

Crossings

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

Volume 10 Issue 1

January 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.

As I write this, we are approaching the 4th Sunday in Advent. Snow is quietly falling (well it was quiet until the train went by!), the Christmas programs, soup lunch & supper has been a success, the Poinsettia Project is completed, the Advent Angels are entering the final round of gift giving, and worship for Christmas Eve is in the final stages of planning. Now all I have to do is finish putting my Christmas tree together so it no longer looks like a stick wearing a tutu; find the stockings to hang; mail presents; buy presents to wrap; clean house; write a couple sermons; do laundry; plan food for the holidays; bake goodies; do home visits and communion; grocery shop . . . well you get the picture. I'm sure you can relate because so many of you have similar chaos in your lives. Who has time to wait for Jesus? Besides, we all know how the story starts: baby Jesus is born – again – in the manger – shepherds, angels, and yes, eventually the Wise Men.

Call me "Martha" I don't care - there's too much to **do** now!

In the Gospel of Luke 10.38-42, Jesus receives hospitality from his friends Mary, Martha & Lazarus. Martha is complaining to Jesus because Martha is hustling around providing food, drink & hospitality to her guests while her sister, Mary, is sitting near Jesus listening and learning as he speaks to the group. She asks Jesus, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is *need* (italics are mine) of only one thing. Mary has chosen the *better* (italics again, mine) part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10. 40-42).

Like Martha, so many of us get caught up in the distracting noise, hustle and bustle suggested in the opening paragraph. All of us have *need* for only one (1) thing – Jesus – and when we make the time and take the time to sit at his feet, what we receive from Jesus will not be taken from us.

Because we have been waiting for Jesus to come to us yet again, we know that Jesus arrives soon – we will celebrate his birth Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and be half-way through the "Christmas Season" according to the church year by the time you read this. Is the hustle and bustle of holiday chaos distracting us from preparing our hearts and minds to receive Jesus anew? Are we spending time watching, waiting, and listening for Jesus? Or racing from place to place so we can land exhausted and disappointed after opening presents on Christmas?

When you read this, Christmas Day will be at least 7 days ago. Life with Christ is an everyday, hour by hour, minute by minute experience. Let's you and I choose the "better part", that we might experience Christ this Christmas in new ways. May the birth of Jesus Christ galvanize our hearts and minds for the challenges and possibilities God places before us in the New Year - 2015.

Merry Christmas! Joy to the world the Lord has come! Let all of us receive our king!

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."

I John 4:10-11

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

335 North Eighth Street, Albia, Iowa 52531 641-932-7270

Date: December 30th, 2014

Dear Friend in Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This letter is to notify you of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church Annual Meeting scheduled **for Sunday, January 25th, 2015**, following the regular 9:00 am worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to review the preceding year, determine our ministry and budget, and vote on the updated Congregation Constitution; a copy of which was sent to voting members by USPS or email Nov 26, 2014. Per chapter 8 of the congregation's constitution, membership is defined as follows (which has not been updated/revised):

C8.02.a. Baptized members are those persons who have been received by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism in this congregation, or having been previously baptized in the name of the Triune God, have been received by certificate of transfer from other Lutheran congregations or by affirmation of faith.

C8.02.b. Confirmed members are baptized persons who have been confirmed in this congregation, those who have been received by adult baptism or by transfer as confirmed members from other Lutheran congregations, or baptized persons received by affirmation of faith.

C8.02.c. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.

C8.02.d. Associate members are persons holding membership in other Christian congregations who wish to retain such membership but desire to participate in the life and mission of this congregation. They have all the privileges and duties of membership **except voting rights** and eligibility for elected offices or membership on the Congregation Council of this congregation.

A "contribution of record" can be given as a check, an offering envelope, or an envelope in which cash has been placed and the person's name and the date are on the outside of the envelope. A voting member includes any person under age 18 who has been recently confirmed and who has also received Holy Communion and given a contribution of record.

Together, we pray for and plan the mission and ministry of St. Paul's Lutheran here in Albia and around the world. Please join us for worship, food, fellowship and ministry on Sunday, January, 25th, 2015.

