



Crossings

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

Volume 9 Issue 7

July 2014

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Friends in Christ:

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

We are in the beginning of summer, the time of crops growing in gardens and fields; people laughing while peach juice runs down their chin; or spitting watermelon seeds at the ants. It is a time for making new acquaintances and renewing old relationships; a time of travel and swimming, fishing and campfires. It is a time of evening drinks at dusk while telling jokes and swatting mosquitoes. It is a time of pause and relaxation in the evening airs - or the morning dawn while walking with God before work. It is a time between times . . .

So I have searched and found some poetry that speaks to life in summer:

"Life expectancy would grow by leaps and bounds if green vegetables smelled as good as bacon." Doug Larson. (This one is my favorite because, in my case, it is SOOOOOO true!)

"Nothing is more memorable than a smell. One scent can be unexpected, momentary and fleeting, yet conjure up a childhood summer beside a lake in the mountains; another, a moonlit beach; a third, a family dinner of pot roast and sweet potatoes during a myrtle-mad August in a Midwestern town. Smells detonate softly in our memory like poignant land mines hidden under the weedy mass of years. Hit a tripwire of smell and memories explode all at once. A complex vision leaps out of the undergrowth." Diane Ackerman (Isn't this true?)

"Who will tell whether one happy moment of love or the joy of breathing or walking on a bright morning and smelling the fresh air, is not worth all the suffering and effort which life implies." Erich Fromm

It is true that, in God's joy-filled wisdom, God created us with the ability to recover much of our internal joy and peace through the senses, particularly as they resonate with temperature, light, wind, and smell. We are indeed creatures – an integral part of the bio-diversity of the planet – and dependent on all other life on earth for us to enjoy life to its fullest. Poetry and literature and music, when experienced simultaneously with the senses of touch, feel, and smell, can lift us up and out of our self-involvement and remind us again of our God's great love for all of creation. Indeed – we can worship God in the midst of a field, a ballpark, or a congested highway!

During this summer, with all the plans, travel, and family get-togethers, I hope you will remember to worship – and give thanks – for the marvelous miracle we call life; for the smells, tastes, touches and sights which regularly pull us out of ourselves and towards God. May you remember whose you are and the great privilege we have to love others as God love us and God's creation.

I hope to see you regularly this summer – many good things continue to happen through the ministry of the people of St. Paul's. On those weekends when you may not here, I pray you experience joy, rest, peace and the certain knowledge that God loves you – always. Merry summer to you all!

Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy

PS - All these poems and more can be found at <http://www.egreenway.com/reason/smell.htm>.

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

2014 VBS Photos (All Photos taken that day will be on St. Paul's website <http://www.splalbia.org>.)





St. Paul's Shut-ins:

Hilda Felton
Bob & Ruth Johnson

**Education/
Prayer Team**

RECENT PRAYERS

Susan Anderson
Larry Belt
Christy
Gail Clouse
Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Billie Gullett
Rev. Jodi Hinrichs
Liam Brody James
Myron Johnson
Alyson Karl
Richard McDonough
Martha McGlothen
Gail Maddy
Pat Mason
Jake Nielsen
Amy Pottorff
Carol Reed
Tera Reed
Steve Roberts
Mark Russell

Continuing Prayers

Alex Amante
Karen Blomme
Kevin Bunch
Mary Datschefski
Brantley Hemann
Bryce Kroenecke
Marty Kroenecke
Kenneth Leaven
Loren Lettington
Laura Moore
Rhonda Morgan
Trisha Raven
Misty Smith
Bert Whitlock



WELCA Bible Study:

DATE CHANGE : NEW DAY

On Thursday, **July 10th** at 11 a.m.

Our study will be Luke 1:46-56,
a continuation of Mary & Elizabeth

Christian Ed Meeting:

Wednesday, July 9th at
8:30 am

Vacation Bible School

“Clean Water for All of God’s Children”

We had a great day learning about clean water. We learned how God created water for us, in the Creation Story, learned about healing water in the Healing of Naaman Story(also learned about the germs that can be in dirty water and on our hands) and we learned how we are cleaned from our sins by Baptism and believing in Jesus as our Savior in the Baptism of Jesus Story.

We also learned about what other people in other country don’t always have the blessing of clean water.

We had 5 children attending with 12 leaders and helpers. The day was filled with Stories, Water Mission focus activity, food & snacks, water games and crafts. Good time was had by all.



VBS OFERING OF \$113.00 was collected for the Clean Water Wells Missions.

VBS Photos on page 2 of this newsletter and a lot more photos on church website.

Also see display of VBS photos, crafts, etc. in fellowship hall.



Fellowship Team Ministries

3rd Sunday Brunch



July 20th

Senior Fellowship

Join us for a potluck lunch on **Weds. July 2 @ 11:00 am.**

Looking ahead: Aug. lunch will be supplied completely by Karen Niebuhr. You will ***not need to bring any food.***

We will be playing Bingo in Aug. SO, bring a white elephant item for the prizes.

