

Crossings

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

Volume 11 Issue 12

December 2016

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Friends in Christ,

People, did you know? The Lord is coming! Prepare the way of the Lord! November 27th begins our watch for the Advent of our God, leading up to Christmas celebration. The following gives a brief explanation of Advent:

Advent, anglicized from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming", is a season observed in many Western Christian churches, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. It is the beginning of the Western liturgical year and commences on Advent Sunday, called *Levavi*.

Latin *adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*, commonly used in reference to the Second Coming of Christ. For Christians, the season of Advent serves as a reminder both of the original waiting that was done by the Hebrews for the birth of their Messiah as well as the waiting of Christians for Christ's return from Heaven where he now sits at the Right Hand of God. Read more at: http://www.faithandworship.com/prayers_Advent.htm#ixzz4QOLrwDH4

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I have a few ways you can prepare the way of the Lord:

Fun: Using the tune of the Cubs Fight Song, "Go Cubs Go!", use the following words:

Come Lord Come! Come Lord Come!

Hey Christians, whaddaya say? Jesus Christ is coming our way! (repeat) (Originally written by Steve Goodman, 1984)

Experiential: In her book *Accidental Saints*, Nadia Bolz-Weber offers a chapter called "A Thief in the Night," based on Matthew 24 (New York: Convergent Books, 2015, pp. 53–62). She shares her suggestion that her congregation, instead of making Christmas lists of gifts they'd like to receive, make Advent lists of things they'd like Jesus to break in and take away. Invite your people to do the same, "in the hopes he could pickpocket the stupid junk in our houses, or abscond with our self-loathing or resentment . . . maybe break in in the middle of the night and take off with our compulsive eating or our love of money" (p. 59). (<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources#resources>)

Use sounds: What wakes you up? Do you only need something to get you up in the morning? Or does something or someone else remind you to be mindful, watchful for Jesus? Set your TV, your tablet, cell phone, stove or microwave to go off at different times to remind you that Jesus is coming and we need to be attentive and prepared for his presence day or night.

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

Use visuals: Jesus is the light of the world. Light a candle for each Sunday in Advent. “The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it”. John 1.5. There are 4 Sundays in Advent. Maybe make a wreath with 4 candles and light 1 candle a week until all 4 candles are lit by Christmas Eve. Take a moment to thank God for Jesus coming and ask to be fully prepared in heart and mind for his arrival. Or use an Advent calendar you can get from your church office.

Advent Devotions: There are great Advent Devotions that go along with Year A scriptures for this Advent season. Go to the following link: <http://search.elca.org/Pages/Results.aspx?k=Advent+helps> , and then go to the Year-A Advent link in the middle of the page. Click on that and you can download devotions for this Advent season.

Be vigorous, creative and have fun watching and waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ. Celebrate his coming in the past, look for his coming again in the future, and be mindful of His presence now.

Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy



November 20, 2016

St. Paul's Council Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Gail Clouse, Richard James, Lana Kaldenberg, Kay Spieler, Pastor Nancy Reed, Anita Simmons, Amanda Thomas, Marilyn Woods

President Kay Spieler calls meeting to order and asks for approval of November Agenda. Amanda Thomas motions to approve November agenda, Gail Clouse seconds, motion carries.

Kay motions to approve Secretary's Report, Richard seconds, motion approved. It should be noted that the October notes will be revised under Treasurer's Report to read: We discussed preparation of a job description/expectation list for 50% time. An item to add to the next agenda will be answering the question, "What are the primary responsibilities we expect from a 50% pastor?"

Treasurer's Report

We were grateful to receive a sizeable donation at the end of October that helped us catch up and pay benevolence and to pay the other end of the month bills. At the end of October we have a positive balance but there are other factors that play out making our monthly balance about even.

Gail motions to approve Treasurer's Report, Marilyn seconds, motion approved.

