

Congregational Clarion

A M E R Y C O N G R E G A T I O N A L U C C



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Page

Birthdays.....	2
Members/Friends	2
Youth	3,4
Events.....	5
Pastor Appreciation	6
Come Holy Ghost	7
Shine Like a Diamond By Julie Etta Smith	8
Council Report.....	9
Pastor's Report.....	10



PASTOR'S POINT

by Barry Schaefer

Dear ones this issue of the Clarion is to occur in October. Because of Halloween, (not because of the Autumn weather) it has become one of my least favorite times of the year.

You may know that I'm a First Responder, and a Police Chaplain. These two facts take me to accidents, deaths, and to family notifications to inform them that their beloved family member has perished in an accident. This is not fun stuff, but it is the "glorification of death and destruction that gets me the most. Zombies, skeletons, graves bursting open, and the celebration of the rampant running of "evil spirits" causes me pause.

November 1, the day after Halloween (almost forgotten and largely uncelebrated in our culture) is known as All Saints Day. A Saint, or rather more commonly Saints (plural is preferred) is one who is "pious", "holy", sacred" "consecrated to God". This stands in distinction to what happens on Halloween.

Acts 9:13 NLT "But Lord," exclaimed Ananias, "I've heard many people talk about the terrible things this man has done to the believers (saints) in Jerusalem!"

Saints are to be seen as the "body of Christ", Christians, "the Church".

Acts 9:32 NLT Meanwhile, Peter traveled from place to place, and he came down to visit the believers in the town of Lydda. I would so much rather see the

"Saints" of God celebrate their faith, their Good News, and their exuberance by doing the Good work of the Gospel, by tending to the needy, and by giving Glory to God who is in highest heaven, than by running around as some demon-possessed "sugar-infused" costumed maniac, begging for food from strangers, only so that the parents can now check out the candy to see if it is safe to eat! (because someone wanted to express their "evil dastardly side") That does not sound like a good, nor does it sound like Christian, or a life "consecrated to God" to me.

Call me old and crusty, but there is so much other good and Godly work which needs to be done, why do we need to expend this energy on something which is so over and against what we are trying to do with and for God.

1 Corinthians 1:2-3 NLT (2) I am writing to God's church in Corinth, to you who have been called by God to be His own holy people. He made you holy by means of Christ Jesus, just as He did for all people everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours. (3) May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

Now I know, a little bit, how Paul must have felt as I write these thoughts to you, Beloved Saints in God. Do the Good work. Glorify God in all you do. Give praise to God who created us in Jesus.

Happy birthday

10/01 George Paulzine	10/16 Terry Hill	10/28 Mary Monson
10/01 Jeff Bylander	10/16 Joyce Schaefer	10/31 Sylvia Utter
10/04 Gavin Folkert	10/17 Dorothe Mueller	10/31 Brad Anderson
10/04 Sylvia Schillinger	10/20 Abby Betzold	
10/05 Julie Smith	10/20 Sandy Johnson	
10/05 Chuck Hoppe	10/20 Donald Kvam	
10/09 Shirley Satterlund	10/21 Walter Richey	
10/09 Andrew Stalhiem	10/21 Morgan Leonard	
10/11 Barry Tulkki	10/25 Ross Smith	
10/11 Donald Pearson	10/26 Gage Paulzine	
10/12 Bill Monteith [V]	10/26 Elizabeth Sigsworth	
10/14 Ginny Nelson	10/27 Joshua Goulet	



Golden Age Manor

220 Scholl Street
Amery, WI 54001
(715) 268-7107
Kathy Picotte
Dave Waterman

Willow Ridge

400 Deronda Street
Amery, WI 54001
(715) 268-8171
Betty Jansen

Evergreen Village

611 Harriman Avenue
(715) 268-6640
Marian Peterson
Gussie Fennern

Memory Care

215 Birch St. W
Amery, WI 54001
Dorothe Mueller
Jeanne Murphy
Evelyn Monteith Halverson

Ginny Nelson

Sylvia Utter

Riverbend

475 Golfview Lane
715.268.9949
Beth Sorensen
Baldwin Care Center
650 Birch St.
Baldwin, WI 54002
Mary Monson Apt. 27

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS





from your YOUTH MINISTER

WEDNESDAYS:

Oct. 2- 3:30pm Homework & hangout, 5:45pm family dinner, 6:30pm WOW and youth group. Evening concludes at 7:30pm.

