



Crossings

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

Volume 11 Issue 6

June 2016

Pastor's Epistle

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

Dear Friends in Christ,

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

"Go and make disciples of all nations . . ." – this is the command Christ gave to the 11 remaining disciples before his ascension, and that command extends to us as well. But aren't we already doing that? "Over 240 ELCA missionaries serve in more than 40 countries around the world, invited by global church partners to work together hand-in-hand. Some are doctors in rural areas. Others teach children where there are few opportunities to go to school, or work in seminaries that prepare pastors and future church leaders. Others support, nurture and preach in some of the fastest growing Lutheran congregations in the world. And still others are young adults, engaging in a life-changing, year-long experience through the Young Adults in Global Mission." (<http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Church/Global-Church-Sponsorship/Supporting-Missionaries>).

Is the Body of Christ truly going to the ends of the Earth?

We are going to explore that very idea this summer in VBS. We are going global to discover "Where in the World is Jesus?". On July 19th, we will discover our Christian roots in Sweden; July 20th, we will learn about the Haitian Christian church; and, July 21st, we will traverse the mountaintops of Nepal. From 6-8pm each night, the children will learn about the people, their foods, games and religion. Here are some interesting facts that I've learned so far:

- According to the World Christian Database, Nepal has one of the fastest growing Christian populations in the world. In a nation that was closed to Christians until the 1950's, it now has 393,820 Christians based on their 2011 census.
- 96% of Haitians are Christian
- 8 out of 10 Swedes claim to be "not religious" or "convinced atheists" according to a new global study as reported in <http://www.thelocal.se/20150413/swedes-least-religious-in-western-world>. The study was carried out by polling firm WIN/Gallup International as part of its 2014 End of Year Survey.

- The top 10 countries that have the highest percentage of Christianity growth rate are as follows:
 - Nepal – Majority religion is Hindu
 - China – majority religion is non-religious
 - United Arab Emirates – majority religion is Muslim
 - Saudi Arabia – majority religion is Muslim
 - Qatar – majority religion is Muslim
 - Oman – majority religion is Muslim
 - Yemen – majority religion is Muslim
 - Mongolia – majority religion is Buddhist
 - Cambodia – majority religion is Buddhist
 - Bahrain – majority religion is Muslim

At the same time that the Gospel is engaging with and being embraced by these countries, the Christian church is declining in the following countries: (According to the Pew Research Center@ <http://www.pewforum.org/2015/04/02/europe/>).

Europe is the only region projected to see a decline in its total population between 2010 and 2050. Although Christians will continue to be the largest religious group in the region, Europe's Christian population is expected to drop by about 100 million people, falling from 553 million in 2010 to 454 million in 2050.5

Christians are projected to remain the largest religious group in North America in the decades ahead, and their numbers are expected to increase from 267 million as of 2010 to 287 million in 2050.66 But North America's Christian population is forecast to grow at a much slower rate (8%) than most other religious groups in the region, leading to a decline in the share of North America's total population that is Christian.

The religiously unaffiliated population is expected to nearly double in size, growing from 59 million in 2010 to 111 million in 2050. The number of Muslims is expected to nearly triple, from more than 3 million as of 2010 to more than 10 million in 2050, making Muslims the third-largest religious group in the region by mid-century.

Granted, information such as death rates, migration trends, and fertility rates enter into the algorithms for this data. But let's cut to the chase – how are the people of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Albia, Ia, actively participating in the proclamation of the Gospel Of Jesus Christ? We work towards alleviating hunger; we have a radio ministry; we participate in ELCA and WELCA programs; we have an extensive prayer ministry; we do several community ministries. Praise God! Thanks for all you do!

Where can we improve our witness? How about becoming more comfortable with sharing our faith with others in our daily life? Reading our bibles more? Inviting others to worship with us? These are the places where I can grow – how about you? Let's grow in faith and witness together.

Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy



RECENT PRAYERS

Dorothy Bates
 Bert
 Phil Clouse
 Ruth Ella Gardner
 Elaine Haugen
 Camden Kelsey
 Mary Ann Lewis
 Richard McDonough
 Lester Rue
 Shelly
 Greg Tilton
 Valerie
 Fred Witte

=====

(2015)

Ray Hopkins
 Frank Hunter
 Linda Ulrich Johnson
 Karen Moon
 June Morrison
 Deloris Perry
 Gary Perry
 Ella Teno

=====

St. Paul's Shut-ins: Bob & Ruth Johnson

(2014)

Sharon Glenn
 Nick Griffin
 Pat Mason
 Dr. Marridee Randall
 Devin Sinclair

Continuing Prayers

Brantley Hemann
 Laura Moore
 Trisha Raven
 Bert Whitlock

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Education/ Prayer Team

WELCA Bible Study June 8 at 11:00 am

Our Bible study is an exploration of the book of Philippians.

Christian Citizenship 101
Session 4: Keep on keeping on
 (Philippians 4:4-23)



Christian Ed Meeting: Sun., June 12

after worship regarding VBS details.
 Will the following VBS volunteers/
 helpers please plan on attending:
 Jessica Hemann, Diane Dobson,
 Hayley Dobson, Tom & Linda Preston,
 Ruth James, Lana Kaldenberg, Amanda
 Thomas, Stephanie Kelley, Pastor
 Nancy & Gloria Smallwood.



“Where in the World is Jesus?”

That is the theme this year for Vacation Bible School. We will be have evening sessions this year; **July 19, 20 & 21 from 6-8 pm.** We will be learning about other people in God’s family from other countries: Sweden, Haiti & Nepal.

Help us decorate for VBS. We are asking for any items that would depict things from Sweden, Haiti & Nepal. Examples:

Nepal: Bengal tiger, Snow leopard, Elephants, Mt. Everest, Lamas & alpacas, hats and items made from their wool.

Haiti: soccer ball, Marti Gras decorations

Sweden: a gnome, Dala horse, Minecraft, Vikings, etc.

We also need a globe & world map.

We need a long jump rope for double Dutch games

We will be having the snack list ready later.

Fellowship Team Ministries

3rd Sunday Brunch **Pies for Pop**



June 19
Father's Day

Senior Fellowship

We will have our monthly pot-luck lunch on **Wednesday, June 1 at 11 am.** We will be playing Bingo this month. Please bring a white elephant item for a prize.

WELCA

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, June 23 at 6:30 pm. We will be having a picnic at Karen Niebuhr's home.
Our hostess will be Karen Niebuhr & Marilyn Johnson.
We will car pool from the church at 6:15 pm.

WELCA Bible Study: Weds. June 8 at 11:00 am
(See more info on pg 3)

Special thank you again to everyone who baked items for our Garage and Bake Sale last month. It was a great success with our proceeds of \$663.00. Half of this amount will be sent to a mission project. Does anyone have a mission for us to consider?



Birthdays

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

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 20. Donald Niebuhr | Brent & Jean Lozano |
| 23. Maxwell Butler | Kevin & Tonya Tangie |
| 24. Katie Johnson | Paul & Joan Peterson |
| 25. David McCombs | Harold & Mardyll Benson |



Baptismal Birthdays

- | |
|--------------------|
| 10. Donald Niebuhr |
| 15. Maxwell Butler |
| 23. Katie Johnson |
| 25. David McCombs |



Happy
**FATHER'S
DAY**



We honored our graduates with a reception on May 1st. Cameron Stocker and Dakota Kelley are pictured above.



Council

Council Meeting

Meeting on Sunday, June 5 after Worship.



Gloria will be gone from June 2—7th. Please contact Pastor Nancy at 515 -681-0683 if there is an emergency.

Pastor Nancy's In the Office:
Thursday and Friday



Property Task Force Needs your help: We will be painting the choir room. Friday, June 3rd we will be moving the furniture and prepping the space anytime after 5:30 pm. (Come whenever you can.) We still need an appliance dolly and/or furniture moving disks. We also need plastic or tarps to cover items and the floor. We will be masking off the trim with painters tape as well.

Sat. June 4th we will start painting the room, anytime after 8:30 am.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. Come when you can, with more helpers; the faster we can get the room done.

We still need 2 more hand brushes and 2 more paint rollers and 2 roller pans. Please put your name on the sign-up list if you are able to help.



