

Crossings

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

Volume 10 Issue 3

March 2015

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."

1 John 4:10-11

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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

During this Lenten season the people of St. Paul's are invited to reflect on "5 guiding principles" as written about by Kelly Fryer, in her book, "Reclaiming the 'L' Word: Renewing the Church from its Lutheran Core". Some of you may not be able to attend the class, but if you want the book, let the office know, and we will try to obtain one for you.

These guiding principles are the result of the work members of did as they were trying to discern their continuing identity and purpose in a rapidly changing context. Sound familiar? The discussion around these principles is meant to inspire deep spiritual and corporate thought by St. Paulians. Maybe we will come up with principles that fit us better – but the discussion is important. These principles are as follows:

1. Jesus is Lord.
2. Everyone is welcome
3. Love changes people
4. Everyone has something to offer
5. The world need what we have

These are challenging principles, because if we ask ourselves, "What does it mean that Jesus is Lord?"- we might find ourselves without an answer; we might discover a renewed desire to grow deeper in our relationship with Christ; and we might discover a deeper humility because we realize that what we say and do is not about us, it's about Jesus.

And just what do we really mean when we say, "Everyone is welcome"? Do we really mean "everyone" because, if we do, then we might need to think about what we do individually and corporately that is genuinely invitational, or off-putting.

What's all this stuff about, "Love changes people"? Why do I need to change? Who says you do? Just what am I getting into when I let Jesus' love change me? Do I have to be open to being changed by other people? Scary stuff! I don't like change – there's already too much change!

Now, I can relate to "everyone has something to offer"! But - what if something someone has to offer challenges my beliefs/values? Then what? Can Jesus really work through people I don't agree with? And do I have to agree with them?

What does it really mean to say, "The world needs what we have"? What do we have? Aren't we already doing our part to feed the hungry, provide shelter and clothing? What is really being talked about anyway, and how can I possibly do more than I am already doing?

I imagine these and many other questions will rise to the surface as we read this book together. Opening ourselves up to being changed by Jesus is risky business, as change always is. But our Lord Jesus Christ promises to never leave us nor forsake us; he promises to be with us to the end of the age. In our baptism, we received the gift of the Holy Spirit, (who created the universe), and we have access to God's power through this same Spirit. So we can take this risk in confidence knowing that only good can come from this experience that we share together.

So come join us during Lent and be open to the work of the Spirit as we continue our conversations together to discern God's will for us in Albia, Iowa. Class begins Sunday, March 1st, and will be offered after worship each Wednesday and Sunday, through Palm Sunday, March 29th. As Phillip said to Nathaniel, "Come and see." I am looking forward to a blessed time of growth and renewal with all of you.

Walking with you along the way – Pr. Nancy



Themes for Lenten Worship

Wednesday At 6:30 pm with a Bible Study after worship

Sunday at 9:00 am with a Bible Study after worship

February 25—March 1

Jesus Is Lord

March 4—March 8

Everyone Is Welcome

March 11—March 15

Love Changes People

March 18—March 22

Everybody Has Something to Offer

March 25—March 29

The World Needs What We Have



Food for Thought for the Lenten Season

How about giving up something for Lent? Like five minutes every night from now until Easter to enter a simple Lenten discipline that will make us more reflective, empathetic and aware of ourselves, our relationships and God?

Simply commit to turning off the TV, logging off the internet, setting the cell phone in another room and practicing this five-step Lenten discipline:

- 1. Share highs and lows**
- 2. Read (reread) the scripture from Sunday's Gospel**
- 3. Talk about how your highs and lows might relate to the Gospel (context/text... that's doing theology)**
- 4. Pray for each other's highs and lows**
- 5. Bless one another with the sign of the cross and some loving words before turning out the lights on the day**

What would our church look like if even a third of our people entered into this Lenten discipline from now until Easter?

Batting .333 is pretty dang good.

Used with permission from Rev. Rich Melheim.



St. Paul's Shut-ins:

Myron Johnson
Bob & Ruth Johnson

**Education/
Prayer Team**

RECENT PRAYERS

Peg Payne
Deloris Perry
Martin Read
Tera Reed
Lyle Spieler
Mckenna Swaboda
Linda Whitlock

(2014)

Opal Bloomer
Vickie Buckingham
Addie Fausett
Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Gary Hollst
Lynda Johnson
Alyson Karl
Richard McDonough
Martha McGlothen
Gail Maddy
Pat Mason
Gerald Mosbey
Amy Pottorff
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL
Carol (Keegle) Reed
Devin Sinclair
Lyle Spieler
Frank Tharp
Paulette Williams

Continuing Prayers

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

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WELCA Bible Study: NEW DAY
Wednesday, March 11 at 11:00 am.
Suffering and endurance

We do not seek suffering, but it is inevitable in human life. How we deal with suffering can lead us to new trust and understanding and new ways of being ourselves.

