

Crossings

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

Volume 10 Issue 5

May 2015

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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

I thank my God in all my remembrances of you for all the ministries you do every day in large and small ways. The thoughts of you busy at work, school, in your homes, wherever you volunteer, and during your leisure time remind me of the mighty and surprising ways in which God works through the children of God. I am humbled and grateful for being a part of this congregation.

St. Paulians have been busy for the last 5 months reading, discussing and praying about who we are as God's people, God's witnesses in this time and place. I have been impressed with the enthusiasm with which people have participated in this endeavor. Several folks have just finished the book, "Reclaiming the "L" Word: Renewing *the Church from its Lutheran Core*"; and are looking forward to moving into the next book, "Reclaiming the "C" Word: *Daring to be Church Again*" – both written by Kelly Fryer. These books have been and need to be taken seriously by the readers because they challenge each of us to prayerfully consider who we are as individual Christians, and to take our personal and collective calls to be witnesses seriously if the local congregation AND the greater Church are to thrive.

Many of you may recall, this kind of soul-searching is not an unusual occurrence, but rather, appears to be the norm for St. Paul's Lutheran Church. I read again "St. Paul's Lutheran Church: 50 Year History In the Making" written by Pastor Tim Stoller, and the basic questions of "Who are we? "Why are we drawn together in this time and place?" and "What does God require of us now?" are sprinkled and addressed throughout your history. While our current pause to reconsider our identity as Christians is unique to those who are now participating in this exercise, it is not a unique experience to the life of this congregation. I find that reality comforting, exciting, and hopeful: comforting because history shows the congregation comes out of the life review stronger and more energetic than before; exciting because individual and corporate spiritual growth is exciting to experience, to observe, and brings with it promises of greater ministries; and hopeful because excited Christians embrace God's call to be witnesses with gusto, looking for new and old ways to continue to speak the Good News of Jesus Christ. We look for ways to be "church" *out there* - to be the bearers of the love of Jesus Christ to everyone we meet each day – and to take greater risks for the sake of the Gospel.

This congregation, at its heart, knows that a church that prays in Jesus' name is a thriving church. We pray for friends, family, and strangers; we pray for the young, the old, the sick, the dying; the students and their teachers; we pray for families, couples, singles; folks near at hand and far away. We pray for guidance, for courage, for compassion, for patience (yes, even that!); for peace in our hearts, our homes, our communities, our nation and our world. We pray for the poor, the disenfranchised, the gay, the straight, the Republicans, the Democrats, our government, our soldiers. We pray in Jesus' name because Jesus instructs us to, because we know that God is the source of all life, and because God listens to and answers all of our prayers; not always the way we demand, but always in ways that we know will sustain us unto eternal life.

So keep praying, keep sharing God's love in your speech, your work, your playtime, your service. Live confidently knowing that the church is not the building, but the *people*; that God's Word spoken through you, individually and corporately, does not return empty; and we still have work to do for God's kingdom right here in Albia. God bless you all in your daily ministry.

Walking with you along the WAY - Pr. Nancy

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

May 2015, Lutheran Service of Iowa Bulletin/Newsletter Article and Story

May is National Foster Care Month

Do you know someone who is open-minded, patient, caring, a team player and has a great sense of humor? He or she could be a great foster parent! As a partner agency in Iowa KidsNet, LSI helps find, train, support and license Iowa's foster and adoptive families. Iowa has an urgent and ongoing need for foster families, as children continue to enter the foster care system and foster families leave, often for positive reasons such as adoption or retirement after years of service. Foster parenting could be one of the most rewarding things you ever do! To learn more, visit www.iowaKidsNet.com.

Thank you for your support of LSI and all we achieve together for Iowa children and families! *LSI is proud to be an affiliated social ministry organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).* Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A Dream Team for Brooke

On a spring day in Muscatine, LSI brought together a dream team.

A pastor, principal, guidance counselor, teacher, grandmother and mom all gathered for one reason: to make sure a special teen girl knew just how much she mattered. The girl was Brooke, a sweet, shy 16-year-old who had been struggling at school with poor decision-making and social issues.

"Since my daughter was in kindergarten, all I had ever heard were negative comments," said her mom Nicole. "No one else saw what I saw in Brooke until LSI came along." LSI's Dream Team program brings together all the people who care about a teen. Brooke's team listened to her share her dreams to help animals or help the elderly, and then they responded with love, encouragement and ideas.

"They talked about her big heart and how they could help her reach her goals when she graduates," Nicole said. "Brooke was ecstatic."