Pastor's Report

We will have a funeral for Bob Johnson on December 3rd at 3:00 pm. Currently, Mary Carder is receiving hospice care.

The curriculum has been chosen for Epiphany.

Class will be held beginning January 5th, 2017, every Thursday from 6:30-8:00PM. Father Mike Volkmer and Pastor Nancy Reed will host these evening classes and will discuss the 32 agreements between the Roman Catholic Church and the Lutheran Church. The January meetings will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran and the February meetings will be held at St. Mary's Catholic. There are already 15 eager church members signed up for class. The book *Declaration on the Way* describes the 32 agreements. It is needed for class, cost is \$10.

Committee Reports:

Worship is decorating for Christmas

For a worldwide impact Missions is supporting Smile Train and ELCA Good Gifts. The Christmas tree in the Fellowship room is decorated with ornaments with which a person can donate to the above causes. Donations should be placed in the provided box. Locally, we continue to support the Emergency



St. Paul's Shut-ins:
Ruth Johnson

RECENT PRAYERS

Pat & Gerry Anderson
Mary Carder
Gene Dobson
Gerry Gillette
Wendy Henexson
Cora Leshin
Roger Lewis
Richard McDonough
Cathy Tietje Osmundson
Leo Oye
Dr. Marridee Randall
Joshua, Danelle, Henry
Reinsburrow and Danny
Lester Rue
Travis Rummans
Leeta Sanger
Scott Sanger
Donna Stafford
Greg Tilton
Fred Witte
=====

Continuing Prayers
(2015)

Linda Ulrich Johnson
Ella Teno

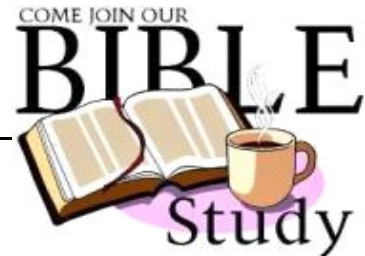
(2014)

Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Pat Mason
Devin Sinclair

Continuing Prayers

Brantley Hemann
Laura Moore
Trisha Raven
Bert Whitlock
=====

**Education/
Prayer Team**



WELCA Bible Study:

Special study on Thursday, Dec. 8 at
2:00 pm. Between the meals.



**Special Event for
St. Paul's Youth:**

On Thursday,
December 22nd @
10 am we will be
going to Albia Lei-
sure Lounge and will help serve the
meal for that day. For more informa-
tion contact Stephanie Kelley,
Jessica Hemann or Hayley Dobson.



Loving God, surround the families
and friends of

Robert "Bob" Johnson

Gerald Peterson
(Donna Post & Pete (Sharon)
Peterson's brother)

Marge Walk (Gail Wirtjes' mother)

Karen Moon

with your comfort and compassion.
May they find comfort in the hope
and promise of eternal life.



Making Program Props

Sunday, December 4 after worship we will be
painting props for the program. Bring a paint shirt
to wear over your clothes.

Christmas Program Practice

We will practice before Advent Worship on Weds.

December 7 from 5:45—6:20 pm

Please have your children **memorize** the
Christmas Bells Song before this practice.

Christmas Program will be on Sunday,
December 11 during worship.

Fellowship Team Ministries

Sunday Pot-luck Brunch



December 18



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

1. Matthew Johnson
1. Curtis Kelley
1. Olivia Sherman
4. Bernice Butler
6. Cyndi Duea
10. Whitney Mae Thomas
11. Brandon Tomlin
12. Eric Duea
18. Brittany (Sparks) Flattery
25. Sharon Peterson
30. Karen Niebuhr
31. Broderick (Brody) Thomas
31. Donna Post



Baptismal Birthdays

3. Kaitlyn Spieler
20. Matthew Johnson
22. Cody Simmons
23. Dakota Kelley
23. Grayson Kelley
23. Stephanie Kelley
23. Brandon Tomlin
25. Bernice Butler

