

# Crossings

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

Volume 10 Issue 8

August 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.

Do you ever get bone tired – soul tired – down-to-the- depths-of-your belly-button tired? So tired that you want to “sit by the side of the lake in perfect stillness and never move” tired? I do. I'm that way now. The noise of the world, the demands of ministry, the expectations of employers and family, and the sense of not making a difference, gets to us all from time to time. At least I hope it does. Not because I want people to feel awful; but because, if a person sometimes feels this way, it may mean that person is deeply engaged in their calling to love others as Christ loves us. It may mean that the person cares so deeply that their spiritual and emotional energies are currently tapped out and need a re-charge.

Jesus frequently felt this way. He would often separate himself away from the disciple “pack” and go off by himself to pray. The quiet stillness of the presence of God can often be most fully experienced when a person is alone with God; whether that stillness is found in the wee, dark hours of a sleeping house, or the cool evening shade of a sunset, or maybe on still waters in a kayak. In such a quiet space, the noise of life can rush out and the Holy Spirit of God can rush in and heal all the damaged and inflamed crevasses and cracks within our heart, mind, and soul. Resting in the presence of God, our bodies and minds find peace and rest – peace and rest beyond our understanding. And healing takes place.

Jesus was very intentional about his practice of alone time with God – the disciples were often instructed to go ahead while Jesus went off to pray by himself. I find that it can get hard to get away from everything. I get involved in a TV series, or the list of things to do at home, things to do for family, friends, and my 2 dogs. I get caught up in the news and the depressing feelings that election time brings on (what – we are up to 21 people running for president now? Sheesh!). Sometimes I just need to turn it all off and let it go. Just like Jesus did. He left the crowds and the disciples and would go away to pray.

So that is what I do from time to time, when I get to feeling this way. I go off in my car and drive around SE Iowa without a map (there's a funny story about my latest excursion which I won't go into now). Or I will go to the lake(s), put on some classical music and just be still – it's then that I hear God's voice and feel his healing hands. It's then that I feel restored, renewed, and re-invigorated to proclaim the Gospel, to extend love to those around me, and to accept people how they are – where they are. I can again make efforts to, {4:1b} “lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, {2} with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, {3} making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (*Ephesians 4:1b-3*).

When you find yourself feeling this way, talk with your most trusted family member or friend, and ask for prayer. I encourage you to take yourself to a place of quiet stillness. Pour your heart out to God and lie down or sit quietly for the Spirit of God to bring peace and restoration to you. And God's peace which surpasses all understanding with fill your mind with Christ Jesus our Lord.

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.”

1 John 4:10-11

## **23rd Psalm for Students**

Author - Unknown

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not flunk  
He keepeth me from lying down when I should be studying  
He leadeth me beside the water cooler for a study break  
He restores my faith in study guides  
He leads me to better study habits  
For my grades' sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of borderline grades  
I will not have a nervous breakdown  
For thou art with me  
My prayers and my friends, they comfort me  
Thou givest me the answer in moments of blankness  
Thou anointest my head with understanding  
My test paper runneth over with questions I recognize.  
Surely passing grades and flying colors shall follow me  
All the days of my examinations  
And I shall not have to dwell in this exam hall forever.

**BACK TO SCHOOL  
On August 25**



### **August 2015, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story**

School is right around the corner! As children and teens adjust to a new classroom routine, the transition can often bring to light behavioral issues that may stem from a mental health diagnosis, such as ADHD, anxiety, depression or oppositional defiant disorder.

Did you know Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) partners with schools across the state to provide mental health services right in their schools? This makes it easier to collaborate with educators and reduce the transportation barrier that sometimes makes it hard for families to attend appointments. We are grateful for opportunities to provide therapy for uninsured and underinsured children who otherwise might not get the help they need.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org) and [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

#### **Making a "Day and Night" Difference for Ethan**

Kim was at her wit's end. Her son Ethan, who had been bullied, was fighting with other youth at his middle school. Her daughter Dejah was also struggling with her parents' divorce.

"I didn't know what to do," Kim said. "I'd tried everything."

Ethan's school eventually referred Kim to LSI's Brief Intensive Services. And that's when everything changed.

"It was day and night with the kids," she said. "At first they weren't doing so great, but after awhile it was a complete turnaround."

LSI's Brief Intensive Services does just what its name describes – an LSI caseworker partners with a family for short time, meeting as often as needed, to help children and teens who are struggling with school, a crisis or behaviors. The unique community program, available in the Muscatine and Davenport areas, is made free to families by local funders and supports those who may not qualify for traditional services.

Ethan warmed up quickly to his LSI caseworker Ryan during weekly meetings. He started building skills like learning how to calmly handle frustration and how to make and keep friendships.

"I was nervous about people coming to our home and how Ethan would react," Kim said. "But I thought if someone came where he's comfortable, he might open up."