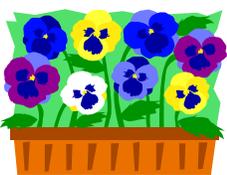
Brooke's self-worth has skyrocketed, said Rochelle, an LSI service coordinator.

"You can just see when you talk to her that she feels better about herself. Before you could tell she wasn't happy. Now she has a glow about her."

Brooke also spent months working with LSI's Brief Intensive Services staff to learn how to make better choices. She didn't fail a single subject last year and even made A's.

"LSI convinced us to have her re-tested, and she was diagnosed with Asperger's and ADHD," said Nicole. "Without LSI I think we would be in jeopardy of Brooke not graduating high school."

Brooke is starting to believe in herself for the first time. And that's a dream come true.



Thank you to Ruth James and Marilyn Woods for donating the flowers for the front of the church.

Special thank you to the garden angel, Ruth, who cleaned and planted the flowers.

Thank you to Richard James for putting the shingles back on and the other spring jobs you did.



My 60th birthday was a hoot because of the cards and gifts and best wishes I received from all of you.

Thanks for the terrific birthday month!
Pr. Nancy



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

Education/ Prayer Team

RECENT PRAYERS

Mary Datschewski
Dale Maddison
Deloris Perry
Rosealee Rhodes
Lyle Spieler
Cora Standal
Audry Steinkamp
Dean Tomlin
Linda Whitlock

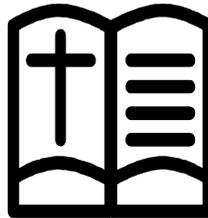


(2014)

Opal Bloomer
Vickie Buckingham
Addie Fausett
Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Gary Hollst
Lynda Johnson
Alyson Karl
Richard McDonough
Pat Mason
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



WELCA Bible Study:

Wednesday, May 13 at 11:00 am.

The Church transforming and reforming The Jewish and Gentile Christians in Acts 15 became the church when they learned to join together as one body by transforming themselves for the sake of the gospel. Their example can inspire today's church.

"... I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord—even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called." Acts 15:16-17

New Bible Study

"Reclaiming the 'C' Word, Daring to be Church Again"; will be every Sun. at 10:30 am. If you would like to join us each Sunday stands on its own, but if you would like to purchase the book they are \$10.00.

Sunday School 10:15 am—10:45 am

Lesson	Teachers
5/3 Jesus Goes To Heaven	Tom & Linda Preston
5/10 Pentecost Final Sunday School lesson for this season.	Gloria Smallwood

Watch for more information on the new format starting in the fall, "HOME HUDDLE".



VBS: "Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord"

We will be worshipping God through music, singing and dancing at Bible School on **June 14, 15, 16 from 9 am to noon** a light lunch will be provided.

We will need helpers as well as snacks and lunch items. Sign-up sheet will be out on May 10th.

Please help where you can with this ministry.



Fellowship Team Ministries

Sunday Brunch



May 17

Senior Fellowship

Pot-luck lunch: Senior Fellowship Luncheon: Weds. May 6 at 11:00 am. Join us for fellowship with a pot luck lunch and fun while we quiz your knowledge about the Bible with a Bible Trivia game.

WELCA

SPECIAL MEETING in May: We will be going out to eat this month for our meeting on May 28. We will be going to the Countryside Kitchen (by the Amish Store in Moravia) for supper. *See below for more details.*

WELCA Bible Study: Weds., 13 at 11:00 am.

(See more info on page 3)

WELCA Bible study will be continued through the summer months.

Looking ahead: WELCA Garage and Bake Sale: Saturday, June 13 from 8 am – 12 pm. We will have baked items for sale this year. Children's Clothes only; Toys, Clothing Accessories such as shoes, purses, scarves, jewelry etc. Set up will be on Fri., June 12th



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

2. Tyler Simmons
6. Gail Wirtjes
11. Mark Mitchell
14. Katie Johnson
20. Karen McCombs
21. Louie Clouse
22. Jenna Clouse
22. Richard Lettington III
26. Gail Clouse
29. Doug Sparks
30. Liz Larson
31. Parker Anthony Hemann

Baptismal Birthdays



5. Stephanie Sparks
5. Jenna Clouse
5. Clark Sherman
5. Leland Sherman
5. Morgan Sherman
7. Jacob Hemann
8. Andy McCombs
8. Mike Duea
11. Richard Lettington III
18. Kedan Philip Johnson
20. Lynn Heaton
26. Bristol Dowdy
28. Gail Clouse
31. Cameron Stocker

Anniversaries

4. Richard & Ruth James
25. Richard & Meghan Lettington



Congratulations:
Annabelle Post
and
Leroy Hogeland
who were married
on April 29, 2015.



