

Crossings

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

Volume 13 Issue 4

April 2018

Pastor's Epistle

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

During Lent and Easter we recognize 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!

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 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

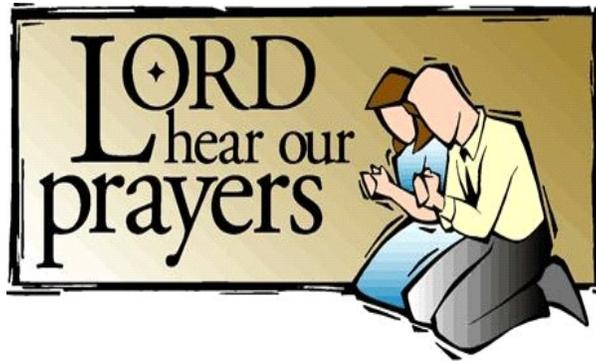
Our Mission Statement

*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."

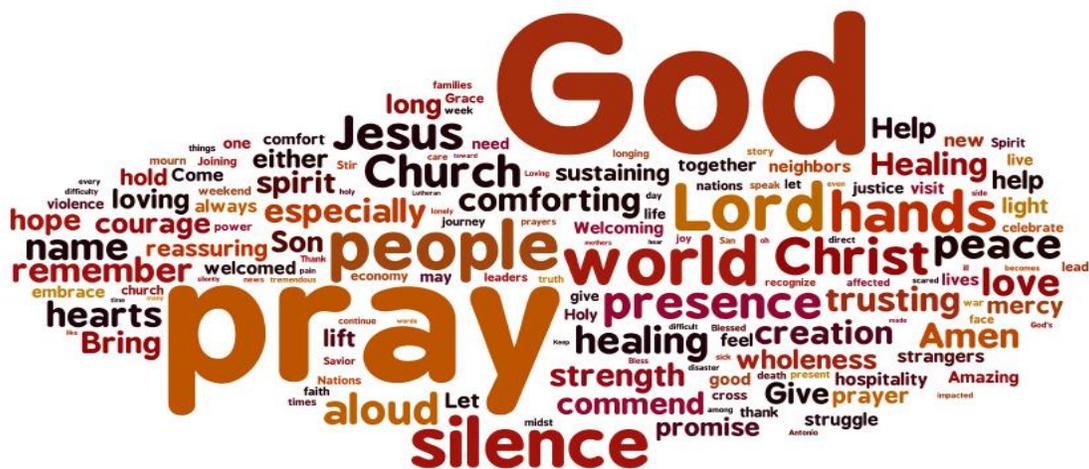
I John 4:10-11





Martin Luther on Prayer in Life

Martin Luther saw prayer as crucial to human life, a life created by the relationship to God. In this relationship God starts a conversation, communicating God’s words of law and promise. Prayer is a part of the human response to God’s speaking, a response itself shaped by the words of command and promise. Luther thought that God’s promise to hear prayer defines both the nature of God and the nature of the human relationship to God, as well as the human approach to life. Luther’s comments and instructions on prayer permeated his work. Luther sought to build an evangelical prayer practice that reflected the key insights of his theology: just as God redeems the unworthy human, so God promises to hear and respond to the one praying, despite his or her unworthiness. Humans respond to God’s actions in law and promise when they pray regularly, forthrightly, honestly, and frequently. Freedom in Christ sets humans free to use prayer practices that help them to do this.



