

Crossings

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

Volume 12 Issue 11

November 2017

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 Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Psalm 86.12 says, "I give thanks to you, O LORD my God, with my whole heart, and I will glorify your name forever." It is November and we indeed are reminded to be mindful of all that God has given and continues to give us each and every day of our lives.

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated all the gifts of God received through the Reformation. We will remember and give thanks for the saints who have gone before us on Sunday, November 5th, All Saints' Day. And we will count our blessings and ask God for continued courage and wisdom to manage all the gifts God gives us for the furtherance of his kingdom.

So I lift up this poem, this prayer, written by Ted Loder and found on page 39 in his book of prayers, "Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers For the Battle".

Bless What Eludes My Grasp

Lord, so many things skitter through my mind and I give chase to them and hold them up

In a bunch to you, but they go this way and that while I go that way and this . . .
So gather me up instead and bless what eludes my grasp but not yours:

Trees and bees, fireflies and butterflies,
Roses and barbecues, and people . . .

Lord, the people . . . bless the people:

Birthday people, giving birth people, being born people;
Conformed people, dying people, dead people,

Hostaged people, banged up people, held down people;
Leader people, lonely people, limping people;

Hungry people, surfeited people, indifferent people;

First world people, second world people, third world people;

One world people,

Your people

All people. Bless them Lord. Bless what eludes my grasp but not yours.

Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy

Treasurer's Report thru 3rd Quarter 2017

Expenses	\$54,999.60
Offering	-48,568.42
Other income	<u>- 1,936.56</u>
Year to Date Deficit	- 4,494.62



Transfers from land sale funds, Edward Jones—Account & building funds to meet expenses \$4,400.00

YTD average weekly offering: \$1,245.34

Weekly average need for 2017 budget \$1,452.00

Here's another way to look at it:

Our year to date deficit of \$4,494.62 averages to \$115 per week (\$4,494.62/39 weeks).

Taking that \$115 **if just 25 of us gave \$5 more per week**, it would cover that amount. (25 x \$5 = \$125.00)

You can Demonstrate Your Thankfulness this Season by Helping meet our Budget



Hurricanes & Fire Disaster Help Needed

You can still help those in need by donating to Lutheran Disaster Relief through

ELCA Gift Processing Center

P.O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Please indicate on the check memo line where you would like your donation to go:

Hurricane Harvey, US

Hurricane Irma, US

Puerto Rico Hurricane help

California or Montana Fires

or Where needed Most, US

Special Note for Parents, Teachers, Clergy & Educators: At least twice a year, Vermeer offers continuing education courses for lay and clergy and, according to my colleagues in the Monroe County Ministerial Association, the one held this past October was extremely helpful and informative. It was an all-day seminar about youth, technology, and how overuse of technology adversely affects our young people and adults. While I wasn't able to attend, based on their experience, I feel confident in passing on a very helpful, smart, and thoughtful website that could be very helpful to parents, teachers, clergy and educators.

It's CPYU – Center for Parent/Youth Understanding and you can find them on the internet at:

www.cpyu.org. It is Christian based and seems thoughtful with many topics covered. I would be interested in knowing what you think of the site as well. Pr. Nancy



RECENT PRAYERS

Susan Anderson
Nate Baggett
Linda Christensen
Mary Datschefski
Betty Foster
Elaine Haugen
Ryver Lane
Behruz Charibov's Parents
and family
Christopher Malloy
Jaxson Osmundson
Mike Randall
Ashley Reeves
Rick
Susie Smith
Mitch Sullivan
Rachel Thiede
Vanessa

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St. Paul's Shut-ins:

Mary Carder
Ruth Johnson

Continuing Prayers
(2016)

Anthony Allen
Pat & Gerry Anderson
Gene Dobson
Gerry Gillette
Maya Griebel
Wendy Henexson
Richard McDonough-
Cathy Tietje
Osmundson
Leo Oye
Dr. Marridee Randall
Leeta Sanger
Scott Sanger
Lyle Spieler
Greg Tilton
Fred Witte

(2015)

Linda Ulrich Johnson
Ella Teno

(2014)

Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Pat Mason

Continuing Prayers

Brantley Hemann
Laura Moore
Trisha Raven

=====

**Education/
Prayer Team**



WELCA Bible Study: On Advent

Wednesday, November 8 at 11 am.



In November we will continue with the Home Huddle format. The lesson is done each week at home based on the Sunday lectionary.

FAITH FORMATION

Pastor will also base her children's message on that lectionary as well.

We will have a **quarterly "gathering"** with all the families on a Wednesday evening to do a mission project.

This quarter it will be on **November 8 at 5:30 pm** We will be making/decorating cookies for either the food bank or a senior's home.

A meal will be provided by the Kelley family. Hope everyone can join us.



