

Crossings

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

Volume 14 Issue 12

December 2019

Pastor's Epistle

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

Dear Friends in Christ,
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Well, this is it. This is my last newsletter article as your pastor. The time has flown for all of us and it is time for goodbyes, and Godspeed farewells. Goodbyes are bittersweet – I am excited about this retirement adventure in the northland of Wisconsin; I look forward to whatever God has in store for Martin and me in the land of the loons (some of you might now be saying, "She should feel at home!" Tee hee). But it's bittersweet because I have become so very fond of you all and of Albia; it will be a sad leave-taking.

I will miss your smiles, your witness, your jokes, your insight, your faith, and your caring. I will miss worshipping with you, sharing the Meal around God's table, remembering our baptisms, our prayers and fellowship together, and leading worship through the choir, reading scriptures, as musicians, acolytes, and communion tray bearers. I will miss your joy as you serve others here and around the world through care boxes for veterans serving overseas, the community dinners we offer, thanksgiving baskets through Helping Hands, providing Christmas gifts for families within the community, singing in the community choir, bell-ringing for Salvation Army to raise funds for the Emergency Assistance Office, raising funds to provide water around the world, funds through Sammy the Pig to feed people around the world. I will miss the stories you tell as you serve others during the week through your vocation and as volunteers in the many organizations. I will miss the Victorian Stroll, Restoration Days, and the care and love you share for veterans of all wars through the Veterans' Day celebrations and the Welcome Home Soldier Memorial. You have a lot of God's love welling up in you and through you to the entire world – thanks be to God!

St. Paul's has started doing the work necessary to clarify who you are as people of faith gathered together in Albia for sharing the Good News which is Jesus Christ. This is no small task and should not be taken lightly or given short shrift by rushing through the process. There is grieving to be done, shared, and a time of transition. Now is the time for listening to each other and not settling for the status quo. Change is seldom a bad thing; in fact, it is more constant than taxes will ever be. You don't have to do this alone – God's Spirit is alive within each of you, and you have each other, and the wisdom of the Synod close at hand.

I encourage you to prayerfully consider your strengths and limitation. Who and what makes you this vital congregation? If and when the Council and/or Call Committee ask for your opinions/ideas, for heaven's sake say something! Now is your best time to have an impact on the direction of the congregation.

Will we have to close? (NO!) How will we continue to minister as we have been doing? How will we stay a vital ministry in this community? If we were to close, would our ministry be missed? Letting these thoughts take root and grow will only mire you into complacency, fatalism, and a death grip on the status quo. So don't go there! God has saved the world, so you don't have to. Small congregations are not any less mighty than large congregations. In fact, I believe vital small congregations are vital because they are not encumbered by the headaches and administration of large congregation. It is easier to stay focused on what you do well – which is building relationships with your neighbors and serving others by being you.

Remember, you are not called to **DO** something; you are called to **BE** people of God - People who see Christ in the faces of the people you encounter each day! Serving others springs forth from you as your response to God's love for you. So be the people of God! Relax into this transition, take the time to do the work, and God will lead you to still even greater works.

As for me, I leave with a smile of love on my face and say farewell, knowing I leave you in God's hands and that nothing can separate you from God's great love. We may be taking different roads, but I am confident we shall meet again around God's wondrous banquet table in the kingdom of God. Something to look forward to, don't you think?

Loving you all along the WAY – Pastor Nancy



St. Paul's Farewell Pot Luck for Pastor Nancy and Martin

On Dec. 8 we will bid farewell to Pastor Nancy and Martin. They will be greatly missed. Pastor Nancy has been faithful in her service to God, our church and the Albia community. Let us take this opportunity to wish them well. Everyone is welcome to share a story or two.



Pastor Nancy Retirement Open House Reception

Sunday, Dec. 15 from 3 – 5 pm.

Join us on Sunday, December 15 as we celebrate with Pastor Nancy on her retirement.

We will be having an open house from 3—5 pm.

At 4 pm there will be a time for everyone to share a story or two.

Pastor Nancy Congratulations On Your Retirement

We rejoice with you on this special occasion as you celebrate your retirement.

