



I've reached the point in this series on Justice that I want to try to comment on the state of affairs in America today. This is my interpretation of events and you may disagree with it. That's fine. I don't expect everyone to agree. Similarly, I hope that you won't be too harsh with me. Here goes.

Where once America was comfortable with open racism, we are now so against it that the allegation of it is extremely serious business, career-ending in some cases. A business that didn't allow black customers in 1951 was normal. Such a business in 2021 is unthinkable. Public figures denigrating black-Americans was common then; it would cause a public outcry now. White Supremacy was a rallying cry for proud racists across the country in the 1920s; now it is an accusation leveled at people who are horrified at the thought of it.

We have changed. Racism has become our worst social sin by far. That isn't to say that people don't have racist attitudes or even do racist things, but that the society which once accepted those attitudes now vehemently rejects them. This is an enormous victory which should be celebrated.

But something else has changed too, it's the flip-side of that coin. Because being seen as racist is such a terrible thing, the accusation of racism has become enormously powerful. It has become a weapon which, on the one hand, identifies its user as a worker for justice (which is socially rewarded), while on the other hand it tarnishes the reputation of its target (which has negative social consequences.) This creates an incentive to label opponents or enemies as racists which sinful humanity is only too willing to take advantage of.

November 2021

The state of affairs in America, as I see it, is that we have made enormous, but incomplete, progress against racism. And we have become trapped here. We've made enough progress that racism and discrimination are almost universally decried. But there's enough left to do that most people can look at present reality and say, "That's still not right." Having arrived at this spot, both by making incredible progress and by not making quite enough progress, we are being taken advantage of. This dynamic is being abused by cynical people who can put on the mantle of anti-racism in order to exert power over other people, enact changes that they'd like to see, and try to influence public opinion by the exercise of fear.

What I have felt for years is that the abusers need to be called out. Those who use the accusation of racism against their opponents need to be made to pay for this abuse. They need to be confronted and held to account because what they are doing is... injustice. What is more perverse than using people's desire for justice to attack innocent people? How can we move towards greater justice if we are abusing people to do it?

Some years ago I participated on a Facebook forum for Lutheran clergy. There was discussion of this very thing. And one young seminary student told me that "my sheets" were showing. To be clear, he was suggesting that having the wrong opinions about this topic was tantamount to being a member of the Ku Klux Klan. This was an injustice. Other people suggested that the experience of being accused of racism did not amount to anything when compared to historical racism. They minimized my experience, told me that it didn't matter. Both the accusation and the minimization were enormously frustrating. Who were they to set themselves up as judges?

So, what's to be done? There is still progress to be made. But how can we make progress when there

are abusers who are piling up new injustices in the name of justice? How can we get out of the trap?

I believe the answer is that innocent people must willingly confront injustice, be hurt by it, be Christ-like in the face of it. False accusation as a weapon can only be overthrown by innocent people not trying to avoid it, not trying to appease it, but accepting the cost of it willingly.

I'm afraid that the abusers might never be called to account for falsely accusing other people. And though I long for it, the reality of justice in this world is that it is not established by the guilty paying the cost, but by the innocent who are willing to do so in their stead. This is the message of the cross. This is what Jesus did for us.

I'd like to close with a quotation that I read recently in a book called, "Confessions of a Heretic" by Roger Scruton. He wrote,

"Justice is the ability to see the other as having a claim on you, as being a free subject just as you are, and as demanding your accountability. To acquire this virtue you must learn the habit of face-to-face encounters, in which you solicit the other's consent and cooperation rather than imposing your will." p111

To move towards greater justice for all people in America we must be able to act as free people who do not impose our will, not even, (not especially!) in the name of justice. Rather, we must see Christ in our neighbor, in our opponent, and we must be Christ to him, even paying the cost of his injustice for him. The way of justice is the way of the cross.

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Rev. Ben Worley

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Emanuel-St John Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes October 13, 2021

President Brian Lantz called the meeting to order. Present were Cindy Souder, Randy Souder, Rhonda Johnson, Jean Matter, LaVerne Arndt, Jeff Ellerbrock, Dennis Hinrichs, Pastor Ben, Nicole

Meyer, Keith Berry, Julie Haberstroh, Pauline Lange, Candace Booth, Dennis Booth and Colleen Arndt. Pastor Ben gave devotions. Motion by LaVerne Arndt, second by Randy Souder, to approve the agenda. Motion passed. Motion by Candace Booth, second by Nicole Meyer, to approve the September minutes. Motion passed. Rhonda gave the Treasurers Report with a balance of \$19,823.89. Motion by LaVerne Arndt, second by Nicole Meyer, to approve Treasurers Report. Motion passed.

