

Crossings

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

Volume 9 Issue 12

December 2014

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



UNTO US A SAVIOR IS BORN.

Sunday School and Christmas Program Practice
after worship 10:15 am—10:45 am

Please have your children attend all of the **Christmas Program Practice on Dec. 7** (this will be a dress rehearsal) The older youth of the congregation will be helping with the larger reading parts.

The Christmas Programs will be on Sun. 12/14 during worship.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION/BIBLE STUDY

Join us after worship as we study the scripture readings for the up-coming Sunday @ 10:15 am—11:00 am

Dates are: Dec. 7 Dec. 14 Dec. 28

(NO Bible Study on Dec. 21st —Brunch)

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St. Paul's Shut-ins:

Myron Johnson
Bob & Ruth Johnson

**Education/
Prayer Team**

RECENT PRAYERS

(2014)

Susan Anderson
Opal Bloomer
Pat; & Carly Bartleson
Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Pastor Heidi
Lynda Johnson
Alyson Karl
Richard McDonough
Martha McGlothen
Gail Maddy
Pat Mason
Gerald Mosbey
Amy Pottorff
Dr. Marridee Randall
Carol (Keegle) Reed
Steve Roberts
Mark Russell
Lyle Spieler
Jeff Stoffa

Continuing Prayers

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

In Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of:

William (Bill) Van Polen who died on November 6, 2014

Bill Johnson who died on November 24, 2014

Wesley "Wes" William Mino Gorackowski who died on November 19, 2014

William "Bill" Flahive who died on November 5, 2014

May they all be reassured by God's presence and strengthened in the certain hope of the resurrection.

WELCA Bible Study:

Special time Bible Study on Thursday the Dec. 11th at 1:15 am.

**Mission
Task Force
Meeting**

Sunday, Dec. 14th after worship.
Wrapping & organizing the family gifts for delivery.

Fellowship Team Ministries

3rd Sunday Brunch December 21

Christmas Tea and Cookie exchange

will be Sun. Dec. 21st @ 2 pm

Everyone is encouraged to join us and bring your own tea cup. We will have a cookie exchange again. Bring 2 dozen cookies and a take home box to fill.

We will be revealing who our Advent Angels are as well. If you did not have an angel and want to exchange a gift; bring a wrapped \$5.00 item to exchange.

Senior Fellowship

Pot-luck lunch will be on Weds. Dec. 4th at 11:00 am.
Christmas gift exchange: bring a \$5.00 wrapped gift.

WELCA

WELCA Bible Study Dec. 11 at 1:15 pm

(See more info on page 3)

ADVENT ANGELS: Remember your special person with a gift on the Advent Sundays in December: 7, 14 and final gift at the Christmas Tea on Dec. 21st.

WELCA Soup Luncheon & Supper: We will be having our annual Soup Luncheon served from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm and supper from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm on **THURSDAY, December 11th**. We will have our candy & bake sale too. Please sign-up wherever you can help. Set up will be on Weds. 12/10.

Chocolate Dipping Workshop: Mon, 12/8 we will have our annual chocolate dipping workshop starting at 3 pm. Make your candies that need to be dipped ahead of time and come dip them at the church. Bring **any and all candy** that does not need dipping as well; join us for a sweet time. On Tues., 12/9 we will be packaging the candy starting at 3 pm until we get done. Please join us when you can.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

1. Matthew Johnson
1. Curtis Kelley
1. Olivia Sherman
4. Bernice Butler
6. Cyndi Duea
7. Chad Teeter
11. Brandon Tomlin
12. Eric Duea
18. Brittany (Sparks) Flattery
20. Donald Patton
25. Sharon Peterson
30. Karen Niebuhr
31. Broderick (Brody) Thomas
32. Donna Post



Baptismal Birthdays

1. Catherine Benson
3. Kaitlyn Spieler
17. Dave Larson
20. Matthew Johnson
20. Andrew Teeter
22. Cody Simmons
23. Dakota Kelley
23. Grayson Kelley
23. Stephanie Kelley
23. Brandon Tomlin
26. Emmalee Kerber
26. Anna Kerber



Anniversaries

17. Dan & Pat Johnson
23. Brian & Misty Teeter
25. Daryl & Bernice Butler
27. Greg & Jani Dorpinghaus
30. Terry & Anita Simmons



CONGRATULATIONS NEW BABY

Congratulations to Karen & Brian Witte on the birth of their granddaughter Alexis Christine Witte. Proud parents are Chris and Ginger Witte. She was born on Nov. 18, 2014. Alexis was 5 lbs. 14 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Thank You! We want to thank Carl Blomgren for his generous donation and St. Paul's WELCA group for the purchase of the new White Paraments.

