

Crossings

“Making known
God’s deeds
among us.”
Isaiah 12:4

Volume 17 Issue 4

April 2021

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

From the Pastor

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

This will be our opening proclamation every Sunday during the Easter season. Yes, all 7 weeks, even when we think Easter is over. But that is really what the point of Easter is- resurrection is never over! Since every Sunday celebrates the resurrection, we could open every worship service with this statement. But in our liturgical practice, we refrain from **Alleluia** during Lent, and bring it back on Easter morning.

What does it mean in our lives that Christ is Risen? Why do we shout out **Alleluia**? Maybe a different question is, why don't we shout **Alleluia** every day of the year!? What we celebrate on Easter is God's faithfulness to Jesus, to the covenant with God's people, to us, to all of creation. By raising Jesus from the tomb, Jesus is with the Father, so that his presence can be made known to us in every breath, action, thought, word and deed. By raising Jesus from the tomb, our God does not hold our sins against us, they have been left in the tomb. By raising Jesus from the tomb, we are united to the risen Lord. We are made new, children of the light.

This does not happen just once. Easter happens on Monday, Tuesday....Resurrection happens every time God raises us up. In the gospel of Mark, Jesus' ministry often raises people to new life. Life without illness, life without hunger, life in community, life that is whole.

Caroline Lewis, from Luther Seminary, wrote, “The resurrection was never the end of the story. Jesus goes ahead of us, goes first, preparing the way for us to march for our lives. To anticipate resurrection when the world sees only death. To insist on resurrection when death has appeared to have won the day.” Because we are united to the risen Jesus, we carry resurrection into the world where Jesus takes us: to our neighbors, in our workplaces, in conflicts with our family, to the legislature, as we sit with those who are sick. The resurrection we carry is hope, grace, love, reconciliation, life. In our work day, on vacation, at the sports arena, or dance hall, we bear the mark of resurrection, the baptismal cross on our forehead. That cross is a sign of God's promise, that through Jesus God is with us, giving us hope, healing our wounds, making us whole. Again this Easter season, we celebrate that God has made that possible.

I encourage you to start every conversation throughout the year with **Alleluia, Christ is Risen. Christ is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!** Not just during the Easter season, but every day, we have been empowered and sent by the Risen Jesus to live those words. **Alleluia!**

Pastor Karen Ullestad



Drive—In Worship

Worship Starts at 10:00 am



Complete Order of Worship with Holy Communion

TUNE your car radio to 107.7 FM

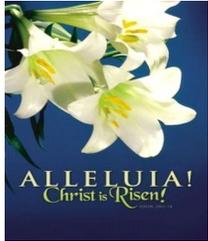
Hymns will be played by our organists: Veronica Fuhs and Karen Witte.

Pastor Karen Ullestad will be leading our worship and the hymns.



Good Friday Service—April 2

We will be recording this service and it will be posted on the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Albia—Facebook page on Good Friday & on Saturday.



Easter Sunday Worship—April 4 @ 10:00 am

Join us as we celebrate the Risen Christ.

Special music and service.

If you would like to bring flowers for this Easter Sunday, you can leave them in the church entry anytime this week. We will have a wonderful Easter garden.

You are encouraged to take your flowers home after worship.

SEIA Synod Special Service: Sunday, April 11, our worship service will be provided by our synod. The sermon will be by Bishop Amy Current.



In Building Worship

Welcome back to worship indoors! Starting **April 18** we will add the opportunity to worship inside our building, in the Fellowship Hall. Specific guidelines have been sent out. (See page 5 for a copy of the guidelines.)

If you would like to attend, **please register for worship by Thursday at 3:00 p.m.**

You may email the church at spalbia@iowatelecom.net or

call 641-932-7270. If you have called when the limit has been reached, you will be notified and invited to attend inside the following Sunday.

For those who choose to stay outside, the service will continue to be broadcast over our FM radio transmitter for our Drive-In Worship.

