

# Crossings

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

Volume 10 Issue 10

October 2015

## Pastor's Epistle

Dear Friends in Christ,

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

I love the season of Fall. Even though sports and school ramp up the energy of this season, I find it a wonderful time for reflection. I reflect on the journey I walk in faith, on my call to the vocation of ordained ministry, and how God is alive through me for the sake of others as well as through others for my sake. It is a time of peaceful pondering.

During this time of reflection, I find myself in a season of repentance, and I am surprised by it being a joy-filled experience. I do indeed, try to identify those ways in which I bring hurt, neglect, or pain to those around me and ask for forgiveness. But I find myself going deeper than sins of omission or commission. I spend time prayerfully considering if I am even on the path God has chosen for me, or if I've taken a right turn when I should have taken a left! Sometimes I feel like I am in spiritual exile. Do you ever feel that way?

Marcus Borg, in his book "Reading the Bible Again For the First Time" says this about repentance as he discusses the gospel of Mark 1.14-15:\*

Repentance here does not mean contrition for sin, as it often has in later Christian theology. Rather, its meaning is rooted in the exile story: to repent is to return from exile. To connect that concept back to kingdom of God language – to embark on the journey of return – is to enter the kingdom of God.

And that is why my journey of repentance is ultimately a joy-filled experience – because to return from exile by entering the kingdom of God – what can be greater than that? To walk back into the embrace that God continuously offers is to return home – coming home to God's welcoming grace and forgiveness; coming home to my deepest and truest identity as a beloved child of God; coming home to a deep-seated peace in the midst of a world filled with chaos, violence, busy-ness, and the demand to produce. Such a joy-filled relief!

Many people live in exile every day – millions of refugees around the world as well as thousands of refugees within our own country – they flee situations of war, gang violence, domestic violence, religious persecution, economic violence, or spiritual emptiness. Some folks we encounter as we live and work right here in Albia. Am I willing to invite people to return to God's kingdom through our little community of believers here at St. Paul's? Can you and I extend the invitation to God's love in our daily walk?

We are such an active and faith-filled part of the Body of Christ. We provide for so many people through our various ministries, for which I am deeply grateful and through whom I am deeply blessed. Now can we go a step further and walk with those in exile in our community and around the world? May we prayerfully consider what that might look like for us, and explore different ways to fulfill God's call for our lives individually and corporately.

Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy

\*Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the Good News."

## 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

# Lutheran Disaster Response

## "Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis"

*Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:1-2).*

### **Story of a Refugee named Nargis**

She is 2 and has been traveling with her mother and father for two months. Because of security reasons, they fled their home country and have been traveling by foot and truck ever since. They've arrived in Hungary safely but with little resources left.

**As a church, we are called to respond** and help individuals, families and children like Nargis. Her family is among the record number of refugees and migrants fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East. Many who have fled only have the clothes on their backs. As temperatures drop in the coming weeks and months ahead, already difficult situation will become life-threatening.

Through Lutheran Disaster Response, **your gifts** will be used to provide basic but essential items

for refugees as they endure the long journey ahead. Gifts will be used to provide food, diapers, blankets, water, health kits, kits and psychosocial services to assist those who have fled their homes. From Jordan to Germany, Serbia to Hungary – we have been and will continue to work with our Lutheran companion churches and partners. As resources run out and conditions become

more harsh, your gifts will help provide warmth, healing and hope for the future.

### **Gifts designated for the Middle East and Europe Refugee**

**will be used in full (100 percent) to assist those directly impacted by this crisis.**

Your prayers and partnership are greatly appreciated.

### **Ways to Give**

Checks or money orders should be sent to:

**Lutheran Disaster Response**

**P.O. Box 1809**

**Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

Write "Middle East and Europe Refugee Crisis" on your check memo line.

Give by phone at 800-638-3522 or online.



