

Crossings

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

Volume 9 Issue 4

April 2014

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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

The Narrative Lectionary readings of the Gospel of John have helped me to experience what is, for me, a new over-arching theme in this gospel – the theme of binding and loosening.

John 1 starts with this unrestrained brilliant God of Love coming down and becoming bound up in human flesh, filled with God's fullness of love and life in the person of Jesus Christ. And throughout the gospel, Jesus becomes increasingly bound up by our brokenness and sinfulness even as he tries to teach, cajole, proclaim, and demonstrate the radical freedom of true life lived in the presence and power of God for the sake of the other.

In John 2, Jesus demands that the binding rags of ritual for the sake of ritual be torn asunder so that people may be truly free to experience the presence of God and be changed by that presence. The story of Nicodemus and Jesus tell us that to be "born again" is a spiritual work of God – it is life-changing; and to embrace it we must unbind ourselves from our traditions and old belief systems about God and be open to the Holy Spirit's work within us to be a new person, a new people, for God.

John 4 challenges our notions about who is "in" and who is "out" in the Christian community by announcing himself as the Messiah to a total outcast – a Samaritan woman. She is so startling refreshed and renewed by her encounter with Christ, that she brings her whole village out to see Jesus based on her simple testimony, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done!"

John 5 challenges our ideas and choices around the bondage of Christian tradition and narrow views of God's activity when Jesus heals a lame man on the Sabbath. Does God's work only happen at certain times, in certain situations? Who are we to declare/control how God works, upon whom, and when?

John 6 and the feeding of the 5,000 forces us to confront the bondage of "limitation" both in terms of limiting what God can do, and what we can do empowered by the presence and Spirit of God. Do we truly believe that all things are possible with God's help? Do we gladly receive the new life given to us in the bread and the wine – Jesus, the Bread of Life?

John 7 challenges us to wrestle with Jesus – Who is He for us? Is he the Christ, or just another prophet? Jesus' life and words tear at the bindings that hold us tightly in control of our little lives and worldview, for we are fearful of what life is truly like if we are free in Christ.

John 8 is the conversation about true Christian freedom, John 9 is about opening our eyes to truly see the world through the eyes of Christ, where the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the mute sing the praises of God – new life that changes us individually and collectively. John 11 is the ultimate story of the raising of Lazareth, where new life comes out of the corruption of death.

From John 12 – 19, we see Jesus increasingly taking on our bindings of sin, limitations, control, racism, prejudice, and judgment even as we are being freed by the Holy Spirit's power within us. In the garden, Jesus is arrested and bound, during the trial with Herod and Pilate, he is bound up. He is bound to a pole for his flogging, bound to a crossbeam before being nailed to a cross, hoisted into the air by others, and completely out of control for anything in his life. All for our sake – so that in losing his life – we may receive new life. Our corruption taken into himself on the cross gives all people new life.

Are you ready for it? Do you want to receive it? See you at the resurrection!

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

Lenten WORSHIP

The season of Lent has, as it's emphasis, the personal and corporate reflection on who God is in the person and work of Jesus Christ – God's love enfolded in human form – that our sins may not separate us from God forever. God's love in Jesus drives him to the cross and the tomb for our sake. As part of that reflection, we will have weekly worship services that will begin at **6:30 pm on Wednesday evenings.**

Themes /Skits for Wednesday's Lenten Worship

4/2	Humility
4/9	Love

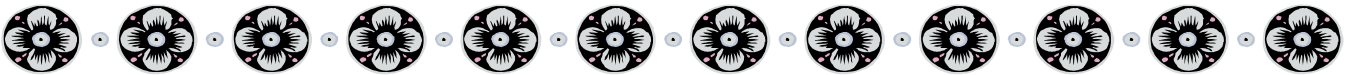
CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Class during Lent: The confirmands will meet at 6:00 pm each Weds. before worship for highs and lows. They will attend worship and perform a skit and then they will meet after worship to get ready for the skit for the next Weds..