May the Lord bless you and keep you, fill your life with His joy and sustain you by His grace. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Bible Scripture - Ephesians 2: 8-9





St. Paul's Shut-ins:

Harold Benson
Ruth Johnson

Education/
Prayer Team

RECENT PRAYERS
RECENT PRAYERS

Judy Bail & Family
Lois & Gene Behrens
Mitch & Judy Brown
Carrie Burgland
Nancy Clouse
Charlene Crall
Judy Framzmeier
Linda Sales Harvard
Robin Holien
Lowell Johnson
Kevin Klingbeil
Mike Kahmann
Mary Ann
Terry McElvain
Carol Sovern
Mary Tripplett
Amber Witte

(2018)

Eleanor Anderson
Nate Baggett
Donny Ballard
Sharon Burman
Tony Daggett
Mark Dreier
Shari Kisner
Mary Ann Lewis
Roger Lewis
Shara McDonough
Sam Mahoney
Dakota Miller
Samantha Sabovitch
Misty Smith
Sam Smith
Greg Rickie
Carla Wahl
Phil Whitson

Continuing Prayers

(2017)

Susan Anderson
Linda Bills
Mary Datschefski
Ryver Lane
John Pasuit
Suzie Smith
Ron Swanson

(2016)

Pat & Gerry Anderson
Gene Dobson
Leo Oye
Leeta Sanger
Scott Sanger

(2015)

Ella Teno

(2014)

Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Pat Mason

Continuing Prayers

Brantley Hemann
Trisha Raven



No Bible Study in Dec.



Christmas Program

Dec. 8 during worship

The youth of St. Paul's will share with us the meaning of the Christmas ornaments they made for the Christmas tree. We will learn how they are symbols of Christ and his life.

Family Faith Formation Gathering:

watch for up-coming events.

The 21 people who attended the Nov. Gathering had a wonderful time: food, singing, glitter, grab bag fun, glitter and fellowship. See photos below:



Fellowship Team Ministries

Sunday Pot-luck Brunch



December 8
Special Date
Farewell to Pastor & Martin



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Senior Fellowship

Senior Fellowship Christmas Party: Weds., Dec. 4 at 11 am.
Join us for fun, food, games & fellowship at our annual Christmas Party.
We are planning to have a gift exchange (value up to \$10.00).

WOMEN of the ELCA

WELCA Bible Study: None in the month of December.

No Meeting this Month.

No Christmas Tea



Birthdays

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



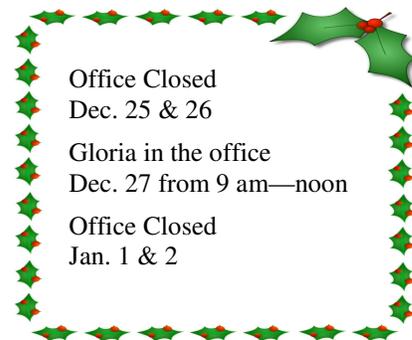
Baptismal Birthdays

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

To the folks at St. Paul's
Thank you for all the prayers
and support. I am grateful
for all your help. Carla
(Leisure Lounge)

Anniversaries

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



St. Paul's Annual Soup Lunch and Supper will be Thurs., Dec. 12

Lunch 11 am-1 pm Supper from 5—7 pm.

Chili, Chicken Noodle & Vegetable Beef soup Home Made Desserts.

Hand dipped/ Home made Candy & Bake Sale 10 am—7 pm.

Candy & Bake sale packaging workshop will be on Tues. Dec. 10 starting at
6:30 pm. Bring your items if they need packaging.

Please help WELCA put on this annual event. Still time to sign-up.

Half of all donations will go to ELCA Global Barnyard and a local area mission.



Council



**Council Meeting:
January 5 after worship**

**Mark your calendars: Annual Meeting will be
January 19.**



Council Members needed: Please prayerfully consider being a member of St. Paul's Council. 5 members are scheduled to go off this year. This is your chance to help make decisions as we go



Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army: St. Paul's day to ring bells is Friday, December 13 at Peoples State Bank from 8:30 am—3:30. (This is their open house)

90% of the funds raised remains in the Albia area and is disbursed by the Ministerial Association to help those in need.

We still have 3 spots open.