Oct. 9 - 3:30 pm Homework & Hangout, 5:45 pm family dinner, 6:30pm WOW and youth group. Evening concludes at 7:30pm

Oct 16 - 3:30pm Homework & hangout, 6:00-8:00 pm FUEL @ Camp Wapo. Please bring \$5 for dinner. Evening concludes at 8:15 pm.

Oct. 23 - 3:30 pm Homework & Hangout , 5:45 pm family dinner, 6:30pm Rehearsal for Youth Service.

Oct. 30 - 3:30 pm Homework & Hangout , 5:45 pm family dinner, 6:30pm WOW and youth group. Evening concludes at 7:30pm

Ruby's Pantry Service & Fun Day - Saturday October 12th. Please meet at Congo Church by 7:30am to help serve at Ruby's Pantry. Following lunch, we will head to Osceola to catch the train to Marine on St. Croix. Parent pick up time is at 4:30pm at Congo Church.

HAPPY OCTOBER EVERY BUDDY



YOU'RE INVITED

Fall Family Fun Day: Sunday October 20th from 3-7pm at Amery Congo Church. Please join us for this FREE family event which will include pumpkin carving, a hay ride and hot dog roast. All friends and family are invited to come enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship!

Saturday October 26 - Sunday October 27:

Halloween youth group lock-in starting at 4pm. All middle school and high school youth who are participating in the youth service, which will be held the following day on Sunday October 28th during our 10am worship service, are invited to a fun-filled lock-in at Congo. Adult chaperones/drivers are needed for this event so please see charlotte if you are able to help.



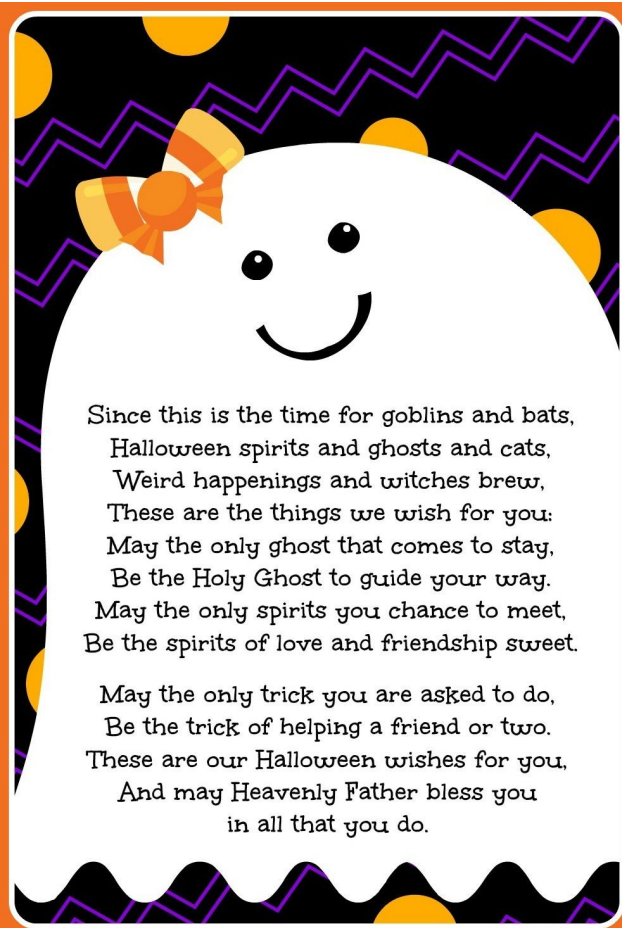

 A stylized logo with the words "youth" and "sunday" in a white, hand-drawn font on a black background, tilted diagonally.

Sunday October 27: Youth Worship Service and Youth Bake Sale Fundraiser: before and after our 10am worship service. Please help support our youth programming by baking for our bake sale and/or purchasing baked goods from our bake sale. Thank you in advance for your support!

Youth Service Night - Wednesday, Oct. 30:

Gillette's Children's Hospital is in need of infant boy/teen boy printed fleece blankets. They have a large number of fleece blankets for girls so we will only be making boys blankets for our service night on October 30th. If you wish to make a donation of fleece, the sizes needed are 1 1/2 yard x 1 1/2 yard for infant and 2 yards by 1 1/2 yards for pre-teens. Once again, thank you for your generosity.