RECENT PRAYERS

Donny Ballard
Linda & Jim Bills
Jerry Carr
John & Helen Champe
Tony Daggett
Mary Datschefski
Vikki Herbold
Clint Johnson
Elizabeth Moore
Amy Payne
John Pasuit
Mike Randall
Rick
Ty Rogerson
Suzanne Roberts
Samantha Sabovitch
Misty Smith
Sam Smith
Ron Swanson
Rachel Thiede
Heidi Williams
(2017)
Susan Anderson
Nate Baggett
Linda Christensen
Betty Foster
Ryver Lane
Jaxson Osmundson
Ashley Reeves
Suzie Smith
=====

St. Paul's Shut-ins:
Ruth Johnson

Continuing Prayers
(2016)

Anthony Allen
Pat & Gerry Anderson
Gene Dobson
Gerry Gillette
Maya Griebel
Wendy Henexson
Richard McDonough-
Cathy Tietje
Osmundson
Leo Oye
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL
Leeta Sanger
Scott Sanger
Lyle Spieler
Greg Tilton
Fred Witte

(2015)
Linda Ulrich Johnson
Ella Teno

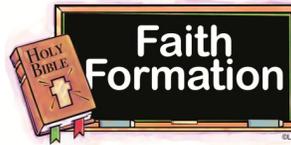
(2014)
Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Pat Mason

Continuing Prayers
Brantley Hemann
Laura Moore
Trisha Raven
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**Education/
Prayer Team**



April 11 @ 11 am
This session will be about prayer.

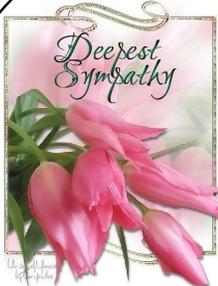


Because May is so busy with end of the school year stuff, we invite the families to really make an effort to share the highs and lows over dinner or before bedtime, pray for each other, forgive each other if necessary, and then do the Sunday children's bulletins that cover the Gospel text each Sunday in worship.

We have a packet of K – 4th grade materials with weekly lessons for everyone which will be available beginning Easter Sunday.

For Grayson Kelley, Lydia and Nikko Dobson, we have a booklet of lessons for you, but you will have additional requirements, which will be included with the booklet.

Parents Meeting: April 8 after worship.
We will be discussing plans for a quarterly Gathering and VBS planning.



Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Bill Sailor who died March 14.

Our sympathy goes out to the Hemann family as they mourn the loss of Uncle Larry.

Our sympathy goes out to the family & friends of John Palmer who died on March 2.

May the peace and hope of the resurrection comfort them in the days and months ahead.



Fellowship Team Ministries



BRUNCH
April 15

Senior Fellowship

Pot-luck Luncheon: April 4 at 11:00 am.

WOMEN of the ELCA (WELCA)

Our **March meeting** will be on Thursday, April 26.
Pizza will be provided.

We have a monthly **Bible Study** on Weds.,
April 11 at 11 am. See more details on page 3.



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthday's

2. Donald Niebuhr
7. Maxwell Butler
9. Anita Simmons
9. Andy McCombs
11. Pastor Nancy Reed
11. Cameron Stocker
13. Jacob Hemann
16. Mike Dua
18. Meghan Lettington
19. Kelly Hilton
20. Leland Sherman
20. Mary Ann (Preston) Hatfield
24. Erin Heaton
25. Avery Fuhs

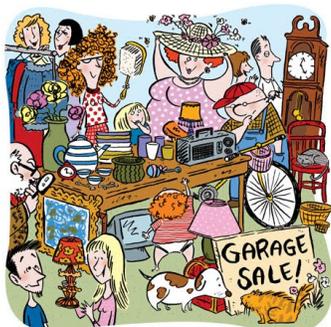
Anniversaries

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



Baptismal Birthday's

2. Lana Kaldenberg
3. Judy Van Polen
3. Nate Dorpinghaus
3. Tyler Simmons
4. Jo Diers
5. Sarah Fuhs
7. Sheela Clouse
7. Wesley Clouse
7. Tyler Clouse
7. Louie Clouse
14. Emma Fuhs
15. Karter Spieler
20. Robert Zarn
28. Logan Dorpinghaus



WELCA will be having a **garage sale on June 9th;**
so as you start your spring cleaning,
please set items aside for the sale.

Special Speaker:

Senior Fellowship will be having a guest speaker on Wednesday, May 2. Pastor Jeremy McElvain from Centerville will be showing and explaining the significance of Christian Art through the ages. Please join us for food and fellowship starting at 11 am.