As information about the Covid virus changes on a regular basis, we thank you for your patience as, together, we seek to provide as safe a space as possible.

We are excited to take a step towards in-house worship, fellowship and community service.



Education/
Prayer Team

RECENT PRAYERS

Dean Bettis
Gail Clouse
Mike Freshwater,
Karen Niebuhr,
Jordan
Karen Pottorff,
Rev. Nancy Reed,
Mary Lou Rogers
Carla Wahl
Dylan Zimmerman.

St. Paul's Shut-ins

Ruth Johnson



FFF Home Huddle
Youth Devotional

Each week they will receive, through their parent's e-mail, a lesson that follows the up-coming Sunday's scripture reading.

Sometimes there will be video links to watch and crafts to do.

We are hoping this will be a easier way for families to worship together at home and they are able to fit it into their busy schedules.

Recent Prayers: We up-date our prayers each quarter. Let the office know, if there is someone who has been removed, that needs to be added back in our prayers.

Home Devotional Change

As we go forward into warmer weather and re-entering our building for worship; we will no longer send out the Home Devotional. After each Sunday's worship, we will be glad to send out: our Sunday bulletin, Prayers of Intercession and Pastor Karen's Reflection.

If you would like to receive these worship materials, please call the church and leave a message on the answering machine. 641-932-7270

A Prayer for Easter Eyes



My Lord, Jesus,
You have risen to new life!
Give me new eyes with which to recognize
your presence in the world around me.
Sharpen my vision so that I see beyond the
ordinary events of each day and into the
extraordinary reality of your grace.
Brighten my view of the world with renewed
hope in the coming of your Kingdom.
Soften my gaze so that I view others with the
kind of tenderness and compassion you
showed to so many.
May each day of this Easter season provide
glimpses of your glory.
In your sacred name, I pray.
Amen.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthday

- 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
- 29. Stephanie Sparks

Baptismal Birthday

- 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



Fellowship Team Ministries



Anniversaries

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



2021 Graduates: We need your help, please let the church office know if you have anyone graduating in 2021; from High School or College. We will honor them in May.



THANK YOU Pastor Karen for leading our mid-week Lenten study on prayer. It was a very enriching time together.

APRIL WELCA Meeting:

On Thursday, 22 at 7:00 pm

Bring your mask & lawn chairs.

Weather permitting we will sit outside and enjoy God's wonderful creation.

Our topic to share is:

What is your favorite Spring flower?





**April 25
after worship
@ 11:30 am**

**Church
Happenings**

Christ is Risen, Alleluia! Christ is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Welcome back to worship in the building!

Thank you for your patience in this long year of pandemic. There is much we have missed. But we are now ready to take steps to return to our building. We look forward to seeing each other!

Our task force will be watching for trends and notifications from health, civic and synod leaders, even as we return. If the recommendation is to restrict our movement again, we will let you know.

Starting April 18 we will add an opportunity for to worship in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Hall allows for better ventilation than the sanctuary. It is also easier to clean. And since there will be some folks worshipping in the parking lot, meeting in the Fellowship Hall will allow less travel back and forth for Pastor Ullestad. For those who wish to stay in cars or outside on a lawn chair, the service will continue to be broadcast over our radio transmitter.

To worship inside, we will ask you to reserve a spot, which helps us set up chairs. The guidelines will continue to be: Masks required indoors, as well as staying 6 feet away from others who are not in your “pod.” Masks, hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes will be available. If you are currently sick or have been exposed to someone with Covid 19, we encourage you to stay home and use our mailed worship bulletin.

