

Crossings

“Making known
God’s deeds
among us.”
Isaiah 12:4

Volume 16 Issue 12

December 2020

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

From the Pastor

Even though there are LEGO and chocolate Advent calendars, Advent is really only a season of the church. We think of Advent as a time of waiting and preparing. The question is for what or whom are we waiting?

Well, it's obvious Pastor, we are waiting for the birth of Jesus. Yes, Christmas Eve is right around the corner. But our lessons during Advent don't just prepare us for the birth of Jesus as a baby. We also are reminded that we wait for the fullness of God's reign through Jesus' coming again. In addition we long to know God's presence in our lives now, today. So the season of Advent can be seen as the past, present and future arrival of Jesus.

Our Advent hymns include all the expectations:
ELW 245- *When this old world drew on toward night, you came;
but not in splendor bright, not as a monarch, but the child of Mary,
blessed mother mild.*

ELW 254- *Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people
free...*

ELW 244- *Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear...*

Jesus can't be designated, though, as past, present or future. Because Jesus “has come, is with us, and will come again” is all wrapped in the same person. Just as he says, I am the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end. So, too, we celebrate that through Jesus God is always with us, even to the ends of the earth. That is what *Immanuel* means, God with us. This Advent we will talk together on Wednesdays about what it means to wait, expect, to prepare. May we wait actively, expect to see God in surprising ways, and prepare to be loved abundantly as children of God.

Advent and Christmas greetings to you and your families!
Through your gatherings, however, limited, may you know God's many blessings this season and into the new year.

Pastor Karen Ullestad



Drive—In Worship Every Sunday in December



Parking starts at 9:30 am **Worship Starts at 10:00 am**
Complete Order of Worship with Holy Communion
TUNE your car radio to 107.7 FM

Hymns will be played by our organists: Veronica Fuhs and Karen Witte.
Pastor Karen Ullestad will be leading our worship and the hymns.

COLD WEATHER DRIVE-IN WORSHIP

We appreciate your understanding and patience, as we try out a couple options.

Option 1: Greeters will be just inside the church entry; handing out the bulletins and communion cups, as the congregation drives under the portico to receive them. When everyone is parked, Pastor Karen would drive under the portico and lead worship from her car.
(Pastor would get out of the car during parts of the worship service.)



Option 2: Congregation finds their parking space. When everyone is parked, Greeters would come around with bulletins and communion trays.

On warm Sunday's we will be setting up as we have in the summer months.
The option used will be decided the morning of worship.

Church Cancellation Information: Look for cancellation notices on KIIC Radio-97.6 FM and TV Channel 8-KCCI - Des Moines.

Sunday Devotional for home use: is sent out via e-mail and the postal service for folks, if you are not able to attend the Drive-In Worship on Sunday. When the weather is so bad, that church is cancelled, everyone will be able to use this devotional at home, for that day.



Midweek

You are invited to join other members of St. Paul's for a meditation on one of the Sunday lessons and a time of prayer via Zoom on the Wednesdays in Advent. We will meet for about ½ an hour on December 2, 9, and 16 at **6:30 pm**. Even though our holiday planning will look differently this year, having a few minutes of quiet can help center us around the meaning of Christmas.

You may email Pastor Karen at kmullestad@hotmail.com for a **Zoom invitation**.

12/2 we will meditate on Isaiah 64:1-9.

12/9 we will meditate on Isaiah 40:1-11

12/16 we will meditate on Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

You are invited to read through the scriptures and gather your thoughts for questions or comments.

Education/
Prayer Team

Pray List Up-date: We want to up-date the prayer list with current names.

We invite you to contact the church office with names to include in our prayer list, splalbia@iowatelecom.net or 641-932-7270.

Please give us a mailing address of those you add to the prayer list; so the Card Ministry can send them a card.

See the November newsletter for detailed information.



