

# Crossings

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

Volume 10 Issue 4

April 2015

## 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.

Holy Week begins this Sunday with our celebration of Jesus' triumphal arrival into Jerusalem, and then the reading of Jesus' Passion to the cross and the empty tomb. We are all pulled into his walk to the cross again, and we are reminded of our part in this story of God's great love for us. How we again confess our participation in his crucifixion, AND, once again embrace the gifts of grace and eternal life so freely given to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, has ***everything*** to do with how we, as individuals, and as a congregation, move forward to proclaim the good news that is Jesus in Albia now.

For the last 4 weeks we have been exploring the depths of what it means to be Jesus followers. Those who have participated in the Bible study and conversation about "Reclaiming the 'L' Word", by Kelly Fryer, have thought about and prayed for deeper understanding regarding the Five Principles: (1) Jesus is Lord, (2) Everyone is welcome, (3) Love changes people, (4) Everyone has something to offer, and (5) The world needs what we have (Reclaiming the "L" Word: Renewing the Church from its Lutheran Core", page 31, Kelly Fryer, cc. 2003). We have talked about the changing dynamics within the world, our Church, our American culture, the culture of Albia, and the culture within St. Paul's. These 5 principles have been the themes for the sermons for each worship service during Lent.

It is God's love, found in human form in Jesus Christ that comes down to save us from ourselves. There is nothing we can do to be right before God on our own merits: we can't be "nice" or "civil" or "just" or "kind" or "generous" on our own and expect to make points with God. We just don't make the grade through our own efforts; we are inferior to the high standards of God. We need Jesus – there is no other way. Jesus is Lord.

And because Jesus died for ***all*** people, making no distinction and including all, we are compelled to do the same. As Jesus followers, we must have the same inclusive qualities that he demonstrated during his everyday life. And we can do this because it is the power of God's love alive in us through the Holy Spirit, that makes such an inclusive attitude and life happen. Jesus followers recognize that everyone has some gift, talent, intellectual ability, or physical prowess that is needed to further the gospel of Jesus Christ. Everyone is included in the ongoing ministry of God. And what a blessing that is!

Continued on page 2.

## 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

At its core, this congregation has been working towards a deeper understanding of who we are as a group of people saved from eternal damnation through the cross by Jesus Christ. The cross matters because only the saving work of Jesus Christ can change us. It is the power of God come down to us, for the sake of the whole world, that makes each of us into new people – empowered, shaped, and guided by the Holy Spirit – to bring this new life to the folks we meet. Here at St. Paul’s, that same Holy Spirit draws us together for the purpose of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

That’s why this Easter story matters so much. The world we live in is really screwed up; so many folks are desperate, despairing, hungry, tired, violent, or hopeless - trying to do the best they can, hoping that someone notices them. Jesus notices them and loves them. Jesus chooses to work through us, and all Christians, to be his eyes, ears, voice, hands and feet in this world. This is our work, our calling, our grateful response for all that God gives us, now, in this place.

I am praying for God’s wisdom, insight and love as I prepare for the Holy Week experience. I am praying for all of you to have a deep and reviving experience of God’s life-changing love. I am praying that this congregation continues to grow in its desire to serve others as Christ served the world, continues to serve us, and to serve others through us.

Jesus Christ, is first and foremost – our Lord and Savior. More than anything else, or anyone else, Jesus matters. May all of you be enriched for ministry and service through your Easter journey. Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy



### HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

<b>Passion/Palm Sunday</b>	<b>March 29</b>	<b>at 9:00 am</b>
<b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>April 2</b>	<b>at 7:00 pm</b>
<b>Good Friday</b>	<b>April 3</b>	<b>at 7:00 pm</b>
<b>Easter</b>	<b>April 5</b>	<b>at 9:00 am</b>



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

Education/  
Prayer Team

**RECENT PRAYERS**

Georgene Kittleson  
Deloris Perry  
Tera Reed  
Rosealee Rhodes  
Lyle Spieler  
Cora Standal  
Audry Steinkamp  
Mckenna Swaboda  
Dean Tomlin  
Linda Whitlock

**(2014)**

Opal Bloomer  
Vickie Buckingham  
Addie Fausett  
Sharon Glenn  
Nick Griffin  
Gary Hollst  
Lynda Johnson  
Alyson Karl  
Richard McDonough  
Pat Mason  
Gerald Mosbey  
Amy Pottorff  
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL  
Carol (Keegle) Reed  
Devin Sinclair  
Lyle Spieler  
Frank Tharp  
Paulette Williams

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**Continuing Prayers**

Alex Amante  
Kevin Bunch  
Brantley Hemann  
Bryce Kroenecke  
Marty Kroenecke  
Loren Lettington  
Laura Moore  
Rhonda Morgan  
Trisha Raven  
Bert Whitlock

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**IN SYMPATHY**

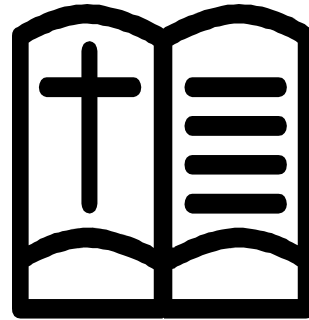
Loving God, surround the family and friends of Mryon Johnson who died on March 4, with your comfort and compassion.

Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Karen Quigley Dill, Rev. Sara Quigley Brown's mother, who died on March 10 and Ruth Mosbey who died on March 13. Remind all who mourn that death is not the end. For those who believe in Jesus Christ, death is an entrance into greater life with you.

**WELCA Bible Study: NEW DAY**  
Wednesday, April 8 at 11:00 am.

**Session 8: Inspired by the Risen Lord**  
Jesus' death could have caused a prolonged time of great doubt for his followers. But Jesus' resurrection cemented their commitment, energized by the coming the Holy Spirit.

"For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve." 1 Corinthians 15:3-5



**Sunday School 10:15 am—10:45 am**

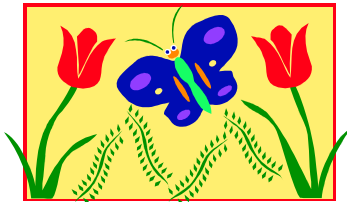
Lesson	Teachers
4/5 EASTER	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
4/12 Munterville Worship	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
4/19 Prodigal Son	Cameron & Carson Stocker
4/26 Man who remembered	Brooke Sparks & Meghan Lettington

**THANK YOU**

**We want to thank everyone for your prayers, love and support during this sad time in our lives. God bless you all, Marilyn Johnson & Family**

## Fellowship Team Ministries

### Sunday Brunch



**April 19**

### Senior Fellowship

**Pot-luck lunch:** on April 1 @ 11:00. This is April Fool's day; lets share any jokes you may have played on others or were played on you in the past.

### WELCA

**Monthly MEETING:** April 23 at **7:00 pm (TIME CHANGE)**  
This month our hostess will be Ann Post and Evelyn Sharpe.

**Spring Cluster 9 meeting: April 25** at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ottumwa from 9 am—noon. Car pool for church, Anita will be leaving around 8:00 am.

**WELCA Bible Study NEW DAY Weds., April 8 at 11:00 am.** (See more info on page 3)

**THANK YOU:** we want to thank everyone at St. Paul's who helped with Myron Johnson's funeral lunch. It is greatly appreciated.



## *Birthdays & Anniversaries*



#### 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
29. Stephanie Sparks

#### Baptismal Birthdays

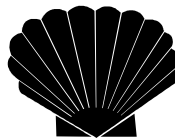
2. Lana Kaldenberg
3. Judy Van Polen
3. Nate Dorpinghaus
3. Tyler Simmons
7. Sheela Clouse
7. Wesley Clouse
7. Tyler Clouse
7. Louie Clouse
9. Marilyn Larson
15. Karter Spieler
20. Robert Zarn
26. Edith Blomgren
28. Logan Dorpinghaus

#### Anniversaries

19. Brent & Jean Lozano
20. Don & Karen Niebuhr
28. Mark & Mary Ann  
(Preston) Hatfield

#### **Address up-date:**

Edith Bloomgren is now residing in Albia at Homestead Assisted Living . Stop by and say hello.



#### Looking for 2015 GRADUATES

We need you help in finding high school and college graduates to invite to a reception for them in May.

If you have someone in your family who will be graduating this year please let the office know.

Graduates that we are aware of at this time: High School: Colton Dorpinghaus & Jay Heaton  
College: Philip Andrew Johnson, Leah Raskie, Riley Sharpe, David Nelson, Austin Nielsen and Ben Reed.

# Council



**Council Meeting**  
**April 20 at 6:30 pm**

## **WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**

Per Council recommendation we will not be having a weekly mid-week worship service. after Easter.

We will have a Wednesday worship during the summer months and during the seasons of Advent and Lent.