Char



Since this is the time for goblins and bats,
Halloween spirits and ghosts and cats,
Weird happenings and witches brew,
These are the things we wish for you:
May the only ghost that comes to stay,
Be the Holy Ghost to guide your way.
May the only spirits you chance to meet,
Be the spirits of love and friendship sweet.

May the only trick you are asked to do,
Be the trick of helping a friend or two.
These are our Halloween wishes for you,
And may Heavenly Father bless you
in all that you do.



Youth Director Contact Information:

Charlotte Gillen

715.268.7390; ext. 12

715.338.6929 (cell)

Youth.ameryucc@gmail.com

EVENTS



The 2019 Neighbors in Need theme is "Love of Children". We will have a special offering on Sunday, October 6th. Thank you for your generosity. Missions and Social Concerns.

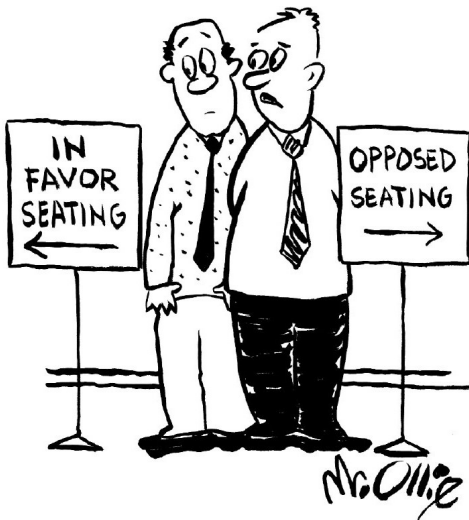
FAMILY TABLE

Please join us at the Congo Family Table on Wednesday, October 16th at 11:30 am

Call Rae
715-268-7390, by Sunday, October 13th to make your reservations.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Free Will Donation



It was getting harder to be optimistic about open discussion at church business meetings.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Men's Bible Study
Tuesdays, 6:30 am
In Congo Conference Room

Bible Study
Open to men and women
Tuesdays, 10:30 am
In Congo Conference Room

Women's Bible study
Thursdays, 5:30 pm
In Congo Library

BUDGET & ELECTION MEETING...

The Annual Budget & Election Meeting of the Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, November 10th, immediately after church.

At this meeting, the following items may be considered:

- *Approval of the budget for 2020.
- *Election of officers and committee persons.

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Pastor Appreciation Month is a special time that congregations set aside

each year to honor their pastors and pastoral families for the hard work, sacrificial dedication and multiple blessings provided by these special people. It is typically scheduled in October, but can be held at any time that is convenient for the church and the

community. It is also important to remember that appreciation, affirmation and prayer support of our spiritual leaders is appropriate throughout the entire year.

The nature of the service provided by pastors and their families is unique. God has entrusted to them one of the most precious of assignments — the spiritual well-being of His flock. When a pastor becomes ineffective, the very souls of his or her parishioners are endangered. When eternity is in the balance, we should all be concerned.

Pastors and their families live under incredible pressures. Their lives are played out in a fishbowl, with the entire congregation and community watching their every move. They are expected to have ideal families, to be perfect people, to always be available, to never be down and to have

all the answers we need to keep our own lives stable and moving forward. Those are



unrealistic expectations to place on anyone, yet most of us are disappointed when a pastor becomes overwhelmed, seems depressed, lets us down or completely burns out. That's why God has instructed us to recognize His servants.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

We believe that the concept of pastor appreciation started with the Apostle Paul as he was establishing the first Christian churches. In 1 Timothy, he wrote, "The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching" (1 Tim. 5:17). And, in 1 Thessalonians, he said, "Respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest

regard in love because of their work" (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Accordingly, over the centuries, decades and years, pastors have been recognized and honored, either formally or informally, by many denominations and local churches at various times of the year. It has been a long-standing practice.

Focus on the Family named and began emphasizing Clergy Appreciation Month in 1994, reminding congregations that it was biblical and proper to honor their pastoral staffs and pastoral families throughout the year, but suggesting that they set aside the month of October for a special tangible tribute. For those churches that preferred a single weekend, we recommended the second weekend of the month. However, honoring a church's entire pastoral staff and their families can be done at any time — and, in fact, should become a normal part of a church's ongoing care of these special families throughout the entire year.

