

Crossings

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

Volume 11 Issue 9

September 2016

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,
May grace and peace be yours in abundance. (1 Peter 1.2b)

I have been reading the book of 1 Peter, an epistle in the New Testament, for my devotions. There are several passages which need to be carefully interpreted, thoughtfully discussed, and prayerfully considered. One in particular sticks out because it is part of the lyrics of a choir anthem my high school church choir sang, "Many Waters Can Not Quench Love". The verse is as follows (NRSV):

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1 Peter 2.9)

What a tremendous verse! Let's unpack this. . .

You are a chosen race – all who call themselves Christian, who have embraced the gifts of grace, salvation, forgiveness, and eternal life freely given to us in Christ Jesus, have been chosen, called by God – for what?

A royal priesthood- everyone, *everyone* is called into the "priesthood of all believers" as Martin Luther claims, so that each of us, through our speech and works, proclaims Jesus Christ as the way of salvation and life. Proclamation is not solely the function of clergy or lay professionals, but every sister and brother in Christ is called, in their own words, to declare what God in Christ has done for you. We are each called to testify to the truth about Jesus as we experience him daily.

A holy nation – not a nation of geographical boundaries and political necessities, but a nation alive in Christ to serve the poor, the destitute, the broken, the outsiders; all nationalities, religions, races, creeds, sexual orientation, addicts, mentally ill, physically impaired, emotionally bereft. In that serving, we welcome the stranger and each other into a loving fellowship that strengthens each other's faith, holds each other accountable, and demonstrates how such deep love for each other covers a multitude of sins.

God's own people – by living as a holy nation in God, living through the power of the cross, we too might experience suffering, mocking, ridicule, and hate for not conforming to the world's demands. By living thus, we offer a stark contrast to the temptations and expectations of the world which demands success at any cost, and labels people in such a way that there is always an "in" group and an "out" group. Such worldly strife is a very dark place.

In order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light - As Christians, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ in our daily life, we can offer hope that there is freedom from judgment, freedom to embrace yourself as a child in whom God takes great delight, and experience the joy of knowing that it is God's "good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12.32). Our Heavenly Father delights in bringing us out of the darkness of our souls into the marvelous light of God's deep and steadfast love.

So my beloved friends, each one of us has received the call by God in Christ to proclaim, to witness, to testify, and to serve for the sake of the world. In our own words - stumbling and awkward though they may be- we are called to share the love of Jesus with the world, starting in our homes and spreading out through our community and world. We testify, we invite, we befriend, and we are changed by those we encounter. What a tremendous life we are called to embrace! Let us up the ante, so to speak, and renew our efforts so that more may come to know the love of Christ just as we have been loved.

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

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

Sunday, July 31st, 2016

10:15AM

Open with prayer

Haley Dobson motions to approve the agenda. Pat Johnson seconds.

Pastor's Report

Nancy discussed being 50%, and asked congregation for any input, positive or negative comments about how this is going.

President's Report

Kay discussed planning for the future of St. Paul's and wants more input from the congregation for devising a 3-year plan. Our financial position has improved since Pastor has gone to 50%. Kay asked the congregation to consider what to do with the \$25,000 land sale money. Also, there will be four positions opening on council and asked that members prayerfully consider filling a position.

Treasurer's Report

Anita reported that we have been meeting our necessary average weekly giving, and we are beginning to pay back to the Memorial Fund that we borrowed from to pay monthly expenses. Gail Clouse asked how much was owed: approximately \$8,000.

Committee Reports

Worship: Gail reported that the communion hymns during communion have been nice and that Saturday night services have been successful.

Faith Formation: Pastor talked about VBS and its success. About 15 children were in attendance each night, some were out of state visitors. The three nights of VBS were great! Also, Home Huddles will go to one weekly lesson instead of daily lessons, this beginning in September and running through January.

Fellowship: Kay asked that in order to expand ministry we should invite others to come to our church. Thanks to all of those who bring food and clean up on Sundays without being asked.

