

Crossings

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

Volume 9 Issue 10

November 2014

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ –

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

All people baptized into Christ are not only brothers and sisters to Christ and to each other, but we all – you, me, and all Christians – are ministers, in Christ's name, to others for the sake of the world. Each of us, in our many daily callings – spouse, parent, friend, student, child, sibling, mentor, teacher, etc – are called to extend the love of Christ to whomever we meet.

One principle of that daily Christian walk is living out of a sense of joy. As I was thinking about this, I came across a paragraph in a neat new book the church bought, "Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook: Fourth Revised Edition" by S. Anita Stauffer. Now I know this sounds stuffy and boring, but I was pleased to become reacquainted with the theology behind everything the Altar Guild folks do. Because so much of this theology also pertains to how the rest of us respond to God's gifts to us.

For example, listen prayerfully to what is written about being ministers of God (pg 10):

Joy is the principle attribute of the ministers of God. Joy is not the same thing as happiness. Rather, this is the immeasurably deep joy of our deliverance from sin and death, the great joy of Christ's incarnation and resurrection. It is the joy of our baptism, the joy of the gospel, the joy of the eucharist. Joy stems from our gratitude for all that God has done and is doing for us. More basically, joy is a natural response to God's presence. The joy of these realities enables work in the altar guild (*or wherever we are called*)[*my words*] to be carried out with a sense of privilege.

To add onto the end of that paragraph by paraphrasing a sentence – "*Whatever we do and wherever we find ourselves, it is ministry – which we do as a form of praise and an expression of joy*". Joyful people are so much easier to be around because they lift our spirits. They naturally embrace us as people beloved of God, and they welcome all as people for whom Christ died.

We here at St. Paul's are blessed by God's grace, unmerited love and mercy. Every week, when we remember our baptism at the baptismal font, we are reminded that we are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection. Every week we receive God's grace and forgiveness when we receive the Body & Blood of Christ at the banquet table. Every morning, we rise to a new day in Christ, and every night we can ask for forgiveness and sleep peacefully in God's presence. How can we not be joy-filled!

Let us remember what we continually receive from God and be a joyful people wherever we find ourselves doing ministry. Through Christ our lives are enriched and we have the joyful privilege of serving Christ by loving the people we meet. Thanks be to God!

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

Sunday School after worship 10:15 am—10:45 am



Nov. 2 **NO** Sunday School

Nov. 9 Jonah and the big fish

Teacher Group A: Tom Preston
Teacher Group B: Linda Preston

Nov. 16 Jesus is Born

Teacher Group A: Jacob Hemann
Teacher Group B: Jessica Hemann



Christmas program practice

Nov. 23 Shepherds tell the good news

Teacher Group A: Stephanie Kelley
Teacher Group B: Gloria Smallwood

Christmas program practice

Nov. 30 **NO** Sunday School

Thanksgiving Weekend

*Note: if your family attends the Weds. Worship, please plan to bring your children to Sunday School on Sundays at 10:15 am.

Please have your children attend all **3** of the **Christmas Program Practices**. The older youth of the congregation will be helping with the larger reading parts.

Christmas Program Practice Dress rehearsal will be Dec. 7th.

The Christmas Programs will be on Sun. 12/14 and Weds. 12/17.

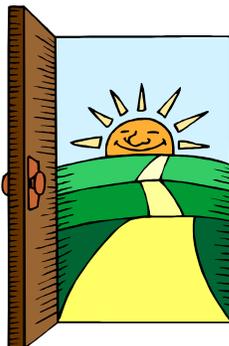
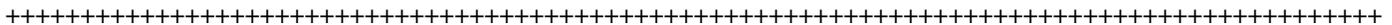


ADULT FAITH FORMATION/BIBLE STUDY

Join us after worship as we study “**Forgiveness**” at 10:15 am—11:00 am

Dates are: Nov. 2 Nov. 9 Nov. 23 Nov. 30

(**NO** Bible Study on Nov. 16th—Brunch)



A Prayer Commitment for the Beginning of the Day

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to you, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly yours, utterly dedicated unto you; and then use us, we pray, as you will, but always to your glory and the welfare of your people, through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.



St. Paul's Shut-ins:

Myron Johnson
Bob & Ruth Johnson

**Education/
Prayer Team**

RECENT PRAYERS

Susan Anderson
Opal Bloomer
Sharon Glenn
Dan Gossett
Nick Griffin
Lynda Johnson
Alyson Karl
Richard McDonough
Martha McGlothen
Gail Maddy
Pat Mason
Kay Mohrfeld
Gerald Mosbey
Rev. Jennifer Obermueller
Amy Pottorff
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL
Carol (Keegle) Reed
Steve Roberts
Mark Russell
Jeff Stoffa

Continuing Prayers

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

A Prayer for Guidance

Direct us, Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



Children's Activity Bags and Bulletins

During **worship services** there will be a Children's sermon time; where the children are invited to come forward for a message from Pastor Reed. There are Activity Packets for the younger children to use during worship. (1st grade and younger) They are found under the information table in the fellowship hall.