Council

Treasurers report

Year to Date through 10/31/14:

Income	\$77,977.26	
Transfers from savings +	7,865.06	
Total		\$85,842.32
Expenses	84,745.70	
Transfers to savings	+5,965.00	
Total		<-90,710.70>
Year to date shortfall		<-\$4,868.38>

Council Notices

Council Meeting: December 15th at 6:30 pm

REMINDER: Reports are needed for Annual Reports: President, Pastor, Treas., Education Team, Missions Team, WELCA, Worship Team and Property Task Force. Please turn them into the church office before the end of December. Thank you.



Lawn Mowing: *Thank you to everyone who volunteered this past year to keep our church property looking Good.*

SIGN-UP TIME FOR WORSHIP SERVERS FOR 2015. Please consider helping with worship as an usher and lector.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Minutes

November 17, 2014

Present: Pastor Nancy Reed, Amanda Thomas, Colleen Putnam, Richard James, Marilyn Woods, Gail Clouse, Anita Simmons Curtis Kelley and Julie Stocker.

Absent: Lana Kaldenberg & Kay Spieler

The minutes were approved with a motion from Colleen Putnam and were seconded by July Stocker. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Robert Van Pollen's funeral went well. The wedding was well done. Not as many children are attending Sunday School as expected.

The Christmas Program will be on December 14th.

Henry and Rebecca Dagget have appreciated those taking time to communicate with them with pen and paper.

Gail Clouse moved we accept Pastor Nancy Reed's Resolution-Whereas the St. Paul's Congregation Council has reviewed the updated church Constitution and approved all the updates and revisions, the congregational council recommends that the congregation Accept the church constitution as submitted. The Resolution was seconded by Curtis Kelley. There was no discussion, the motion was carried.

There was a discussion of what the members want and expect from the church and how the budget should be created with the income we are working on. Some council members think we are at a crossroads and would like the Assistant to the Bishop Eric Carlson to guide us in the direction we should take.

December 15th will be the next council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.



Poinsettia Mission

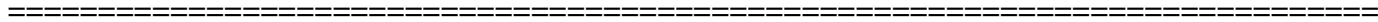
Poinsettias are wonderful, but wouldn't it be great if they kept on living? That can happen by choosing a poinsettia that the Missions committee provides. Instead of or in addition to buying a real poinsettia plant, you can use those same funds to buy ducklings or chicks for a family in a third world country through the ELCA Global Barnyard; you can buy a gift for a loved one through the ELCA Good Gifts store; provide for families locally through money donated to Helping hands or the Monroe County Emergency Assistance.

Here's how it works: Each poinsettia comes with a gift tag.

1. On the front of the tag, check one or more of the 4 selections offered. (If choosing more than one, tell us how much money goes to each entity).
2. Then at the bottom, write the name of the person for whom you are memorializing or honoring. Also write on the tag what you want us to purchase from the ELCA Good Gifts Store - ducklings, a goat, etc - or if the funds are to be used to buy groceries or given to the Emergency Assistance.
3. Put the card and check in the envelope provided, and deposit them in the Mission's Christmas wrapped box. The missions committee will keep track of the money and send it to the appropriate entity per your instructions.
4. Return the poinsettia to the box/basket provided and we will decorate the Christmas tree with them.

You can shop online for the global gifts at the following link: <https://community.elca.org/ELCAGoodGifts>

Poinsettia Missions FAMILY Christmas Gifts: We have a couple families again this year that we will purchase gifts for to make their Christmas special. On the window in the fellowship hall is tags that have a wish/need for a family member; take the tag, purchase the item and return the item with the tag attach and the gift will get to the family before Christmas. **Gift items need to be at St. Paul's by Dec. 14th.**

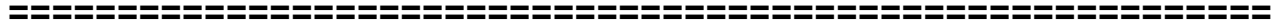


Food Donations for Christmas Basket for Helping Hands

Items needed are:

- | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Instant Potatoes | Corn | Jello | Pumpkin | Stovetop Dressing |
| Green Beans | Apple Sauce | Cranberry Sauce | Cake mix | Frosting |
| Fruit cocktail | | Evaporated Milk | Turkey or Chicken Gravy | |

All items need to be collected by December 14th.



