn Johnson & Evelyn Sharpe Marilyn Woods Eli —Candles Morgan—Communion Cups
<u>Nov. 17</u>	Worship Assistant: Usher/Greeter: Lector: Acolytes:	Marilyn Woods Tom & Linda Preston Marilyn Woods Lydia—Candles & Communion Cups
<u>Nov. 24</u> Christ the King	Worship Assistant: Usher/Greeter: Lector: Acolytes:	Anita Simmons ??????? Anita Simmons Grayson—Candles Eli —Communion Cups

Worship Team Ministries

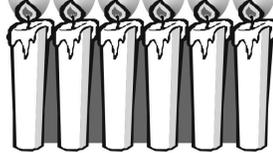


Sunday at 8:15 am

Nov. 3	Practice
Nov. 10	Practice & Performance
Nov. 17	Practice
Nov. 24	Practice

All Saints Day

*The Lord redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.*
Psalm 34:22



November 3 we remember those who have died, during worship we will be lighting candles in remembrance of them.

DECORATE the Church

Prepare for Advent Congregation Celebration

Sunday, November 24

St. Paul's will be putting up decorations in the sanctuary and the fellowship hall after worship. Join us for our Hurry up and Wait celebration.



Advent Evening Worship services will be held at 6:30 PM Wednesday
Dec. 4—Dec. 11—Dec. 18
We will be doing the Holden Evening Prayer Service

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
The Southeast Iowa Synod of the ELCA

www.elca.org
www.seiasynod.org



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.



St. Mary's Election Day Dinner: Tues. Nov. 5 from
5 – 7 pm. Turkey & Swiss Steak with all the trimmings.
Cost: \$10.00 adult & \$5.00 children. See more info on poster in entry. Take out available.

2 Blood Drives: *FRIDAY, NOV. 8 FROM 7 AM – 1 PM; HERE AT ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN.*

Tuesday, Nov. 12 at Trinity MC from 3 – 7 pm.



Trinity MC Autumn Event: Tues., Nov. 12. Coffee & Rolls 9 am. —Lunch 11 am – 1 pm.
Free will donation. Craft & Bake Sale 9 am- 4:30 pm



Saturday, November 2.
Or you will be early for church.