Council



Next Council Meeting will be May 13 after worship.
No April Meeting.



Looking for 2018 GRADUATES

We need your help in finding high school and college graduates to invite to a reception for them on May 6.

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: Erin Heaton, Emily Hohneke, Ben Mason, Karter Spieler, Jade Van Polen, Samantha Nielson

College: Becca Mason, Tonya McEwen, Kaitlyn Spieler



Treasurer Report

January & February Offering & Misc. Income: \$11,681.82

January & February Expenses: \$11,767.37

Net deficiency (\$85.55)

Average weekly offering for Jan & Feb \$1,454.10

A NOTE OF



To Colleen Putnam for the kitchen supplies.

To Jacob Hemann, Kyle & Eli Hilton for removing the old church sign and bushes.

We want to thank everyone who brought food items and helped with Bill Sailor's funeral. The family was very grateful and appreciated everything.

Usher & Lector rotation is on the bulletin board above bulletin/usher stand.

Usher duty check list is on bulletin stand by gray attendance book.

Mission Task Force



Mission Task Force Meeting:
April 8 after worship.

Boxes of Hope Continuing Mission: for the Emergency Assistance Office.

Items that are in the greatest demand are:



© Can Stock Photo

All-purpose cleaning products & Bathroom cleaners

Dish soap

Laundry Detergent

Toilet paper

Toothpaste

Shampoo

Men & Women Deodorant

Body wash (not bar soap)



These items can not be purchased with the SNAP card (food stamps)

+++++

**Mission Project for Lent
The WATER & The WITNESS**



Our water bucket total is \$1431.00



Thank you for your generous donations.
With your help many people around the world will get clean water.
(Way to go, we exceeded last years total of \$1350.00).



Thank you from Behruz Gharibov

I want to thank St. Paul's for all your support; you help to make changes in lives of 100 of children in Tatikistan.
Behruz

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Gail Clouse & Julie Stocker

<u>April 1</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Fred Diers & Andy Fuhs
	Lector:	Gail Clouse
<u>April 8</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Dan & Pat Johnson
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods
<u>April 15</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Florence Heacock
	Lector:	Gloria Smallwood
<u>April 22</u>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Ushers/Greeters:	Hilton Family
	Lector:	Anita Simmons
<u>April 29</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Marilyn Johnson & Evelyn Sharpe
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods

Worship Team Ministries



April 8	Practice
April 15	TBA
April 22	Practice
April 29	Practice



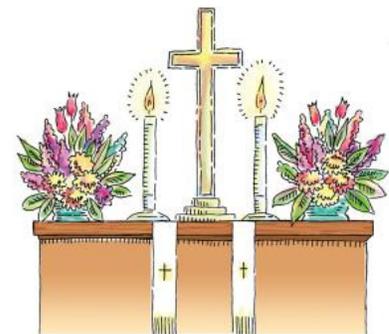
Schedule for April

April 1	Grayson light & put out the candles Morgan collect communion cups
April 8	Nikko light & put out the candles Lydia collect communion cups
April 15	Sophie light & put out the candles Parker collect communion cups
April 22	Morgan light & put out the candles Eli collect communion cups
April 29	Lydia light & put out the candles Nikko collect communion cups

Guest Pastor:
Pastor Paul Ostrem from the SEIA Synod
will be here on April 15.

Healing Worship April 29, 2018

This healing service will include the laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and individual prayers. All of us experience illness, mental fatigue, and/or spiritual disillusionment in our lives from time to time. Here is an opportunity to present yourself to the Lord and receive the healing God intends for you.



Worship With Us!

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

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OFFICE HOURS: Monday 9:30 –11:30 am & 1-3 pm
Wednesday 10 am—Noon & 1—3 pm Friday 9 am—Noon



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

You will find our newsletters, calendar and recipe. Please send the office anything you would like to share on our web site.



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.



Albia Community Choir Dates:

Friday, April 6 at 7:30 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Albia

Saturday, April 7 at 7:30 pm at First Methodist Church in Center-ville