- 1 Register for worship by Thursday at 3:00 p.m. You may email the church at spalbia@iowatelecom.net or call 641-932-7270. If you have called when the limit has been reached, you will be notified and invited to attend inside the following Sunday.
- 2 When you arrive on Sunday, let the usher know if you are staying outside or going inside. If you are staying outside, please park on the south side of the building. If you are going inside, please park on the north or northwest side of the building.
- 3 You will continue to receive a bulletin and communion packet outside. You may make your offering in the basket provided by the usher outside.
- 4 If you are staying outside, everything that we have done in the “drive-in worship” will be the same. You will tune into FM 107.7 on your radio.
- 5 If you are coming into the building, please enter through the north (back) door. There will be a table outside the offices if you need to drop off something.
- 6 Please fill in the chairs in Fellowship Hall according to how many are in your “pod.” They will be spread out 6 feet and will have been wiped with disinfectant.
- 7 Doors will be kept open for ventilation.
- 8 The worship service will be the same as our “drive-in” worship. However, since singing is still considered a super spreader, those inside will be asked to **refrain** from singing.
- 9 The reader, organist and radio attendant will stay in the sanctuary.
- 10 After worship is over we ask that you wipe down your chairs with the disinfectant wipes available in each row. You may throw away your empty communion cups in the trash can near the west door.
- 11 We ask that you leave the building through the west door. You are welcome to visit with each other outdoors, but please do not congregate inside.

We are excited to take these steps. Worship, fellowship and community service are vital missions of this congregation. We look forward to being in mission in person. At the same time, we continue our commitment to do what we can to be as safe as possible. As you make decisions about how you will participate at St. Paul, we trust that God is with us in all things.

Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

Covid-19 Task Force
Congregational Council
Pastor Karen Ullestad



OUR LENTEN MISSION: Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits.
35 kits Completed

THANK YOU to everyone who donated items for the personal care kits. We will be able to help our neighbors near and far. Special thank you to Lana Kaldenberg for helping put together the kits.



With your generosity we were able to send \$300.00 to help with the winter storm efforts.

Thank you for sharing the gifts God has blessed you with to help others



WANTED: Old prescription glasses. The Albia Lion's will be collecting your old prescription glasses to be re-purposed for other who cannot afford glasses.

Procession with palms on Palm Sunday



Our Daily Lenten Devotion from the SEIA Synod was posted on our Facebook page each day by Anita Simmons. We appreciate you taking time to share this with us during Lent.

We want to thank Jo Diers for the cross magnets that she made. The timing was perfect for Pastor Karen's message. Jo does wonderful things with yarn.

Worship Team Ministries



Lectors for April

- 4 Gail Clouse
- 11 Marilyn Woods
- 18 Gloria Smallwood
- 28 Lana Kaldenberg



GREETERS for April

- 4 Larry & Sharon Wilkin
- 11 Tom & Linda Preston
- 18 Council Members
- 25 Lana K. & Rob E.

Thank You from Church Property:

We appreciate Andy Fuhs help with getting the lights around the outside of the building working and fixing the drain spouts.

Special Thank You Shout Out to: Mark & Carol McClure, Colby, Kiley & Aiden for helping with moving tables and chairs in the fellowship hall.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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Albia, IA 52531

Phone: 641-932-7270

Email: splalbia@iowatelecom.net

Web Site—<http://www.splalbia.org>

Facebook:

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Albia"

Office Hours: Tues.-Weds.-Thurs.

11:30 am-2:30 pm

Links: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
The Southeast Iowa Synod of the ELCA

www.elca.org
www.seiasynod.org



"St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Albia" Is our Facebook Page.
The profile picture is of our stained glass cross altar window.
Check it out; there is a lot of good information being added.

RADIO Worship Options



St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Albia

RADIO BROADCAST: Listen to our Drive-In worship at 8:00 am on KIIC Radio-96.7 FM
(You will hear the worship service that was recorded the previous Sunday.)

*You can also listen to this worship service on the KIIC's web-site: If you are not able to get reception for this radio station in your area, you can listen to it on-line.

First Lutheran Church, Chariton Pastor Richard Hutton

RADIO BROADCAST: First Lutheran Church and Christ the Servant Lutheran Church
on KIIC Radio – 96.7 FM out of Albia, IA. Sunday at 10:30 AM.

Alleluia!
Christ
is
Risen.



Christ
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Risen
Indeed,
Alleluia!