Old Business: Jeff Ellerbrock had a rough draft of the church brochure that he showed the council. He asked for more information that could be included in it. Jeff contacted Northwest Communications about the availability of hardwiring the church for a Wi-Fi system. A quote was given of \$1,828.23 for 4 Wi-Fi spots. Motion by Dennis Hinrichs, second by Nicole Meyer, to accept the bid from Northwest Communications of \$1,828.23 for Wi-Fi system with money being used from undesignated memorials to pay for the system. Motion passed.

President Report: Brian informed the council that the bench outside was removed. He will try and get a boom truck to look at the exterior cross light. The memorial given for the upkeep of the Church's north cemetery was put into a CD until council has decided how to use the money. Brian talked about having a Healing Service and a church member has left some money to the church in a will.

Pastor Report: Pastor Ben will resume doing church services at the nursing homes. He informed the council that his family would like to get new carpet in the living room of the parsonage and that they are contributing the funds to pay for the project. Motion by LaVerne Arndt, second by Nicole Meyer, to allow Pastor Ben to put new carpet into the living room at the parsonage from Keith's Carpet in Sac City.

Worship and Music Committee: Jean Matter informed council that Dan Rial will be the speaker for the Mission Festival Service. There will be a potluck served after the meal. Thanksgiving services are being planned.

Parish Education Committee: Nicole Meyer reported that the Children's Christmas Service will be December 19th at 10:00 a.m. They still are in search for a volunteer to be the Christmas Program Coordinator. Pre-packaged snacks and muffins are given to Sunday School children on Sunday

mornings. The High School class is on Sunday nights.

Outreach Committee: Colleen Arndt and Julie Haberstroh present. Committee is working on Confirmation, Mission Festival potluck and is working on the Christmas Donation Tree that will be in the entryway during Advent.

Property Management: LaVerne Arndt and Dennis Hinrichs present. They reported that the kitchen flooring in the parsonage will be put in this Saturday. Mike Villhauer fixed the down spots so that they can just be lifted up while mowing and then returns back to laying down. Discussion on snow removal, a note will be put into the Vine and the bulletin that the church is looking to hire someone for the job.

Stewardship and Finances: Randy Souder and Keith Berry present. They will be starting on the budget for 2022 next month.

WELCA: Candace Booth present. Eight quilts went to Okoboji Bible Camp Quilt Auction, 88 quilts to Lutheran World Relief, 11 quilts each to Calhoun and Sac County Outreach Programs and boxes of bandages was sent off also. Circle meets at 9:30 a.m. the first Wednesday of each month. Rachel Black from ICCC in Fort Dodge sent a thank you note for the donations of cookies for first year college students arriving their first day at campus.

New Business: Candace Booth talked to the Council about the formation of four churches going together with the Church of Damascus Road.

Motion by Dennis Booth, second by Randy Souder, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.



Mission Festival
Sunday, November 14, 2021
10:00 a.m.



Mission Festival will be Sunday, November 14th with Dan Rial as guest speaker. The offering has not yet been designated but hope to do so at the

November Council meeting. We will have a potluck meal following the service. Tableware and drink will be provided. Families whose last name starts with A-M are asked to provide desserts, N-Z are asked to provide a side dish.

Also as part of our Mission Festival/Thanksgiving we will have a basket in the entry for the collection of non-perishable food items, paper products, etc. for Sac and Calhoun County Outreach Centers. Our collection will last for several weeks. Thank you in advance for your generous donations!



Hanging of the Greens

We will be decorating the church for Christmas Saturday, November 27th beginning at 3 p.m. Bring along a snack to share for a time of fellowship when decorating is complete.

All are welcome.



We will have a "Giving Tree" in the entry this year. Donations of underwear, t shirts, sweatpants, sweatshirts, gloves, mittens, hats, caps and socks for Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade age will be appreciated. These will be given to East Sac County School and South Calhoun County School. For the children that these will help keep warm this winter, we thank you!!!



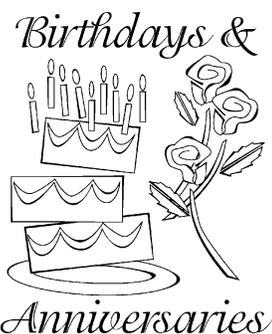
Weddings
THIS MONTH

Kaylynn Marie Kruckenberg and Christopher John Larson were married Saturday, October 9, 2021 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church rural Lytton, Iowa.

We pray that God will bless Chris and Kaylynn with much happiness.