Missions: Gloria reported that we are continuing to gather supplies to fill Kindergarten backpacks, we will be passing out water bottles at the end of the race, and the annual spaghetti meal is September 13th.

Property: Pastor Nancy thanked all those who have helped keep the grounds and the church clean, and thanks to those who helped paint the choir room. There will be more painting to be done in Fellowship area and hallway, we need to replace or clean the carpet in Fellowship area, the exterior of the church building needs some care, and the Maple tree in the church yard needs attention.

Kay opened up discussion about what to do with the \$25,000 received from the sale of the church property. These ideas were mentioned:

- Kay would like the funds that we borrowed from to be replenished first.
- Hayley suggested we repair the exterior of the church.
- Pastor noted that repairs to the parsonage were needed, including cleaning the chimney and mold repair and cleanup.
- Pastor also wanted to plan for the future of St. Paul's, noting insurance needs for future pastors.
- The gazebo has been in the works for 16 years and should be completed. Tom Preston agreed. Jessica wondered if it was not a money issue, but a manpower issue. Jacob agreed that professionals should finish the job because they have the tools and knowledge. Steph agreed. Jacob wondered how we could make the most use of the gazebo. Hayley suggested Saturday night service being held there in the summertime.
- Colleen questioned the quality of the church roof. Richard said there were missing shingles on the drive thru and a few off the back of the church, but that the roof was mostly in good shape.
- Jessica also wondered about the use of the Memorial funds, if they might be used to help us serve our community, perhaps for an afterschool daycare for school-aged children? Wednesdays on early outs?
- Gloria thought we should keep the money in reserve.
- Kay thought we should try not to spend all of it, if possible.

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

Education/ Prayer Team

RECENT PRAYERS

Elizabeth Culbertson
Ruth Ella Gardner
Leslie Horning
Margaret Jordan
Mike Judge
Cora Leshin
Richard McDonough
Cathy Tietje Osmundson
Leo Oye
Gary & Delores Perry
Lester Rue
Travis Rummans
Scott Sanger
Greg Tilton
Fred Witte

=====

(2015)

Linda Ulrich Johnson
Karen Moon
Ella Teno

=====

Continuing Prayers **(2014)**

Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Pat Mason
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL
Devin Sinclair

Continuing Prayers

Brantley Hemann
Laura Moore
Trisha Raven
Bert Whitlock

=====



WELCA Bible Study:

Wednesday, Sept. 14 at 11:00

**Fall 2016: When God's not fair--
Coming to terms with a merciful
God**

For fall 2016, Meghan Johnston Aela-bouni helps us explore biblical images of a God who acts beyond our conceptions of what's "fair." From Jonah's prayer to God from the belly of a big fish to school-age siblings and squabbling nations, this fall we'll delve into what it means to worship a God who forgives the guilty, chooses the unlikely and gives to those who haven't "earned" it.

Session 1: Jonah and the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day: when God forgives the guilty

Building Faith Through Family Huddles



The new materials for the fall are ready to be picked up on September 11.

We are inviting the parents and children to join us for a

brief orientation, after worship, to explain the changes that have been made this year.

Hope to see you there.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION Meeting: Sunday, September 25 after worship.

Discussion will be regarding Confirmation Classes for the fall of 2017. Parents are invited to attend for their input and their suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

Receiving Bibles on Sunday, September 11 will be:



Maxwell Butler
Quentin Butler
Lydia Dobson
Nikko Dobson
Parker Hemann
Sophie Hemann
Grayson Kelley
Morgan Sherman
Blair Thomas
Brody Thomas

