

# Crossings

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

Volume 14 Issue 10

October 2019

## Pastor's Epistle

### 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

Dear Sisters, Brothers – my Friends in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

What follows is, I think, extremely important for me, and for everyone who receives this newsletter, because we are all now in the discernment process regarding who Christ is calling us to be. Who are we as a congregation called by God to do God's work in the name of Jesus, in this time and place? Who am I, as I retire in a few weeks? What is next for me as I follow Jesus to Wisconsin?

I continue to read through "The Cost of Discipleship" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, (The MacMillan Company, New York, NY, ninth edition, 1967). It is a slow read because it challenges my understanding and experience of God's grace. These challenges have to do with knowing and recognizing the difference between cheap grace and costly grace. Understanding the differences between cheap and costly grace is of primary importance when discerning God's direction for our personal and corporate life in Christ. Check this out:

*"Cheap grace is "the grace which amounts to the justification of the sin without the justification of the repentant sinner who departs from sin and from whom sin departs". . . Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession,. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate." (page 47)*

As an example, for me, cheap grace finds expression when I/we justify causing someone else pain by saying, "I'm only human". By saying that, we are justifying our unkindness, love-less-ness, and sin so we need no contrition, no repentance, no confession. We wipe our own slates clean. We become our own god, claiming power that isn't ours as our own. On the other hand –

*Costly grace "is costly because it calls us to follow, and grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man/(person) the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price" and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. . . Grace is costly because it compels a man/(person) to submit to the yoke of Christ and follow him; it is grace because Jesus says: My yoke is easy and my burden is light." (pages 47 & 48).*

This is pretty heady stuff, the understanding of which is crucial for all who claim to be Jesus-followers. Serving our neighbor through costly grace means we drop all labels we have for **those people**, whoever has made it onto our personal and/or corporate list of **those people**. In Jesus, there are no labels – only people showered in the redeeming, costly love of God.

As individuals, we walk into each day with the understanding of God's constant presence, and the certainty of the truth of God's word, God's promises to be faithful and steadfast in God's love for us. Because of Jesus, we are held in God's arms, and protected from powers that would try to separate us from God. This certain truth, this hope, empowers us to carry Jesus into the chaos, turmoil, and suffering of our everyday life, enabling us to share Christ by how we talk to and care for those we meet.

May we all grow into the costly grace that is the Incarnate Jesus, willing to sacrifice what we can to serve our neighbors here and around the world.

Walking with you along the WAY – Pastor Nancy



**Holy  
Baptism**

**On Sunday, October 6, we welcome Donna Post into God's family through Holy Baptism.**



The LORD bless thee, and keep thee



October 27

Lydia Dobson  
And  
Grayson Kelley

Will confirm their faith.

We welcome them into the confirmed membership  
of the Church.

Everyone is invited to a reception for  
Lydia & Grayson after worship.



**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  
John & Nancy Clouse  
Rob Eells  
Judy Framzmeier

Linda Sales Harvard  
Robin Holien  
Lowell Johnson  
Kevin Klingbeil  
Mike Kahmann  
Mary Ann  
Pastor Dennis Miller  
Paul Peterson  
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.—Oct. 9 at earlier start**  
**time 10:30 am.**



God of Comfort – We pray for the family and friends and all who mourn the death of  
**Zack Bates**

Larry Dunn (Mardyll Benson's Nephew)

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



**SPECIAL EVENT**  
**at St. Paul's**

**Wednesday, October 16**  
**at 6:15 pm**

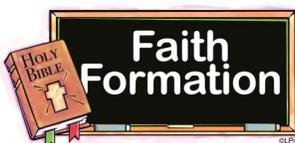


The young people of St. Paul's, and their whole family, are invited to join us, as we serve you supper.

After supper we will be carving pumpkins and learning about how "Being a Christian is like being a Pumpkin".

Join us for the fun & fellowship.

Everyone from the congregation is invited to join us as well. Please let us know if you are coming to help us plan for the amount of food to prepare.



**Home Huddle**

The take home packets are ready for Oct., Nov. & Dec. in the fellowship hall.

We encourage the children to do the lesson each week at home; start with highs and lows of the week, read out of their Bibles, do the Children's Bulletin sheets and in closing pray for each other.

## Fellowship Team Ministries



Oct. 20



### Senior Fellowship

**Pot-luck Luncheon:** Wednesday, Oct. 2 at 11 am. Our Theme this month is Fall Comfort Foods. Bring foods that remind you of fall.

