

Crossings

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

Volume 9 Issue 11

October 2014

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Friends in Christ,

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

Fall is my favorite season. The cooler temps, the shorter days, the smells of ripening corn, the colors of mums and leaves – it all puts me in a contemplative mood. Even though my calendar is busier than ever, I find myself taking time to breathe deeply and consider the blessed life I am living.

Maybe it is because I am, "maturing" like the fall apples, but I find each day is a time for life reflection. Even though I am busy, part of my brain seems alive in a state of contemplative pause; giving thanks for the people I meet, the town I live in, my colleagues I work with and most of all, the people of St. Paul's. I find myself to be more "awake", more consciously alive.

I am surrounded by people who take their faith and the talents God gives them very seriously; they struggle to make priorities according to God's purpose for them – and they try to live in ways that convey God's Spirit of love and sacrificial giving in the large and small ways of daily life. Individually, our words, actions, and decisions may not matter much in the larger scheme of life and time; but, cumulatively, they matter greatly.

Unlike George Bailey in the movie, "It's a Wonderful Life" we cannot know the impact individual Christians have on others, locally or globally. We are not God – we do not have the luxury of omniscience. We don't have to – God is omniscient and we can have faith in this loving God to have our best interests at heart, even if we don't see the whole picture. So we can go to bed each night, asking for and receiving God's forgiveness "for things done and things not done", words spoken and words we should NOT have said – knowing God's grace will forgive us and allow us to rise the next morning to serve again. God makes our ordinary lives extraordinary in ways we cannot possibly imagine.

Given one day-at-a-time, let us relax a bit and enjoy truly being alive in Christ Jesus. Take in the air we breathe, the sights and sounds, touch the hand of a person in need of friendship or comfort, and let gratitude and humility find daily expression in joy. Write your senator or congressperson, tell people you love them, appreciate them, notice their gifts, and tell everyone how grateful you are for their presence in your life. And listen, listen, and listen some more. They matter - you matter – long after we all are dead and gone – we will still matter to God. And for that, and for all of you – I give God thanks and praise.

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



We are excited as we will be able to have 2 separate classes this year:

GROUP A—1st grade to 3rd grade (5 students will be in this group)

GROUP B—Pre-school (3 yr old) to Kindergarten (7 students will be in this group)

Oct. 5 Ruth Teacher Group A: Richard James

Teacher Group B: Ruth James

Oct. 12 Food for Daniel Teacher Group A: Tom Preston

Teacher Group B: Linda Preston

Oct. 19 Fiery Furnace Teacher Group A: Cameron Stocker

Teacher Group B: Carson Stocker

Oct. 26 Daniel in the lions Den Teacher Group A: Meghan Lettington

Teacher Group B: Brooke Sparks



During the **worship service** there will be a Children's sermon time; where the children are invited to come forward for a message from Pastor Reed. There is Activity Packets for the younger Group B children to use during worship. We also have available Children's Bulletins for the older Group A children to use during the worship service. These will be found in the fellowship hall on the bulletin stand.

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

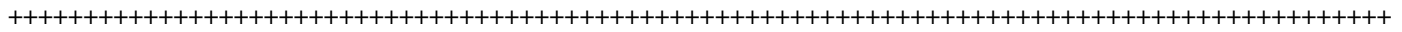


ADULT FAITH FORMATION/BIBLE STUDY

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

Dates are: Oct. 5 Oct. 12 Oct. 26

(NO Bible Study on 19th—Brunch)



Up-coming Cool stuff:

The ELCA Church wide Bishop has asked for input from all the congregations regarding a document called, "The Use and Means of Grace: A Statement on the Practice of Word and Sacrament."

It is not a rule book, it is not a social statement. It is a small book which tries to encapsulate generally held practices of the ELCA around the use of Word and Sacrament – which primarily means who God is and how we encounter God through the Word and the sacraments.

In particular, Bishop Eaton is asking for comments around how folks in the congregations understand Holy Communion.

So I will offer this in an Adult Forum following our Bible Study on "Forgiveness".

I hope you will consider attending. Pr. N



St. Paul's Shut-ins:

Myron Johnson
Bob & Ruth Johnson

**Education/
Prayer Team**

RECENT PRAYERS

Susan Anderson
Larry Belt
Mark Dreier
Sharon Glenn
Nancy Goodsman
Nick Griffin
Alyson Karl
Richard McDonough
Martha McGlothen
Gail Maddy
Pat Mason
George Mosbey
Rev. Jennifer Obermueller
Amy Pottorff
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL
Carol Reed
Steve Roberts
Mark Russell
Terry Simmons
Christy Taggitt
Tonya Woods

Continuing Prayers

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

In Sympathy: Our sympathy goes out to the family, friends and all who mourn the death of Hilda Felton, who died on September 16, 2014.

Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Denny Ryan who died on September 11, 2014.

Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Nicole (Dinneen) Conley who died on September 24, 2014.

May all who mourn be reassured by the certain hope of the resurrection.

**Christian Ed Meeting:
Tuesday, October 14th at 8:30 am**

Food for thought

Life left to God
Will bring a greater yield
Of golden harvest and of ripened field
Than all the weary plannings of thy soul
Can force to be, or strength of will control;
Oh, trust a Power that must bring good from all,
And leave thy life to God!



WELCA Bible Study:

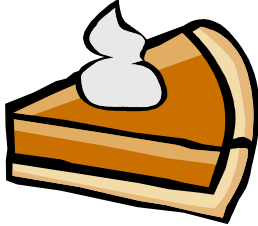
Join us for our New fall Bible Study on Thursday the Oct. 9th at 11:00 am.

Transforming Life and Faith

A new marriage, a new child, a new job, a new home: most of us recognize how our lives are changed by these experiences. In Transforming Life and Faith, we will consider how our lives and our faith journeys are transformed by the events we experience and the people we meet. In both the Old Testament and New Testament, and especially in Acts of the Apostles, we will read about people who have life-changing experiences: Paul on the road to Damascus, Moses in the wilderness of Midian, Lydia praying by a river in Macedonia, an Ethiopian man traveling from Jerusalem to Gaza. We will watch them turn to and with God as their minds, hearts, and daily lives are altered. And we will reflect on the ways we, too, have been and will be transformed and called by God to serve God's mission in the world.

Fellowship Team Ministries

3rd Sunday Brunch



October 19

Senior Fellowship

Lunch will be on Weds. October 1 at 11:00 am.
We will be playing card Bingo this month. Please bring a white elephant item for a prize.



WELCA

September meeting will be Oct. 24th at 6:30 pm. Our hostess will be Gail Clouse. Please attend as we will be drawing for Advent Angels.

WELCA Bible Study Oct. 9th at 11:00 am

(See more info on page 3)

ADVENT ANGELS: We invite all the women of St. Paul's to participate in this yearly activity. We will be drawing for a specific individual this year. More "how to join the fun" information on page 6.



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

2. Stacy Johnson
6. Cody Simmons
8. Charles Smallwood
8. Laura Clouse
12. Quentin Lee Butler
14. Lana Kaldenberg
14. Tonya Tangie
16. Doris Patton
16. Pamela Butler
19. Cathy Ray
20. Martin Reed
23. Marilyn Woods
23. Dave Larson
29. Clark Michael Matthew Sherman

Baptismal Birthdays

8. Steve Larson
11. Julie Stocker
12. Joyce Tangie
12. Mary Ann (Preston) Hatfield
13. Isaac Dowdy
17. Jenah(Duea) Smith
26. Ryan Preston
27. Richard James
27. Royce Foster
28. Anita Simmons
28. Raychael Tilley Phillip Clouse



Anniversaries

13. Kara & Brandon Tomlin
20. Matt & Stacey Johnson
31. Craig & Amber Lynn Sherman



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.

Council



Council Notices



Property Task Force meeting:
Monday, October 6 at 6:00 pm.

Council Meeting: Monday, October 20 at 6:30 pm with food will be provided. Pastor Eric Carlson will be in attendance. Constitution up-date will be our main focus.



Constitution Task Force Meeting:
Thursday, Oct. 2 at 6:00 pm



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

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Minutes September 15, 2014

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

Vice President Gail Clouse opened the meeting and asked for a prayer from Pastor Nancy Reed.

The minutes were approved with a motion from Julie Stocker and were seconded by Colleen Putnam. Motion carried.

Anita Simmons gave the Treasurer's Report. Colleen Putnam moved it be placed on file for audit. Kay Spieler seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

Pastor's Report:

The council will meet in October with Asst. to the Bishop Rev. Eric Carlson to discuss the Constitution. We need to look at the congregation's giving. We need more to meet our expenses.

Committee Reports:

Worship: Wednesday Evening Services are beginning on September 17th.

Missions: The free spaghetti dinner was a success.

Property: Possible sale of unused church land.

New Business:

Budget

Nominations are needed for Council vacated by Julie Stocker.

Old Business:

Constitution update

Disaster and Child Abuse Policies are needed.

Calendar:

Wednesday Evening Worship September 17th at 6:30

Pastor in Iowa City on September 18th

Pastor will attend the Fall Leadership Conference September 28th to 30th in Davenport.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

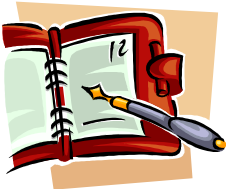
Marilyn Woods, Council Secretary.



Missions Meeting: after worship Oct. 5th.
Discussions regarding fall missions:
Food for Christmas Basket and Poinsettia missions.

Community Free Meal Thank You

Thank you to everyone who donated food, cooked the food, served the food and helped with set up and clean up. We served about 87 people. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship. What a wonderful way to grant God's Grace to our community.