Fellowship Team Ministries

Sunday Brunch



September 18



Birthdays & Anniversaries

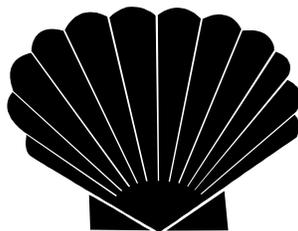


Birthdays

2. Ryan Preston
2. Mardyll Benson
4. Evelyn Sharpe
7. Kevin Tangie
11. Jordan Johnson
12. Colton Dorpinghaus
20. Jenah (Duea) Smith
21. Sheela Clouse
22. Alec Freeman
23. Anna Kerber
27. Julie Stocker
27. Anne Marie (Preston) Jenkins
28. Kaitlyn Spieler
28. Bryan Raskie
28. Kedan Philip Johnson
30. Phillip Clouse

Baptismal Birthdays

17. Pastor Nancy Reed
20. Jessica Hemann
24. Jesse Simmons
Amanda Thomas



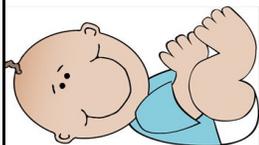
Anniversaries

9. Josh & Heidi (Benson) Ragen
10. Matt & Jenah (Duea) Smith
14. Doug & Stephanie Spar ks
19. Phil & Laura Clouse
23. Kelly & Angela Freeman
29. Dan & Julie Stocker



The beautiful flowers to grace our altar in the month of August were from the garden of Karen McCombs. Thank you arranging and sharing your flowers with us.

NEW BABY BOY



Solomon Axl Smith was born July 22. He is the son of Matt and Jenah Smith of Seattle, WA. The grandparents are Mike and Cyndi Duea and Bill and Sue Smith and Ellen Smith of Colorado. Great grandparents are Ed and LeahRae Duea and Billee Gullett. Sol was 21" and 7 lbs, 5 oz.

Senior Fellowship

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

WOMEN of the ELCA

Monthly MEETING Sept. 22. Our Hostess will be Marilyn Woods.

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

(See more info on pg 3)

RESTORATION DAY BAKE SALE Thank you.



Thank you to everyone who baked items and help set-up & sold items for our bake sale. Please help us decide on a mission project that we should send half of the \$237.60 proceeds to at our next meeting.

Fall Cluster 9 meeting will be on Oct. 8 at First Lutheran Church in Chariton.

Council



**Council Meeting: Sept. 18
After worship.**

Pastor Reed on Vacation

Pastor Nancy will be out of the office from Sept. 1 through September 7.

Pulpit supply on Sept. 4 will be Pastor Bob Elgin.

Pastor will be attending the Synod Fall Conference Sept. 18-20.

TREASURER'S REPORT

July Offering & Misc. Income \$6356.00

July Expenses \$6053.17

Difference: +302.83 ***

July average weekly offering: \$1,265.10

YTD average weekly offering: \$1,442.44

***How about if I put an asterisk and say:

“A couple of obligations outstanding in July didn't get paid at the end of the month and they have been carried over into August. (around \$1000.00 was carried over) So far August giving is down; so the plus \$302.83 difference shown at end of July is not a true showing of our checking account funds as we moved into August.”



Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

The congregation expressed with a show of hands the most important needs be met with the money to include the following: replenish funds, finish the gazebo, make any repairs to the roof, and earmark some of the money for insurance for future pastors. Council will discuss these ideas at the next council meeting.

Sharon Wilkins asked if the Memorial money had been spent on family requests. It was reported that all requests had been honored.

Gloria noted events on the upcoming calendar. Pastor will be gone for the two Sundays at the end of August, and to call her or Lynda Carlson with any emergencies. Also, Christmas falls on Sunday this year. Would we want a Christmas Eve service, a Christmas Sunday service? Both? The majority of those in attendance indicated they preferred worship to be on Christmas Eve only. These options will be considered. 2017 is the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

Talk to Pastor, Gloria, or Anita if you have any questions.

End in Prayer and the Choral Benediction

10:40 AM



Thank you to everyone who has helped keep the church property looking great all summer.

We still have a couple of months to go before the snow flies and will need your continued help for the fall months to keep up the church grounds. Please put your name on the sign-up sheet if you can help.