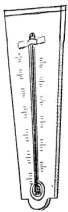
Confirmands will be required to attend Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter morning worship. **Regular Confirmation Classes resume on April 23rd at 6:30.**

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

April 13th	9:00 am	Passion Sunday —Procession with Palms
April 17th	6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship
April 18th	6:30 pm	Good Friday Worship
April 20th	9:00 am	Easter Worship



Parsonage Air Conditioner & Furnace Fundraiser



In the 2014 Approved Budget there was \$6,200.00 earmarked to replace the air conditioning and furnace at the parsonage. St. Paul's Council has decided to fund this through a mini-capital campaign drive; which means to raise the money separately and help out the budget. There is a thermometer in the fellowship hall where we can see how much is collected each week.

You can add the amount to your weekly offering check; be sure to note how much you want to put toward the fundraiser.



Amount collected through 3/17/2014 is \$1,755.00



EASTER LILLIES



If you would like to bring Easter Lilies to adorn the sanctuary for Worship on Easter Sunday, please sign up on the list in the fellowship hall. Please do not bring them to the church until 4/13.



St. Paul's Shut-ins:
 Hilda Felton
 Bob & Ruth Johnson

**Education/
 Prayer Team**

Alex Amante
 Susan Anderson
 Karen Blomme
 Billy Brubaker
 Kevin Bunch
 Gail Clouse
 Gail Connerly
 Mary Datschefski
 Gary & Mary Egbert
 Judith Giertz
 Sharon Glenn
 Brantley Hemann
 Victor Hernandez
 Myron Johnson
 Casey Keel
 Rev. Laura Koppenhaeffer
 Bryce Kroenecke
 Marty Kroenecke

Kenneth Leaven
 Loren Lettington
 Richard McDonough
 Dale Madison
 Pat Mason
 Laura Moore
 Ronda Morgan
 Jo Neumann
 Colleen Putnam
 Trisha Raven
 Richard Rowley
 Sheila Ryan
 Ed Scieszinski
 Devin N. Dustin Sinclair
 Misty Smith
 Jan Starcevic
 Rev. Karen Torrez
 Bert Whitlock

Children's Church

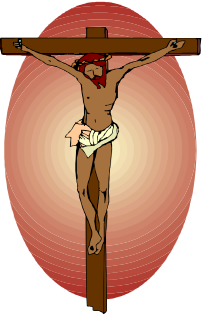
This is where the children 3rd grade and under leave church during the sermon and have a Bible story and then return during the passing of the peace.

Lesson	Teacher
4/6 Peter Denial/crucifixion	Gloria Smallwood
4/13 Easter Story	Cameron Stocker
4/20 No Children's Church	Easter Egg Hunt— Curtis Kelley
4/27 Doubting Thomas	Brooke Sparks

Poem

Brothers and sisters, we know and we hold with firm faith that Christ died for us but once:

*The just for sinners,
 The master for slaves,
 The free for captives,
 The physician for the sick,
 The happy for the wretched,
 The rich for the needy,
 The seeker for the lost,
 The redeemer for the sold,
 The shepherd for the sheep,
 And— what is the most
 Awe-inspiring of all—
 The creator for the creature;
 Keeping to what he always is,
 Handing over what he became;
 Hiding as God,
 Appearing as human;
 Life-instilling by his power,
 Dying by his weakness;
 Unchanging in divinity,
 Pained in the flesh.*



Augustine's Poem from a sermon for Easter Vigil.
 (Sermo 220)



Christian Ed Meeting:
 April 22nd at 8:30 am

WELCA Bible Study:
 On Wednesday, April 16th at 11 a.m.
 This month we will be studying the woman Rizpah, a vigilante mourner.
 Our reading will be:
 Psalm 88,
 2 Samuel 21:1-14
 John 19:25-31



EASTER EGG HUNT

There will be an Easter egg hunt after church on Easter Sunday, 4/20.

Anyone wanting to donate small items that would go inside an egg: stickers, candy, etc and the plastic eggs; they would be welcome to do so as long as they are received by Sunday April 13th, Palm Sunday.
 Contact Curtis Kelley if you have any Questions.

Fellowship Team Ministries

3rd Sunday Brunch



April 20th
Easter Sunday

Senior Fellowship

Join us for a potluck lunch on **Weds. April 2 at 11:00 am.**
We will be playing Card Bingo.
Please bring a white elephant item for a prize.

WELCA

Our monthly **meeting** will be on April 24th at 6:30 pm with Ann Post and Evelyn Sharpe as our hostesses.