**St. Paul's Shut-ins:**  
Bob & Ruth Johnson

**RECENT PRAYERS**

Roger Epperly  
Frank Hunter  
Loraine Jordan  
Martha McGlothen  
Lowell McKracken  
Karen Moon  
Carol Newhard  
Deloris Perry  
Gary Perry  
Rosealee Rhodes  
Lyle Spieler  
Ella Teno



**Continuing Prayers**

Alex Amante  
Kevin Bunch  
Brantley Hemann  
Loren Lettington  
Laura Moore  
Rhonda Morgan  
Trisha Raven  
Bert Whitlock

=====

**Education/  
Prayer Team**

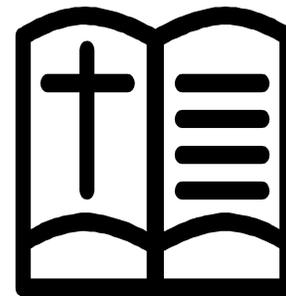
**WELCA Bible Study:**

Wednesday, Oct. 14th at 11:00 am.

The next 3 months our study will be on speed and slowness, and how the Kingdom of God moves slowly, yet we are asked to move with ever greater speed.

**Slow Faith**

Session 1: **Sabbath keeping**



**Building Faith  
Through Family Huddles**

Our First inter-generational time will be Oct. 11 after worship (10:30 am) We will be making Pillows for our Church Pews. This project is to help those who may need a pillow for back support or is a child may need a pillow to sleep on.

**Pillow Stuffing/fiber fill Needed**

Please help us as we are in need of stuffing/fiber fill for the Oct. 11th Pew Pillow project. (If you have any fiberfill left-over, from other project you have completed, is very Welcome.)

Next month: Nov. 22  
Make Advent candles for  
home Advent devotions

**Faith Foundation Bible Study**

“Reclaiming the “C” Word,  
Daring to be Church Again”  
Sunday at 10:30 am.

We will have Bible study the  
1st, 2nd and 4th Sunday’s of the  
month.

## Fellowship Team Ministries

### Senior Fellowship

**Pot-luck Luncheon: On Weds. Oct. 7 at 11:00 am.**

This month we will be playing a couple games to help stimulate “the little gray cells” in our minds.

### Sunday Brunch



**October 18**

### WELCA

**MEETING Oct. 22 at 7:00 pm.** Our hostess: Marilyn Woods.

**WELCA Bible Study: Weds., Oct. 14 at 11:00 am.**

(See more info on pg 3)

**WELCA Fall Cluster 9 Gathering:** On Sat. Oct. 24, St. Paul’s will be hosting the Cluster Gathering from 8 am to noon. We will be providing salads and rolls for lunch. Please sign-up if you are able to bring a salad and or if you will be able to help serve on that Saturday.



## *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. Pamela Butler
20. Martin Reed
23. Marilyn Woods
29. Clark Michael  
Matthew Sherman

### Baptismal Birthdays



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

### Anniversaries

13. Kara & Brandon Tomlin
20. Matt & Stacey Johnson



Thank you to all those who help keep the church lawn and property looking good. Special thanks to Richard James for his extra trimming/maintenance in September.



### **Thank you**

Mardyll Benson would like to thank her family and friends for her wonderful birthday party on Sun. Sept. 6. I appreciated the calls, cards and the people who came form all over. We would also like to thank all for their concern, prayers and cards, during her children Marla Carr and Gary Albertson’s heart surgeries in May & July. Monroe Co. and Albia are good places to live with nice people.

### **NEW PASTOR**

We want to welcome Pastor Brenda Crossfield to our conference. She will be the pastor at First Lutheran in Chariton and Christ the Servant in Cordon.