MISSIONS TASK FORCE



Boxes of Hope Continuing Mission: for the Albia Ministerial Emergency Assistance Office. Items that are in the greatest demand are:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| All-purpose cleaning products | Bathroom cleaners | Dish soap |
| Body wash (not bar soap) | Toilet paper | Shampoo |

A Volunteer from the Emergency Assistance Office asked us for special help; **“We desperately need men & women’s deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo and laundry detergent.** The word has been passed around that the Emergency office has the above items and we can’t keep things on the shelves.”



Where to send help for the flood disaster area of Louisiana & Gulf Coast:

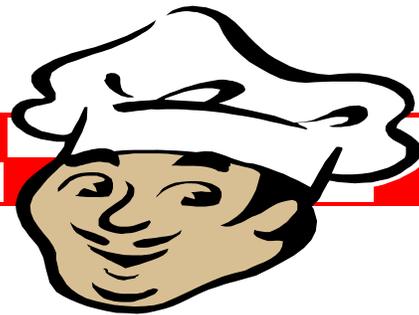
**Texas– Louisiana Golf Coast Synod ELCA
129411-45 North Freeway, Suite 210
Houston, TX 77060**

Write *“Flood Disaster Fund”* on your check memo line.

And

**Lutheran Disaster Response
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

Write *“Gulf Coast Flooding”* on your check memo line.



God’s Grace is Free————— Community Spaghetti Supper

For the privilege of serving the people of Albia; St. Paul’s will be reaching out to our community with a free spaghetti meal for everyone on **Tuesday, September 13 from 5-7 pm.** Come join us for food & fellowship.

Set-up will be Sunday, 9/11 after worship; helpers needed.

Still need volunteers to help cook and serve the meal. We have been blessed with Thrivent Action Team funds to help with this mission this year. If you are able to help; we encourage you to wear the Action Team t-shirts that will be provided.



Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Betty Hohneke & Marilyn Woods

<u>Sept. 4</u>	Worship Assistant: Gail Clouse	Ushers/Greeters: John & Lise Nelson	Lector: Gail Clouse
<u>Sept. 11</u>	Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods	Ushers/Greeters: Diane Dobson & Hayley Dobson	Lector: Marilyn Woods
<u>Sept. 18</u>	Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods	Ushers/Greeters: Diane Dobson & Hayley Dobson	Lector: ????????
<u>Sept. 25</u>	Worship Assistant: Anita Simmons	Usher/Greeter: Hemann Family	Lector: Anita Simmons

Worship Team Ministries

Choir
8:15 am

- Sept. 11 Practice
- Sept. 18 Practice
- Sept. 25 Practice

Everyone is welcome to join us as we share God's message through music.



Schedule for September

- Sept. 4** Sophie light & put out the candles
Parker collect communion cups
- Sept. 11** Morgan light & put out the candles
Grayson collect communion cups
- Sept. 18** Lydia light & put out the candles
Nikko collect communion cups
- Sept. 25** Parker light & put out the candles
Sophie collect communion cups



SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Starting in **October** we will be having Saturday worship on the 1st and 3rd Saturday's of the month.

Worship will be at 6:30 pm with Holy Communion.

We hope to continue with Saturday worship through the end of the year; but we would have to have a maintained attendance of 9 people to continue.

It is not good stewardship of our resources if no one attends.



Sunday Worship
9:00 am

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



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 to the church office and
Martin Reed will add these to St. Paul's Web site.

Albia Ministerial Assoc. Blood Drive: Mon. Sept. 26 from 3-7 pm. See flyer in entry for more information.

Guidance through Grief: meeting 2nd Thursday every month at Sinnott Funeral Home by Care Initiatives
Hospice. First meeting is Sept. 8 at 7 pm. See hand-outs in church entry.

Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp Women's Retreat: Sept. 17-18. Join us for a time to laugh, play and pray.
A time to be in God's word and enjoy God's creation by going for a walk, horseback ride or wagon ride. Reg-
istration forms and flyer are in the church entry. Register by Sept. 12.