WELCA Bible Study: Wednesday, April 16th at 11:00 am.
(See more info on page 3)

Cluster 9 Spring Meeting will be held on Sat. April 26th, 8:30 am—12:30 pm at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Centerville. The speaker will be Pastor Suzanne Gorhau, from the Presbyterian Church, who will share her experiences building wells for water in Africa. Meet at the church to car pool at 8 am.

WELCA Missions up-date: It was decided and voted on at the Feb. meeting to give \$300.00 to the Emergency Assistance Office for supplies; \$300.00 toward the postage for the Health Care Kits; \$600.00 toward the parsonage furnace & air conditioning fundraiser and another \$700.00 toward the new church sound system. (\$1700.00 total to the sound system).



Birthdays & Anniversaries



April Birthdays

2. Marvin Wirtjes
2. Donald Niebuhr
5. Edith Blomgren
7. Maxwell Butler
9. Anita Simmons
9. Andy McCombs
11. Pastor Nancy Reed
11. Cameron Stocker
13. Jacob Hemann
16. Mike Duea
18. Meghan Lettington
20. Leland Sherman
20. Mary Ann (Preston) Hatfield
24. Erin Heaton
27. Hilda Felton
29. Stephanie Sparks



April Baptismal Birthdays

2. Lana Kaldenberg
3. Bill Van Polen
3. Judy Van Polen
3. Nate Dorpinghaus
3. Tyler Simmons
3. Lucas Teeter
7. Sheela Clouse
7. Wesley Clouse
7. Tyler Clouse
7. Louie Clouse
9. Marilyn Larson
15. Karter Spieler
20. Robert Zarn
26. Edith Blomgren
28. Logan Dorpinghaus

April Anniversaries

20. Don & Karen Niebuhr
28. Mark & Mary Ann (Preston) Hatfield



WEB SITE: Check out St. Paul's Web site at
<http://www.splalbia.org>.

You will find our newsletters, calendar and recipe.
Please send any photos and recipes you would like to share and Martin Reed will add these to St. Paul's Web site.



Holy Baptism: On March 16th we welcomed into the family of God Alyssa Marie Butler, daughter of Michael & Pamela Butler. Grandparents are Daryl & Bernice Butler and Marvin & Gail Wirtjes. To help guide Alyssa are her sponsors Michael and Amanda Thomas.

Council



Council Notices

Council Meeting: NOTE NEW DATE : will have our meetings on the **3rd Monday** of the month this year. **April 21 at 6:30 pm.**

++++
Council Officers:

President: Amanda Thomas
Secretary: Marilyn Woods

Vice Pres.: Gail Clouse
Treasurer: Anita Simmons



Thank you
to everyone who helped with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.

It was your donations of needed items and donating your time that made this event possible. We received \$324.00 in donations from this event.

Treasurer report:

Offerings & income - Feb. \$5482.00
Expenses - Feb. \$6524.00
Monthly Budget \$8354.08
Offering vs. Expenses - Feb. (\$1042.00)
Offering vs. Budget - Feb. (\$2872.08)
Furnace fundraiser through 3/17/14 \$1755.00

St. Paul's Lutheran Church—Council Meeting Minutes - March 17, 2014

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council met on Monday, March 17, 2014 at 6:30 pm at the church.

Present: Gail Clouse, Kay Spieler, Curt Kelley, Julie Stocker, Anita Simmons, Richard James, Amanda Thomas, Colleen Putnam, and Pastor Nancy. Absent: Lana Kaldenberg and Marilyn Woods.

All present joined in prayer lead by Pastor Nancy.

Bible study: "The Book of Ecclesiastes".

The secretary's report was not available. (But was included in the March newsletter.)

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Richard moved and Kay seconded the report be approved. Motion carried.

Pastor Nancy stated delegates are needed to go to Synod Assembly.

Committee Reports were given:

Worship – Wednesday night services are going well. For Sunday service, we are now using setting one.

If you have any suggestion, let Pastor know.

Christian Education – VBS will be June 25th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. There will be three lessons on water tying them to missions. With no confirmands next year, there was discussion of moving Saturday night services to Wednesday nights.

Fellowship – Going OK.

Missions – The committee met and went over their agenda. We are presently collecting items for LWR Personal Care Kits. The goal is forty kits. "God's Free Grace" second annual Free Spaghetti Meal will be Wednesday, September 3rd from 5-7 pm.