OUT OF OFFICE

Pastor Nancy will be gone from October 23—27 on vacation to celebrate with her family Martin's birthday.

Gloria will be in and out of the office (not her usual hours) the week of Oct. 29—Nov. 5.



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.

THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the funeral lunch for Hilda Felton.



Advent Angel

All the women of St. Paul's is invited to participate in this fun WELCA activity. The first 3 Sundays in Advent (Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14) we remember our special person with a gift. We open them after worship and on the 4th Sunday, at our Christmas Tea (Dec. 21), you bring your gift and reveal who's angel you are.

We have a hint sheet for everyone to fill out with your likes, interests etc. So your Advent Angel has some ideas.

Fill out the sheet, return to Gloria Smallwood by Oct. 23rd. We will draw names at that WELCA meeting (10/23). (If you are unable to attend the meeting, we will also draw on Sunday the 26th after worship.

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Gail Clouse & Karen McCombs

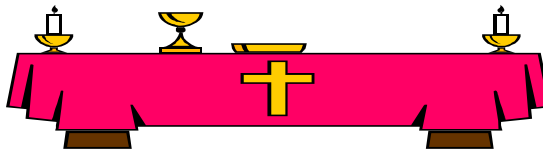
<u>Oct. 5</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	John & Lise Nelson
	Lector:	Gail Clouse
	Acolyte:	?????
<u>Oct. 12</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	John & Lise Nelson
	Lector:	???????
	Acolyte:	???????
<u>Oct. 19</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Usher/Greeter:	Charlie & Gloria Smallwood
	Lector:	Gloria Smallwood
	Acolyte:	????
<u>Oct. 26</u> Reformation Sunday	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	Charlie & Gloria Smallwood
	Lector:	Gloria Smallwood
	Acolyte:	????



Re-scheduled Altar Guild Meeting on Tuesday,

October 14 at 6:30 pm

We encourage everyone who is on the Altar Guild to please attend this meeting. We will be discussing the changes that are involved for the prepping of communion for the new Wednesday worship.



Worship Team Ministries



CHOIR NOTES

8:15 am

Oct. 5	Practice
Oct. 12	Practice
Oct. 19	Practice
Oct. 26	Practice & Performance



Reformation Day this year will be celebrated on October 26th. We encourage everyone to wear red that Sunday.

October 31st is the anniversary of Luther's posting his Ninety-five Theses for debate concerning the sale of indulgence. In the tradition of St. Augustine before him, Luther's intent was to spur debate for the purpose of bringing the church back to its true roots – scripture, faith, and grace. This is the only date on the church year calendar that is unique to Lutherans.



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

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

Note: in the Book of Concord, in a discussion of the Large Catechism regarding when to worship: "But this, I say, is not restricted, as it was among the Jews, to a particular time so that it must be precisely this day or that, for in itself no one day is better than another. Actually, worship ought to take place daily. However, because this is more that the common people can do, at least one day a week ought to be set apart for it.

At whatever time God's Word is taught, preached, heard, read, or pondered, there the person, the day and the work is hallowed, not on account of the eternal work but on account of the Word that makes us all saints."

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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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. Peter's Fall Dinner & Auction: Sunday, Oct. 12 from 11:00—1:00 pm. Menu includes choice of roast beef or ham, beef and homemade noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, vegetable relish tray & dip, coleslaw, dinner roll and homemade desserts. More info on flyer in entry.



The 2014 Hospice Fall Festival “Be Prepared” is coming Thursday, October 23rd, beginning at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall at First Christian Church in Albia. A free meal will be provided. This event will make a difference in your lives and the lives of loved ones left behind after your death.

This is not a “gloom and doom” festival, but a gathering of people who want to retain as much control as possible over decisions to be made about their medical care in case they are incapacitated, or in case of their death. Such decisions make it easier for their children or spouses to cope with making choices during extremely emotional times of distress.

How many of us have had to plan a funeral for a loved one who died unexpectedly and found the process extremely difficult because you have no idea what the deceased wanted? How many of us have had to make medical decisions for a loved one who is incapable of making their own decisions due to illness, accident, or other cause - and you have no guidance from the loved one regarding their wishes?

These questions and others are going to be discussed at this seminar with the guidance of a few local leaders who have expertise in these areas:

Steve Goodlow will facilitate a discussion around legal issues that may arise when planning funerals, making medical and/or financial decisions as medical or financial power-of-attorney, Living wills, Advanced Directives, etc. Bob Sinnott will discuss pre-planning your funeral.

Since the meal is catered, an RSVP is much appreciated to 641-932-1701 or email: mbriggs@mchalbia.com.

Now is the time, while we have our physical and mental faculties, to have these conversations and make these plans. Come join us and you will find that this is a safe and comfortable place in which to ask your questions.