Comforting God, we ask for your peace and love to embrace all the family and friends who mourn the death of

Marilyn Larson who died on Oct. 1,
Mary Carder who died on Oct. 30 and
Hjalmer Lindberg who died on Oct. 19.

May they find consolation in the hope of the resurrection.

500th Anniversary of the Reformation –2017

Roman Catholic – Lutheran Dialogue

The last two sessions of St. Paul's Lutheran and St. Mary's Catholic churches based on the book: *"Declaration On the Way; Church, Ministry and Eucharist"* are on

Nov 2 @ St. Paul's Father Mike leading the class —St. Paul's providing snacks
Nov 9 @ St. Paul's Father Mike leading the class —St. Paul's providing snacks

Fellowship Team Ministries



— **DATE CHANGE** —
BRUNCH
Nov. 26



Senior Fellowship

Pot-luck Luncheon: We will be having our potluck lunch on Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 11 am.

WOMEN of the ELCA

Date Change for Monthly Meeting will be on **THURSDAY, Nov. 16 at 7 pm.** We will be planning our candy/bake sale and soup lunch & supper. Pizza will be provided.

WELCA Bible Study: Weds. , Nov. 8 At 11 am. (See more info on pg 3)



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

8. Brad Johnson
12. Alyssa Marie Butler
14. Blair Butler Thomas
15. Catherine Benson
23. Lynn Heaton
27. David McCombs

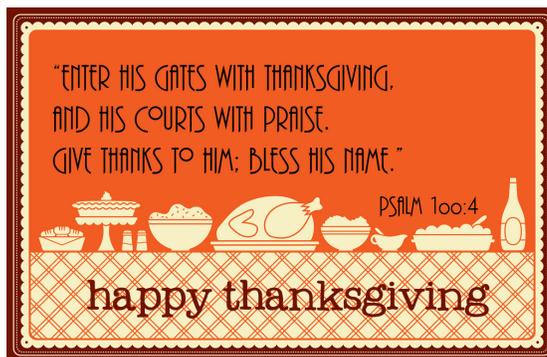


Baptismal Birthday's

- Chuck Clouse
4. Blair Butler Thomas
17. Stryker Lettington
22. Evelyn Sharpe
25. Anne (Preston) Jenkins

Anniversaries

1. Andrew & Gina McCombs
18. Michael & Pamela (Wirtjes) Butler



**Set your clocks back 1 hour
Saturday night on Nov. 4.**



Congratulations to Craig & Amberlynn Sherman on the birth of their daughter, Lalia Elizabeth Lee, born Oct. 12 at 8:04 am. She is 7 lbs. 3 oz.. Grandparents are Phil & Laura Clouse and Great-Grandma is Gail Clouse

**Church Office will be
closed Nov. 22-24.**

Council



No Council Meeting in November.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2017

Present: Gail Clouse, Stephanie Kelley, Pastor Nancy Reed, Anita Simmons, Karter Spieler, Kay Spieler, Amanda Thomas, Marilyn Woods
Absent: Richard James, Ruth James

Acceptance of Agenda: Marilyn motions to approve; Stephanie seconds. Motion carries.

Approval of the Minutes: Gail motions to approve the September Council Minutes; Marilyn seconds, and the motion carries.

Treasurer's Report: Transfers from land sale funds, Edward Jones Account & building funds to meet expenses was \$4,400.00. The money borrowed from these accounts needs to be repaid. Marilyn motions to approve the report as presented, Karter seconds. Motion is approved.

Committee Reports

Worship: St. Paul's will be having two services on Sunday, December 24th. There will be the regular AM worship service on Sunday, December 24th, as well as a Christmas Eve PM service that evening. Karen will play at the AM service, and Veronica will play music at the PM service.

Advent services will be held at 6:30 PM on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Thursdays in December.

Christian Ed: The adults will be performing the Christmas program for the Church this year.

Fellowship: Always great!

Missions: We will be supporting 3 charities this year: Albia Ministerial, Lutheran World Relief and Monroe Co. Nest Program. (We will not be adopting families this year). We will also be ringing bells for Salvation Army at Jim & Charlie's on Dec. 2 and Dec. 22.

Property: Richard fixed the drain in the master tub at the parsonage. A new dehumidifier is needed at the parsonage; Kay makes a motion; Gail seconds; council approves the purchase of a new dehumidifier.

The bushes at the edge of the driveway of the church need trimmed back now, before it's too cold. Ask Richard if he will help get the bushes and the hedges trimmed. Karter and Mike Spieler will help.

Memorial: This group needs to meet again to finalize some decisions. Team members include Larry Wilkin, Colleen Putnam, and Lana Kaldenberg.

Old Business: The weather has turned too cold to paint; we will revisit painting the chapel in the Spring.

New Business: 2018 Budget; We have studied the budget and determined it's as bare bones as we can get. Kay motions to approve the proposed budget for 2018-19. Marilyn seconds. All vote in favor; motion carries.

