

Crossings

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

Volume 11 Issue 4

April 2016

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The death and resurrection of Christ is **THE** central reality of the Christian faith. Belief in this foundational reality is life changing, life affirming and non-negotiable for a Christian. It defeats the power of death to define who we are and opens the way for us to love our neighbors as ourselves - Now! Today!

Without Christ in our life, the "power of death" defines us as creatures interconnected with and inter-dependent upon all other life for our own lives. We are made of dust, and we WILL return to dust. There is nothing we can add to life other than as fertilizer for the next generation.

Sometime between our 20's to 30's, we reach the peak of our physical development, after which our body slowly declines in all areas – our bones, muscle mass, flexibility, cardiac & brain function. We chat about our aches and pains, commiserate with each other about the decline of our eyes, ears, limbs, and/or our mind, doing whatever we can to push death away. Ultimately it is the **fear** of death - either our own or someone else's - that drives us to fill our lives with frenzied activities and relationships. We are not often conscious of this deep fear, but it is always there. At times, that fear rises up and sets us back on our heels. For example -

During a stormy night, we fear that a tree might fall on the roof over our bedroom; or friends driving in the storm might be blown off the road; or something will get the animals in the barn; or the kids on the activity bus; or the folks at an event in a neighboring school. Underpinning all of this anxiety is the fear of death.

After losing a job, we wonder how will the bills and the mortgage be paid; how will we eat; will I be able to get another job? What about medical bills and my retirement plans? The possibility of an unknown and unstable future is a fear that lies close to the surface. Add to that the certainty of physical death, and where can hope be found?

Ultimately, we live with the fear of whether or not our lives really matter. Do our words and our actions carry weight in our families, communities, or the world? What if all of this is a cruel joke and nothing we do or say matters in the world? Then who are we really? This anxiety about our ultimate significance corrodes our self-understanding and concentrates our focus, with laser-like precision, onto ourselves.

Our Mission Statement

*Called by Christ to love
God & neighbor
through **deepening prayer,**
broadening fellowship,
and **expanding worship.***

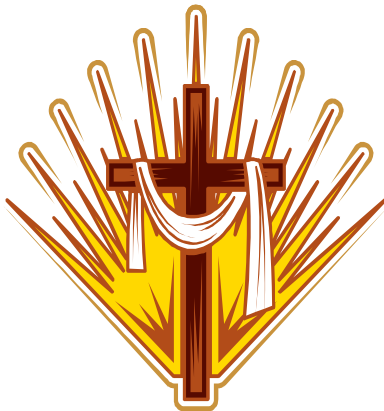
"In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loves us so much, we also ought to love one another."

I John 4:10-11

Scripture proclaims that our lives DO matter – all people matter to God (John 3.16). In Christ, God comes down into the fear-filled recesses of our souls, and conquers the oppressive power of fear and death by his own death on the cross *and* his bodily resurrection. Now we are free to look up and see God's compassionate face shining on us. Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, we become part of the living Body of Christ forever. Nothing - not even death (!) - can ever separate us from the love of God (Romans 8.37-39). Free in Christ, our future secure, we can live fully for God by loving our neighbors as ourselves. Filled with and informed by the Holy Spirit, our words and actions DO MATTER because they reflect God's love for each other and the world.

In our resurrected Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we know who we are – we are children of God – and we embrace a certain hope for eternal life. So live as a free child of God, knowing that no person or earthly criteria determines who you are *or* your value to God. Free in the risen Christ, God claims you as a beloved child - a brother or sister of Christ – forever. Christ is risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy



*HE IS RISEN.
HE IS RISEN INDEED.*

ALLELUIA !

Looking for 2016 GRADUATES



We need your help in finding high school and college graduates to invite to a reception for them on May 1 after worship.

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: Dakota Kelley, Gunner Maupin, Cameron Stocker, and Sarah Woods



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

**Education/
Prayer Team**

RECENT PRAYERS

Dorothy Bates
Mike Davis
Ruth Ella Gardner
Jim Haugen
Camden Kelsey
Lester Rue
Shelly
Greg Tilton
Fred Witte

=====

(2015)

Carrie Bergland
Ray Hopkins
Frank Hunter
Linda Ulrich Johnson
Martha McGlothen
Karen Moon
June Morrison
Deloris Perry
Gary Perry
Rosealee Rhodes
Ella Teno

(2014)

Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Richard McDonough
Pat Mason
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL
Devin Sinclair

Continuing Prayers

Brantley Hemann
Laura Moore
Trisha Raven
Bert Whitlock

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**WELCA Bible Study
April 13 at 11:00 am**

Our Bible study is an exploration of the book of Philippians.

Christian Citizenship 101

Session 2: **Servant-shaped soldiers** (Philippians 1:27-2:18)



Christian Education/VBS:

We will be meeting April 10 after worship. If you would like to help with planning for VBS, please join us for this important meeting.



**Building Faith Through Family
Home Huddles**

Family Home Huddle Craft day will be Sunday, April 3 after worship. Everyone is welcome to join us.



**Growing
Together
in Faith**

Fellowship Team Ministries

3rd Sunday Brunch



April 17

Senior Fellowship

We will have a pot-luck lunch on **Wednesday, April 6 at 11:00 am**. We will have a guest joining us this month; Robin Pfalzgraf from HCI Care Services. She will share with us the benefits of hospice and how they are continuing the Legacy of Monroe Co.

WELCA

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, April 28 at 7:00 pm.
Our hostess will be Evelyn Sharp.

WELCA Bible Study: Weds. April 13 at 11:00 am
(See more info on pg 3)

WELCA will be having a **garage sale** some time in June; so as you start your spring cleaning, set items aside for the sale.



