

# Crossings

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

Volume 9 Issue 6

June 2014

## Pastor's Epistle

Dear Friends in Christ:

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

As part of their final work before Affirmation of Baptism, each confirmand was required to pick one scripture from each testament of the bible and write a one-page paper on why they chose it as a favorite scripture. One of the Old Testament scriptures several of them chose as their favorite scripture is Jeremiah 29.11:

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope" (NRSV).*

Those who chose this scripture talked about how it gave them courage to live boldly, to trust in God's love even when they make bad decisions. They are confident that God will forgive them, stand by them, guide them, and assist them through any and all difficulties or struggles. Because of this certainty, they have hope that their lives will be filled with meaning and purpose. They spoke with an attitude of gratitude towards Jesus Christ because, on account of his death and resurrection, they look forward to eternal life now and forever. It was such a blessing and learning experience for me to participate in this conversation with them.

Almost every paper had within it, a sense that "everything happens for a reason". This led to great conversations about who God is, how scripture talks about sin and its consequences, etc. Young people and adults often say idioms and other ideas in the correct manner culturally, but without any deep thought about what's really being said. Especially in times of grief, struggle or difficulty; it indicates that each of us are trying to make sense out of circumstances that bring chaos into our lives.

For example, "Everything happens for a reason" implies that "someone" had a reason for this experience to happen. Often, in the context of great struggle, broken relationships, illness, death, or tragedy, the implicit "someone" is God. But what are we really saying? What if a drunk driver is in the middle of the road at the exact time our loved one comes around the corner, and the 2 cars hit head on, killing our loved one while the drunk driver walks away with bruises and a broken arm. If "everything happens for a reason" – then are we saying that God decided your loved one had lived long enough, deserved to die in this way, and that maybe God loves the drunk driver more? Are those valid "reasons"? By putting this on God, we deny the power of sin and evil in the world, we deny the sinfulness and culpability of the drunk driver. We experience God as arbitrary and mean-spirited. How does this resonate with the confident faith in God expressed by our young adults who affirm their baptism? How does this make sense in light of the Jeremiah text?

Or the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

## 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."

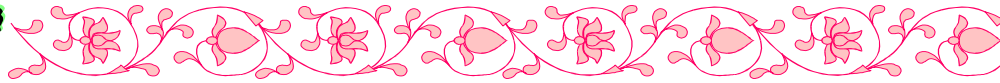
1 John 4:10-11

*Pastor's message cont.*

God is the God of life – so much so that God in Jesus Christ took on our flesh and “became sin who knew no sin” so that we, the sinful, live out God’s “plan for good and not for harm . . . a future with hope”. When we suffer through deaths, struggles, fractured relationships, etc., even though no direct fault of our own, it is because there is evil in the world – this world which has been corrupted by the power of sin. Sometimes we experience the consequences of our own thoughtless, mindless, or intentional bad decisions. Sometimes it is because we were in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong people. Sometimes there is no explanation and the senselessness of it all makes us angry at God and others.

The God who died for us is able to make life where we only see death, destruction, and senselessness. We can depend on the God of Life to hang tough with us, to “bear us up on eagle’s wings”, and to bring us through it all to a new life filled with hope and the joy of God’s presence.

Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy



**St. Paul's 2014 Confirmation  
Sunday, June 8th  
Pentecost Sunday**



During our worship service we will be welcoming 6 new adult members who will receive the Rite of Affirmation of Baptism:

Erin Ann Heaton

Zane Kegan Hoffman

Benjamin Jennings Mason

Samantha Rae Nielsen

Karter James Spieler

Carson Wilkin Stocker

We rejoice in these fine young adults who are moving into their adult faith journey. May we all continue to support them, bless them, and be open to being blessed by them.

**Confirmation Reunion:** On June 8th we are inviting any and all current and former members who were confirmed at St. Paul's to come and join us for worship and a confirmation reception following the worship service. (We sent out approximately 70 invitations to confirmation alums for whom we had addresses. So if you didn't get one, we have had the wrong address or no address – Please consider yourself invited and come and join us.)

And we encourage all folks to wear red on that day!

**HAPPY PENTECOST – LET'S ALLOW GOD'S SPIRIT TO SET US ON FIRE FOR JESUS!**



**Pentecost flowers:** Sunday, 6/8. Still time for you to sign-up if you would like to bring Red Geranium flowers. Please note if it is in honor of someone on the sign up list. The geraniums will be planted out in the front flower bed.