Summer Church Grounds up keep

Please sign-up if you are able to help with any of the following grounds up-keep:



mowing of the church property



watering of the flowers. *If you water the flowers please put the date down that you watered them so we don't over water the plants.*



trimming the bushes around the church and around the trees on the property.



Thank you to those who have helped with the mowing and trimming of the bushes in May. Special thank you to Kay Spieler for weeding and planting the flowers around the church property.



MISSIONS

Boxes of Hope Continuing Mission: for the Emergency Assistance Office.

Items that are in the greatest demand are:

All-purpose cleaning products



Body wash (not bar soap)



Bathroom cleaners



Toilet paper



Dish soap



Shampoo



These items can not be purchased with the SNAP card (food stamps).



Back Pack Mission

June & July

SCHOOL SUPPLIES: St. Paul's Mission's Task Force 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 2016-2017 school year. The grades needed are k-8th grade, and several congregations are participating.

St. Paul's has signed up to fill **8 school bags** for this fall's **kindergarten** class. The supplies are as follows:

School box (6 x 8" – No Larger)

1 large eraser

1 box **Crayola Classic** Markers

1 Roll of paper towels

12 large glue sticks

Beach towel for resting

2 Watercolor paints

1 rolls of scotch tape

1 pair **Fiskars** scissors

2 large boxes of Kleenex

1 pkg Clorox wipes

1 bottle Elmer's glue (4 oz.)

1 pkg. Crayola Twistable Crayons, 8 ct.

5 pencils

Zip lock baggies (any size)

Headphones

Also Need: 4 pkg. Of Lunch sacks
4 boxes of Dixie cups

4 pkg. Of Paper plates
4 pkg. Of Expo markers for white board



Extra Supplies for the Class room: Baby wipes, Hand sanitizer, pkg stickers, Sharpie markers, glue sticks, Google eyes, Tongue depressors/craft sticks, Index cards, cotton balls, craft pom poms, craft pipe cleaners, glitter

We need all the supplies by the **week of Aug. 1-6th** so we can fill the bags and bless them on Sun. Aug. 7th. 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. We have also asked for funds from Thrivent Financial to help us with this mission.

June Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Gail Clouse & Julie Stocker

June 5

Worship Assistant: Gail Clouse
Ushers/Greeters: Hayley & Nikko Dobson
Lector: Gail Clouse

June 12

Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods
Usher/Greeters: Smallwoods
Lector: Gloria Smallwood

June 19

Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods
Ushers/Greeters: Hayley & Lydia Dobson
Lector: Marilyn Woods

June 26

Worship Assistant: Anita Simmons
Ushers/Greeters: Kelley Family
Lector: Anita Simmons

Worship Team Ministries



No CHOIR

We will start up again
in the fall.



Schedule for June

- | | |
|---------|--|
| June 5 | Nikko light & put out the candles
Lydia collect communion cups |
| June 12 | Sophie light & put out the candles
Parker collect communion cups |
| June 19 | Morgan light & put out the candles
Grayson collect communion cups |
| June 26 | Lydia light & put out the candles
Nikko collect communion cups |



**Sunday Worship
9:00 am**



SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Saturday, June 4 at 6:30 pm. We will be having worship on the 1st Sat. of the Summer months.

Worship will be at 6:30 pm with Holy Communion.

Because Summer weekends can be very busy, Worship Task Force wanted to have an extra worship for families to attend.

(Other Summer Sat. Worship will be on July 2 and Aug. 6.)

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.



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.

Helping Hands of Monroe County: NEW HOURS

Closed Sunday, Monday & Tuesday
Open Weds & Thursday from 9 am—1 pm
Open Saturday from 9 am—12 noon

Monroe Co. Ministerial Emergency Assistance Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
from 9 am—12 noon and 1 pm—3 pm.



Free Community Event:

Salute to America

Salute to Veterans

June 12 at 1:30 pm at the King Opera House. Featuring the Iowa Military Veterans Band, free 10 inch flags for everyone and gifts for veterans. Many dignitaries, state representatives & Chuck Long will be on hand to honor our nation and veterans.

{No Speeches.} Quilt displays- Korean War Quilts. Hospitality time and refreshments at the First Christian Church following the event.