We also have available Children's Bulletins for the older children (those who can read) to use during the worship service. These will be on the bulletin stand in the fellowship hall.



WELCA Bible Study:

Join us for our New fall Bible Study on Thursday the Nov. 13th at 11:00 am.

"Transforming Life and Faith Series"

Transformation takes time

Just as Moses and the Israelites gradually came to belief in God and obedience to God's covenant, our Christian beliefs and practices develop over time.

"Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name."
John 20:30-31

Christian Ed Meeting:

Tuesday, November 4th at 8:30 am



Fellowship Team Ministries

3rd Sunday Brunch



November 16

Senior Fellowship

Pot luck lunch will be on Weds. November 5th at 11:00 am.
We will be making a craft this month.



WELCA

SPECIAL DATE November 20 will be our meeting and hostess will be Colleen Putnam.

WELCA Bible Study Nov. 13th at 11:00 am
(See more info on page 3)

ADVENT ANGELS: Remember your special person with a gift on the First Sun. in Advent. (Nov. 30).

Annual Soup Luncheon & Supper Will be on Dec. 11. Candy making will be Dec. 8th.

WELCA Christmas cookie exchange & tea will be Dec. 15th @ 2 pm



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

6. Dax Larson
8. Brad Johnson
12. Alyssa Marie Butler
14. Blair Butler Thomas
15. Tray Tilley
16. Laura Loveland
17. Catherine Benson
23. Lynn Heaton
27. David McCombs
29. Wilmer Blomgren, Jr.

Baptismal Birthdays

- Chuck Clouse
4. Blair Butler Thomas
17. Stryker Lettington
22. Evelyn Sharpe
23. Henry Dustin Dowdy
25. Anne Preston
28. Dax Larson



Anniversaries

14. Myron & Marilyn Johnson
18. Michael & Pamela Butler

CONGRATULATIONS TO MYRON AND MARILYN JOHNSON WHO WILL BE CELEBRATING THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.



Congratulations to Alex Mason and Hannah Ware who were married on September 27, 2014.

Alex is the son of Rhonda Mason and Ron and Betty Hohneke's grandson.



Congratulations to Andrew McCombs and Gina Major who will be united in marriage on Nov. 1, 2014. Celebrating with them will be their parents Linda Watts and Dave and Karen McCombs; and their family Kylie Watts, Garrett Major, Stacy Watts and Martin McCombs.

Council



Council Notices

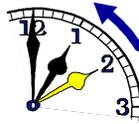
Let us give thanks..



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR
THANKSGIVING Nov. 27 & 28.

Council Meeting: SPECIAL DATE: Monday, November 4 at 6:30 pm

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Daylight Saving Time change: Remember to set your clocks back one hour Sat. night Nov. 1st at 2:00 am.
Fall Back



Lawn Mowing: Thank you to those who volunteer their time to keep the church property grass cut.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Minutes October 20, 2014

Present: Pastor Eric Carlson from the Southeastern Iowa Synod, Pastor Nancy Reed, Amanda Thomas, Colleen Putnam, Richard James, Marilyn Woods, Gail Clouse, Kay Spieler, Anita Simmons Curtis Kelley and Lana Kaldenberg.

Absent: Julie Stocker.

President Amanda Thomas opened the meeting and Pastor Nancy offered a prayer.

The new version of the Constitution for St. Paul's Lutheran Church was discussed by the council for approval.

Pending revisions requested by the Council, the Constitution will be presented to the Congregation.

The Council will meet on the 1st Monday in November and December. The Annual Meeting will be January 25, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted,
Marilyn Woods
Secretary



TREASURERS REPORT:

Year to Date through 9/30/14:

Budget: \$78,561.75

Actual Expenses: \$77,201.46

Offerings & Income: \$72,257.26

Budget vs. Actual expenses +1,360.2

Budget vs. Actual income -6,309.49

Actual income vs. Actual expenses -4,944.20

Demonstrate Your

Thankfulness this Season

Each holiday season, St. Paul's anticipates and relies on a seasonal increase in contributions to help meet our budget as well as do extra ministry. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work now and throughout the year. Please prayerfully consider your end of year donations.



Poinsettia Mission Starting Nov. 2nd.

Poinsettias are wonderful, but wouldn't it be great if they kept on living? That can happen by choosing a poinsettia that the Missions committee provides. Instead of or in addition to buying a real poinsettia plant, you can use those same funds to buy ducklings or chicks for a family in a third world country through the ELCA Global Barnyard; you can buy a gift for a loved one through the ELCA Good Gifts store; provide for families locally through money donated to Helping hands or the Monroe County Emergency Assistance.