"... we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us." Romans 5:3-5.

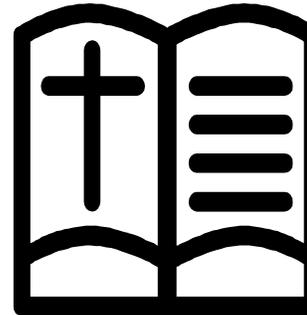
PRAYERS UP-DATE —

Your help is needed!

If you gave us a name of someone to be included in our prayers; (or if you know the status of any one listed above) please check with them to see how they are doing.

Let the church office know if they have improved and/or are better. Check with them to see if they want us to keep praying for them.

Thank you for your help.



Sunday School 10:15 am—10:45 am

| Lesson | Teachers |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3/1 Good Samaritan | Jacob & Jessica Hemann |
| 3/8 Mary & Martha | Meghan Lettington & Brooke Sparks |
| 3/15 Palm Sunday | Tom & Linda Preston |
| 3/22 Lord's Supper/Holy Week | Gloria & Stephanie Kelley |
| 3/29 Easter—Jesus is Alive | Richard & Ruth James |

New Adult Bible Study

starting Feb. 25th after the Weds. worship and after the Sun. worship. We will be studying **"Reclaiming the "L" Word. (Renewing the Church from its Lutheran Core).**

Fellowship Team Ministries

Senior Fellowship

Pot-luck lunch: on March 4th @ 11:00. We will be playing Bingo. Please bring a white elephant item to use for prizes.

Sunday Brunch



March 15

WELCA

Monthly MEETING: March 26 at 7:00 pm (TIME CHANGE)
This month our hostess will be Colleen Putnam.

WELCA Bible Study NEW DAY Weds., March 11 at 11:00 am

(See more info on page 3)



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

1. Nathan Dorpinghaus
6. Kara Tomlin
19. Robert Zarn
22. Reagan Dowdy
22. Grayson Kelley
25. Myron Johnson
26. Mike Spieler
27. Bob Johnson
29. Larry Wilkin

Baptismal Birthdays

3. Betty Hohneke
8. Marilyn Johnson
10. Rhonda Mason
11. Carson Stocker
21. Ron Hohneke
22. Mary Carder
22. Sophie Hemann
- Kay Spieler



Anniversaries

30. Richard & Nell Haeussler



Thank you to a couple of our men members who fixed the threshold in the kitchen doorway and fixed the toilet so we no longer have the annoying noise. And for putting on a door knob to the closet, hanging the nativity scene and hanging 2 bulleting boards. Your behind the scenes property improvements is greatly appreciated.

CONGRATULATIONS! *Baby Boy!*



Keyden William Watts was born on November 11, 2014 to Kylie Watts. Grandparents are Andy & Gina McCombs and Great-Grandparents are David & Karen McCombs.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper— THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped with Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. To those who donated food items, set-up, cooked, served and cleaned up your efforts are greatly appreciated. \$ 434.04 was donated this year for use in maintenance of the church.

Council

RECYCLED Offering Envelopes

available: No envelopes were ordered this year, 2015. You can use the extra outdated offering envelopes; please be sure to put your **NAME on the outside (especially is giving cash)** so the Financial Secretary will be able to record your contribution..



NO Council Meeting
this month—March

TREASURER’S REPORT

Monthly Budget \$7851.00
Jan Offering & Income \$6201.02
Jan Expenses \$7936.53

Offering vs Expenses (6201.02 - 7936.53) -1735.53
Jan Expenses vs. Budget (7936.53 - 7851.00) +85.53
Jan Offering vs. Budget (6201.02 - 7851.00) -1649.98

2014 ANNUAL REPORT & PHONE DIRECTORY: extra can be found in the fellowship hall.

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church Council Minutes - - February 8, 2015

Present: Pastor Nancy Reed, Colleen Putnam, Richard James, Marilyn Woods, Gail Clouse, Anita Simmons, Curtis Kelley, Kay Spieler.

Absent Lana Kaldenberg & Amanda Thomas

Council meeting was held at the end of our Annual Council Retreat.

1 Gail Clouse would like St.Paul’s to support the American heart fundraiser for{Memory Bekah Sherman} walk Colleen moved to accept and Curtis 2ND.

2 Pastor Nancy would like to have services at Munterville April 12 Kay Spieler motion we accept and Anita Clouse 2nd

3 A motion was brought forward to halt Wednesday service until the start of summer and for Advent and Lent motion brought by Richard James and 2nd by Colleen.

Submitted by Richard James

Council retreat was wonderful this year – everyone who attended put their entire effort into those few hours together.