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

Hilda Felton  
Bob & Ruth Johnson

**Education/  
Prayer Team**

Alex Amante  
Susan Anderson  
Larry Belt  
Karen Blomme  
Billy Brubaker  
Kevin Bunch  
Christy  
Gail Clouse  
Mary Datschefski  
Sharon Glenn  
Brantley Hemann  
Myron Johnson  
Alyson Karl  
Casey Keel  
Bryce Kroenecke  
Marty Kroenecke  
Kenneth Leaven

Loren Lettington  
Richard McDonough  
Martha McGlothen  
Gail Maddy  
Dale Madison  
Pat Mason  
Laura Moore  
Ronda Morgan  
Jake Nielsen  
Jo Neumann  
Trisha Raven  
Richard Rowley  
Sheila Ryan  
Devin Sinclair  
Misty Smith  
Jan Starcevic  
Bert Whitlock

**Children's Church**

No Children's Church during the summer months.  
We will start up again in Sept.

**Thank you to everyone who helped teach this past year.**

REMINDER: we have Activity Bags for the children to use during the worship services.

**WELCA Bible Study**

\*\*\*\*\* NEW DAY\*\*\*\*\*



Thursday, June 12 at 11 a.m.

This month our study will be  
Elizabeth & Mary.

Scripture Readings: Luke 1:5-25 & 39-45

**Vacation Bible School**

We will be have a one day VBS program this year at St. Paul's.  
on Wednesday, June 25<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 3 pm.

Our theme this year is

“Clean Water for All of God's Children”.



**4-5 HELPERS NEEDED**

Please help where you can with this ministry. High School Students can earn Silver Service Hrs.

**VBS SET UP & DECORATING:** will be on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

**VBS Registration:** please pick up a registration form for anyone 3 yrs old to 6<sup>th</sup> grade; they are on the table in the fellowship hall.  
Reg. forms need to be returned to the church office by **June 15<sup>th</sup>**.



## Fellowship Team Ministries

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Brunch



**Father's Day  
June 15th**

### Senior Fellowship

Join us for a potluck lunch on **Weds. June 4th @ 11:00 am.** We will be playing Bingo this month, bring a white elephant item for the prizes.

### WELCA



We will have our June meeting at Karen Niebuhr's home on June 26th at 6:30 pm. Our hostesses are Karen Niebuhr and Marilyn Johnson. We will car pool from the church, leaving at 6:15 pm.

**WELCA Bible Study:** \*\*\*\*Thursday, June 12th \*\*\*\*\*  
at 11:00 am. (See more info on page 3)



**WELCA Garage Sale:** Saturday, June 21 from 8 am – 1 pm. Children's clothes **ONLY**; toys, clothing accessories such as shoes, purses, scarves, jewelry, home décor, knick knacks, dishes, etc. Set-up will be on Fri. June 20<sup>th</sup>.



## *Birthdays & Anniversaries*



#### June Birthdays

1. Martin McCombs
4. Marilyn Larson
4. Jessica Freeman
8. Lucas Teeter
13. Benjamin Mason
20. Brent Lozano
22. Richard Haeussler
24. Angela Freeman
26. Ron Hohneke
27. Jessica Hemann
29. Emmalee Kerber



#### June Baptismal Birthdays

10. Donald Niebuhr
14. Myron Johnson
15. Maxwell Butler
23. Katie Johnson
25. David McCombs

#### June Anniversaries

4. Donald & Doris Patton
12. Marvin & Gail Wirtjes
14. Chad & Brittany Teeter
17. Richard & Donna Peterson
19. Dave & Liz Larson
20. Brent & Jean Lozano
23. Daniel & Cathy Ray
23. Kevin & Tonya Tangie
24. Paul & Joan Peterson
29. Harold & Mardyll Benson



**WEB SITE:** Check out St. Paul's Web site at <http://www.splalbia.org>.

You will find our newsletters, calendar and recipe.

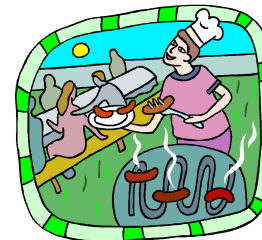
Please send any photos and recipes you would like to share and Martin Reed will add these to St. Paul's Web site.



