

Crossings

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

Volume 9 Issue 7

July 2014

Pastor's Epistle

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

I could talk about the dreadful situation of these unattended minors crossing the borders – refugees running from very life-threatening situations. Or I could talk about the ferocious and horrible violence of the Middle East . . . all of which are real, frightening, and over which we have little, if any control. These events shape our world, raise up within us Christian compassion, and define for us a state of helplessness and powerlessness. What does scripture say about this?

In Mark 9. 33-37, we read: *"Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it into his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."*

And again in 10. 13-16: *"People were bringing little children to him (Jesus) in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them."*

We can remind our leaders who confess devotion to Christ, that, as Christians our first and primary call is to serve Christ by serving others. Right now, these children are the face of Christ for us. What are they going to do for these children as they await processing according to the George W. Bush 2008 Law passed by Congress? Leave them in unsanitary conditions like cattle or pigs to slaughter? In the scriptures above, Jesus embraces the children, and says that however we extend or withhold assistance to these children, we are extending or withholding assistance to Jesus Christ himself.

We are not called to judge these children, their parents, or their countries. We are called to love others as Christ loves us and gave himself for us on the cross. What does that look like for us here at St. Paul's? I hope, as a congregation, we lift up our voices to our national, state, and local leaders and ask them to provide ways to help these children as they wait in limbo for their case to be processed. We can call into question our own national decisions which might have caused, encouraged, or resulted in the patterns of destruction now occurring in these countries.

Maybe God is calling us to do something; if so, what might that look like? Below is an article from the ELCA website:

Migrant Children

The Situation:

The recent influx in unaccompanied and migrant children arriving in the United States is a result of risk factors causing them to leave their home countries. The children's countries of origin are aggravated by lack of protection from drug trafficking, violence, sex trafficking, poverty and unemployment, among other factors. As a result, these children are vulnerable to harmful acts, such as gender-based violence, harassment, persecution and extortion. Some children are hoping to reconnect with family members who have migrated to the U.S.

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

Our Response:

As members of the ELCA, we are called to love and welcome all. We answer the call when children who are running from hunger, poverty and harm arrive on our doorstep. We believe it is our responsibility to protect and care for those who are most vulnerable by providing services to ensure their safety, upholding their human rights and recognizing and preventing risks of exploitation. In a living example of caring for our neighbor, the ELCA – through Lutheran Disaster Response – is responding to the arrival of these children with grace and compassion.

Lutheran Disaster Response, working with companions and strategic allies such as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, is committed to walking with unaccompanied and migrant children within this country and across borders.

What Can You Do?

Pray: Pray for those affected by violence, that they may be granted peace and healing.

Give:

Your gifts designated for Unaccompanied and Migrant Children will be used in full (100 percent) to assist those directly impacted by this crisis. Gifts from people like you allow us to respond to those who are most vulnerable.

Connect:

To learn more about the situation and the ELCA’s response: Check the Lutheran Disaster Response blog

At: <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/Unaccompanied-and-Migrant-Children#sthash.Ffbfd1sz.dpuf>

By the power of the Holy Spirit and our willingness to serve, we can make a difference – we can spread the kingdom of Heaven on earth. May God’s Spirit bless our lives with abundant grace!

Walking with you along the Way – Pr. Nancy



Format Change for Children's Church/Sunday School for 2014-2015

Children's Church will begin this fall on Sunday, September 14.

After reviewing the results of a phone survey, from the children’s parents, for the best time for the children to attend Children’s Church; it was decided to hold it **after worship on Sundays from 10:15 am to 10:45 am.**

We are excited as we will be able to have 2 separate classes this year:

GROUP A—Pre-school (3 yr old) to Kindergarten (7 students will be in this group)

GROUP B—1st grade to 3rd grade (5 students will be in this group)

During the worship service there will be a Children's sermon time; where the children are invited to come forward for a message from Pastor Reed. We will have Activity Packets for the younger Group A children to use during worship. We will also have available Children’s Bulletins for the older Group B children to use during the worship service. These will be found in the fellowship hall.

TEACHERS NEEDED

Because we will be doing 2 classes this year, we will need everyone’s help. **We, as a congregation, made a promise to support all of these children when they were baptized.** Part of that support is to help their parents by teaching the scriptures and providing access to worship where they will hear the word of God, the Lord’s Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments. They also receive instruction for receiving Holy Communion and participating in the sacraments. Children’s Church is one of the best ways for all of us to make good on this promise.

We need 2 teachers each Sunday; we hope to have 12 people to sign-up as teachers. This would allow us to have a teacher rotation where you only teach once every 6 weeks. No teaching expertise required; what’s needed is a faith-filled heart and a desire to pass on the faith. Lessons will be prepped for the teachers ahead of time. We welcome the confirmed youth of St. Paul’s to volunteer to teach a class. *This is a good way for confirmed high school members to earn silver service hours for graduation.*

Sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall.