Anniversaries

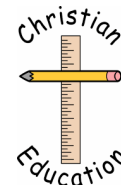
17. Dan & Pat Johnson
25. Daryl & Bernice Butler
27. Greg & Jani Dorpinghaus
30. Terry & Anita Simmons



Thank you to the McCombs family for their donating time and equipment to clean the fellowship hall's carpet.
All your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Roman Catholic—Lutheran Dialog ***Declaration on the Way* Classes**

Join us for these adult classes where we discuss the Statements of Agreement on church, ministry and eucharist. The classes start on Jan. 5 at 6:30 pm at St. Paul's and they continue through Feb. 23. Please sign up if you are interested the study book is available for \$10.00.



Soup Lunch and Supper will be Dec. 8 this year. Lunch 11 am-1 pm and Supper from 5—7 pm. Bake Sale 10 am—7 pm.

Candy dipping workshop will be on Mon. Dec. 7 and candy packaging on Dec. 8 at 4 pm (Come when ever you can)

Please sign-up where ever you can help.

Council



**Council Meeting:
NO Meeting in December**

Treasure Report:

Offering & Income through 10/31/16	\$65,728.95
Transfers from Edward Jones & memorial acct.	+ 6,300.00
Total	\$72,028.95
Expenses through 10/31/16	- 70,580.30
Difference:	+ 1,448.65
YTD average weekly offering: \$1,479.47	

November Council Minutes Continued from page 2:

Old Business

We still need estimates for the parsonage roof repairs.

2017 Budget-we will not adjust organist expense, as was suggested in last meeting. No other changes to be made to the proposed 2017 budget. Gail motions to approve the 2017 budget, Marilyn seconds, and the motion is passed.

We still need to secure **four new Council members for the January 2017 Annual Meeting. Kay will serve another term, but not as President. Richard James needs a replacement, Marilyn is willing to go off, and Lana also needs a replacement; and we need a replacement for Curtis & Dakota Kelley.** There will not be a Council meeting in December.

The next Council meeting will follow the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sun., January 29th, 2017

Pastor Nancy said she is very grateful for everyone who has been on Council or who is on Council, and she is thankful for all those who have served in any capacity at St. Paul's.

Meeting adjourned

Council minutes submitted by Amanda Thomas, Secretary



Thank you to Richard James (and Ruth) for finishing the beautiful back window and window frame and trim in our Outdoor Chapel.



*We're here to
Serve*

Please help us with worship by putting your name on the list for 2017.



+++++
Please sign- up to help read God's word in 2017.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

9-10 am Pastor Nancy Reed
11 am ???OPEN??
 12-1 pm Tom Preston
 1 -2 pm Linda Preston
 2 -3 pm Hilton Family
 3- 4 pm Kay Spieler
 4- 5 pm Pat Johnson
 5- 6 pm Gail Clouse
 6- 7 pm Hemann Family & Scouts

December 10

Jim & Charlie's

Thank you to everyone who has generously volunteered their time for this worth while cause that will help so many in need in Monroe County.



MISSIONS TASK FORCE



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

Items that are in the greatest demand are:

All-purpose cleaning products

Bathroom cleaners

Dish soap

Body wash (not bar soap)

Toilet paper

Shampoo

A Volunteer from the Emergency Assistance Office asked us for special help; “**We desperately need men & women’s deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo and laundry detergent.** The word has been passed around that the Emergency office has the above items and we can’t keep things on the shelves.”



ADVENT MISSIONS: ELCA Good Gifts and Smile Train.

ELCA Good Gift have many different things where your donations can make a difference in people’s lives around the world. Your support is a way to make long-term sustainable solutions that keep on giving for years to come.

Smile Train provides surgery for children whose families are too poor to afford lifesaving and life changing cleft pallet repairs. In as little as 45 minutes and \$250.00 this surgery gives a desperate child not just a new smile, but a second chance at life.