COUNTRYSIDE KITCHEN - Family Style Meals May 28 @ 6:45 pm

Special WELCA event for our May meeting; will be going out to eat at the Amish Countryside Kitchen (located by the Amish Store in Moravia) This is a catered event and we have to have 10 or more people committed to attending. Cost \$12.95 per person.

Menu will be: tossed salad, green beans, fried chicken, poor man's steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, homemade noodles, homemade bread or rolls, butter & homemade apple butter, coffee & tea with bumbleberry pie & Dutch apple pie for desert.

Be sure to sign-up on the yellow sheet in the fellowship hall if you are able to go.

We will carpool from the church at 6:30 pm. If you need a ride let us know and we will have someone pick you up.

Council



Council Meeting
NO COUNCIL MEETING
IN MAY



Lawn Mowing: It's that time of year again. We need your help; please sign up to mow the church's lawn. If you do not have a riding lawn mower to do the whole property; we can always use people to help trim around trees and keep the hedges trimmed.

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

Pastor on Vacation: Pastor Reed will be on vacation May 18– 29. She will be around the area for emergencies. You can reach her at (515) 681-0683.

ELCA Synod Assembly May 29-30

Pastor Reed will be attending.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Minutes April 20, 2015

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

Colleen Putnam moved to approve the agenda. Lana Kaldenberg seconded.

Richard James moved to approve the Minutes from February's meeting. Curtis Kelley seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor gave thanks to those who helped on Palm Sunday service when she was ill. Maundy Thursday service was nice, but low numbers. Good Friday's service was well-received by those who attended. *Reclaiming the "L" Word* book study has generated much discussion. *Reclaiming the "C" Word* is the next book study beginning Sunday, April 26, after church. Chapters 1 and 2 are to be discussed. Also discussed was the Community Garden effort. Kay Spieler and Jacob Hemann can answer any questions about this. We are looking for at least four families to plant and tend their own 4x10 garden plot on St. Paul's land.

Treasurer's Report: Given by Anita Simmons, reported January, February, and March were even, and that St. Paul's was keeping pace. Data shows we were in the black \$193.70 in the 1st Quarter.

Committee Reports

Worship: Wednesday Summer Worship Service will be every week, starting Wednesday, May 27th through August 26th. Service will begin at 7:00 pm and end at 8:00 pm. Bring lawn chairs so service can be held outdoors (indoors with inclement weather).

Christian Ed: Home Huddles is the proposed education to replace Sunday School. The idea is to begin faith formation at home, with parents as teachers. Parents would teach a daily lesson using a scripted text that would include teaching children to pray and a discussion of the day's highs and lows. The materials would be created and provided by Pastor Nancy. Once a month, St. Paul's would have an intergenerational study and there would still be adult Bible Studies.

Fellowship: Thrivent money available to reimburse up to \$50 for graduation or confirmation celebrations at St. Paul's. WELCA plans and provides for graduation and Council plans and provides for Confirmation.

Property: Thanks to Richard for mowing the churchyard. Discussion was had about possibly fixing the growing cracks of the parking lot. The idea was dismissed due to cost. Constructing a fire pit in memory of Bekah Shermann is planned. Memorial money will be used to pay for the expenses toward the fire pit. A May 27th completion date is set so the fire pit can be enjoyed during the Summer Outdoor Services. Colleen Putnam motioned to approve a maximum budget of \$500 toward the firepit, and Anita Simmons seconded. Motion carried.

Missions: Over 300 items were donated to the Emergency Office. Don, Karen, and Pastor Nancy took the items to the office. Missions meeting is May 17 at 11:00 am..

Old Business: Worship Committee has requested the Chapel be finished immediately with available funds.

New Business: Marilyn Johnson would like to plant flowering crab trees in memory of Myron Johnson in the churchyard. Colleen motioned to approve. Marilyn seconded. Motion carried.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6.



MISSIONS MEETING: SUNDAY, MAY 17th at 11 AM after Bible Study.



Boxes of Hope Mission: As our mission project for Lent, our congregation gathered 301 items that cannot be purchased with the SNAP card. These items included 42 paper items, 127 personal hygiene products for men & women, 32 cleaning supplies, 28 laundry supplies and 72 baby supply items (674 diapers). Many thanks go to all who contributed to make this mission a great success. Thank you to Pastor Nancy, Karen and Don Niebuhr for moving the items from St. Paul's to the Emergency Assistance office at the Trinity Life Center, where the items may be obtained free of charge.