# Council



**NEW DAY FOR COUNCIL MEETING:**  
Tuesday, Oct. 20 at 6:30 pm

**Conference 9 Annual Meeting:** On Sunday, Oct. 18 at 4 pm, St. Paul's will be hosting the annual meeting of the 9 ELCA area churches that are in our conference. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting. We are asking for 2 people to bring cookies/bars and to help serve during coffee hour at the meeting. Please let the office know if you can help.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT UP-DATE:**

Through 8/31/15:  
Year to Date Offering & Income \$57,239.93  
Year to Date Expenses \$60,287.66  
Offering vs. Expenses (57,239.93 – 60,287.66) = -3,047.73  
Year to Date Budget: \$62,808.00

**AUTO-Tithe:** Stop by the church office and fill out an enrollment form to start your automatic offering deduction.

Weekly donations will come out of your account on Monday's and the monthly donations will come out on the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month.

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Minutes** September 21st, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

Members present: Pastor Nancy, Richard James, Anita Simmons, Colleen Putnam, Lana Kaldenberg, Marilyn Woods, Gail Clouse, Amanda Thomas

7:15 P.M. Mtg with St. Paul of Ottumwa was held in August. From that meeting it seems not likely that our congregations will be sharing a pastor.

**Committee Reports** Worship: There are no longer Wednesday night services due to low attendance.

There will be Wednesday night services during Advent.

The October and November hymns will be ready soon.

The Choral Benediction will be the last hymn for our services.

Education: Reclaiming the C Word book study will begin again this Sunday, September 27th after worship.

Fellowship: Gloria will be updating the pictures of the members of St. Paul.

Property: Many thanks to Richard and Ruth James and family for all the work they've done as of late with St. Paul's exterior and lawn (checking gutters, donating wood chips, mowing, replacing roof shingles). Always many thanks to those members who mow the lawn throughout the summer months and care for the church throughout the year.

Missions: God's Grace is Free-Free Spaghetti Dinner will be held next Tuesday, September 29th, 5-7 P.M.

Mission's is also planning the Poinsettia Project, with the goal of helping two families this Christmas.

Old Business: Auto-tithing is going well.

New Business: With one of the four air conditioning units expiring, replacing it is necessary. The church HVAC system has been in place for around 30 years. Discussion was had about what was the best plan of action; to replace just the one AC unit or replace them all, as they are also probably near the end of their productive service and may be inefficient due to age. To replace the one AC unit with a 92% efficient Rheem 3 Ton Central Air Conditioner would cost \$3177.33. To replace that HVAC unit completely with a 92% efficient Rheem would cost \$5,746.44. Another option is to replace the HVAC single unit with a 95% efficient Rheem, with the possibility of a \$500 rebate, for a cost of \$6105.96. Again, discussion was had about what the best course of action would be; to replace just the one unit, or replace them all. Ruth James will contact Rick Whistler and ask for recommendations for a replacement plan.

Council Meeting in October has changed to Tuesday, Oct. 20th at 6:30 P.M.

Budget setting is coming up soon. St. Paul's expenses were reviewed, looking for areas of spending that could be cut or have already been cut. There are really no areas to cut, as they have already been shaved and the amount budgeted for them is necessary, like ministries, custodial services, office supplies, and insurance, just to name a few. With no other areas to cut, these questions were posed: Is there the possibility of cutting Pastor's time from 80% to 50%, and then, could we afford the parsonage? We will continue to discuss the next course of action for St. Paul's as budget setting is nearing. We will talk with members of St. Paul about options and other ideas.

No Saturday or Wednesday services, although the paper and radio advertisement still say there is one (and it has been requested several times to the paper to change the service time in the ad).

Close with the Lord's Prayer. — Meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M. Amanda Thomas, Council Secretary



## MISSIONS TASK FORCE

**Missions Meeting: Sunday,  
October 4th at 10:15 am**

**Christmas Baskets for Helping Hands:** We are starting early this year to collect items for the Christmas Baskets. Again this year St. Paul's is reaching out to those in Monroe Co. with this mission. We will be collect items only in the month of October. Please bring your items by Nov 1.