Birthdays

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries



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



Special Thank You to everyone who helped during Holy Week. Our lectors, assistants, the extra altar guild helpers, those who brought flowers, those who brought food for the Easter brunch all helped to make the week special and it is greatly appreciated.

Council



Council Meeting

On Sunday, April 17 after worship.

Pastor Nancy's Office Hours:
Thursday and Friday

Treasurers Report

Income thru 3/31/16: \$20507.28.
Expenses thru 3/31/16: \$19629.50

year to date net: +\$877.78

year to date average weekly offering:
\$1,577.48

St. Paul's Council Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2016

Attending: Lana Kaldenberg, Anita Simmons, Richard James, Kay Speiler, Dakota Kelley, Curt Kelley, Gail Clouse, Pastor Nancy Reed, Amanda Thomas

Meeting opened with devotions.

Anita motioned to approve the Purchase Agreement with the suggested amendments by council. Lana seconded the motion. Motion carried

Council Organization

We will need possibly four council positions to be filled at the end of 2016. Two members can re-apply, but at least two new members are necessary.

Committee Assignments

Lana has joined the Education Team for the remainder of 2016, moving from the Fellowship Committee.

Active church members number: 86

In the future, Fellowship Committee will aid in determining active/not active and friends of the congregation.

Missions meeting cancelled for Easter Sunday- to be rescheduled

Discussion was had about having at least one Saturday night worship during the Summer. This will be further discussed by the Worship Committee.

Any new ideas for Restoration Days Parade?

Still doing water bottles? How about a float?

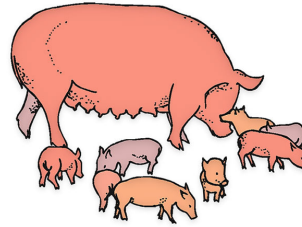
Committees need to meet and set dates. Council meets in April to discuss Treasurer's Report and future plans for St. Paul's.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Amanda Thomas, Secretary



Missions Meeting:
Sun. April 24 after worship



Lenten Mission Project—Piggy Banks

ELCA Good Gifts

35 Piglets

With all your generous donations for this Lenten Mission we are able to help 35 families.

What a wonderful way for us to help others! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Water Needed for People in Flint, MI-to help send a donation to: Southeast Michigan Synod/ELCA
8115 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48214.

Note on your donation—Filters



Bottled Water



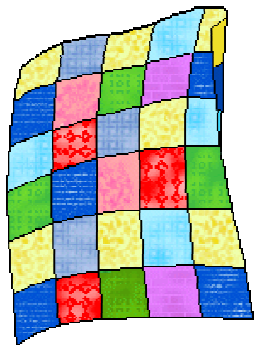
Faucets



Your donation goes directly to these needs.

Monroe Co. Ministerial Emergency Assistance Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
from 9 am—12 noon and 1 pm—3 pm.



Sharing the Weight Blankets 5 K Run & Walk

April 24, 2016

Old Schools Center, 200 W. Locust, Bloomfield, IA

Register on-line: www.sharingtheweight.org

See flyer in church entry for more information.

Worship Team Ministries

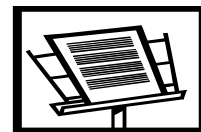


Sunday Worship
9:00 am



CHOIR

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| April 3 | Practice |
| April 10 | Practice |
| April 17 | Practice |
| April 24 | NO Practice |



March Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Anita Simmons & Gloria Smallwood

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>April 3</u> | Worship Assistant: | Gail Clouse |
| | Ushers/Greeters: | ????? |
| | Lector: | Gail Clouse |
| <u>April 10</u> | Worship Assistant: | Marilyn Woods |
| | Usher/Greeters: | Don & Karen Niebuhr |
| | Lector: | Marilyn Woods |
| <u>April 17</u> | Worship Assistant: | Marilyn Woods |
| | Ushers/Greeters: | Charlie & Gloria Smallwood |
| | Lector: | Gloria Smallwood |
| <u>April 24</u> | Worship Assistant: | Anita Simmons |
| | Ushers/Greeters: | Charlie & Gloria Smallwood |
| | Lector: | Gloria Smallwood |

Acolyte Schedule for April

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| April 3 | Parker light & put out the candles Sophie collect communion cups |
| April 10 | Grayson light & put out the candles Morgan collect communion cups |
| April 17 | Sophie light & put out the candles Parker collect communion cups |
| April 24 | Grayson light & put out the candles Morgan collect communion cups |



Note: this is a very fluid schedule that can be changed as needed. Please let Gloria know if you are not able to be here on your Sunday. Rotation will be farther apart as we train more acolytes.



On March 27th we welcomed into God's family through Holy Baptism: Lydia Bryn Dobson, Nikko Blue Dobson & Hayley Maurine Dobson.

Lydia & Nikko's parents are Aaron & Hayley Dobson. To help guide them are their sponsors Ronald & Diane Dobson.

Hayley is the daughter of Ronald & Diane Dobson. To help guide her is her sponsor Evelyn Sharpe.

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

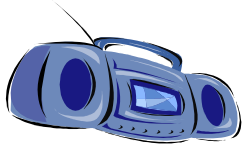
Place Mailing Label Here

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
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.



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

Helping Hands of Monroe County: NEW HOURS

Closed Sunday, Monday & Tuesday
Open Weds & Thursday from 9 am—1 pm
Open Saturday from 9 am—12 noon



Community Choir Dates:

Friday, April 1 at the Simon Estes Theater in Centerville at 7:30 pm
Sun., April 3 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia at 2:30 pm.