November Birthdays

- 1) Carson Pibal
- 2) Kade Smith
- 3) Greg Williams
- 4) Clayton Garcia, Wyatt Glasnapp,
Holly Hammen
- 5) Cooper Nattress
- 7) Katlyn Ackerson
- 9) Ayden Dart
- 10) Wesly Maulsby
- 11) Jerry Jacobs, Melissa Leer,
Brock Nattress
- 12) Sandra Gibson, Donavon Lake,
Alan Nuehring, Alanna Schuur
- 13) Nancy Bruns, Michele Hauptert,
Mary Ann Lashinski, Carol Meyer,
Tisha Murphy
- 14) Melissa Souder, Joshua Van Hulzen
- 16) James Toms
- 17) Gloria Johnson
- 18) Karla Dettman
- 19) Lexie McDonough, Jasper Heimdal,
Nicole Meyer, Kierstynn Prenger
- 20) Amy Purdie
- 21) Baylee Ellerbrock, Payden Roberson
- 22) Marilyn Schmitt
- 23) Nick Albright, Dennis Hedin
- 24) Mark Riley
- 27) Angela Olerich, Jessica Prenger,
Bonnie Walker
- 28) Treajan Diersen, Devin Riley
- 29) Kellen Meyer, Alexander Taylor



Nov. 7, 1970 **Dennis & Barbara Hedin**
Nov. 13, 2004 Charles & Sara Nattress
Nov. 26, 1966 **Dale & JoAnn Scharn**



Praise and Thanksgiving



These Sunday School students were present all Sundays in September 2021—

- Nursery-Preschool: Earl Bartels, Teddy Albright, Canon Albright and Jack Bartels;
- Kindergarten & Grade 1: Adelaide Worley, Elin Albright, Myla Albright and Lily Bartels;
- Grades 2 & 3: Baylee Ellerbrock, Johnny Worley and Sawyer Riley;
- Grades 4 & 5: Lille Greene, Abby Lankford, Elodie Mentzer, Abby Worley and Marcus Mentzer;
- Grade 6: Aidan Albright, Peyton Ellerbrock, Cooper Nattress and Benjamin Worley;
- Grade 7 & 8: Jossa Hauptert and Charlie Nattress.

Class winner for best attendance was Nursery-Pre-Kindergarten taught by Jo Grodahl and Kari Musselman.



WELCA FALL RETREAT

The 2021 Women's Fall Retreat was held September 8 at the Twin Lakes Christian Center. The theme was "Called to Offer Ourselves as Living Sacrifices for the World". Various Synod officers reported activities.

The featured speaker was Tami Davis, Gowrie, who is a living organ donor. She shared her journey through a kidney donation. Pr. Emily Sauer led the Bible study from Romans 12, encouraging each of us to sacrifice our whole self in service to God.

It was a beautiful day filled with fun fellowship. Attending from ESJ were Jean Matter and Candace Booth. As a reminder, each woman of ESJ is a member of WELCA and is welcome to participate in Circle and church activities, all uplifting as well as serving.

More WELCA information can be found online womenofelca.org.





Duane D Segebarth, 64, passed away peacefully on Friday, October 1, 2021, at the Paula J. Baber Hospice Home in Fort Dodge, Iowa. He was born in Sac City, Iowa on March 7, 1957 to the late LaVern and Beulah (Dettmann) Segebarth. Duane, a life-long resident of Lytton, attended grade school and graduated from Lytton High School.

On June 20, 1987, Duane was united in marriage to Alicia Bolt at the St. Paul Lutheran Church in Sac City. This union was blessed with three sons: Blake, Shane, and Chase. They raised their family in Lytton where Duane was a truck driver for Segebarth Transfer, Glasnapp Transfer, and for the last 28 years, Ellerbrock Trucking.

Duane was a social guy and had many, many friends. Typical spots you would find Duane were Sparky's, Hutch's, the Glasnapp shop, or Domino's. When he wasn't out and about, he could be found working on his truck or watching MeTV. Being from Lytton, Duane really enjoyed helping set up for Gala Days and the annual parade. Amongst his busy schedule, Duane always found the time to be with his family and grandchildren. He loved attending events and watching his grandchildren grow up, making everyone smile along the way.

Those left to cherish his memory include: sons Blake (Crystal) Segebarth, Shane (Allison) Segebarth, and Chase Segebarth, and their mother Alicia Segebarth; grandchildren Hank, Otis, and Rudy Segebarth; sister JoAnn (Jeff) Ellerbrock; nephew Jon (Angela, Peyton, Baylee) Ellerbrock; and Marlene Glasnapp. Duane is preceded in death by his parents, niece Jaylin Ellerbrock, and Roger Glasnapp.

Condolences to the family of **Charles "Bill" Lawson, father of Sue DeMilo**, who died Friday, October 1 at Accura HealthCare of Carroll in Pomeroy. A Memorial service was held Tuesday, October 19th at St. Francis Catholic Church, Rockwell City.

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S COMFORT AND STRENGTH FOR ALL WHO MOURN!



