

# Crossings

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

Volume 13 Issue 11

November 2018

## 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

Grace and peace to you, my sisters and brothers in Christ –

I find this time of year to be a long, loving caress of God's grace. As we move into a more contemplative time of year, we are directed towards several marks in the Christian life: Reformation Sunday, All Saints' Day, Election day, Thanksgiving, Christ the King Sunday, Advent, Christmas, and New Year's Day. That's quite a yearly journey! I hope you make time to mark these special days with your presence, your attention, and your desire to grow in your relationship with God and your community of faith. Let's see if I can lift up each one for you to think about:

**Reformation Sunday:** The Sunday we celebrate the beginning of a great reformation of the church universal begun by Martin Luther in 1517 and continuing through this present day. Romans 6:4 says: "*Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.*" How has God been shaping and reforming you in newness of life? What areas would you like to see God active in your life?

**All Saints' Day:** We remember all the sisters and brothers in Christ – loved ones, friends, mentors – who have been a part of our daily reformation in Christ. We remember that we are part of an even greater community in Christ, "the cloud of witness", and that daily each of us is a witness/ saint. The writer of Hebrews, 12.1 says, "*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us*". God continues to reform us to be more Christ-like so we may meet our daily challenges with courage and conviction.

**Election Day:** I know this is a secular event. It's a day where we put our Christian beliefs into practice by going to the polls and voting. To cast our vote is important as a citizen in this wonderful country; it is important to voice our cares and concerns through a legal ballot. Every sphere of human life and responsibility is within the embrace of Christ, and voting is one more way we can express our faith in ways that hopefully furthers God's kingdom.

**Thanksgiving Day:** Is also a secular holiday. It is important, as a nation, to be reminded of our blessings. As Christians, I hope that every day is a Thanksgiving Day in which, not only do we lift our thanks and praise to God, but we also serve God by sharing with others the gifts we have received.

**Christ the King Sunday:** the end of the church year. This day reminds us of who *we* are, (God's creation), and *whose* we are (God's children for whom he died and rose again).

Christ is our King – he alone obtained the victory over the power of death to separate us from God. Christ our King provides all people access to God’s kingdom through the cross.

The 4 Sundays of Advent: Advent is the 1<sup>st</sup> season of the church year. We spend it in a “hurry-up-and-wait” mode. We prepare our homes, our classrooms, our families, ourselves for the arrival of the King of kings and Lord of lords – Jesus Christ - whose birth is celebrated on Christmas. We need this time to prayerfully consider God’s love that comes down to us; the hope for the alcoholic, hungry, hurried, and hopeless; the joy of being in God’s presence; and God’s peace that comes when we trust Jesus.

Christmas: Well, this is the culmination of the Advent season – Jesus comes down to us in a manger as a baby! Vulnerable, weak, and dependent on his Heavenly Father and earthly parents. He comes to us to all God calls him to do in order that we might know the height, width, and depth of God’s love for us – all the way to the cross.

New Year’s Eve/Day: Again, a secular holiday. For Christians, this is a terrific day to close out the old year: by forgiving hurts caused by others; forgiving yourself; and for receiving healing and forgiveness by renewing your commitment to Christ by attending a healing worship service.

Be open to the movement of God’s Spirit in your life during the next 2 months. God comes to us – God continues to call us by name. Are you listening?

Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy



First Confirmation Class will start on  
Weds. Nov. 7 from 6:00—7:30 pm  
Class on Nov. 28 from 6:00—7:30 pm  
(Special date because of Thanksgiving.)

This year they will be doing special readings/skits and worship participation during Advent & Lent as well as through- out the year.

**November Service Project:** The class will be writing thank you notes to our local firemen, emergency responders and law enforcement. They will be baking cookies to go with their cards of thanks after worship on Nov. 11. Everyone is invited to join us.