Walking with you along the WAY, Pastor Nancy P. Reed



St. Paul's Shut-ins:

Myron Johnson
Bob & Ruth Johnson

**Education/
Prayer Team**

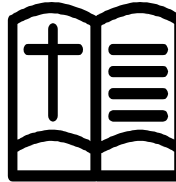
RECENT PRAYERS

(2014)

Susan Anderson
Opal Bloomer
Vickie Buckingham
Addie Fausett
Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Pastor Heidi
Gary Hollst
Lynda Johnson
Alyson Karl
Richard McDonough
Martha McGlothen
Gail Maddy
Pat Mason
Gerald Mosbey
Juie Ogle
Amy Pottorff
Dr. Marridee Randall
Carol (Keegle) Reed
Steve Roberts
Mark Russell
Devin Sinclair
Lyle Spieler
Jeff Stoffa
Frank Tharp
Paulette Williams
Ron Wood

Continuing Prayers

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



WELCA Bible Study:

Thursday, January 8 at 11:00 am.

Session 4: Faith in the family

Spiritual growth happens in communities--home, congregation, school and anywhere people share their experiences of God.

"When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us." Acts 16:15

Sunday School 10:15 am—10:45 am

Lesson	Teachers
1/4 Wise men	Cameron & Carson Stocker
1/11 John the Baptist and Jesus is Baptized	Jessica & Jacob Hemann
1/18 Through the Roof	Meghan Lettington & Brooke Sparks
1/25 Mustard Seed/yeast	Tom & Linda Preston



Christian Ed Team: will meet on Tuesday, January 13 at 8:30 am.

Fellowship Team Ministries

Sunday Brunch



January 25
Before Annual Meeting

Senior Fellowship

Pot-luck lunch will be on Weds. January 7th at 11:00 am. Will need help setting up as Gloria is on vacation. No planned program.

February 4th our meeting will have a soup and valentine's theme. A large pot of vegetable beef soup will be furnished. Bring another small soup for variety or something that would go with soup. Let's not forget desserts too.

WELCA

Monthly MEETING: January 22nd we will go out to dinner at Bogies Steak House at 6:30 p.m. for our meeting.

WELCA Bible Study Thursday, Jan. 8th at 11:00 am
(See more info on page 3)



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

3. Mary Mitchell
3. Becca Mason
7. Isaac Dowdy
8. Wesley Clouse
11. Alex Mason
13. Paige Lozano
16. Spenser Johnson
17. Aaron Keeton
21. Mitchel Sparks
22. Marilyn Johnson
25. Betty Hohneke
25. Jean Lozano
26. Ruth Johnson
27. Kelsey Lynn Simmons
30. Sharon Wilkin
30. Linda Preston
30. Ruth James
31. Tyler Clouse

Baptismal Birthdays

1. Janet Hansen-Tilley
1. John Cole Blomgren
10. Tray Tilley
17. Olivia Sherman
20. Karen Niebuhr
21. Kevin Tangie
30. Quentin Lee Butler
31. Brittany (Sparks) Flattery

Anniversaries

23. Ron & Betty Hohneke



Fellowship Team: will meet on
Thursday, January 15 at 6:00 pm.



WELCA Soup lunch and supper was a great success this year. Thank you to everyone who donated food items, cooked the food, served, set-up and cleaned-up. Without all your help we would not be able to hold this event.

THANK YOU

Martin and I would like to thank all of you for the Christmas cards, presents, good wishes and blessings that so many of you have given to us. It is truly a joy and privilege to be your pastor!
May God bless you richly in 2015 with health, peace, and contentment.

Pr. Nancy & Martin Reed

Gloria on Vacation: will be on vacation
from Jan 1—Jan 11



Council

Council Notices

DATE CHANGE: Council Meeting
TUESDAY, January 6 at 6:30 pm

NO Offering Envelopes for 2015: to help with the expenses for the budget we will not have printed offering envelopes for 2015.

If you want a contribution of record please be sure to put your offering (especially cash) in an envelope with your **name on it**. Your name on a check or an envelope will help the Financial Secretary to record your contribution for your quarterly contribution and the end of year contribution.

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Special Council Meeting: A short council meeting will be after the annual meeting on Jan. 25th to elect officers and team members.



SIGN-UP TIME FOR WORSHIP SERVERS FOR 2015. Please consider helping with worship as an usher and lector. These positions are very important; our worship services are enhanced by your participation. *We would like to thank all of you that gave of your time and talents this past year, it is greatly appreciated.*

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Minutes December 15, 2014

Present: Pastor Nancy Reed, Anita Simmons, Lana Kaldenberg, Curtis Kelley, Richard James, Amanda Thomas, Marilyn Woods, Gail Clouse, Kay Spieler. Absent: Julie Stocker

Pr. Nancy opened the meeting with a prayer.