RECENT PRAYERS

Adelina Curiel,
Sean Jones
Trista Jones
Joe Langston
Jessica McAvoy
Carole Simmons
Kerri Stegman

Continuing Prayers

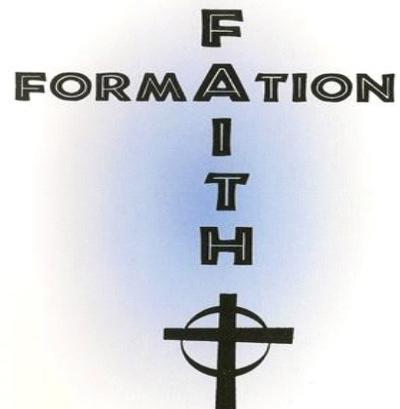
Nancy Clouse
Christine Corbine
Louis DeMoss
Mary Egbert
Kevin Klingbeil
Haley Mason
Arllys Murphy
Susan Roland
Lyle Spieler
Betty Stewart
Bonnie Thorstenson
Carla Wahl
Marian Walker

St. Paul's Shut-ins

Harold Benson
Ruth Johnson

**Youth Sunday Worship
Bags**

When you attend the Drive-In worship, each family will receive a bag that has the gospel lesson link, (where you can watch it on YouTube) activity sheets, sometimes a craft and snack, to do in your car. Take home all the paperwork; please leave the bag and supplies by the back door as you leave.



Comforting God, we thank you for the life of
Carl Blomgren who died on Nov. 2nd

And

Doris Patton who died on Nov. 10th

Embrace their families and their friends who
mourn their death with your comforting
assurance of eternal life.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Fellowship Team Ministries

Birthday

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

Baptismal Birthday

1. Catherine Benson
3. Kaitlyn Spieler
20. Matthew Johnson
22. Cody Simmons
23. Dakota Kelley
23. Grayson Kelley
23. Stephanie Kelley
23. Brandon Tomlin
25. Bernice Butler
26. Emmalee Kerber
26. Anna Kerber

Anniversary

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



December WELCA Meeting: On Thur., Dec. 17th at 7:00 pm, we will have a Christmas social ZOOM meeting. *

We thought it might be fun for each of us to share a special ornament or Christmas decoration and share why it is special to us or it's history.

Your Zoom invitation will be sent to you via e-mail the week of Dec. 13th.

*With the cold weather and the increase of Covid cases; this seems to be the best way to



Christmas Card Sharing: At the last WELCA meeting, it was decided, that we would encourage everyone to send Christmas card to each other. This year especially, we felt reaching out with cards would be a great way to stay connected and share Christmas with one another.

Note: You could write a short note of encouragement, or share some good news that may have happened this year or share a blessing you may have received.

Addresses are in our church directory. Let Gloria know if you need a copy and she will get one to you.



December Meeting will be Sunday the 20th via Zoom at 11:30 am.

Do You Zoom?

We could use this way of communicating and staying connected through the winter.

Please let the church office know if you are comfortable and are able to do a Zoom meeting. We would like to know if you are **not able** to Zoom as well.

Church Happenings

November 15, 2020

Highlights Council Minutes

Council reviewed the budget for 2021.

Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, January 24, 2021 after worship

The Council and the Church Usage Task Force have decided that, do to the increased number of Covid cases, we will continue with Drive-In Worship. It was also decided that no outside groups use the church at this time.

Worship: Is looking into recorded worship services using technology, such as Facebook and on our web site. Watch for more information later this month.

Property: Still working on replacing the West side door.

Please read the attached letter from our ELCA SEIA Synod, Bishop Amy Current.

National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival

The National Lutheran Choir Christmas Festival comes to audiences free in a virtual, multi-media format on December 11. *The Incarnation: For the Healing of the World* brings music from around the globe announcing the birth of Christ with messages of peace and joy that nothing – not even a pandemic – can take away.

Friday, December 11, 2020 – 8pm (CST) @ NLCA.com

Grand View University Julefest Program Sat. Dec. 5th

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Julefest concert will be an interactive virtual experience. In Julefest 2020, Grand View University's Advent and Christmas gift to the community. Join the Grand View Choir and Wind Ensemble remind us of God's love through music. To participate in the concert, please register today. You will be sent a link for the concert premiere in early December.

REGISTER HERE: www.grandview/julefest2020





**VOLUNTEER
BELL RINGERS
NEEDED!**

Ring a bell...Take a Stand Help Others



St. Paul's will be ringing Bells for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 12 at Jim & Charlie's from 9 am—6 pm. 90% of the funds raised remains in the Albia area and is disbursed by the Ministerial Association to help those in need.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing Schedule December 12 Jim & Charlie's

9:00—10:00 am	Pastor Karen
10:00—11:00 am	Tom Preston
11:00—12:00 pm	Linda Preston
1:00—2:00 pm	? _____?
2:00—3:00 pm	? _____?
3:00—4:00 pm	? _____?
4:00—5:00 pm	Gloria Smallwood
5:00—6:00 pm	? _____?