## **St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Minutes** **No Meeting in March**

### February Treasurer's Report:

Monthly Budget	\$7851.00
Feb. Offering & Income	\$6848.73
Feb. Expenses	\$7604.14
Offering vs. Expenses	6848.73 – 7604.14) -755.41
Feb. Expenses vs. Budget	7604.14 – 7851.00) +246.86
Feb. Income vs. Budget	6848.73 – 7851.00) -1002.27

## **NO SUNDAY WORSHIP AT ST. PAUL'S ON APRIL 12**

The council encourages all St. Paul's members to attend the last worship service at the church in Munterville. See more information below.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Munterville Lutheran Church**  
at 23981—87th Street , Blakesburg, IA

We have decided to close our church as it can no longer sustain a viable ministry.

The congregation will have a final worship service and celebration on

**Sunday, April 12, 2015 at 11:00 am.**

Following the service we are catering a lunch, please join us.

We are looking forward to seeing you, and celebrating with us the one hundred and fifty nine years that Munterville has served the community





**Boxes of Hope Mission:** Final Week of collecting the items for the Monroe Co. Emergency Office.  
Items will be blessed on Easter Sunday and then delivered.

Paper products: paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, trash bags, etc.



Personal Hygiene products (male & female): Shave cream, lotion, shower gel/soap, toothpaste, tampons, shaving razors, etc.

Laundry products: detergent, softeners, bleach



Cleaning products: dish soap, hand soap, bathroom cleaners, toilet cleaner, 409, etc.

Baby products: diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, baby lotion, etc



## American Heart Association Benefit

In memory of Bekah Sherman

**THANK YOU**



The American Heart Assoc. Benefit - Was a great success, \$ 4,000.00 was donated to American Heart Assoc. Thank you for your wonderful generosity.

Thank you to everyone who donated: auction items, food, the 37 people who walked in the Artic Walk, the kitchen help and clean-up crew. All of your efforts was greatly appreciated.

## Frankie Valens in Concert

### King Opera Theatre

### Sunday, April 19, 3:00 pm

Frankie Valens, pop singer of the 60's and 70's will be performing a free will offering concert at the Albia Theatre on Sunday afternoon, April 19, 3:00 pm.

In addition to singing his hit songs, "The Lion Sleeps Tonight", "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes", and "This Magic Moment", Valens and his wife, Phyllis, will be sharing their faith by performing gospel songs and skits. Phyllis is a concert pianist, songwriter, singer and music director. They currently pastor a church together and are touring the country sharing their musical gifts and encouraging a walk in faith.

A free will offering will be taken.

The concert is sponsored by Monroe County Ministerial Association.

## Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Colleen Putnam & Stephanie Sparks

April 2           Worship Assistant:     ??????  
**Maundy Thurs** Ushers/Greeters:    ?????  
                   Lector:                     ????  
                   Acolyte/Communion Asst.    ?????

April 3           Lector:                     ????  
 Good Friday    Lector:                     ????

April 5           Worship Assistant:     Gail Clouse  
**Easter**           Ushers/Greeters:     ?????  
                   Lector:                     Gail Clouse  
                   Acolyte/Communion Asst.    ?????

April 12         **WORSHIP AT MUNTERVILLE**  
                   No Worship at St. Paul's

April 19         Worship Assistant:     Marilyn Woods  
                   Usher/Greeter:        Marilyn Johnson & Lana  
   Kaldenberg  
                   Lector:                     Lana Kaldenberg

April 26         Worship Assistant:     Anita Simmons  
                   Ushers/Greeters:     Greg & Jani Doringhaus  
                   Lector:                     Anita Simmons

## Worship Team Ministries

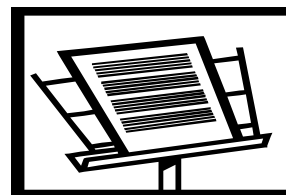


### CHOIR Practice



8:15 am

- April 5         NO Practice
- April 12       NO Practice
- April 19       Practice
- April 26       Practice



Sunday Worship   9:00 am  
 Sunday School    10:15 am  
 Adult Bible Study 10:20 am

**Munterville Worship April 12 at 11:00 am**

**No Worship at St. Paul's on April 12**

**NO Wednesday worship till summer**

See more information regarding above on page 5.

### WORSHIP MEETING:

Friday, April 3

@ 9:30 am

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>  
Office Hours: Tues.-Weds.-Thurs.  
9 am-2 pm

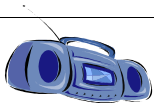
Place Mailing Label Here

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)



**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 Hands Hours:** Monday 9 am-2 pm Tuesday 4—6 pm Wednesday 9 am-12 pm (noon)  
Thursday 4—6 pm Friday 9 am-12 pm (noon) Saturday. 9 am-12 pm (noon)  
Closed on Sunday Phone: 932-5984



**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.



*HE IS RISEN. HE IS RISEN INDEED.*

**ALLELUIA !**