Three of the poinsettias will be very large - they are part of this project in which the people of St. Paul's take on a family for Christmas. You have the option of giving presents for the entire family, of for a single member of the family. These family gifts need to be wrapped and returned to the church no later than **Sunday, December 7th.**

Here's how it works: Each poinsettia comes with a gift tag.

1. On the front of the tag, check one or more of the 4 selections offered. (If choosing more than one, tell us how much money goes to each entity).
2. Then at the bottom, write the name of the person for whom you are memorializing or honoring. Also write on the tag what you want us to purchase from the ELCA Good Gifts Store - ducklings, a goat, etc - or if the funds are to be used to buy groceries or given to the Emergency Assistance.
3. Put the card and check in the envelope provided, and deposit them in the Mission's Christmas wrapped box. The missions committee will keep track of the money and send it to the appropriate entity per your instructions.
4. Return the poinsettia to the box/basket provided and we will decorate the Christmas tree with them.

You can shop online for the global gifts at the following link: <https://community.elca.org/ELCAGoodGifts>



Food for Christmas Basket for Helping Hands

We will start to collect food on Sunday, Nov. 23. Items needed are:

- | | | | | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Instant Potatoes | Corn | Jello | Pumpkin | Stovetop Dressing |
| Green Beans | Apple Sauce | Cranberry Sauce | Cake mix | Frosting |
| Fruit cocktail | | Evaporated Milk | Turkey or Chicken Gravy | |

All items need to collected by December 14th.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers!!



Please sign-up to help ring bells on **Thursday, Nov. 20th from 1 pm-7 pm** in one hour shifts at **Hy-Vee** and **Thursday, Dec. 4th from 1 pm—6 pm** at **Jim & Charlie's**. Ninety percent (90%) of funds raised remain in Albia to be disbursed through the Albia Ministerial Emergency Assistance fund.



Mission Task Force Meeting Sunday, Nov. 2 after worship.



Advent Angel

Remember your special person on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14 with a gift. We will open the gifts after worship and on the Dec. 21 at our Christmas Tea bring your final gift and reveal who's Advent Angel you are.

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Gail Clouse & Betty Hohneke

| | |
|---|--|
| <u>Nov. 2</u> All Saints | Worship Assistant: Gail Clouse Ushers/Greeters: Larry & Sharon Wilkin Lector: Sharon Wilkin Acolyte: ????? |
| <u>Nov. 9</u> | Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Ushers/Greeters: Larry & Sharon Wilkin Lector: Sharon Wilkin Acolyte: ?????? |
| <u>Nov. 16</u> | Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Usher/Greeter: ????? Lector: Anita Simmons Acolyte: ???? |
| <u>Nov. 23</u> Christ the King | Worship Assistant: Anita Simmons Usher/Greeter: Lector: Anita Simmons Acolyte: ???? |
| <u>Nov. 30</u> Healing Worship/ Advent Starts | Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Usher/Greeter: ??????? Lector: ??????? Acolyte: ???? |

Worship Team Ministries



CHOIR NOTES

8:15 am

| | |
|---------|-------------|
| Nov. 2 | NO Practice |
| Nov. 9 | Practice |
| Nov. 16 | Practice |
| Nov. 23 | Practice |
| Nov. 30 | NO Practice |



ALL Saints Worship

on Weds. Oct. 29th and on Sun. Nov. 2nd we will be remembering our loved ones, family and friends, who have died with a special candle lighting during worship. We will have an insert with their names; please put the names you would like remembered on the sheet in the fellowship hall.



Prepare for Advent Congregation

Celebration Sunday, November 30th

St. Paul's will be putting up decorations in the sanctuary and the fellowship hall.

Join us for our Hurry up and Wait celebration.



Healing Service: Sunday, November 30

This healing service 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.



Mid-Week Evening Worship : Every Wednesday, at 6:30 pm.

This is a condensed worship with minimal liturgy and communion by intinction.

This is a great opportunity for families that have hectic weekend schedules to come and worship together.

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
www.seiasynod.org
www.augsburgfortress.org



**St. Mary's Albia Election Day Dinner: Tuesday, November 4th
Serving 5:00-7:00 pm**

Thanksgiving Food Drive at Peoples State Bank: bring canned & non-perishable food items to the main bank anytime during the month of November until 11/21.

Community Memorial Service: Please join us in remembrance of those in our community who have gone before us on **Thurs. Nov. 13th at 7:00 pm** at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Albia. Sponsored by Tharp Funeral Home, Sinnott-Piershbacker Funeral Home and Monroe County Hospice.

Albia Ministerial Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship: Will be on Sunday, November 23rd at Trinity United Methodist Church at 7 pm. Please bring an item on the following list to help those in need: diapers, paper towels, toilet paper, shampoo, etc. Each congregations is asked to bring 3 dozen cookies.



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.