Non-parishable items needed are:

Instant Potatoes  
Green Beans & Corn  
Cake mix  
Cranberry Sauce  
Pumpkin  
Stovetop Dressing

Jell-O  
Apple Sauce  
Frosting  
Fruit Cocktail  
Evaporated Milk  
Turkey or Chicken Gravy



---

---

### ON-GOING Mission for the Assistant Emergency Office Needs:

The shelves at our Ministerial Association Emergency Assistance Office are nearly empty. We have special need for items which cannot be obtained by food stamps:

Personal hygiene for men and women: deodorants, bath soap, body wash, toothpaste, shampoo, etc.

Paper products: bathroom tissue, etc.

Baby products: diapers, etc.

Cleaning items: **laundry detergent**, dish soap, any cleaning products.



### God's Free Grace Free Community Spaghetti Supper

The Mission Task Force would like to thank everyone who helped with this great community mission project.

We appreciated those who brought food items; those who cooked the meal; those who set-up; those who served the meal and those who helped with the clean-up. Without **you**, we would not be able to any of the missions here at St. Paul's.

## Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Betty Hohneke & Marilyn Woods

<b><u>Oct. 4</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Greg & Jani Dorpinghaus
	Lector:	Gail Clouse
<b><u>Oct. 11</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Greg & Jani Dorpinghaus
	Lector:	Gloria Smallwood
<b><u>Oct. 18</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	?????
	Lector:	?????
<b><u>Oct. 25</u></b>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	?????
	Lector:	?????

## Worship Team Ministries

**WORSHIP MEETING**  
Monday, October 5th at  
9:30 am.



**Sunday Worship**  
9:00 am

REFORMATION  
DAY SUNDAY  
October 25th  
Everyone is encouraged  
to wear red that day.



### CHOIR

Oct. 4 Practice 8:15 am  
Oct. 11 Practice 8:15 am  
Oct. 18 Practice 8:15 am  
Oct. 25 Practice 8:15 am



### FACES OF ST. PAUL'S

We have put the picture directory up. If you want to up-date your family photo we are able to do it at any time. Bring in a recent photo you would like to have on the directory and we will put it up.

### TWO NEW PASTORS IN ALBIA

Pastor Mark Brant is the new pastor at Cornerstone Community.

Matt Risting will be the new pastor at First Baptist. Matt Risting's ordination will be on Saturday, Oct. 3rd @ 5:00 pm at First Baptist here in Albia. All are welcome to attend.

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)



**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.

---

**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 any photos and recipes you would like to share and Martin Reed will add these to St. Paul's Web site.

**St. Peter's Fall Dinner & Auction in Lovilia:**

Sun., Oct. 11    Dinner 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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. Adults \$10.00 \* Kids 4 - 12 yrs. old \$5.00 \* 3 and under are Free. Carry-outs available for pickup only. To place carry-out orders, please call 641-[218-8169](tel:218-8169) on Saturday the 10th from 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

For more information or to purchase raffle tickets for \$2.00 each, please email the church office at [stpeterslovilia@gmail.com](mailto:stpeterslovilia@gmail.com)

**MOMS IN PRAYER-** Moms in prayer is a group of women all ages & denominations coming together to pray for our Schools. We meet every Friday morning that School is in session from 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Go to Albia Moms in Prayer on facebook to keep updated or call Denise Gray @ 932-7651

We will be starting our "Jericho" Prayer Walk around each of our school buildings. We take 1 school a week to walk around & pray. We have a complete Prayer sheet on what to pray for as we walk. If you can't walk long distances sit in your car & pray along with us. Please come & be a part of covering our kids & schools in God's Love & Protection.

**Shedding Personal Records:** People's State Bank is offering a service to the community for a day where you can bring any records & papers that may have personal information, that you may want to protect, by having it shredded/destroyed. On Friday, October 9th from 11 am—1 pm at the People's State Bank Dive-up parking lot will be a truck where you can bring your paper and they will be destroyed. Free of Charge.