(NO Senior Fellowship Potluck meeting in SEPTEMBER)

WELCA

July meeting will be Thurs. 24th. Our hostesses will be Sharon Wilkin and Linda Preston.

WELCA Bible Study: ****Thursday, July 10th at 11:00 am.
(See more info on page 3)

Looking Ahead: Restoration Days Bake Sale on the square 8/23.
Fall cluster meeting will be Sept. 27 in Knoxville.



Birthdays & Anniversaries



July Birthdays

4. Jani Dorpinghaus
11. Eric Freeman
11. Harper Darlene Lettington
13. Daniel Ray
14. Bill Johnson
16. Dan Johnson
18. Harold Benson
20. Raychael Tilley
22. Kelly Bumpus
22. Gloria Smallwood
26. Cassie Smallwood
29. Colleen Putnam



July Baptismal Birthdays

1. Parker Hemann
8. Benjamin Mason
9. Bryan Raskie
21. Jani Dorpinghaus
24. Mark Mitchell
29. Martin McCombs
Larry Wilkin

July Anniversaries

2. Dave & Karen McCombs
10. Tyler & Kelly Simmons
12. Harold & Sharon Peterson
14. Jacob & Jessica Hemann
24. Charlie & Gloria Smallwood
28. Mike & Cyndi Duea



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.



Congratulations to Richie and Kallie James on the birth of their son, Liam Brody James. Liam was born on June 16th and he weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz. Welcoming him home was his big brother Owen, 4 yrs. Proud Grandparents are Richard and Ruth James.

Council



Council Notices

**Council Meeting: NO Council meeting in July
August Meeting changed to Monday, 4th at 6:30 pm**

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Council Officers:

President: Amanda Thomas
Secretary: Marilyn Woods

Vice Pres.: Gail Clouse
Treasurer: Anita Simmons



The air conditioning and furnace has been installed at the parsonage and is working great.

Pastor Reed will be out of office
July 15-19.

Pastor's schedule will be flexible in
July due to family health matters.

Pastor Reed will be preside at the
worship service at Good Samaritan in
Ottumwa on July 6th at 2:00 pm.



Thank you to those who have been mowing the church lawn the past 3 months.

Gloria will be on vacation July 29-31.

ST. PAUL'S COUNCIL MEETING

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

Pr. Nancy opened the meeting with a prayer and a Bible Study on Ecclesiastes Chapter 4. and encouraged the Council to read Chapter 5 before the next meeting.

Colleen Putnam moved to approve the Minutes from the last meeting and Anita Simmons seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's financial report was made by Kay Spieler and seconded by Curtis Kelley. Motion carried.

Pr. Nancy reported:

VBS will be "Water to Mission" and will be a one day session on June 25th. The new Liturgy used on Sunday was well received. We will have a healing service on June 29th. Pastor Nancy will be on vacation August 5th to the 12th (she will preach during this time) and October 23rd to the 27th.

Committee reports were given.

Worship: Will look at the results of the survey on a Wednesday evening service instead of on Saturday.

Christian Education: "Water to Mission" will be on June 25th and helpers are needed.

Fellowship: Graduation celebration went well.

Missions: We will fill backpacks with supplies for school again this year.

New Business: The possibility of having six Council meetings and two Congregational meetings each year was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Anita Simmons and seconded by Kay Spieler. Motion carried.

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IOWA DAY OF PRAYER

Everyone is invited to join other people in our state for a Day of Prayer and Fasting on **Monday, July 14th**, which has been declared a Day of Prayer by our Governor.

THANK YOU

WELCA Garage Sale: Thank you to everyone who helped put on our garage sale in June. It was a great success; \$341.50 was made.

We appreciated all those who donated items, set up and spent the day working and breaking down after the sale. Special thank you to Karen Niebuhr for loading up the left over items and taking them to helping hands.



Dear Friends - I want to thank you for all the love, prayers, visits, cards and phone calls which you have extended to me since my surgery the first of May. I have felt God's presence through all of you; your care has really lifted me up during this recovery period which is longer than I expected. But I am getting stronger each day and hope to be back at it in a few more weeks.

Thanks again - Gail Clouse



MEN'S GROUP

We accomplished a lot on our June work night:

Removed tree in front yard at the parsonage

Mowed, weeded and sprayed for weeds around church property

Removed dead trees behind the church

Trimmed hedges at the church

Weeded around gazebo and prayer path

North West Field behind church mowed

Thank you to our hard working crew: Curtis and Dakota Kelley, Brandon Tomlin, Greg Dorpinghaus, Jacob Hemann, Dan Johnson, Ron Hohneke, Tom Preston and Don Niebuhr.