Congratulations 2015 Graduates



St. Paul's Lutheran Church will be having a reception on Sunday, May 10th after worship to recognize the 2015 Graduates.

High School Graduates:

- Colton Dorpinghaus (Son of Greg & Jani Dorpinghaus)
- Jay Heaton (Son of Wayne & Lynn Heaton / Grandson of Judy Van Polen and the late Bill Van Polen)
- Austin Nielsen (Son of Wayne & Shelly Nielsen)
- Alexis Van Polen (Daughter of Jeff & Michelle Van Polen / Granddaughter of Judy Van Polen & the late Bill Van Polen)

College Grads:

- David Nelson (Son of John & Lise Nelson)
- Leah Raskie (Daughter of Ruth James & Tim Raskie)
- Ben Reed (Son of Pastor Nancy & Martin Reed)
- Philip Andrew Johnson (Son of Nolan Johnson / Grandson of Marilyn Johnson and the late Myron Johnson)
- Riley Sharpe (Son of Ron Sharpe & Brenda Atchison / Grandson of Evelyn Sharpe)



Please let the church office know of any graduates you may have in your family that we can recognize on that Sunday.

COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5.

Discussion was held about automatic e-pay: are we interested? What are the options at different banks? What is the fee for the monthly service? Anita will speak to Dan at First Iowa.

Also, Council talked about the quiet ministry we church members could do by visiting with those people in our community who we haven't seen at church in a while, and those people who just haven't been out and about in a while. We would like a list of people we can visit with.

Open Forum: To be more efficient and effective with Council meetings, a person from each committee should email the Minutes of their meetings to Gloria, who will forward them to all Council members. The Minutes should include the meeting date, time, and what was discussed.

Upcoming Meeting Dates: June 15th, July 26th- Mid-year Congregational Meeting with Council Meeting to follow.
No August meeting, Sept. 21st, Oct. 16th, Nov. ??, Dec 14th

Meeting adjourned with a motion by Gail Clouse and seconded by Kay. Motion carried.
Amanda Thomas, Secretary

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Anita Simmons and Gloria Smallwood

<u>May 3</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Charlie & Gloria Smallwood
	Lector:	Gloria Smallwood
<u>May 10</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Charlie & Gloria Smallwood
	Lector:	Gloria Smallwood
<u>May 17</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Kelley Family
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods
<u>May 24</u> Pentecost	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	????????
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods
<u>May 31</u> Healing Worship	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	????????
	Lector:	????????



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

Pentecost Sunday May 24th: We remember on this day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit dwell with us. We receive God's Spirit through our baptism, and so we are given new life and salvation as the old self, bound by sin is cast aside and the new self, guided by the Spirit, emerges from the waters. You are encouraged to wear the color red on this day is red, as the tongues of fire.

Pentecost Flowers: On May 24 you may bring red flowers, geraniums, in memory or in honor of someone. Please sign-up on the sheet in the fellowship hall.

Weds. Summer Worship will start on May 27th at 7:00 pm. This will be a very simple, relaxed worship where you are encouraged to bring your lawn chairs. We hope to have some of the worship services outside around a campfire (when possible) or/and our outside chapel.

Healing Worship: We will have our 5th Sunday healing worship on May 31st. It will include the laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and individual prayers. All of us experience illness, mental fatigue, and/or spiritual disillusionment in our lives from time to time. Here is an opportunity to present yourself to the Lord and receive the healing God intends for you.

Worship Team Ministries



CHOIR Practice



8:15 am

May 3 Practice

May 10 Practice & Performance

Final Practice: 5/10 will be the last practice for this spring; we will start choir again in the fall.

May 31 BBQ/Pot Luck



Choir BBQ

Sunday, May 31st @ 5:30 p.m.
at the church.

Anyone who has sung with us this year or would like fellowship time with choir members is welcome to come.

Please bring a dish to pass.
Meat will be provided.

WORSHIP MEETING:

**Thursday May 7
at 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 10 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) and 1 pm-3 pm
Saturday. 9 am-12 pm (noon) Closed on Sunday Phone: 932-5984



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.

Oakwood Nursing & Rehab Center May Events: Everyone is invited to the following events:
May 7 @ 10 am Support Oakwood's Aides –Food and Beverages served
National Nursing Home week May 11-15 with special events each day ending with the Community Grill out on
May 15 @ 11:45 am hamburgers & hot dogs with door prizes. Staff Olympics at 2 pm.



Happy Mother's Day!
May 10th



Memorial Day
May 25th