St. Paul's Shut-ins:

Hilda Felton
Bob & Ruth Johnson

**Education/
Prayer Team**

RECENT PRAYERS

Susan Anderson
Larry Belt
Gail Clouse
Sharon Glenn
Nancy Goodsmen
Nick Griffin
Liam Brody James
Myron Johnson
Pat Jurgensen
Alyson Karl
Richard McDonough
Martha McGlothen
Gail Maddy
Pat Mason
Pastor Dennis Miller
Amy Pottorff
Claire Powers
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL
Carol Reed
Tera Reed
Steve Roberts
Sue Rowlands
Mark Russell
Christy Taggitt

Continuing Prayers

Alex Amante
Karen Blomme
Kevin Bunch
Mary Datschefski
Brantley Hemann
Bryce Kroenecke
Marty Kroenecke
Kenneth Leaven
Loren Lettington
Laura Moore
Rhonda Morgan
Trisha Raven
Misty Smith
Bert Whitlock

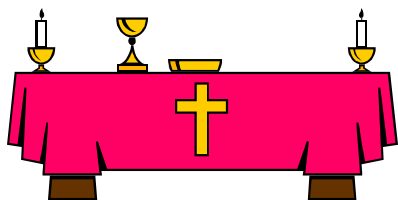


Prayers of the People: Please let us know if anyone is in the hospital or that you want to have included in our prayers.

PRAYER UP-DATES: If you gave us someone to pray for; please check to see how they are doing and if they would like to still be included in our prayers. We are always interested to hear up-dates to keep our prayers as current as possible.

Our Sympathy goes out to Pastor Ron Barnett & family on the loss of Ron's brother who died in July. May they find comfort in the hope and promise of eternal life.

Christian Ed Meeting:
Wednesday, Aug. 19th at 8:30 am



**1ST COMMUNION
CLASS**

On Sunday, August 3rd from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm Pastor Reed will be instructing 8 children about the Lord's Supper so they may participate in Holy Communion each Sunday.

A pizza lunch will be provided.
Parents are encouraged to stay.



WELCA Bible Study:

NO Bible study in August.

Join us in **September** on Thursday the 11th at 11:00 am as we start our new Bible Study:

Transforming Life and Faith

A new marriage, a new child, a new job, a new home: most of us recognize how our lives are changed by these experiences.

In Transforming Life and Faith, we will consider how our lives and our faith journeys are transformed by the events we experience and the people we meet. In we will read about people who have life-changing experiences. We will watch them turn to and with God as their minds, hearts, and daily lives are altered. And we will reflect on the ways we, too, have been and will be transformed and called by God to serve God's mission in the world.

Fellowship Team Ministries

3rd Sunday Brunch



August 17th

Senior Fellowship

Join us for lunch on **Weds. August 6th @ 11:00 am.**

Karen Niebuhr will be providing all of the food this month.

We will be playing Bingo; please bring a white elephant item for the prizes.

NO SENIOR FELLOWSHIP in September, you are encouraged to come to the God's Free Grace Free Spaghetti Supper Sept. 3rd from 5-6 pm instead.

WELCA

August meeting will be Thurs. 21st. Our hostess will be Lana Kaldenberg.

NO WELCA Bible Study in AUGUST (See more info on page 3)

Restoration Days Bake Sale will be on Sat. Aug. 23rd from 10:00 am—1:00 pm. **Please bring baked goods between 8-8:30 am to the NW corner of the courthouse lawn.**

Looking Ahead: The fall cluster meeting will be Sept. 27 in



Birthdays & Anniversaries



August Birthdays

1. Dakota Kelley
2. Terry Simmons
3. Donna Peterson
14. Tom Preston
17. Brooke Sparks
19. Nell Haeussler
19. Kelly Freeman
19. Hanna Freeman
22. Jesse Simmons
23. Annabella Post
23. Jay Heaton
26. Steve Larson
29. Stephanie Kelley
30. Chuck Clouse
31. Brian Teeter



August Baptismal Birthdays

3. Cassie Smallwood
13. Reagan Dowdy
18. Mary Mitchell
22. Harold Benson
23. Jay Heaton
28. Broderick Thomas
30. Connor Ray
Daniel Ray

August Anniversaries

4. Michael & Amanda Thomas
5. Larry & Sharon Wilkin
16. Bob & Ruth Johnson
28. Brittany & Cody Flattery
28. Nancy & Martin Reed
29. Steve & Marilyn Larson



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.



School Starts August 19th



Council



Council Notices

Council Meeting: Monday, August 4, 2014

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Council Officers:

President: Amanda Thomas

Vice Pres.: Gail Clouse

Secretary: Marilyn Woods

Treasurer: Anita Simmons

Lawn Mowing & Trimming:

Thank you to all those who have been keeping up the church property by mowing the lawn and doing the trimming. Your time and efforts are greatly appreciated.



VACATION

Pastor Reed will be on vacation August 5-7 and Aug. 12.