Salvation Army Bell Ringers!!



Thursday, Dec. 4th from 1 pm—6 pm at Jim & Charlie's.

- 1:00—2:00 pm Gail Clouse
- 2:00—4:00 pm Pastor Nancy Reed
- 4:00—5:00 pm Gloria Smallwood
- 5:00—6:00 pm Hemann Family

Thank you to everyone who volunteer in Nov. and Dec. this year. Ninety percent (90%) of funds raised remain in Albia to be disbursed through the Albia Ministerial Emergency Assistance fund to help many people in our area that are in need.



Advent Angel



Remember your special person on Dec. 7 & Dec. 14 with a gift.

We will open the gifts after worship and on the Dec. 21 at our Christmas Tea bring your final gift and reveal who's Advent Angel you are. (Reminder: total of all gift not to exceed \$25.00)

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Betty Hohneke & Karen Niebuhr

Dec. 3	Weds. Advent Worship	6:30 pm
<u>Dec. 7</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Larry & Sharon Wilkin
	Lector:	Sharon Wilkin
Dec. 10	Weds. Advent Worship	6:30 pm
<u>Dec. 14</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
Christmas	Ushers/Greeters:	Larry & Sharon Wilkin
Program	Lector:	Sharon Wilkin
Dec. 17	Weds. Advent Worship	6:30 pm
<u>Dec. 21</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Usher/Greeter:	?????
	Lector:	Anita Simmons
	Acolyte:	????
<u>Dec. 24</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
Christmas	Usher/Greeter:	?????
Eve	Lector:	Anita Simmons
	Acolyte:	????
<u>Dec. 28</u>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	
	Lector:	Anita Simmons
<u>Dec. 31</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
Healing	Usher/Greeter:	???????
Worship	Lector:	???????



Advent Mid—Week & Christmas Worship Services

- Dec. 3 Weds. at 6:30 pm -Advent Worship —“Holden Evening Prayer Service”
- Dec. 10 Weds. at 6:30 pm -Advent Worship —“Holden Evening Prayer Service”
- Dec. 14 Sun. at 9:00 am—CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
- Dec. 17 Weds. at 6:30 pm -Advent Worship —”Holden Evening Prayer Service”
- Dec. 24t Weds at 6:30 pm -**Christmas Eve Worship** —”Lessons & Carols Service”
- Dec. 31 at 6:30 pm—Healing Service

New Year’s Eve Healing Service:
 Wednesday, December 31

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.

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

Victorian Stroll: Sat. Dec. 6th: Cookie donations needed. Please bring homemade cookies to Chamber office Thurs. Dec. 4 between 8-1 and Fri. Dec. 5 before noon.

First Iowa State Bank invites everyone to our **Christmas Open House** on Friday, December 19, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Guests that sign the guest book may designate the church of their choice so that First Iowa State Bank may make a contribution of \$2.00 per signature. Coffee and cookies will be served. Please come and join us celebrate the Christmas Season.

Blood Drive: Albia Ministerial Assoc. is sponsoring a blood drive on Monday, Dec. 8th form 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. See info in entry.

Breakfast with Santa: Sat. Dec. 6th from 8:30 am –10:30 am at the Trinity United Methodist Church Family Life center. This activity is sponsored by Monroe County Hospice. There is no charge to attend. Please bring a non-perishable food item, or a pair of mittens, or gloves or a stocking cap per person that will be donated to Albia Helping Hands. Please register if you are planning to attend so there is enough cookies to decorate, ornaments to make and take home as well as breakfast items for everyone.

Good Samaritan Center Display: If you are in Ottumwa on Thurs., Fri and Sat.; drive by the Christmas Display from 6-8 pm. They are located at 2035 Chester Ave.

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.



WELCA Soup Luncheon & Supper: We will be having our annual Soup Luncheon served from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm and supper from 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm on **THURSDAY, December 11th**. Hand dipped chocolate candy & bake sale too.