

Crossings

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

Volume 11 Issue 5

May 2016

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.

I can't believe we are entering the month of May already – shees! My how the days, weeks and months fly by! Prom was here and now is gone - and maybe we anticipate attending confirmations, high school and college graduations – maybe even weddings. Everywhere one looks there are turning points in our lives – the month of May seems to enjoy many of them.

Turning points are often good times to take a moment to reflect on who you are as a child of God and where God is alive in your life.

Confirmation is a turning point event - we publicly express our faith and state unequivocally that we have died in Christ, risen in Christ and believe that, in Christ, we are being made new. Such a declaration reminds us that confirmation is not an ending – but the next step in a life-long journey walking with Jesus through our whole life. We remain called to a life of faithful service, committed to regular worship, friendship and fellowship with other Christians so that we may be strong in faith. Such faith keeps us steady in the midst of the conflicts and challenges of life that will sometimes drop us to our knees.

Confirmation, like graduation, moves us forward into the next phases of our life – those next chapters of life such as getting a degree from college or a technical school, jobs, new adult relationships, moving to a new location – always in the presence of Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Wrapped in the love of Christ, and carried by the non-stop prayers of your family and friends, each of us can continue to look ahead to a future of hope and tremendous possibilities.

These turning points in our lives are also a time of letting go. We let go of the old ways of doing things that no longer work in the new situations: sometimes this means that old relationships change or end because, as we change and grow into deeper and richer human beings, friendships also need to grow. If they don't evolve – they become dormant – because the one consistent reality in daily life is that "change happens". We also let go of old patterns of daily life, maybe old favorite foods, even old preferences in the things we like. Sometimes "letting go" can be painful, sometimes it can be sad, sometimes it can be confusing – but in large and small ways, letting go is life-changing.

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

These turning points are also times of embracing new people, situations, locations, and better ways of being who we are in Christ. New jobs, new places to live, and new people in our lives challenge us to love more deeply, stretch ourselves to learn new things, languages, and cultures, and challenge our world view, maybe even our faith. God is able to walk with you through all of this, even challenges to your faith, and bring you to an ever-deepening faith in Christ, in yourself, and with your family, friends, co-workers, and the strangers you meet each day.

Turning points are the juice, the oil, and the heart of life in Christ. I pray for all folks who are experiencing a turning point, or several turning points, in your life: that you may experience the power and presence of Christ in your life. That you may remember that you are marked by the cross of Christ on your forehead, and that you are called to bring blessing and grace to the people you meet throughout your life. I pray that each of you, equipped for the joys and tribulations of life by such a faith, may embrace life with gusto and hopeful expectation.

Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy

Council Minutes Continued from Page 5

Old Business

Report on property sale- We are waiting on the results of the survey to have the correct legal wording on the Purchase Agreement. Update on the furnace/AC unit: Rick Whistler will contact us in the next few weeks to let us know when he will be installing the new unit.

We also reviewed the A and C Forms to the Synod, noting that there are 84 baptized members at St. Paul's and 76 active members.

Long-term Goals for Congregations: Pastor asked, "Are we okay with the way things are going?" We are small; is that okay? We should reach out to our church family and make a contact to those we haven't seen in awhile. Fellowship will create a list and determine how Council will begin to make those connections, at least 3 to 4 times throughout the year. It was discussed that in the future, we should continue those conversations about yoking with other churches and having money set aside to provide for the health care benefit costs for the next Pastor. We need to have a plan to implement when this occurs.

We also need to replace the money from the Memorial Fund that was borrowed to pay for St. Paul's expenses that could not be met through offering. The amount to be repaid is \$6600. It was determined that \$50 per week from excess budget would go towards repaying the Fund, and that this plan would begin implementation today, April, 17, 2016.

Lana motions to accept the long-term goals, and Dakota seconds. Motion carries.

Council did a walk-about of St. Paul's and its grounds to determine needs.

Meeting adjourned.

Notes submitted by Amanda Thomas-Secretary



Graduation Reception: Join us on May 1 after worship as we honor all our 2016 Graduates.

High School:

Dakota Kelley, parents are Curtis & Stephanie Kelley

Gunner Maupin, parents are Phil & Laura Clouse,
Grandmother is Gail Clouse.