Curt asked if we were going to have an Easter Egg Hunt. He will head it up.

Property – The new sound system is installed. It was paid for out of Memorial Funds and \$1700.00 from St. Paul's WELCA. Light switches, cords, etc are being tweaked in the sanctuary. Funding for the parsonage is going well.

There will be a committee meeting scheduled for update on the constitution.

New Business – Anita announced we have received insurance quotes from Guide One

For investing the Anderson Memorial Fund, Anita presented quotes from Guide One and Edward Jones. After discussion, Kay moved and Colleen seconded we go with Edward Jones. Motion carried.


Meeting Adjourned

Colleen Putnam (acting secretary)

Constitution Meeting

April 27th after worship

Bring a dish to share for Lunch



Calendar Page

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Linda Preston & Sharon Wilkin

<u>April 6</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Stocker Family
	Lector:	Stocker Family
	Acolyte:	Ben Mason
<u>April 13</u> Palm Sun.	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Charlie & Gloria Smallwood
	Lector:	Gloria Smallwood & Marilyn Woods
	Acolyte:	Carson Stocker
<u>April 17</u> Maundy Thurs.	Worship Assistant:	????
	Ushers/Greeters:	????
	Lector:	Anita Simmons
	Acolyte:	Erin Heaton
<u>April 18</u> Good Friday	Worship Assistant:	????
	Usher/Greeter:	Kelley Family
	Lector:	????
<u>April 20</u> Easter	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Usher/Greeter:	Dan & Pat Johnson
	Lector:	?????
	Acolyte:	Erin Heaton
<u>April 27</u>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	Stocker Family
	Lector:	Stocker Family
	Acolyte:	Carson Stocker

Worship Team Ministries

CHOIR Practice

8:15 am

- April 6- No choir
- April 13- choir practice and performance
- April 20- No choir/
special music
- April 27- choir practice.



Mission Task Force

- April 6th Meeting after worship
- 4/13 Assemble care kits after worship
- Care Kit blessing 4/20

LWR's Baskets of Promise ————LWR Personal Care Kits

LWR Personal Care Kits that help impoverished people stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. Our Goal this year is 40 kits.

Personal care kits consist of:

2 bars of soap 4-5 oz in original wrapping {Still Need 8 Pkgs of 2 or 16 more total}

Combs (large tines/teeth type) { OK}

Metal nail clippers (attached file optional) { Need 14}

Bath towels 52"x27" maximum size (dark colored) { Need 13}

April 6 Adult size toothbrush in original packing { Need 19}

April 13 \$\$\$\$\$\$ final week a special offering to help with shipping { Need \$ 98.00}
kits overseas and purchase toothpaste

(LWR estimates it costs \$2.65 per kit to deliver kits overseas.)

On April 13th the **Care Kits will be assembled** after worship; everyone is invited to help with putting the kits together.

Help needed to deliver Care Kits to the Ankeny drop off Sat. morning, before noon, on April 26. (This would save the cost of the postage (est. at \$200.00) to mail the kits ourselves.)



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>

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
Augsburg Fortress—the Publishing Ministry of the ELCA

www.elca.org
www.seiasynod.org
www.augsburgfortress.org



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.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OFFICE HOURS: Monday 9:30 –11:30 am & 1-3 pm
Wednesday 9 am—Noon & 1—3 pm Friday 9 am—Noon

HELPING HAND CENTER HOURS: Monday 9 am—2 pm Tuesday & Thursday 4 pm– 6 pm
Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 9 am—12 pm (noon)

Albia Ministerial Association Blood Drive: Monday, April 14, 2014 at the Trinity United Methodist Church. Please call to sign up 1-800-452-1097.

Hospice Volunteer Training in April: 4 class sessions on Tues. 4/8-Thurs. 4/10-Tues. 4/15 & Thurs. 4/17 from 5:00 pm-9:00 pm in the Monroe Co. Hospital & Clinics Conference Room. If you are interested please call (641) 932-1701 by April 7th.



Wednesday's Lenten Worship at 6:30 pm

Themes /Skits for 4/2 Humility
4/9 Love

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP



April 13th	9:00 am	Passion Sunday —Procession with Palms
April 17th	6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship
April 18th	6:30 pm	Good Friday Worship
April 20th	9:00 am	Easter Worship