

# Crossings

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

Volume 14 Issue 1

January 2019

## Pastor's Epistle

Dearly Beloved,  
Grace and Peace to you.

Sometimes the old myth is right,  
the light has gone out of the world,  
you can see plainly in your heart  
and its hungry darkness, the aimless grief,  
a heavy echo of something missing, or someone,  
not lighting, like a mood or a utility,  
but a source, life itself, and its warmth.  
Something like the friendship of the earth.  
Not exactly breath, but essential.  
Emperors are lost. Roads vanish.

You need to plead. Someone needs to fetch it.  
Someone needs to assail the fearful thief  
who has stolen the light and hidden it,  
buried it in the darkest place where no one  
can go, no one can find it, no one can return.  
Someone innocent and honest, brave enough  
to be true and risk everything to set off  
with nothing but a fish hook and a loaf of bread  
to find the light for us who hunger for it,  
and for the trees who wait in silence.

On the longest night when even the angels  
can stand it no longer, God sends a child,  
tender and willing, (and a mother who offers him  
to this dark world), a child with nothing but love  
saying, "I will go into your darkest places for you  
and there, there, I will draw out the light."  
The harsh wind clamping down,  
the threat already issued, soldiers on the move,  
the child comes into the night, facing the darkness.  
His mother sings, and he begins his journey,  
and already he has a bit of light in his hands,  
and already the night begins to turn  
and the stars dance and the angels sing  
and your heart begins to rise  
like the long-lost morning sun.

(Written by Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes, 12/21/2018)

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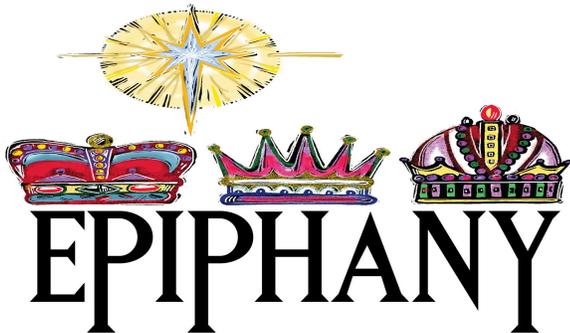
## Our Mission Statement

*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

In this season of Light, may the light of Christ fill your heart to over-flowing, so that each of you may bring his light to the darkness wherever it is encountered.  
Walking with you along the WAY - Pr. Nancy



Below you will find information regarding the season of Epiphany.

The festival originated in the Eastern church, where it at first included a commemoration of Christ's [birth](#). In Rome, by 354 Christ's birth was being celebrated on December 25, and later in the 4th century the church in Rome began celebrating Epiphany on January 6. In the Western church the festival primarily commemorates the visit by the Magi to

the infant Jesus, which is seen as evidence that Christ, the Jewish Messiah, came also for the salvation of Gentiles. In the East it primarily commemorates the baptism of Jesus and celebrates the revelation that the incarnate Christ was both fully God and fully man.

(<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Epiphany>)

Theories about the meaning of the gifts from the Magi:

All three gifts are ordinary offerings and gifts given to a king. Myrrh being commonly used as an anointing oil, frankincense as a perfume, and gold as a valuable.

The three gifts had a spiritual meaning: gold as a symbol of kingship on earth, frankincense (an incense) as a symbol of deity, and myrrh (an embalming oil) as a symbol of death.

- This dates back to [Origen](#) in *Contra Celsum*: "gold, as to a king; myrrh, as to one who was mortal; and incense, as to a God."[\[48\]](#)
- These interpretations are alluded to in the verses of the popular carol "[We Three Kings](#)" in which the magi describe their gifts. The last verse includes a summary of the interpretation: "Glorious now behold Him arise/King and God and sacrifice."
- Sometimes this is described more generally as gold symbolizing virtue, frankincense symbolizing [prayer](#), and myrrh symbolizing suffering. (Wikipedia)