**St. Paul's Shut-ins:**

Ruth Johnson

**Education/  
Prayer Team**

**RECENT PRAYERS**

Nate Baggett  
Harold Benson  
Helen Champe  
Tim Cox  
Mark Dreier  
Gary & Mary Egbert  
Clint Johnson  
Shari Kisner  
Shara McDonough  
Dakota Miller  
Carol Newhard  
Shirley Patrick  
Karen Pottoff  
Mary Lou Rogers  
Samantha Sabovitch  
Misty Smith  
Sam Smith  
Carl Witte  
Dorcas Wolfe  
Steve Wynn  
**(2017)**  
Susan Anderson  
Eleanor Anderson  
Donny Ballard  
Jim & Linda Bills  
Jerry Carr  
Linda Christensen  
Tony Daggett  
Mary Datschefski  
Betty Foster  
Ryver Lane  
John Pasuit  
Harlan Pierson  
Greg Rickie  
Sharon Rickie  
Suzie Smith  
Ron Swanson

**Continuing Prayers**  
**(2016)**

Pat & Gerry Anderson  
Gene Dobson  
Maya Griebel  
Richard McDonough  
Leo Oye  
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL  
Leeta Sanger  
Scott Sanger  
Lyle Spieler

**(2015)**

Linda Ulrich Johnson  
Ella Teno

**(2014)**

Sharon Glenn  
Nick Griffin  
Pat Mason

**Continuing Prayers**

Brantley Hemann  
Laura Moore  
Trisha Raven

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**WELCA Bible Study:**  
**Weds.—Nov. 14 at 11 am**  
**Practices of Prayer**



God of Comfort –  
We pray for the  
family and friends  
and all who mourn  
the death of

Dean Tomlin–  
Brandon Tomlin Grandfather  
Janet Jenkins  
Doris O'Brien  
May the peace and hope of the  
resurrection comfort them in the  
days and months ahead.

**Home Huddle Faith Formation**



Encourage the children to do the Children's  
Bulletin Bible lesson each week at home on the up-  
coming Sunday. Pastor will base her children's  
message on that lectionary as well.

**FAITH FORMATION**

## Fellowship Team Ministries



**NOV. 18**



### Senior Fellowship

**Pot-luck Luncheon:** Wednesday, Nov. 7 at 11 am.  
Join us to enjoy good fellowship & great food.

### WOMEN of the ELCA

**WELCA Date Change & Special Supper:** Thurs. Nov. 15 at Carol McClure's home. We will meet here at the church to car pool to her home at 6:30 pm. Her address is: 5882 Hwy 34. She will be providing us with supper.

**WELCA Bible Study: Weds. , Nov. 14 At 11 am.** (See more info on pg 3)

**St. Paul's Soup Lunch & Supper:** Thurs. Dec. 6.  
It is that time already; please help where you can with bringing food items or help working that day. Sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall.



## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Birthday's

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



### Baptismal Birthday's

4. Chuck Clouse
17. Blair Butler Thomas
22. Stryker Lettington
25. 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. 3.**



Have you noticed the new lighting in the sanctuary?? Did you notice it is so quiet with out the buzzing of the fluorescents ? Michael Thomas did an awesome job changing the sanctuary over to LED lights. He will be continue to do the rest of the lights in the rest of the church in the next few weeks. Great job Michael.



# Council

Council Meeting November 18 after worship.



**Church Ground up-keep:** we are just about done for the season, but we could still use the grass to be cut and trimming done before the snow flies. Please sign-up if you can help.



## Christmas Road Trip to Pella Monday, November 19

St. Paul's ladies are planning to go on a road trip to Pella to see their Christmas decorations and participate in some of their festivities.

During the day you can see the Festival of Trees at the Pella Opera House. You can also do the historical village Christmas walk and see the Grand Christmas displays throughout the 22 historical buildings.

That evening there is the lighting of the tree and you can stroll around the square and enjoy lavishly decorated stores and their delicious Christmas treats. There is a sign-up list in the fellowship hall to find out who would like to go and what time you would want to go: all day into the night – day only – night only. We would like to car pool from the church. Times to be set after we find out would will be able to attend and when. What a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. May even get some of you gift shopping done.

**WELCA Cluster 9 Fall Gathering.** Great day had by all. Thank you to Anita, Colleen & Joan for all your help.



# MISSIONS



## 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**

**Toilet paper**

**Men & Women Deodorant**

**Body wash (not bar soap)**

**Female Hygiene items**

**Laundry Detergent**

**Toothpaste**

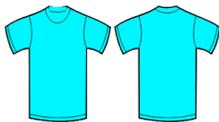
**Shampoo**

**Diapers**

**Kleenex tissues**



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



**Thrivent Action Team T-Shirts:** Please sign up if you would like to have a Thrivent Action Team t-shirt. Put down the size you will need. We will be doing another mission with Thrivent in December.