Cameron Stocker, parents are Dan & Julie Stocker,
Grandparents are Larry & Sharon Wilkin

Sarah Woods, parents are Andy & Tanya Woods,
Grandmother is Marilyn Woods.

College: Matthew Raduechel, parents are Darrell & Pam Raduechel





RECENT PRAYERS

Dorothy Bates
Bert
Phil Clouse
Ruth Ella Gardner
Camden Kelsey
Mary Ann Lewis
Lester Rue
Shelly
Greg Tilton
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
Richard McDonough
Pat Mason
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL
Devin Sinclair

Continuing Prayers
Brantley Hemann
Laura Moore
Trisha Raven
Bert Whitlock

In Sympathy
Our sympathy goes out to the families and friends of Martha McGlothen, Jim Haugen, Mike Davis, Dwaine McFarland & Dale Saffells who died in April. Reassure them with the certainty of the resurrection.

**Education/
Prayer Team**

**WELCA Bible Study
May 11 at 11:00 am**
Our Bible study is an exploration of the book of Philippians.
Christian Citizenship 101
Session 3: **Being of one mind**
(Philippians 2:19-4:3)



Christian Ed Meeting:
Thursday, May 12 at 7 pm.
We will be discussing
Vacation Bible School.

**Building Faith Through Family
Home Huddles**
The final section for Faith Building Through Family Huddles will be a bible study on 1st Corinthians 13.4-8a. We will be using several different web links from You-Tube and from a couple of comic strips to use as devices to inspire conversation around the verses.
This material will be sent to you by E-mail on May 3rd.



END OF YEAR PARTY
On Sunday, May 15 we will be having a party before Summer break.

Everyone is welcome to join us for food, fun and games after worship.

Fellowship Team Ministries



Senior Fellowship

We will have our monthly pot-luck lunch on **Wednesday, May 4 at 11 am.**

Let's think Cinco De Mayo and bring Mexican themed foods.

3rd Sunday Brunch



May 15

WELCA

Monthly Meeting: Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 pm.
Our hostess will be Gail Clouse.

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

Thank You to everyone who helped with our **garage sale.**



Birthdays

2. Tyler Simmons
5. Nikko Dobson
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
31. Parker Anthony Hemann

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Anniversaries

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

Baptismal Birthdays

5. Stephanie Sparks
5. Leland Sherman
5. Morgan Sherman
7. Jacob Hemann
8. Andy McCombs
8. Mike Dueda
11. Richard Lettington III
18. Kedan Philip Johnson
20. Lynn Heaton
28. Gail Clouse
- 31.



You're
Invited



**To Cameron Stocker's
Graduation Open House.**
Join Cameron in
celebrating his high school
graduation on
Sat. May 14th
from 2 pm - 5 pm
at the Family Life Center,
1115 A Ave East.

It's a girl!



Congratulations on the birth of a daughter to Matt & Stacey Johnson. Sloane Elizabeth Johnson was born on March 28, 2016. She weighed 5' 12 oz. and was 19" long.

Proud grandparents are Dan & Pat Johnson, Paul Kurimski, Cheryl Kurimski and Sloane's Great-grandparents are Dick & Ruby Johnson, Mildred Rader, Swede & Shirley Hamilton



Council

Council Meeting

No Meeting in May.

Committees will continue with their activities.

Church Office Notes:

Pastor Reed will be at the Synod Assembly on Friday, May 6 and on Sat. May 7th.

Gloria will be out of the office on May 5th and May 18th.



We appreciate the efforts of those who have been keeping the church lawn mowed. Thank you.

If you can help this summer, please sign-up on the sheet for mowing or trimming.

Pastor Nancy's Office Hours: Thursday and Friday

April 17th, 2016

St. Paul's Council Meeting Minutes Summary

Members present: Pastor Nancy, Anita Simmons, Kay Spieler, Lana Kaldenberg, Marilyn Woods, Gail Clouse, Amanda Thomas, Dakota Kelley,

Marilyn motions to approve the agenda. Lana seconds, and the motion carries.

Gail motions to approve February Council Minutes, Lana seconds, and the motion carries.

Treasurer's Report- St. Paul's has a positive balance, as giving has been consistent. The average weekly offering is about \$1577, and the budget requires \$1431 per week. Also, St. Paul's was reimbursed \$4000 from the Edward Jones. It was discussed whether to reinvest this money or set it aside for Needs List. It was approved by consensus to table the issue and leave the money in the account as cash. President Kay Spieler accepts the Treasurer's Report as presented and will file it for audit.