November is National Adoption Month, a time to

honor families who have opened their hearts and homes to children and teens. For LSI, it is a time to celebrate the families we support through Foster Care and Adoption, and to raise awareness for the hundreds of Iowa children in need of a safe, healthy home.

In 30 counties across western Iowa, LSI Foster Care and Adoption recruits, licenses, and supports foster and adoptive families to ensure every Iowa child grows up in a safe, stable environment.

But more work needs to be done. According to the most recent federal data, more than 100,000 children in the U.S. are waiting to be adopted from foster care, and thousands of teens age out of foster care every year without a permanent family. To learn more about supporting Iowa children in foster care, visit LSIowa.org/Foster, or contact Deb Whitford, LSI Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563.676.2065. LSI is also available to provide a customized virtual shared ministry opportunity for your congregation. If you would like to share the message of LSI with your community, please visit LSIowa.org/church-relations or contact our Waverly office at 319.352.2630 to get started.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

Giving Back to Their Community

Amber and Donald had always felt called to provide foster care. But any time they would consider taking the leap and starting the process, the thought of "what if?" would leave them feeling stuck. Now, Amber can't imagine life without the children her family has cared for over the years.

Amber and Donald became licensed to provide foster care and adopt children almost seven

years ago. Since then, they have provided foster care for 17 Iowa children and adopted six. Amber says one of her favorite parts of the experience is seeing her adult children bond with each child who enters their home.

“It’s crazy to see our 25-year-old so bonded with our two-year-old. We don’t label the kids as ‘adoptive’ or ‘biological’, they’re just all our kids,” Amber says. “That bond is just as huge whether it’s biological or not.”

As Iowa continues to see a need for more foster and adoptive families, Amber says becoming licensed is one way Iowans can give back to their community.

“God gives us all gifts, and parenting and helping in the community seemed to be what He put in our hearts,” Amber says. “If you haven’t found a place to help in your community, consider foster care and adoption,” she says. “It could be exactly what your purpose is.”



InterVarsity Rebuilding after COVID

As we have stepped onto campus this Fall, my heart has been so full! Where every door last year felt shut, this year they have been flung wide open! I never knew how joyful it would feel just to be able to table on campus once again! The beginning of the semester has been so jammed packed! There are so many things to give God praise!

Our **New Staff Intern, Zach Dodge**, jumped right in this semester! Bible Study is off to a great start on Sunday Nights this year and continues to gather new students each week! This semester, the group is diving into the book of John. After COVID last year, meeting in-person feels like such a gift!

(Some of our ladies provided cookies for InterVarsity at the beginning of the term and this is the Thank you received by Candace. Copy of original is posted on bulletin board in the narthex.)

New Student Outreach was one of our busiest as we connected with over 200 students in two weeks! Big thanks for those who donated cookies this year! We used them for everything: from Move-in-day, Tabling, Spiritual Surveys, and more! This simple gesture makes a big impact in our ministry!

Meet Elizabeth Peterson! Elizabeth is a former missionary to Thailand and now ICCC Faculty on the Storm Lake Camps. This Fall, God has put a burden on her heart to begin a faculty prayer group and evangelistic bible study for students. We are excited to partner with her as a new volunteer!

As we were tabling the first week of school, **I had opportunity to lead Michael, a non-traditional student, to the Lord!** Michael is already plugged into both bible study and a local church and is planning on getting baptized in two weeks!

Thank you again for supporting InterVarsity! Whether it’s praying, giving financially, or even baking cookies, your partnership has enabled us to build God’s kingdom on campus in new ways!

Joyfully,
Rachel Black

Worship Leaders for November 2021

November 7th

Worship Attendant: Gloria Johnson
Acolyte: Devin Riley
Reader: Barb Hedin

Readings: Isaiah 25:6-9 & Revelation 21:1-6a
Children's Sermon: Teresa Van Hulzen
Gospel: John 11:32-44

November 14th

Mission Festival

Worship Attendants: Ben and Susan Albright
Acolyte: Owen Scharn
Reader: Ben Albright

Readings: Daniel 12:1-3 & Hebrews 10:11-14 [15-18] 19-25
Children's Sermon: Kari Lantz
Gospel: Mark 13:1-8

November 21st

Worship Attendant: Scott Greene
Acolyte: Sadie Wheelock
Reader: Marge Sands

Readings: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 & Revelation 1:4b-8
Children's Sermon: Faith Worley
Gospel: John 18:33-37

November 28th

Worship Attendant: Candace Booth
Acolyte: Derek Greene
Reader: Jo Scharn

Readings: Jeremiah 33:14-16 & 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
Children's Sermon: Cheryl Haden
Gospel: Luke 21:25-36



Sunday, November 7, 2021