Curtis Kelley moved to approve the Minutes from the last meeting and Richard James seconded the motion. Motion carried.

New Business:

Conversations during the coffee hour were discussed and Pastor Nancy Reed will make up a questionnaire for the congregation to answer. There will be five questions on the importance of different aspects of our church life.

Treasurer Anita Simmons prepared a budget for 2015. The council worked on the budget to review and modify expenses for the New Year.

Lana Kaldenberg made the motion to pay a \$360.00 bill from the Anderson Memorial Account. It was noted that this money will be used for church building and parsonage needs. Colleen Putnam seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourned

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 deadline is Jan. 13th. Thank you.

Directory Up-Date: Please look over last year directory and see if anything needs to be up-dated: address, and phone/cell phone #. If we do not have your **e-mail** please add that to the directory as we are not mailing them out, you will have to pick them up at church if we can not send them by e-mail.



St. Paul's Lutheran	\$100.00
Monroe Co. Helping Hands	\$ 25.00
Albia Ministerial Emergency Assistance	\$ 70.00
ELCA Global Barnyard & Malaria Nets	<u>\$380.00</u>
TOTAL	\$575.00

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED MONATARY GIFTS AND/OR PURCHASED GIFTS FOR OUR POINTSETTIA MISSIONS PROJECTS THIS YEAR.



Christmas gifts for our 2 secret Santa families: Thank you to everyone who purchased the items on the 2 families wish list. Every wish was filled. Family A was a Mom with a 13 year old son and a daughter 3 years old. (18 packages.) Family B was a Dad & Mom with 3 boys ages 10, 5 and 2. (23 packages) (Gift card for gas & Hy-Vee = \$200.00) They were so grateful for making their Christmas special for their families.



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Food Donations for Christmas Basket for Helping Hands

Helping Hands Christmas Basket: Thank you to everyone who brought food to fill this years baskets. The request for food baskets has increased this year to approx. 180 (up from last years 135). With your generous donations we can help others.

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Salvation Army Bell Ringers!!

Thank you to everyone who helped ring bells in Nov. & Dec. The campaign here in Monroe Co. raised \$7,796.36. Ninety percent (90%) of these funds will remain in Albia to be disbursed through the Albia Ministerial Emergency Assistance fund to help many people in our area that are in need.

Conversations at the Crossroads

By the time you read your newsletter, these conversations will have been going on for a month. These have been well attended by members of the congregation, with lots of honest feedback, the sharing of ideas, and really good questions by folks. Most people will say they have been a very good experience. We've discussed, among other things, the realities of congregation size and our demographics, salaries, creative possibilities for better use of the building, worship styles and times, various ministries, etc. Nothing is off the table, including the pastoral position.

The Church Council, and many members of the congregation, are passionate about the future ministry of this congregation, and desire to discern God's call going forward. These conversations will continue for awhile and we hope to be provide more detail at the annual meeting. Please consider adding your voice to the conversation. The Council is eager to hear what you have to say.

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Stephanie Sparks & Gloria Smallwood

<u>Jan. 4</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Richard & Ruth James
	Lector:	Kelly Bumpus
<u>Jan. 11</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Spieler Family
	Lector:	_____
<u>Jan. 18</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Usher/Greeter:	Spieler Family
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods
<u>Jan. 25</u>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	Spieler Family
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods

Worship Team Ministries



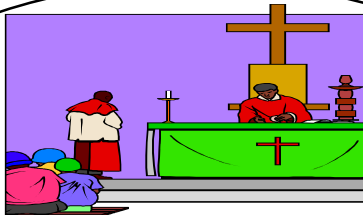
CHOIR Practice

8:15 am



Jan.	4	NO practice
Jan.	11	Practice
Jan.	18	Practice
Jan.	25	Practice

Worship Team: will meet on Monday, Jan. 12 at 9:30 am.



Wednesday Evening Worship:

Join us every Wednesday for our mid-week worship with communion.

Worship starts at 6:30 pm.



Sunday Worship	9:00 am
Sunday School	10:15 am
Adult Bible Study	10:20 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>
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



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.

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

Helping Hands Hours: Monday 9 am-2 pm Tuesday 4—6 pm Wednesday 9 am-12 pm (noon)
Thursday 4—6 pm Friday 9 am-12 pm (noon) Saturday. 9 am-12 pm (noon)
Closed on Sunday Phone: 932-5984



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.