How to make a donation:

Pick out an ornament from the basket.

Put your donation in the envelope. *Be sure to put a note on or in the envelope and/or on the memo part of your check; so we will know where you wish you donation to be sent.*

Put your ornament on the tree and the envelope in the decorated present box. (There is a place for you to put your name on the back of the ornament)

You can choose as many ornament as you would like. (Checks can be made out to St. Paul’s and we will send the donation in for you.)



If you would like to bring a poinsettia for Christmas Eve worship please sign up on sheet in fellowship hall.

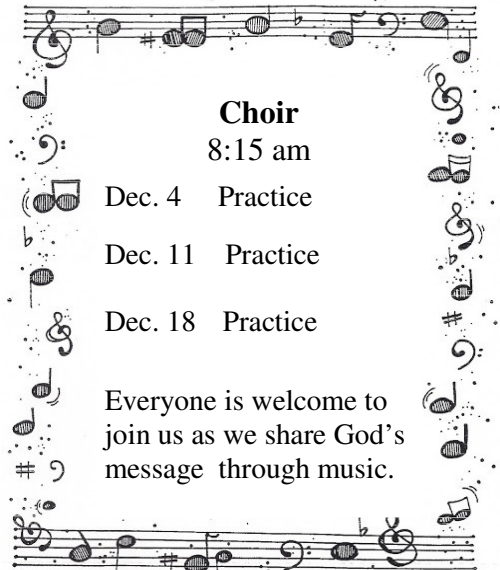


Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Karen McCombs & Marilyn Woods

<u>Dec 4</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	??????
	Lector	Gail Clouse
<u>Dec. 11</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	??????
	Lector	Marilyn Woods
<u>Dec. 18</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Charlie & Gloria Smallwood
	Lector:	Gloria Smallwood
<u>Dec. 24</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
Christmas Eve	Usher/Greeter:	??????
	Lector:	Anita Simmons & Marilyn Woods
Dec. 25	NO WORSHIP SERVICE	

Worship Team Ministries



Choir
8:15 am

Dec. 4 Practice

Dec. 11 Practice

Dec. 18 Practice

Everyone is welcome to join us as we share God's message through music.



Schedule for December

Dec. 4	Morgan light & put out the candles Grayson collect communion cups
Dec. 11	Lydia light & put out the candles Nikko collect communion cups
Dec. 18	Parker light & put out the candles Sophie collect communion cups
Dec. 24	Nikko light & put out the candles Lydia collect communion cups



Candle Light Worship

We will be celebrating Jesus' birth with worship on **Saturday, December 24 at 8:00 pm.** We will be using *Lessons and Carols Service* with Holy Communion.



SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP

December 3rd & 17th Worship will be at 6:30 pm with Holy Communion.

We will be having Saturday worship on the 1st and 3rd Saturday's of the month. We hope to continue with Saturday worship through the end of the year; but we would have to have a maintained attendance of 9 people to continue. It is not good stewardship of our resources if no one attends.

Wednesday Evening Advent Worship

We will be using the Holden Prayer Service for our Advent mid-week worship.

Worship will be at 6:30 pm on
Dec. 7
Dec. 14
Dec. 21



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.

Breakfast with Santa: on Sat. Dec. 3 from 8:30 am – 11 am at the Trinty Life Center join the fun by having breakfast with Santa. This event is Sponsored by Monroe Co. Hospice.

Living Nativity: Sunday, December 11 at 6:30 pm at the Kenny Huber Farm . Sponsored by First Chrisitan Church. See flyer in the entry for more information.

Bank's Christmas Open House: On Friday, December 16th from 9 am—3 pm First Iowa State Bank and People's State Bank will host their Christmas Open Houses.
First Iowa State guests that sign the guest book may designate the church of their choice and they will make a contribution of \$2.00 per signature. Coffee and cookies will be served at both banks.