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### **Nov. 4 Special disaster relief offering for Marshal town**

The impact is extensive, with significant damage to buildings and the businesses they housed in the downtown area, a direct hit to the Lennox plant and the devastation of neighborhoods housing much of the immigrant community that has settled in Marshalltown as well as community members with limited financial resources. Over 500 homes were damaged. Many are no longer habitable because of the structural damage.

More help is needed...and will be for months, even years to come

This storm has lasting implications for the entire Marshalltown community and their economic base. A **"Rebuild Marshalltown" Foundation** has been established. What is needed most from people interested in helping through the ELCA are funds that can be directed to assist the most vulnerable in the community. You can give online to tornado relief. Or you can send a **check to the Southeastern Iowa Synod Center for Ministry**. **When sending a gift, please mark it for "Tornado Relief."**

### **Winter Clothing for SCICAP Children in Monroe County**

**October 7 through November 14**



We want to provide warm Winter clothes to children in Monroe County.

We will be working with the SCICAP office. They told us there is a great need for coats, boots, gloves and hats.

We will be collecting the funds/money to purchase these items in the sizes, provided to us by SCICAP.

**Here is how it works:**

1. Put your donation in an envelope that has a cut out of the item you would like to help purchase attached.
2. Tape the cut out on the window display.
3. Write your name on the envelope, so your donation will be added to your year end financial statement.
4. Put the envelope in the decorated coffee can.



**VOLUNTEER BELL RINGERS NEEDED!**

*Ring a bell...Take a Stand Help Others*



We will be ringing Bells on Dec. 8 at Hy-Vee from 9:00 am- 7 pm.

## Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Karen McCombs & Marilyn Woods

<b><u>Nov. 4</u></b> All Saints	Worship Assistant: Gail Clouse Ushers/Greeters: Ruth & Richard James Lector: Gail Clouse
<b><u>Nov. 11</u></b>	Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Ushers/Greeters: Marilyn Johnson & Evelyn Sharpe Lector: Florence Heacock
<b><u>Nov. 18</u></b>	Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Ushers/Greeters: Tom & Linda Preston Lector: Grayson Kelley
<b><u>Nov. 25</u></b> Christ the King	Worship Assistant: Anita Simmons Ushers/Greeters: ???OPEN?? Lector: Nikko & Lydia Dobson

## Worship Team Ministries



Everyone is invited to join us as we share God's message of grace and salvation through music.

### **Sunday at 8:15 am**

Nov. 4	<b>NO Practice</b>
Nov. 11	Practice
Nov. 18	Practice
Nov. 25	<b>NO Practice</b>



### Schedule for November

<b>Nov. 4</b>	<b>Nikko light &amp; put out the candles Lydia collect communion cups</b>
<b>Nov. 11</b>	<b>Sophie light &amp; put out the candles Parker collect communion cups</b>
<b>Nov. 18</b>	<b>Eli light &amp; put out the candles Grayson collect communion cups</b>
<b>Nov. 25</b>	<b>Lydia light &amp; put out the candles Nikko collect communion cups</b>



*After Brunch!*

### Prepare for Advent Congregation Celebration

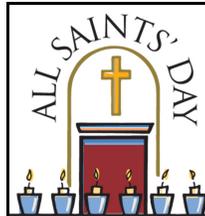
Sunday, November 25

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 6:00 PM  
Wednesday  
Dec. 5—Dec. 12—Dec. 19

We will be doing the Holden Evening Prayer Service.



**All Saints Sunday:** On November 4 we will be remembering all of God's Saints in our prayers and with a special candle lighting.

### **Altar Guild**



**Ministry for 2019:** If you would like to help set-up communion and decorate the church; we have openings on altar guild for next year. Please sign-up if you would like to help. If you feel you are no longer able to serve in this ministry, please cross your name off.

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](http://www.elca.org)  
[www.seiasynod.org](http://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

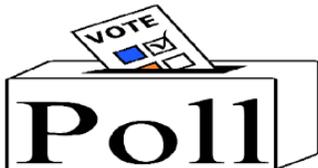


**WEB SITE:** Check out St. Paul's Web site at <http://www.splalbia.org>.

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.



St. Paul's will be the polling place on Election Day Tuesday, November 6 from 7 am-9 pm.



**St. Mary's Election Dinner November 6 from 5-7 pm.**  
More details on poster in church entry.



NOVEMBER 4, 2018