### ***Confirmation Class Advent Wreath Candle Lighting Skits Photos***



Nikko as Joseph



Grayson as Shepherd



Hayley, Lydia, Nikko & Grayson



**St. Paul's Shut-ins:**  
Ruth Johnson

**Education/  
Prayer Team**

**Confirmation Class**  
Wednesday, January 16 and 30  
@ 6:00 pm

**Confirmation Class Advent  
Wreath Candle Lighting  
Skits Photos Continued**



Lydia as Mary

<b><u>RECENT PRAYERS</u></b>	<b><u>(2017)</u></b>	<b><u>(2015)</u></b>
Nate Baggett	Susan Anderson	Linda Ulrich Johnson
John Clouse	Eleanor Anderson	Ella Teno
Tim Cox	Donny Ballard	<b><u>(2014)</u></b>
Mark Dreier	Jim & Linda Bills	Sharon Glenn
Gary & Mary Egbert	Jerry Carr	Nick Griffin
Ireta Frits	Linda Christensen	Pat Mason
Clint Johnson	Tony Daggett	<b><u>Continuing Prayers</u></b>
Shari Kisner	Mary Datschefski	Brantley Hemann
Shara McDonough	Betty Foster	Laura Moore
Sam Mahoney	Ryver Lane	Trisha Raven
Randy Maule	Mary Ann Lewis	=====
Dakota Miller	John Pasuit	
Duayne Newhard	Harlan Pierson	
Shirley Patrick	Greg Rickie	
Ashley Peterson	Sharon Rickie	
Samantha Sabovitch	Suzie Smith	
Misty Smith	Ron Swanson	
Sam Smith	=====	
Carla Wahl	<b><u>(2016)</u></b>	
Rick Wetzel	Pat & Gerry Anderson	
Phil Whitson	Gene Dobson	
Carl Witte	Maya Griebel	
Dorcas Wolfe	Richard McDonough	
Steve Wynn	Leo Oye	
	Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL	
	LEETA SANGER	
	SCOTT SANGER	
	LYLE SPIELER	



Nikko, Grayson & Lydia



Stephanie, Nikko & Lydia



Nikko, Stephanie & Grayson

## Fellowship Team Ministries



**Senior Fellowship**  
Wednesday, January 2 at 11 am; we will have our first pot-luck meal of the new year. Join us for food and fellowship. Bring a friend.

### 3rd Sunday Pot-luck Brunch



**January 20**

### WOMEN of the ELCA

**CHANGES for our monthly January meeting:**  
Thursday, January 24, we will go out to dinner at Boggies Restaurant in Albia at 6:30 pm. Business meeting to following our meal.

**NO WELCA Bible Study in January.**



## *Birthdays & Anniversaries*



#### Birthdays

- 3. Mary Mitchell
- 3. Becca Mason
- 4. Andy Fuhs
- 8. Wesley Clouse
- 11. Alex Mason
- 13. Paige Lozano
- 16. Spenser Johnson
- 21. Mitchel Sparks
- 22. Marilyn Johnson
- 25. Betty Hohneke
- 25. Jean Lozano
- 25. Sarah Fuhs
- 26. Ruth Johnson
- 27. Kelsey Lynn Simmons
- 30. Sharon Wilkin
- 30. Linda Preston
- 30. Ruth James
- 31. Tyler Clouse

#### Baptismal Birthdays

- 17. Olivia Sherman
- 20. Karen Niebuhr
- 21. Kevin Tangie
- 24. Andy Fuhs
- 30. Quentin Lee Butler
- 31. Brittany (Sparks) Flattery



#### Anniversaries

- 5. Aaron & Hayley Dobson
- 23. Ron & Betty Hohneke



**St. Paul's Soup Lunch & Supper:** Thank you to the many volunteers who worked in the kitchen to prepare the meals; those who served & cleared table, those who donated food items, those who helped set up and clean up. Without your efforts we would not be able to hold this event. We served 138 people and just over \$1450.00 was raised. Half of this amount will be used to purchase items for our Military Care Box mission.

# Council



**Council Meeting: Brief meeting on 1/27 after annual meeting.**



## Annual Meeting

### **Congregational Annual Meeting will be January 27 after worship .**

Sunday, January 27th, at the end of worship service, is our Congregation Annual meeting in which we review 2018 ministries, look forward to the new year of ministry and service, and approve the 2019 Budget.

All worship attendees are invited to attend, but only Voting members, those who have communed and given a contribution of record in the previous 12 consecutive months, will be allowed to vote. After concluding the meeting and worship, we will have a

second fellowship and potluck brunch for this month.

We will also send out a letter, by snail mail or email, by January 11th, announcing this meeting. Please watch for it.

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St. Paul's Church Council is looking for congregation members to be on council, as we have a couple empty spots. If you volunteer to be a member of the council, you can help shape the direction of St. Paul's, as well as help make decisions. Please let our Council President, Ruth James or Pastor Nancy know if you would like to join the council.

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It's that time of year where we need to make sure our church directory is current. Please let us know if you have a new phone #, disconnected old phone # and a new address.

If you want to get your newsletter and calendar by e-mail please let us know your e-mail

address as well. Please let Gloria know by Jan. 20.

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**Annual Year end reports:** These reports are needed from the following people for the Annual Report:

- Pastor
- Council President
- WELCA Reports
- Worship & Choir
- Property
- Memorial Fund

- Treas. Report,
- Christian Education
- Fellowship
- Building & Grounds
- Mission's task Force.

## 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**

**Deodorant**

**Female Hygiene Products**

**Tooth paste**

**Laundry Detergent**

**Body wash (not bar soap)**

**Shampoo**

**Dish Soap**

**Christmas Baskets for Helping Hands:** With your help we were able to fill the 200 cans of cranberry sauce that was needed for this years 200 Christmas Baskets. Thank you.



**Thank you** to those who helped to ring the Salvation Army Bells on Dec. 8 at Hy-Vee. Total collected was \$9,300 of which 90% of that amount will stay here in Monroe Co. to help our community.



**Thank you** for supporting the Monroe Co. Ministerial Association with your donations On Dec. 2. Many people will be assisted by the \$363.63 that was donated in the special offering.



## Soldier Care Packages

Below is a partial list of items that are needed and that hold up well, when sent overseas, to our soldiers.