Pastor Reed will be on vacation for her and Martin's anniversary August 15-18.

Pulpit Supply for Sat. 8/16 and Sun. 8/17 worship will be Pastor Brian Gentz. Emergencies contact Pastor Gentz at 319-461-5464.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

No Council meeting in July

2014 Monthly Budget report

January through June

(St. Paul's Members if you receive your newsletter through e-mail; please see the 6 month budget attachment)

Restoration Day Parade Float

(Aug 23)



Restoration Day Parade Float : Still time to bring in your water bottles. Last year 1200 bottles were handed out with our church information on them. We hope to do the same or even more this year. This is a great outreach ministry for St. Paul's. You can bring your water bottles any time to the church; just leave them in the entry way.

Help needed: we will be putting the labels on the bottles on **Aug. 17th** after worship; please have all bottles here by then.



Parade Float Volunteers: We need volunteers to **hand out the water bottles on the day of the parade.** Please sign-up if you are able to help with this event. We will meet at the church about 9:00 am and line up.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES Needed: St. Paul's Mission's Task Force has decided to help the Monroe County Ministerial Association again this year by filling school bags with school supplies for the Albia Community School District's 2014-2015 school year.

St. Paul's has signed up to fill **12 school bags** for this fall's **kindergarten** class.

The supplies are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| School box (6 x 8" – No Larger) | 1 large eraser |
| 1 box Crayola Classic Markers | 1 Roll of paper towels |
| 12 large glue sticks | Beach towel for resting |
| 2 water color paints | 2 rolls of scotch tape |
| 1 pair Fiskars scissors | 2 large boxes of Kleenex |
| 1 pkg Clorox wipes | 1 bottle Elmer's glue (4 oz.) |
| 1 pkg color construction paper | 5 pencils |

We need all the supplies by the **week of Aug. 5-7th** so we can bless them on Sun. Aug. 10th and assemble all the supplies in them.

The bags will then be delivered to the Kendall Administration Building and the school will get them to the children. Thanks for all your assistance as we help out the many families who struggle in the fall to meet all the requirements necessary to help their children have a successful experience in school.

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Julie Stocker & Gloria Smallwood

<u>August 3</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Dan & Pat Johnson
	Lector:	Gail Clouse
	Acolyte:	????
<u>August 10</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	?? Open ??
	Lector:	?? Open??
	Acolyte:	????
<u>August 17</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Usher/Greeter:	?? Open ??
	Lector:	?? Open ???
	Acolyte:	????
<u>August 24</u>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	?????
	Lector:	????
	Acolyte:	????
<u>August 31</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
Healing	Usher/Greeter:	?????
Worship	Lector:	????
	Acolyte:	????

Worship Team Ministries



Healing Service

We will be having a Healing Worship Service on Sunday, August 31st.

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.



Mission Task Force

Meeting Sunday, August 10th after worship, 10:15 am.

Back Pack Blessing



We will be blessing all the back pack supplies during worship on August 10th. After worship everyone is welcome to help assemble the supplies in the back packs so they will be ready to take to the Albia School Central Office on the 11th.



God's Free Grace **Free Community Spaghetti Supper**

For the privilege of serving the people of Albia; St. Paul's will be offering a free spaghetti meal on Weds, Sept. 3rd from 5-7 pm. Join us for food & fellowship.

Please help the Missions Task Force with this community outreach project by signing up to donate food and/or volunteering to cook and serve the meal.



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

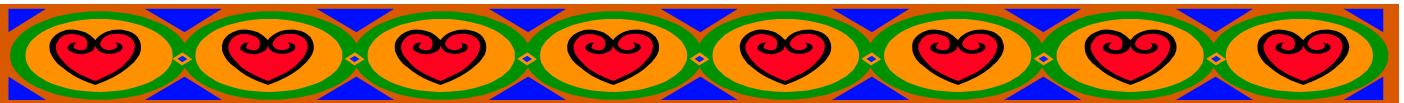


Restoration Days: Sat. Aug 23rd

WELCA Bake Sale 10 am—1 pm

St. Paul's WATER BOTTLE FLOAT in parade

Riverside Bible Camp will be holding numerous event this summer (along with their week long camps):
R5K walk /run and quilt Auction on Sat. August 2nd
Women's Retreat is Sat. Sept. 20-Sun. Sept. 21
Chili Cook-Off Sat. October 26th
Watch for more details on posters in church entry.



Healing Hearts Kids' Camp 2014

On Saturday, September 13, 2014, Monroe County Hospice will be hosting a children's grief day camp. This camp is designed to help children who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Through therapeutic and fun activities, children can express their feelings and learn new ways to cope with grief. This will be the 4th year for the camp and is a life-changing experience for children who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

The day camp will be held at the Family Life Center, located north of Trinity United Methodist Church in Albia. There is no cost to attend, but in order to ensure there are enough supplies, children must be registered. For more information or to register, please call Monroe County Hospice at 932-1701. Registration deadline is September 1st.