### Council Reminder

**Have a blessed and safe Summer.  
Faithfully remember your giving even in your absence.**

**First Day of Summer June 21st.**



# Council



## Council Notices

**Council Meeting: Monday, June 16th at 6:30 pm.**

+++++

**Council Officers:**

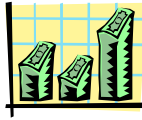
President: Amanda Thomas

Vice Pres.: Gail Clouse

Secretary: Marilyn Woods

Treasurer: Anita Simmons

=====



**May treasurer's report**

Monthly Budget - \$8354.08

May Offering & income - \$5388.00

May Expenses - \$6434.59

Offering vs. Expenses - (\$1046.59)

Offering vs. Budget - (\$2966.08)



**Lawn Mowing:** Thank you to our lawn keepers who have mowed the last 2 months. Looking for others to help mow the church lawn and do the trimming.

**Flower watering** volunteers will be needed as the weather warms up and there is no rain.

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

**Council Minutes**

**May 25, 2014**

Present: Pastor Nancy Reed, Anita Simmons, Lana Kaldenberg, Curtis Kelley, Richard James, Amanda Thomas, Marilyn Woods and Julie Stocker.

Absent: Gail Clouse and Kay Spieler

Pr. Nancy opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

A motion to approve the Treasurer's financial report was made by Julie Stocker and seconded by Colleen Putnam. Motion carried.

Pr. Nancy reported:

A gift of \$5,000.00 was given to St. Paul's by a family friend of Pastor Nancy. Richard James made a motion to apply the funds to finish the HVAC and the rest of the funds will be added to the building fund and was seconded by Curtis Kelly.

Motion carried.

Committee reports were given.

Worship: Have not met recently.

Christian Education: Working on VBS. VBS will be "Water to Mission" and will be a one day session.

The Confirmation end of year party was a success.

Fellowship: Graduation celebration went well.

Property: Have not met recently.

Missions: Have sent about 70 invitations for the Confirmation reunion and we will fill backpacks with supplies for school and will be collecting water bottles for the Restoration parade.

Old Business:

Discussion on moving worship to Wednesday night rather than Saturday-a poll will be taken. Policies are needed and a committee will write them. The mailbox at the parsonage will be moved to the curb.

New Business:

Every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday will be a healing service.

Sunday September 7<sup>th</sup> we will be joining the ELCA for God's Work; Our Hand, plans will be announced.

The motion to approve our wonderful group of Confirmands: Sam Nielsen, Ben Mason, Karter Spieler, Carson Stocker, Zane Hoffman and Erin Heaton was made by Lana Kaldenberg and seconded by Colleen Putnam. Motion carried.

Adjourned with a motion by Richard James and seconded by Curtis Kelly.

Marilyn Woods, Secretary





## Mission Task Force



### BACK PACK for the school year 2014-2015

We will be collecting items again this year. We filled 5 complete back packs last year and hope to fill more. Watch for more information regarding what grade we get.



### Restoration Day Parade Float

(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.

Last year we were able to pass out 1,300 bottles of water. Hoping to surpass that amount this year. This is a great outreach ministry for St. Paul's.

Bring in your water bottles any time to the church.



### June 2014, LSI Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

### June 20 is World Refugee Day

Each year World Refugee Day is celebrated on June 20 to raise awareness about the plight of refugees worldwide. According to UNHCR (the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees), there are 10.4 million refugees in the world, people who have been forced to flee their homes due to persecution based on race, ethnicity, religion, social group or political opinion.

LSI's support services for people of refugee status in the Des Moines area help children, families and adults build new lives in Iowa through English as a Second Language classes, work readiness classes, child care business development, elderly services and a new area of service called Global Greens.

Many refugees served by LSI have agricultural experience from their native countries and are eager to return to the land. LSI's Global Greens programs are helping connect refugee families to community gardens as well as participate in more intensive training and farming to turn their passion for growing food into small business opportunities. Their produce can be found at Des Moines area farmer's markets this summer. What a great opportunity for these new Iowans to connect with our state's agricultural heritage! Learn more about LSI's refugee services at [www.LSIowa.org/refugee](http://www.LSIowa.org/refugee).

LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Learn more at [www.LSIowa.org](http://www.LSIowa.org). Join us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa](http://www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa).

### A Garden of Hope

What was once an empty plot of land is now a blossoming garden, bringing hope and purpose to the Des Moines refugee community.

LSI's Refugee Community Services provides extended supports to people of refugee status through English as a Second Language classes, work readiness classes, child care business development, elderly services and Global Greens agricultural programs.

LSI previously helped Ibrahim's family of nine resettle in Iowa, and Ibrahim and his children are pursuing higher education in Des Moines. Two of his children have graduated from college, two are currently in college and Ibrahim is working towards a degree in accounting at Drake University.