Please call or e-mail the church office to sign up to help.

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



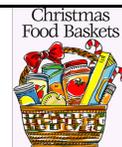
December & January Soldier boxes to Kosovo: We will be collecting items to send to Bryan Raskie and the soldiers who are stationed with him. Some items that Bryan likes are Little Debbie Nutty Bars, Gummy Bears and he enjoys reading about Military History. He and the soldiers with him; like to go into town and give candy to the children. The soldiers feed any dogs and cats that come into camp. So items for the children & animals would be helpful as well. Other items: snacks, gum, drink flavoring, command hooks to hang up stuff, and stuff to make their rooms smell better. We hope to send out boxes as they are filled; as they take so long to be delivered. Watch for items up-dates during the month.



What a wonderful response from our congregation. We have 181 boxes of Jell-O for the Helping Hands Christmas Basket, in 1 week.

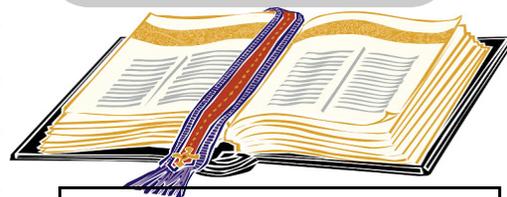
Thank you to everyone who donated.

Thank you To everyone who gave to the SPECIAL THANKSGIVING OFFERING for the Albia Ministerial Association. A total of **\$847.00** will help those in our community who are in need.



SEIA WELCA Still in Missions. Items gathered and shipped, at the fall Lutheran World Relief pick-up: ELCA Church: 2293 Quilts -1143 Personal Kits – 2316 School Kits – 202 Fabric Kits – 682 Baby Kits
Missouri Synod: 896 Quilts – 391 Personal Kits - 491 School Kits – 3 Fabric Kits – 158 Baby Kits
Totals: 8575 items – Even in a pandemic, God is at work, through our hands, helping others.

Worship Team Ministries



Lectors for December

6	Gail Clouse
13	Marilyn Woods
20	Gloria Smallwood
24	????? Christmas Eve
27	Anita Simmons



GREETERS NEEDED:

for **December**

6	Larry & Sharon Wilkin
13	???
20	???
24	??? Christmas Eve
27	???

Contact Gloria so she can put you on the schedule.



Worship

For many of us Christmas Eve worship is the most meaningful time to celebrate God becoming flesh, in the life of Jesus. We grieve that we won't be able to join together in our beautiful sanctuary that night.

However, we will join together in heart and voice through **our in-car worship, Thursday, December 24 at 6:30 p.m.**

The Drive-In worship will include communion.

You are invited to bring a flashlight as we sing *Silent Night*.



RADIO Worship Options

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Albia

RADIO BROADCAST: Listen to our Drive-In worship at 8:00 am on KIIC Radio-96.7 FM (Our worship service was recorded the previous Sunday.)

*Listen to this worship service on the KIIC's web-site: If you are not able to get reception for this radio station in your area, you can listen to it on-line. Here is how:

In your search engine type in: **kiicradio.com**. Select: **Home-KIIC radio 96.7 FM Albia**.

Top right, a red bar that says "Live Stream". Select: **Kiic.-main**.

Click the **Blue Arrow** to start to listen to the 8:00 am service from the previous week.

(Note: I found that it takes about 10-20 seconds for it sync up and start playing the service.)

First Lutheran Church, Chariton Pastor Richard Hutton

RADIO BROADCAST: First Lutheran Church and Christ the Servant Lutheran Church on KIIC Radio – 96.7 FM out of Albia, IA. Sunday at 10:30 AM.

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>

Facebook:

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church"

Office Hours: Tues.-Weds.-Thurs.

11:30 am-2:30 pm

Links: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
The Southeast Iowa Synod of the ELCA

www.elca.org
www.seiasynod.org



“ Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church” Is our Facebook Page.
The profile picture is of our stained glass cross altar window.
Check it out; there is a lot of good information being added.



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.