Vacation Bible School

We want to **thank everyone** who donated food, crafts and their time to make our VBS a really great day.

Special thanks to our leaders and helpers who were:

Jessica Hemann—Music and Story leader

Kay Spieler-Food and Snack leader

Ruth James-Craft leader

Richard James—Game leader

Stephanie Kelley-Story leader & everywhere helper

Dakota Kelley—Story helper, Skit person and helper where needed

Carson Stocker-Game helper, Skit person and everywhere helper

Charlie Smallwood– Kitchen helper

Pastor Nancy Reed-Story Leader, Water Missions Activity and Opening leader

Karen Niebuhr– Craft helper and everywhere helper

Cassie Smallwood– Photographer and Banner maker

Jessica James– Painted Scenery Background

Gloria Smallwood– Anywhere/rover helper



Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Marilyn Johnson & Karen McCombs

<u>July 6</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	?? Open??
	Lector:	?? Open ??
	Acolyte:	?? Open ??
<u>July 13</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	?? Open??
	Lector:	Kelly Bumpus
	Acolyte:	?? Open??
<u>July 20</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Usher/Greeter:	Don & Karen Niebuhr
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods
	Acolyte:	????
<u>July 27</u>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	Don & Karen Niebuhr
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods
	Acolyte:	????

Worship Team Ministries



CHOIR NOTES

Thank You

I would like to thank the choir members for the gift certificate to Ogles. We are greatly enjoying our beautiful flowers!

I would also like to thank all of the individuals who have participated in choir this past year. We have had an excellent year and I am looking forward to seeing everyone again in August!

I appreciate your time and effort and the ministry that you offer to our church and congregation.

Sincerely,
Jessica Hemann



Holy Baptism: We welcome into the family of God, Mildred Leona Della Vedova; daughter of Samuel and Dannile Della Vedova; who was Baptized on June 28th. To help guide Millie are her sponsors Darren and Felicia Hill.

Worship Meeting
Thurs. July 10th at
9:30 am

Mission Task Force



Restoration Day Parade Float (Saturday, Aug 23)



We are starting early this year to collect donations of water bottles to pass out at the parade with our church information on them. This is a great outreach ministry for St. Paul's. Bring in your water bottles any time to the church.



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335 North Eighth Street
Albia, IA 52531

Phone: 641-932-7270
Email: splalbia@iowatelecom.net
Web Site—<http://www.splalbia.org>

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
Augsburg Fortress—the Publishing Ministry of the ELCA

www.elca.org
www.seiasynod.org
www.augsburgfortress.org

Riverside Bible Camp will be holding numerous event this summer (along with their week long camps):

R5K walk /run and quilt Auction on Sat. August 2nd

Women's Retreat is Sat. Sept. 20-Sun. Sept. 21

Chili Cook-Off Sat. October 26th

Watch for more details on posters in church entry.

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SCHOOL SUPPLIES: St. Paul's Mission's Task Force has decided to help the Monroe County Ministerial Association again this year by filling school bags with school supplies for the Albia Community School District's 2014-2015 school year. The grades needed are k-8th grade, and several congregations are participating.

St. Paul's has signed up to fill **12 school bags** for this fall's **kindergarten** class.

The supplies are as follows:



School box (6 x 8" – No Larger)

1 Roll of paper towels

2 water color paints

2 large boxes of Kleenex

1 pkg color construction paper

1 large eraser

12 large glue sticks

2 rolls of scotch tape

1 pkg Clorox wipes

5 pencils

1 box Crayola Classic Markers

Beach towel for resting

1 pair Fiskars scissors

1 bottle Elmer's glue (4 oz.)

We need all the supplies by the **week of Aug. 5-7th** so we can fill the bags and bless them on Sun. Aug. 10th. The bags will then be delivered to the Kendall Administration Building and the school will get them to the children. Thanks for all your assistance as we help out the many families who struggle in the fall to meet all the requirements necessary to help their children have a successful experience in school.

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Ministerial Blood Drive: Mon., July 7 from 3 pm—7 pm @ Trinity Methodist Church

First Christian Church: Holding their **VBS** on July 8-10th with a movie night on July 11th. This is a 4 evening event from 5:45 pm—8 pm. The children from St. Paul's are invited to join them. Reg. forms are in the fellowship hall.

Living with Arthritis Educational Program: Tuesday, July 8th from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Conference Center at Monroe Co. Hospital and Clinics—Albia. Physical Therapist will have instructions on proper exercise technique, walking programs, strength training and flexibility program, etc. No charge for this program.

Library Reading Program: July 9 through Aug 1, 2014

Shrine Bowl tickets: You can pre-order your tickets from Becca Mason (641) 226-8754 at a discount. Shrine Bowl is on Sat., July 26th at the Univ. of Northern Iowa.