LSI helped the family learn to communicate again. Today Ethan is getting all A's and B's in school. His school suspensions are a thing of the past, and he's made some new friends.

"Things are more stable," Kim said. "We can talk and cope rather than yelling and screaming. LSI helped

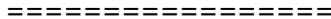


**RECENT PRAYERS**

Rev. Eric Bogerd  
Mary Datschefski  
Roger Epperly  
Martha McGlothen  
Carol Newhard  
Deloris Perry  
Rosealee Rhodes  
Lyle Spieler  
Ella Teno

**(2014)**

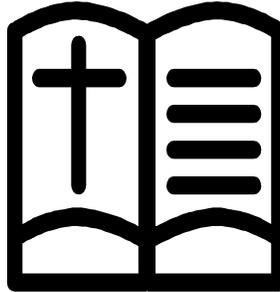
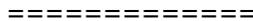
Opal Bloomer  
Vickie Buckingham  
Addie Fausett  
Sharon Glenn  
Nick Griffin  
Gary Hollst  
Alyson Karl  
Richard McDonough  
Pat Mason  
Amy Pottorff  
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL  
Carol (Keegle) Reed  
Devin Sinclair  
Lyle Spieler  
Frank Tharp  
Paulette Gary Hollst  
Alyson Karl  
Richard McDonough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



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

**Continuing Prayers**

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



**Education/  
Prayer Team**

**WELCA Bible Study:**  
Wednesday, August 12 at 11:00 am.  
"No Catchy Slogans," looks at Scripture passages about giving. "Giving money is an important topic for Christians to consider. All congregations need money to pay pastors, care for buildings, and support ministries. All people need encouragement and guidance about their relationship to money. Few things affect our daily life more. It seems appropriate that the Bible gives so much attention to money and giving. Yet, it's too common to see Bible passages taken out of context, turned into catchy slogans, and enforced as rules that Christians should follow."

**Christian Ed Meeting**  
Tuesday, August 11 at 8:30 am

**Building Faith Through Family Huddles**  
This is new format where the parents lead Bible time each day with their children starting in September. The "HOME HUDDLE" curriculum will be explained at the parent meeting on Weds., Sept. 9 at 6:00 pm. There will also be intergenerational time on one Sunday a month for mission projects and/or ways to reinforce their Bible Lessons.

**Faith Foundation Bible Study**  
We have postponed this Bible study till fall. Watch for restarting date.  
"Reclaiming the "C" Word, Daring to be Church Again";

## Fellowship Team Ministries

### Sunday Brunch



**August 16**



## *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

### Birthdays

1. Dakota Kelley
2. Terry Simmons
3. Donna Peterson
9. Melissa Griebel
12. Royce Foster
14. Tom Preston
17. Brooke Sparks
19. Kelly Freeman
19. Hanna Freeman
22. Jesse Simmons
23. Annabella Post Hogeland
23. Jay Heaton
26. Steve Larson
29. Stephanie Kelley
30. Chuck Clouse

### Baptismal Birthdays



3. Cassie Smallwood
4. Melissa Griebel
18. Mary Mitchell
22. Harold Benson
23. Jay Heaton
28. Broderick Thomas

### Anniversaries

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

**Fellowship Task Force Meeting:** after  
worship on Sun. Aug. 9 at 10:15 am



#### **Your Invited:**

The family of Mardyll Benson would like to invite you to help celebrate **Mardyll's 80th birthday** on Sunday, September 6th at Trinity Methodist Church from 2 pm—5 pm with a brief program at 3 pm.  
No gifts please; cards are welcome.  
Just your presence would be greatly appreciated.



Dear Friends of St. Paul's,

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to attend Family Camp at Riverside.  
The experiences there have allowed us to strengthen our faith and we look forward to bringing that back to our congregation.

Sincerely,  
The Hemann's

### Senior Fellowship

**Pot-luck Luncheon: On Weds. Aug. 5 at 11:00 am.**

Bring a friend to join the fun as we play dice games. Bring a white elephant

### WELCA

**MEETING Aug. 27 at 7:00 pm.** Our hostess Gail Clouse.

**WELCA Bible Study: Weds., Aug. 12 at 11:00 am.**

will be continued through the summer months. (See more info on pg 3)



**RESTORATION DAY PIE BAKE SALE: Aug. 8 from 9 am –noon.** We are selling slices of fruit pies (nothing that would need to be refrigerated) this year. **Please sign-up** for what **flavor of pie** you are able to bring.

Still need a couple of people to help set-up (at 8:30 am) and sell the pie slices on the square on Sat. Aug 8, please sign-up if you are able to help.

You can bring your pies to the church Fri. evening on Aug. 7 before 6 pm so they can be cut and individually packaged.

# Council



**Joint meeting of St. Paul's Albia & St. Paul Ottumwa  
August 18 at 6:30 pm**

Here at St. Paul's Albia with us providing a meal.