Pastor's Report- Attendance is up, and offering is doing well.

Pastor posed this question: "How can we feel more comfortable sharing how God is active and present in our lives? Could we share a testimonial? Or how we have witnessed?" Pastor may call on Council to share during sermons.

Committee Reports

It was noted that to help meet the needs of St. Paul's, our committees need to function more efficiently and effectively.

Worship: has decided to have one Saturday worship a month during the summer, that day being the first Saturday of each month.. June, July, and August will each have one Saturday sermon. Listen to KIIC for announcements, signs posted at St. Paul's and also at the library for getting the word out about the Sat. worship. They continue to choose hymns and liturgy.

Faith Formation/ Christian Ed: There are a few weeks left in the Home Huddle curriculum before the next begins, which will be focused on Psalms. Fall, Family Huddles will continue but with one lesson per week, which is a change from one lesson per day. Vacation Bible School will be focused on Global Awareness.

The question was asked: "Is there any interest in St. Paul's youth attending Lutheran church camps? There are camps for young children and even for teens. There are at least three Lutheran church camps in Iowa.

Missions: At the next meeting, we will prepare for the upcoming Fall events.

Fellowship: This group wants to schedule a meeting date.

Property: There is a new form to complete to volunteer for the Saturday sermons which are in June, July, and August. Dakota Kelley reported that the committee wants to paint the music room, the hallways, and the large fellowship area. Council discussed that the ceilings should be painted as well as the walls. Lana said she would donate some paint. Gail has a painting that she will be donating soon. A date will be determined to begin painting. Dakota stated that he sent a school-wide email to ACHS students asking for volunteers to help with the painting-he had one reply requesting a date and time. Dakota will create a sign-up sheet and share it with Gloria. The sign-up sheet should include date, time, items to be donated or loaned, like drop cloths, use of ladders, rollers, pans, painter's tape, etc...Gloria will also put a write-up in the upcoming Newsletter.

MISSIONS



Boxes of Hope May Mission: This month we are highlighting this mission for the Emergency Assistance Office.

Items that are in the greatest demand are:

All-purpose cleaning products



Dish soap



Shampoo



Bathroom cleaners



Body wash (not bar soap)



Toilet paper



This Summer we will be have Worship on the 1st Saturday of the Summer months: June 4th, July 2nd and August 6th.

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



Worship Team Ministries



Sunday Worship
9:00 am



CHOIR

- May 1 Practice & performance
- May 8 Practice
- May 15 Practice
- May 22 NO Practice
- May 29 To Be Decided



Choir Bar-B- Q

Sunday, May 30 @ 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.

May Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Marilyn Johnson & Karen McCombs

<u>May 1</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Hemann Family
	Lector:	Gail Clouse
<u>May 8</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Usher/Greeters:	Richard & Ruth James
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods
<u>May 15</u> Pentecost	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Hemann Family
	Lector:	Anita Simmons
<u>May 22</u>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Ushers/Greeters:	Richard & Ruth James
	Lector:	??????
<u>May 29</u> Healing Worship	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Hemann Family
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods



Acolytes

Schedule for May

- May 1** Parker light & put out the candles
Sophie collect communion cups
- May 8** Grayson light & put out the candles
Morgan collect communion cups
- May 15** Sophie light & put out the candles
Parker collect communion cups
- May 22** Morgan collect communion cups
- May 29** Grayson light & put out the candles
Morgan collect communion cups

Pentecost Sunday May 15th: We remember on this day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to 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 15 you may bring red flowers, geraniums, in memory or in honor of someone. Please sign-up on the sheet in the fellowship hall.

Healing Worship: We will have our 5th Sunday healing worship on May 29th. 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.

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

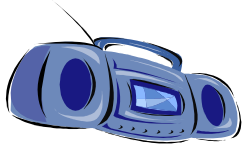
Place Mailing Label Here

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



Church Organ Needed: Paul Peterson is looking for a used Allen church organ in good condition. If you have one or know of one please call Paul @ (641) 757-0186..

Monroe Co. Ministerial Emergency Assistance Office Hours:

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