Reprinted from
Focus on Family

COME, HOLY GHOST

By Neal Bowes



On October 31st, doorbells will be ringing, and Americans will be distributing about 600 million pounds of candy while answering the call of “trick or treat” from their costume-clad, plastic-pumpkin toting neighborhood children. Today Halloween is regarded by most as simply a fun time to dress up, go out with some friends, collect candy, and maybe play a good-natured prank.

The name Halloween actually comes from “All Hallows Eve,” meaning the eve of All Hallows Day, or All Saints’ Day. Christians celebrate All Saints’ Day on November 1 to remember our brothers and sisters in Christ who have died. But Halloween also corresponds to the ancient Gaelic festival of Samhain (SOW-in). The ancient people of Ireland believed that spiritual beings entered our world on Samhain and began the tradition of carving lanterns into vegetables and wearing masks to ward off or confuse evil spirits.

The idea of scaring away evil spirits may seem foolish to our twenty-first century sensibilities, but as Christians we cannot simply brush off the idea that spirits are active among us. Jesus frequently encountered evil spirits during his ministry, and many people came to Jesus asking him to deliver them from such evil spiritual forces. The apostle Paul reminds us that we are in an ongoing struggle against

“forces of cosmic darkness, and spiritual powers of evil” (Ephesians 6:12). On the other hand, we have a greater spiritual presence—the Holy Spirit—on our side, equipping and protecting us.

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is, like God the

The idea of scaring away evil spirits may seem foolish to our twenty-first century sensibilities, but as Christians we cannot simply brush off the idea that spirits are active among us.

Father (or Creator) and Jesus Christ, one person of the Holy Trinity. Christians recognize God in three different manifestations. We know God as the Creator of all things, who reigns from heaven. We see God most clearly in the person of Jesus, the human incarnation of God, who lived with us, taught us, and sacrificed his life for us. And we experience God through the Holy Spirit, who prepares us to do God’s work and blesses us with a growing faith and an ever-increasing understanding of God.

Youth may be confused about who the Holy Spirit is and what the Spirit does. No doubt many adults are, too. It might be because the work of the Holy Spirit occurs on such a personal level that it is nearly impossible to come up with a description of the Spirit that applies to everyone. For instance, the Holy Spirit reveals

God’s truth to us, convicts us of our sins, and offers us guidance and comfort. But these revelations come to us individually and we receive them differently, depending on where we are in our faith journey and what we need to hear at a particular time.

Many Gifts, One Spirit

The Spirit not only reveals God’s will but also equips us with spiritual gifts. The Spirit’s gifts are unique to each person. Some people are very comfortable talking about their faith with a complete stranger, while others are not. But those other people may have the ability to bring life to a Bible story for a group of three- and four-year-olds. Still others might be especially good at making people who are new to a Christian community feel welcome or at caring for those who are sick. Some have an amazing command of Scripture; some can preach; some can organize mission and outreach projects.

Every person has a particular and personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. Despite the differences, the Spirit works in all persons for the glory of God and for the good of all people. We are incredibly blessed when we learn to recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit, come to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit, and open up our lives to God’s continual presence.

Reprinted from Ministry Matters

Shine like a Diamond

By Julie Etta Smith

Freelance writer/blogger and photographer.



A diamond starts out as just another rock, but when cut to a multi-faceted gem, it catches the light and becomes a true thing of beauty and value. Yet to shine like it does, a diamond must have several different angles not just a singular, linear capture of the light. The same could be



said of our commitment to our faith and the many faceted ways we serve our church. To really make our church shine the Glory of God, we need to each

provide our own "angle" to the mix. Some give monetary gifts, some give of their time in service by teaching or helping with meals to those who are in need. We all can also serve our church by prayers: for each other in the fellowship, for our congregation and also the world we live in today.

When joining a congregation, we as Christians take a vow to serve faithfully by our **"prayers, presence, gifts, and service."** That encompasses quite a bit, but really encourages us to serve the church in **multi-faceted ways**. As members of the church, we hope to serve the best way we can and each person has different gifts to contribute for the benefit of the whole. The different parts that make up the whole, make it able to function fully. This is expressed in 1 Corinthians 12: *For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ...if one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*

So if we all have different gifts to give, each gift given, no matter how small it may seem, does help to provide for building the church and making it whole. Please take a moment to prayerfully consider how you are contributing to our church...and when I say contribute I am not just talking monetary contributions. Please

reflect on your contribution to the **whole** of the church by your **"prayers, presence, gifts and service"**. When you help our church the blessings come back to you. Gifts are not received in a vacuum, but rather multiply and the joy is spread; just like light refracting on the surface of a diamond.