**St. Paul's Albia Yoking Team:**  
Kay Spieler, Lana Kaldenberg, Anita Simmons, Karen & Don Niebuhr, Pastor Reed and Richard James.



## CHURCH GROUNDS CARETAKERS:

We appreciate all those who are helping keep our church grounds looking good.  
Thank you to Richard James and Curtis James for the extra trimming and the wood chips they put around the trees.



### Pastor Reed on Vacation

Pastor Nancy will be out of the office from August 27th through August 31st.

Pulpit supply on Aug. 30 will be Pastor David Abram.



### St. Paul's Council Reminder

Have a blessed and safe Summer.  
Faithfully remember your giving even in your absence.

A great way to stay consistent with your giving is to enroll in the Auto-Tithe program below.



**AUTO-Tithe:** Stop by the church office and fill out an enrollment form to start your automatic offering deduction.

This service won't cost you anything. You list your name, bank routing number, account number, dollar amount and frequency. It's that easy. Once enrolled, your donation will continue until you notify us of any change. You can **change** the amount or stop the auto process anytime, you just stop by the church office and fill out a new form. All information would be keep confidential. Join the 4 families that have enrolled.

Weekly donations will come out of your account on Monday's and the monthly donations will come out on the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month.

## MISSIONS TASK FORCE



### **Back Pack Mission: SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

We will assemble the 12 kindergarten back packs after worship on August 2 . Please bring all your supplies by 8/2. We will bless them on the Aug. 9th.

### **Assistant Emergency Office Needs:**

The shelves at our Ministerial Association Emergency Assistance Office are nearly empty. We have special need for items which cannot be obtained by food stamps:

Personal hygiene for men and women: deodorants, bath soap, body wash, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.

Paper products: bathroom tissue, etc.

Baby products: diapers, etc.

Cleaning items: **laundry detergent**, dish soap, any cleaning products.

If you can help out in any way, items may be brought to St. Paul's for transport to the office, or may be taken directly to the office at Trinity Methodist Family Life Center, Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays @ 10:00 am. Thank you so much.



### **Restoration Day Parade Float**

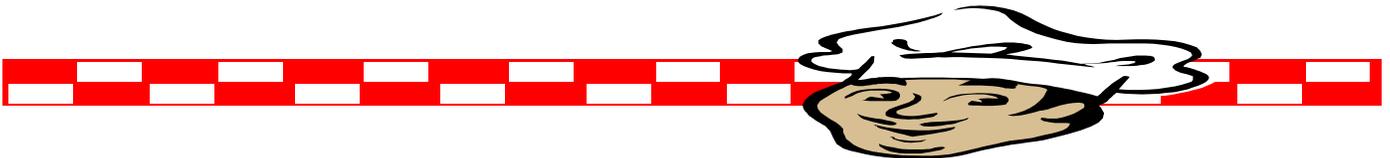
(Saturday, Aug 8)

#### **Restoration Day Parade Float Water Bottles:**

Still time to bring more water bottles. We will be putting labels on the bottles after worship on Aug. 2.

Last year we were able to pass out 1,400 bottles of water. This is a great outreach ministry for St. Paul's.

**Parade Float Walkers NEEDED:** Please sign-up if you are able to walk in the parade and pass out the water bottles. Please be at the church by 8:30 am on the morning of Aug. 8<sup>th</sup>.



### **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. More details coming soon.

## Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Pat Johnson & Anita Simmons

<b><u>Aug. 2</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	????????
	Lector:	Gail Clouse
<b><u>Aug. 9</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Don & Karen Niebuhr
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods
<b><u>Aug. 16</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Charlie & Gloria Smallwood
	Lector:	Gloria Smallwood
<b><u>Aug. 23</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	Charlie & Gloria Smallwood
	Lector:	Gloria Smallwood
<b><u>Aug. 30</u></b> Healing Worship	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	Don & Karen Niebuhr
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods

## Worship Team Ministries



### **CHOIR** **All Sing Sunday**

We will be starting Choir Practice again in September on the 13th @ 8:30 am with everyone invited to join us in our Annual All Sing Sunday. Mark your calendars and join us.

**Worship Meeting:**  
Monday, Aug. 3 at  
9:30 am



**Sunday Worship**  
9:00 am



**CANCELLED Weds. Summer Worship**  
Due to lack of good weather, bugs and lack of people participation; this service has been cancelled through the rest of the summer.

### **FACES OF ST. PAUL'S**



We would like to up-date the photo posters/member photo directory that we had on the wall in the fellowship hall. We would be glad to take a new photo of you or if your old photo is still current we can use it or you can bring a copy of a photo you have from home. Please help us to complete this project so we can have the photo up by September 1st.

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.

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

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**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.



**RESTORATION DAY**  
**"Piece of Pie" BAKE SALE**  
**Aug. 8 from 9 am –noon on the Courthouse grounds.**



**Restoration Day Aug. 8**  
**St. Paul's Parade Float**  
**Passing out Water Bottles**