Thank you in advance for generously volunteering your time for this worth while cause that will help so many in our community.

<u>Salvation Army Bell Ringing Schedule</u>	<u>December 13</u>	<u>Peoples State Bank</u>
8:30—9:30 am	Pastor Nancy	
9:30 -10:30 am	Tom Preston	
10:30-11:30 am	Linda Preston	
11:30—12:30 pm	? _____?	
12:30—1:30 pm	? _____?	
1:30-2:30 pm	Joan Peterson	
2:30—3:30 pm	? _____?	
3:30—4:30 pm	Gail Clouse & Morgan Sherman	



Here at St. Paul's we are asking everyone to prayerfully consider providing leadership and ways to serve in the coming year. We will have the list of assignments for the ushers, lectors and acolyte rotation later in December for you to look at and make adjustments.

Below you will find other areas, of our church, where you can volunteer to serve: Please let church office know if you want to participate in any of these areas.



LECTORS
Read God's
Welcome other to St. Paul's



Ushers & Greeters

Word
Missions



God's Work
Our Hands
Help with funeral meals



Retirement Ministry
Donations



Acolytes



Altar Guild



Worship Team



CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION



Coffee Fellowship



Property
Committee

For Christians, service is not an optional; it is the heart of the Christian Life.

We want to thank those who have heard the call of "service" and respond "Here I am, Lord. Use me."

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Hayley Dobson & Anita Simmons

<u>Dec 1</u>	Worship Assistant: Gail Clouse Ushers/Greeters: Fred Diers & Andy Fuhs Lector: Gail Clouse Acolytes: open???-Candles open???-Communion Cups
<u>Dec. 8</u>	Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Ushers/Greeters: Charlie & Gloria Smallwood Lector: Gloria Smallwood Acolytes: Parker-Candles Sophie-Communion Cups
<u>Dec. 15</u>	Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Ushers/Greeters: Don & Karen Niebuhr Lector: Andy Fuhs Acolytes: Morgan-Candles Grayson-Communion Cups
<u>Dec. 22</u>	Worship Assistant: Anita Simmons Usher/Greeter: Richard & Ruth James Lector: Anita Simmons Acolytes: Lydia-Candles Blair-Communion Cups
<u>Dec. 24</u> Christmas Eve	Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Usher/Greeter: ??????? Lector: ???NEED -3 ??? Acolytes: Eli-Candles Grayson-Communion Cups
<u>Dec. 29</u> Healing Worship	Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Usher/Greeter: Tom & Linda Preston Lector: Marilyn Woods Acolytes: Morgan-Candles Blair-Communion Cups



Worship Team Ministries

Choir
8:15 am

Dec. 1 No Practice
Dec. 8 No Practice
Dec. 15 Practice
Dec. 22 No Practice
Dec. 24 Performance
Dec. 29 No Practice



Candle Light Worship

We will be celebrating Jesus' birth with worship on **Monday, December 24 at 6:30 pm.** We will be using *Lessons and Carols Service* with Holy Communion.



Healing Worship: Dec. 29 is our 5th Sunday healing service. It will include the laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and individual prayers.

As this year ends; we have the opportunity to present ourselves to the Lord and receive the healing God intends for us in the new year.



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. 4
Dec. 11
Dec. 18

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.



Holiday Bazaar and Cookie Walk: Good Shepherd LC in Knoxville IA, Sat. Dec. 7 from 8 am— 1 pm.
Cookie walk \$7.50 lb.—\$5.00 Soup & Dessert—Crafts & Vendors—Lefse



Albia Banks Christmas Open House: Friday, Dec. 13. Both banks will have cookies and coffee. First Iowa guests may designate the church of their choice when signing the guest book and a \$2.00 contribution will be made. At Peoples you can sign up for 3 drawings: ham or turkey and 2 -\$25. Gift cards.



St. Paul's Soup Lunch and Supper will be Thurs., Dec. 12

Lunch 11 am-1 pm Supper from 5—7 pm.
Chili, Chicken Noodle & Vegetable Beef soup Home Made Desserts.
Hand dipped/ Home made Candy & Bake Sale 10 am—7 pm.
Free Will Donation. Half of all donations will go to Global Barnyard,
help feed the hungry and a local area mission.