We discussed filling the empty spot on council, as well as filling Karter's spot when he heads to college next Fall. As is written in our Constitution, we need 10 members on council. We discussed looking at having a certain percentage of active members be the requirement for council, instead of 10 members. Also, we talked about encouraging more men participate in council, as it currently seats just two.

Calendar: No meeting in November and December.

Meeting adjourned

Minutes submitted by Amanda Thomas, Secretary

Mission Task Force



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

Items that are in the greatest demand are:



© Can Stock Photo

All-purpose cleaning products & Bathroom cleaners

Dish soap

Laundry Detergent

Toilet paper

Men & Women Deodorant

Toothpaste

Shampoo

Body wash (not bar soap)



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



REGGIE'S SLEEPOUT UP-DATE



More than a thousand participants planned to spend the night outdoors for the 12th annual Reggie's Sleepout. For the first time in 12 years, the IHYC had to send campers home after just a few hours. In the past, participants have slept outside despite rain and snow, but this year, organizers drew the line at lightning. Participants evacuated Drake Stadium for the field house just after 6 p. m. — though a few teams draped tarps over the cardboard forts in an attempt to preserve their creations. As of Oct. 30 a total of \$123,000 was donated.

Yash Saboo and Behruz Charibov were there at Drake and raised over \$1,000.00. They are part of World Link, a group of 34 highly motivated young people from 19 different countries living in Iowa and who are trying to make a difference one person at a time. With Yash and Behruz funds, World Link almost met their goal for the Reggie's Sleep Out event: \$2952.15 of \$3,000 goal.

Special thank you to everyone at St. Paul's Lutheran Church who helped us raise the funds that we gave to the Reggie's Sleep Out event. We really appreciate it. Yash & Behruz.

+++++

Mark you calendars for our December mission project dates:



POINSETTIA MISSION

On Dec. 3 you will be able to help decorate a tree with a poinsettia. The charities that we chose for your support this year are: Monroe Co. Emergency Assistance, Lutheran World Relief and Monroe County Nest Program.

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 3 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.
3. Put the card and your check/money 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. Put your poinsettia on the Christmas tree in the fellowship hall.



**VOLUNTEER
BELL RINGERS
NEEDED!**

Ring a bell...Take a Stand Help Others



Please sign-up to help ring the Salvation Army Bells at **Jim & Charlie's on Saturday, Dec. 2 from 9 am—6 pm and again on Friday, Dec. 22 from 1 pm—6 pm** in one hour shifts. Ninety percent (90%) of funds raised remain in Albia to be disbursed through the Albia Ministerial Emergency Assistance fund.

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Gloria Smallwood

<u>Nov. 5</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	???????
	Lector:	Gail Clouse
<u>Nov. 12</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	???????
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods
<u>Nov. 19</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	???????
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods
<u>Nov. 26</u>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Ushers/Greeters:	???????
	Lector:	Anita Simmons

Worship Team Ministries

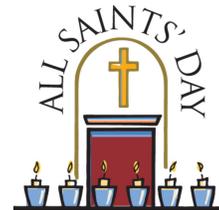


Nov. 5	Practice
Nov. 12	Practice
Nov. 19	Practice
Nov. 26	<u>NO</u> Practice



Schedule for October

Nov. 5	Parker light & put out the candles Sophie collect communion cups
Nov. 12	Grayson light & put out the candles Morgan collect communion cups
Nov. 19	Nikko light & put out the candles Lydia collect communion cups
Nov. 26	Sophie light & put out the candles Parker collect communion cups



ALL Saints Worship will be on Nov. 5.

We will be remembering our loved ones, family and friends, who have died with a special candle lighting during worship.



After Brunch!

Prepare for Advent Congregation Celebration

Sunday, November 26th

St. Paul's will be putting up decorations in the sanctuary and the fellowship hall after our monthly brunch. Join us for our Hurry up and Wait celebration.



Advent Evening Worship services will be held at 6:30 PM on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Thursdays in December. (12/7, 12/14 & 12/21) We will be doing the Holden Evening Prayer Service.

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

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE OFFICE HOURS: Monday 9:30 –11:30 am & 1-3 pm
Wednesday 10 am—Noon & 1—3 pm Friday 9 am—Noon



WEB SITE: Check out St. Paul's Web site at <http://www.splalbia.org>.

You will find our newsletters, calendar and recipe. Please send the office anything you would like to share on our web site.



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.



Special Thanksgiving Offering will be taken on Sunday, November 19 for the Albia Ministerial. The funds donated with this offering will be used to help those that are less fortunate in Monroe County. (There will not be a Ecumenical Thanksgiving worship this year.)

St. Mary's Albia Election Day Dinner:
Tuesday, November 7th
Serving 5:00-7:00 pm
Country Store from 9 am—7 pm.