Learn more about LSI's Global Greens programs at [www.LSIowa.org/refugee](http://www.LSIowa.org/refugee), or read more stories, past and present, at LSI's anniversary website at [www.LSIowa.org/150](http://www.LSIowa.org/150).

+++++



### **PARSONAGE AIR CONDITIONER & FURNACE FUNDRAISER (OVER THE TOP)**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church recently received a generous gift of \$5,000.00 from an anonymous donor, with instructions that it be used wherever it is needed. At the regular Council meeting May 25<sup>th</sup>; after much discussion, they decided to combine the \$5,000.00 with the money already raised, \$3,485.00, for the HVAC systems at the parsonage and finish that project. (The HVAC parsonage project had already been approved at the January 2014 annual meeting.) Any funds remaining after the HVAC installation will be assigned to replenish the Building Fund.

Give glory to God for his mysterious ways!



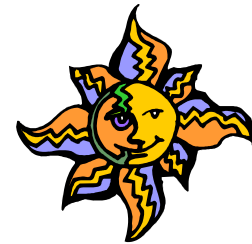
## Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Anita Simmons and Gloria Smallwood

<b><u>June 1</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	??????
	Lector:	Gloria Smallwood
	Acolyte:	Ben Mason
<b><u>June 8</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
Pentecost	Ushers/Greeters:	?????
Confirmation	Lector:	?????
	Acolyte:	Erin Heaton
<b><u>June 15</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
Holy	Usher/Greeter:	?????
Trinity	Lector:	????
	Acolyte:	????
<b><u>June 22</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	Larry & Sharon Wilkin
	Lector:	Sharon Wilkin
	Acolyte:	????
<b><u>June 29</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
Healing	Usher/Greeter:	Larry & Sharon Wilkin
Service	Lector:	Sharon Wilkin
	Acolyte:	????

## Worship Team Ministries

Worship Team  
will meet on  
Tues.  
June 10th at 9 am.



## Worship Team Survey

The worship team is asking for the congregation's input regarding moving the Saturday evening worship service to Wednesday evenings, possibly as soon as this Fall.

Here is the thinking behind this idea: Saturday nights, for the most part, have very low attendance. In addition, more and more families are struggling to keep their commitments to church on Sundays when they also have sports and family activities on the weekends. Since we will no longer be having Confirmation classes on Wednesday nights for the next several years, we are thinking that worship services on Wednesday nights might assist folks to have worship during the week and lessen the frustrations around the conflict of interests and priorities over the weekends.

So please pray and think about this and ask yourself if this is a feasible idea and something that you might take advantage of as well? We would also like to know from you what time of the evening might be beneficial to maximize attendance.

The worship team will be handing out a small form with questions and an area for comments in your bulletins. Please fill them out and put in the offering plates during worship. Thanks so much for your time and participation in this survey.



## **40th Anniversary of Christ the Servant Lutheran Ministry**

Everyone is invited to attend the anniversary celebration in Corydon on Sunday, June 8th. Worship is at 10:30 am with a catered meal at 12:30 pm and a reception at the church from 2-4 pm. Please RSVP before May 15 with Arta Harman (641) 344-2893. More info in entry.

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>

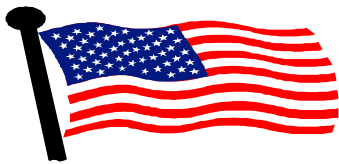
Place Mailing Label Here

Get your newsletter by e-mail and in color. Send your e-mail address to the church office.

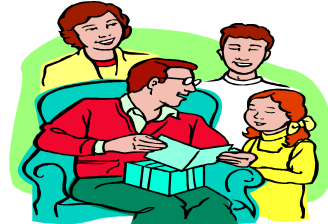
Links:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
The Southeast Iowa Synod of the ELCA  
Augsburg Fortress—the Publishing Ministry of the ELCA

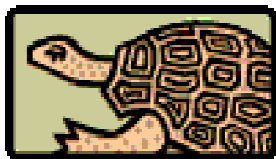
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)  
[www.seiasynod.org](http://www.seiasynod.org)  
[www.augsburgfortress.org](http://www.augsburgfortress.org)



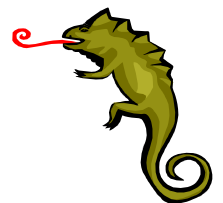
Flag Day - June 14th



Happy Father's Day  
June 15th



**Zoo Animals at the Library**—June 27th at 1:00 pm  
Blank Park Zoo is holding a show and tell live animal program at the Albia Library on that Friday. Come & join the fun.



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