Missions Task Force and the Confirmation Class would like your help in collecting these items for our soldiers that are overseas. We hope to send the boxes off in February.

We have been blessed with this project being approved as a Thrivent Action Team Project.

- |  |                            |                   |                       |                          |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Chocolate candy  | Pop tarts                  | Cereal            | Flavored oatmeal      | Sunflower seeds          |
| Cup o Noodles  | Ramen noodles              | Pringles chips    | Beef jerky            | Ziploc bags              |
| Cookies  | Granola bars               | Peanut butter     | Kool-aid singles— Mio |                          |
| Instant hot chocolate  | Canned chicken/tuna        | Microwave popcorn |                       |                          |
| Microwavable macaroni and cheese   |                            |                   |                       |                          |
| Microwavable meals (Ravioli, mashed potatoes, hamburger helper)                  |                            |                   |                       |                          |
| Condiments (Ranch, catchup, mayonnaise, etc.)                                    |                            |                   | Football              |                          |
| Gourmet coffee   | Plastic silverware         | Magazines         | Playing cards         |                          |
| DVD movies   | Video games                | Board games       | Frisbee               |                          |
| Notebook paper and pens  | Hand written letters/cards | Phone cards       | Razors                |                          |
| Chapstick  | Sun Block                  | Shampoo           | Toilet Paper          |                          |
| Soap (Make sure soap is double bagged - leaves smell of soap on food)            |                            |                   |                       | Feminine hygiene items   |
| Small flashlights (I suggest the wind up kind to avoid running out of batteries) |                            |                   |                       | Batteries                |
| Warm hats, gloves and socks, Hand warmers (during the winter months)             |                            |                   |                       | Blankets (During winter) |

**BABY WIPES** (These are used when they had no running water)

**NO PORK PRODUCTS**

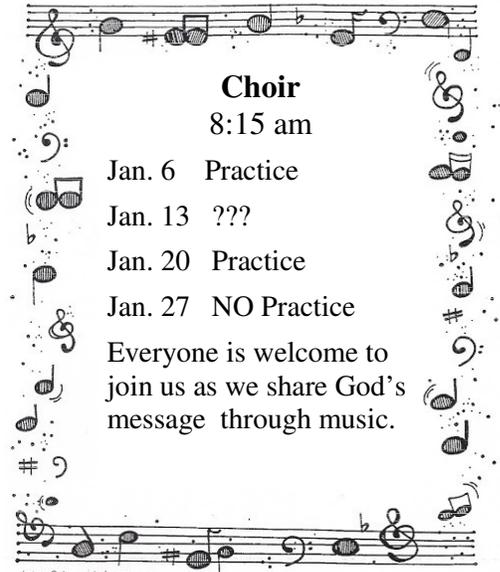
We will package the items for the boxes in February, according to the Custom rules for shipping.

## Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Hayley Dobson & Anita Simmons

<b><u>Jan. 6</u></b>	Worship Assistant: Gail Clouse Ushers/Greeters: Fred Diers & Andy Fuhs Lector: Gail Clouse
<b><u>Jan. 13</u></b>	Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Ushers/Greeters: Hemann Family Lector: Marilyn Woods
<b><u>Jan. 20</u></b>	Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Ushers/Greeters: Smallwood's Lector: Nikko & Lydia Dobson
<b><u>Jan. 27</u></b>	Worship Assistant: Anita Simmons Usher/Greeter: Kelley Family Lector: Grayson Kelley

## Worship Team Ministries



**Choir**  
8:15 am

Jan. 6 Practice  
Jan. 13 ???  
Jan. 20 Practice  
Jan. 27 NO Practice

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



### Schedule for January 2019

- Jan. 6** Morgan light & put out the candles  
Eli collect communion cups
- Jan. 13** Sophie light & put out the candles  
Parker collect communion cups
- Jan. 20** Lydia light & put out the candles  
Nikko collect communion cups
- Jan. 27** Grayson light & put out the candles  
Morgan collect communion cups



This year Epiphany fall on a Sunday; so we are having a special AHA!! Epiphany service.



## Ushers & Greeters



**2019 Usher/Lector/Acolyte Rotations:** The list for the 1st quarter of the new year, for helping with weekly worship, is on a table in the fellowship hall. If you helped in any of the above areas last year; you were randomly put down for 2019. This is a **preliminary list**; look it over and see if there are any date that you would not be able to attend. Cross your name out so we are able to find a replacement. We understand that having the list so far in advance that things happen through out the year and you are not able to help. Just let the office know and we will find a replacement. Will have the list for the rest of the year, later in the month.

Some thoughts on Epiphany:  
Today "epiphany" carries a range of meanings, including  
"an intuitive grasp of reality,"  
"an illuminating discovery, realization, disclosure, or insight,"  
or simply "a revealing scene or moment."

My definition of an epiphany is  
"a moment of sudden or great revelation that usually changes you in some way."

An AHA! moment.

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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](http://www.elca.org)  
[www.seiasynod.org](http://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.



**Blood Drive:** Tuesday, January 22 from 3—7 pm at Trinity United Methodist Church.  
Sponsored by the Albia Ministerial Association.