A couple things of note from retreat:

1. Council discussed whether or not to continue the Wednesday evening services every Wednesday. Attendance has been as low as the Saturday services. What with budgetary concerns, the Council decided that, after Easer, the Wednesday evening worship schedule would be modified as follows: Wednesday services will be during Advent, Lent and the summer, but not during the other parts of the year. The worship and Music committee will come work on what kind of service to offer during the summer – maybe a campfire service?
2. The Council also decided to support Munterville by attending worship with them on their final Sunday, April 12th – the Sunday after Easter Sunday. So we will not have worship here at St. Paul’s on that Sunday, but encourage members to attend worship at Munterville that day. Details to be forthcoming.



Boxes of Hope Mission: the Mission’s Task Force will be collecting items for the “Boxes of Hope” for the Monroe Co. Emergency Office during Lent. Starting Feb. 22nd, we will be collecting different items each week for the next five weeks.

Feb. 22—Week 1: Paper products: paper towels, toilet paper, napkins, trash bags, etc.



March 1—Week 2: Personal Hygiene products (male & female): Shave cream, lotion, shower gel/soap, toothpaste, tampons, shaving razors, etc.



March 8—Week 3: Laundry products: detergent, softeners, bleach



March 15—Week 4: Cleaning products: dish soap, hand soap, bathroom cleaners, toilet cleaner, 409, etc.



March 22—Week 5: Baby products: diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, baby lotion, etc



American Heart Association Benefit

In memory of Bekah Sherman

WHEN: Saturday, March 7th

WHERE: American Eagles Club in Albia

WHAT: Walk-a-Thon at 8:45 am meet at St. Paul’s and walk to the Monroe Co. Courthouse

Dinner: Starting at 5:30 pm

Auction and Dance to follow



dreamstime.com

SPONSORED BY: Thrivent Financial and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

100% of all funds raise will go to the American Heart Association.

Please make checks out to AHA.

Action Items Needed: If you would like to donate an item for the auction bring your item to the Eagles on Fri. evening, 2 pm on Sat. or drop off at St. Paul’s Church. For item pick-up TEXT Laura at 641-931-0491.

Walk-a-Thon: still time to join the walk— Sponsorship packets available in fellowship hall.

Help Needed: Still need **helpers** to set-up and serve the meal. Still need a lot of **salads and hot food items**. Please sign up where you can. (Helpers and Food can be at the Eagles after 4 pm Sat.)

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Linda Preston & Sharon Wilkin

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| <u>March 1</u> | Worship Assistant: | Gail Clouse |
| | Ushers/Greeters: | Larry & Sharon Wilkin |
| | Lector: | Gail Clouse |
| | | |
| <u>March 8</u> | Worship Assistant: | Marilyn Woods |
| | Ushers/Greeters: | Larry & Sharon Wilkin |
| | Lector: | Gloria Smallwood |
| | | |
| <u>March 15</u> | Worship Assistant: | Marilyn Woods |
| | Usher/Greeter: | John & Lise Nelson |
| | Lector: | Tom or Linda Preston |
| | | |
| <u>March 22</u> | Worship Assistant: | Anita Simmons |
| | Ushers/Greeters: | John & Lise Nelson |
| | Lector: | Tom or Linda Preston |
| | | |
| <u>March 29</u> Palm Sun. | Worship Assistant: | Marilyn Woods |
| | Usher/Greeter: | _____ |
| | Lector: | Ben Mason Marilyn Woods |



Worship Team Ministries

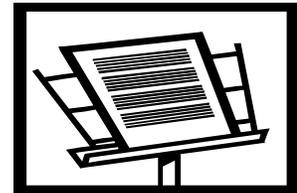


CHOIR Practice



8:15 am

- March 1 Practice
- March 8 Practice
- March 15 Practice
- March 22 Practice
- March 29 Practice



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

| | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Passion/Palm Sunday | March 29 | at 9:00 am |
| Maundy Thursday | April 2 | at 7:00 pm |
| Good Friday | April 3 | at 7:00 pm |
| Easter | April 5 | at 9:00 am |

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

WORSHIP MEETING:
 Monday
 March 9
 @ 9:30 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



St. Mary's Lenten Soup Lunches: Every Tuesday during Lent serving from 11 am—12:30 pm.
Soups, bread, dessert and beverages. Free will offering proceeds this year go to Monroe Co. Fair Board for
handicapped bathrooms and Pay it Forward All Year Long.

American Heart Assoc. Benefit - In memory of Bekah Sherman: on Sat., March 7th
at the American Eagles Club in Albia.

Walk-a -Thon at 9 am; starting at St. Paul's to Monroe Co. Courthouse.

Dinner at 5:30 pm with auction & dance to follow.

Sponsored by Thrivent Financial and St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

100% of all funds raised will go to the American Heart Association. Make all checks to AHA.



Daylight Savings Begins/ Spring Ahead 1 hour on Saturday, March 7th after
midnight.



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.