### WOMEN of the ELCA

**Monthly Meeting** will be on Thursday, Oct. 24 at 7 pm. Our hostess will be Sharon Wilkin.

**WELCA Bible Study: Weds. , Oct. 9 At 10:30 am (Note New Time)**

Restoration Days Bake Sale Cookie Decorators



## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Birthdays

2. Stacy Johnson
6. Cody Simmons
8. Charles Smallwood
8. Laura Clouse
12. Quentin Lee Butler
12. Talia Elizabeth Lee Sherman
14. Lana Kaldenberg
14. Tonya Tangie
16. Pamela Butler
17. Morgan Sherman
20. Martin Reed
23. Marilyn Woods
29. Clark Michael Matthew Sherman



### Baptismal Birthday's

11. Julie Stocker
12. Joyce Tangie
12. Mary Ann (Preston) Hatfield
17. Jenah(Duea) Smith
26. Ryan Preston
27. Richard James
28. Anita Simmons Phillip Clouse

### Anniversaries

13. Kara & Brandon Tomlin
14. Andy & Veronica Fuhs
20. Matt & Stacey Johnson



Pastor Nancy will be out of the office October 7 through October 11.



Congratulations to Jessica James and Jordan McAvoy who were married on September 9, 2019. Parents of the Bride are Richard & Ruth James.

# Council



Meeting on October 13  
after worship.  
We will be working on  
2020 budget.



## Lawn Mower up-date:



It has been purchased for \$1800.00.  
Council is putting together a policy  
regarding use and maintenance  
They are also planning to have a  
day, to train anyone, who would like to  
help keep the church property looking great.  
(Must be 18 years or older)



## Call Committee Meeting

Tuesday, October 22 at 6 pm

## CALL COMMITTEE INFORMATION REPORT

We appreciate all those who took part in the Prayer Vigil.

There were 12 participants who lifted up our congregation and our church family to ask for God's guidance in the direction we should go to fulfill His purpose through us.

The Prayer Vigil Binder with the ideas and thoughts of those who participated; will be in the fellowship hall for you to read through and add your own ideas and comments until October 22.

It would be very helpful if everyone would add their thoughts & ideas to the binder.

The Call Committee will take all the ideas and comments into consideration, at our meeting, and continue working to our Congregational Profile; with the information you have supplies.

We may need more in-put from the congregation as we continue with this process.



# MISSIONS



**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).



## God's Grace is Free

### Community Free Spaghetti Supper- 7th year



**Thank you to Everyone** who helped put on the God's Grace is Free Spaghetti Supper. We served over 200 meals; which is the most we have ever served. Over 23 wonderful people helped put on this great community event, sharing God's Grace and Love with our neighbors; couldn't have done it without your help. Lots of new faces came this year and everyone had a good time. Thanks again, Mission's Task Force.



Few photos of that great evening.



## October Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Karen McCombs & Marilyn Woods

<b><u>Oct. 6</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Fred Diers & Andy Fuhs
	Lector:	Gail Clouse
	Acolytes:	Parker –Candles Sophie-Communion Cups
<b><u>Oct. 13</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Mike & Kay Spieler
	Lector:	Grayson Kelley
	Acolytes:	Eli –Candles Grayson-Communion Cups
<b><u>Oct. 20</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Usher/Greeter:	Tom & Linda Preston
	Lector:	Lydia Dobson
	Acolytes:	Lydia–Candles & Communion Cups
<b><u>Oct. 27</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
Reformation/ Confirmation	Usher/Greeter:	Don & Karen Niebuhr
	Lector:	Anita Simmons
	Acolytes:	Morgan–Candles & Communion Cups

## Worship Team Ministries



Everyone is invited to join us as we share God's message of grace and salvation through music.

### **Sunday at 8:15 am**

Oct. 6	Practice
Oct. 13	Practice
Oct. 20	TBD
Oct. 27	Practice & Performance



"WORSHIP THE LORD IN THE  
SPLENDOR OF HIS HOLINESS;  
TREMBLE BEFORE HIM, ALL  
THE EARTH."  
- PSALM 96:9



**First Lutheran Church, Chariton, is hosting a one day Bible Study "Jesus- old, new & now".**  
The Bible Study is scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 4 pm.  
Sign- up if interested, so we can car pool.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
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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](http://www.elca.org)  
[www.seiasynod.org](http://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.