What "angle" or gift can you provide to catch the light and make our congregation truly shine?!

Matthew 6:17 *Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consume and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*



Follow Julie's blogs:

<http://travelingamericablog.com>

<https://julietta1982.blogspot.com>

Council Meeting: Sept. 10, 2019

ATTENDANCE: Pastor Barry Schaefer, Sheldon Betzold: Moderator, Virginia Ormsby: Treasurer, Sandy Morris: Clerk, Chad Leonard: Trustees, Abby Betzold: Congregational Giving, Julie Smith: Recording Secretary
Pastor Barry opened the meeting with prayer at 6:05 pm.

The council minutes from August were read and reviewed. Chad motioned that the minutes be approved, Abby seconded. Minutes were voted on and approved.

TREASURER: Virginia presented the Treasurer's Report. She said that the report shows we are able to pay expenditures, but are still using our reserves to pay bills. The Treasurer's report was approved.

CLERK: Sandy reported that one wedding took place in the last month. The current membership role is at 167.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Not present.

YOUTH: Not present.

TRUSTEES: Chad said that personnel reviews are being completed and performance reviews of staff will be given later this year. He also explained that the snow removal equipment is being repaired/updated for the coming season.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Char not present; but discussion was held on the scheduling of upcoming Christmas program rehearsals.

DIACONATE: Not present.

BOARD OF CONGREGATIONAL GIVING: Abby presented the minutes from her recent committee meeting. She said that the Pledge Cards for the Fall stewardship drive will be sent out in the middle of October. She also outlined the schedule for Stewardship Minutes. Also, Julie has completed an article for the October Clarion regarding stewardship.

MISSION AND SOCIAL CONCERNS: Not present.

PASTOR REPORT: Pastor Barry discussed a few of the items that were presented in his written report. He emphasized that services that involve the youth tend to get the whole congregation involved. He highlighted as an example the "Blessing of the Backpacks" service and how it truly is a fun event and a great start to our youth's school year. The Men and Women's Bible studies are continuing to meet and are doing well. Pastor discussed the Confirmation Program for the year and how it is structured.

CALENDAR REVIEW: The October calendar was reviewed and discussed.

OLD BUSINESS: Budget requests by committees need to be sent to Virginia ASAP.

NEW BUSINESS: Setting the date for the welcoming of New Member service was discussed.

The next Council Meeting was set for Tuesday, October 8 at 6:00 pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Julie E. Smith, Recording Secretary

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Discovering your gifts is not a mystical process. Gifts most often are the self evident abilities, talents, and passions that define who we are.

1 Cor 12:4-11

Pastor's Report for AUGUST 2019

I AREAS OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

Blessing of Backpacks 8/29 was truly a fun event. Notice Sunday attendance spike? Church attendance always does well when we have "family/kid" oriented events as part of worship. I believe this is a very good way to start off the new school year. Notice, Amery HS graduation will be May 31, 2020

Ministerial came back into session, at our church, with several topics discussed one of which was the "church sign" that is bad shape at both the north and south ends of town. Supposedly, we are awaiting someone from State of Wisconsin to come and to say whether our sign placement is in compliance with current state signage law. Who knows when this will happen? But... be prepared to throw some money at this "group (of churches) project" when and if we get a "go ahead" signal.

Distant Communion updates (verbal report)

Hospital visits and concerns (verbal report)

Men's and women's Bible studies are going very well. The have "finished" with Miracles, and are now studying the "Case for Christ" (Lee Stroebel's efforts). The women's bible study is on How We Got our Bible. This is a rather weighty endeavor (is rather dry) but... they all know what is the Septuagint, and the Vulgate, and are learning why some bibles have the Apocrypha and some (mostly protestant) do not. I admire the tenacity of our women!

Money management classes expanded to suit needs of some unique students.

Beginning of School, Youth Group, Confirmation Classes. It seems that now August is that "beginning" month (not after Labor Day) when school/church educational programs begin their new annual cycle. The blessing of the backpacks is a good endeavor, it brings in families, and sets what I feel is a proper tone for the church year.

II Other Events:

WEDDING: 8/10/19 Eric Jenkins, Anne Bowman, Mundelein IL (daughter of Dave and Cheryl Bowman)

THE BACK PEW - JEFF LARSON



God is not amused by the use of cell phones during church.

Holy
Spirit
you **are**
welcome
HERE