

Crossings

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

Volume 12 Issue 9

September 2017

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Friends in Christ,

I've always enjoyed the month of September: it's the month of beginnings and endings, of scheduled days, tired nights, earlier bedtimes, football and cross country races, marching bands, and start up choirs. September is a gentle month – it softens into quiet sunsets and fair sunrises, ripening corn and soy beans, and murmurs of harvest.

And it calls us to prayer: for harvest, for farmer safety and better- than - expected crops; for health of students, athletes, their teachers and coaches; for people to return to work, church, and family with renewed vigor and expectation as they anticipate the next several months; for renewed faith and commitment to worship and ministry in the name of Christ for the sake of our neighbor.

Labor Day weekend, the first weekend in September, we will finish the summer sermon series on the 10 Commandments. It has been a personal eye-opening series for me. I hope those who have heard and received from God through this series have been blessed with a richer, deeper faith, and a new commitment to being mindful to God throughout the day as you seek to love God and love your neighbor.

No matter how deeply we "feel" about God and our neighbor, we are incapable of living out these commandments on our own. We are simply too self-centered. But God does not give us up to failure – he comes to us through the Holy Spirit within us to guide, sustain, and encourage us to choose to love the unlovable. Jesus Christ walks before us, behind us, beside us, above and below us giving us the courage and compassion to mindfully do what we cannot do on our own.

So let us all pray for God to help us love God with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength and to choose to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Let us pray that God helps us to mindfully love ourselves in healthy ways, so that we can, in fact, find ourselves by loving others. A summary of the whole 10 Commandment series can be found in Matthew 10:39: Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.(NIV).

Together, let us prayerfully and mindfully embrace September and the months ahead, asking for courage, compassion, and a greater awareness of the presence and call of God for us here in St. Paul's. Ministry, witness and loving others doesn't quit until we rest in God at our death. May we look for greater ways to serve here in St. Paul's and throughout the world. The harvest will soon be here, and our Lord Jesus Christ continues to look for workers.

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

Treasurer's Report

Semi-Annual Report:

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
Worship	3952.50	1961.30
Faith Formation	350.00	17.31
Fellowship	6.00	-0-
Ministries & Mission	2335.00	3609.00
Property Stewardship	8310.00	8455.48
Office	1575.00	1386.60
Secretary	5508.50	5051.05
Pastor	<u>16944.00</u>	<u>16352.02</u>
Total	\$38,981.00	\$36,832.76
Less Undesignated Income		- 32,179.44*
Less Designated Offering		- 2,083.98
		Net (2,569.34)



*weekly average through 6/30/17 = \$1,237.67
 Needed weekly for budget \$1,499.27

Our Painting is at the Museum



Our Lutheran altar piece painting by Swedish artist Jonas Olof Grafstrom has found a wonderful new home at the Monroe County Museum. The painting has been restored and it takes up most of one wall. Hopefully you get a chance to go see it sometime soon.





St. Paul's Shut-ins:

Mary Carder
Ruth Johnson

**Education/
Prayer Team**

RECENT PRAYERS

Susan Anderson
Nate Baggett
Betty Foster
Pastor Myron Herzberg
Marilyn Larson
Christopher Malloy
Claudia Ortego & children
Jaxson Osmundson
Dan Payne
Mike Randall
Ashley Reeves
Rick
Susie Smith
Mitch Sullivan
Rachel Thiede

**Continuing Prayers
(2016)**

Anthony Allen
Pat & Gerry Anderson
Mary Carder
Gene Dobson
Gerry Gillette
Maya Griebel
Wendy Henexson
Richard McDonough
=====

**Continuing Prayers
(2016 cont.)**

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
=====



WELCA Bible Study: Apostles' Creed

Wednesday, September 13 at 11 am.

Session 1: I believe in God...

The Apostles' Creed is one of the oldest unifying symbols of Christianity. Groups of early Christians needed a tool for teaching and evangelism that explained the basics of the faith. The Apostles' Creed shaped their baptismal training, blessing in dying and how communities of faith defined themselves in faithful union. The creed has three parts or articles. The first article talks about God, the Holy Creator and Parent of all things. We'll explore what the Apostles' Creed says about God—and what it leaves undefined—as well as how this stirs our holy imagination.



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

Ruth Ella Gardner

Jeanette Young

Janis Harris

Dr. Dean Stocker, Dan Stocker's father

May the peace and hope of the resurrection comfort them in the days and months ahead.

Children's Faith Formation



Up-date:

We will continue with the weekly Home Huddle format for the first couple months of this year.

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

Watch your e-mail and bulletins for information for starting dates.

September 24, after worship, will be the planning meeting for the quarterly gathering events. All parents are encouraged to attend.

Fellowship Team Ministries



**BRUNCH
Sept. 17**



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
19. Phil & Laura Clouse
23. Kelly & Angela Freeman
29. Dan & Julie Stocker



Mark your calendar: **WELCA Fall Cluster 9 Gathering** will be on Sat. October 14th at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Knoxville.



"Rise Up O Men" is the play by the Church Basement Ladies at the Old Creamery Theater in the Amanas. We are putting together a group to attend on Sunday, October 15. Group rate cost is \$27.00. We have reservations for 20 people at this time. Men and women are invited; we would leave after worship 10:15 am, get a bite to eat in the Amanas and go to the play at 2 pm. . All funds for the group rate need to be collected and turned in by Sept. 28th. Sounds like a fun play, join us. Please sign-up if you are interested.

Senior Fellowship



Pot-luck Luncheon: We will be having our potluck lunch on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at 11 am.

WOMEN of the ELCA

Monthly Meeting will be on Thursday, Sept. 28 at 7 pm. Our hostess will be Sharon Wilkin.

WELCA Bible Study: Weds. , Sept. 13 At 11 am. (See more info on pg 3)



RESTORATION DAY BAKE SALE: Thank you to everyone who helped and brought items to the bake sale. It was very successful \$243.00.

Council



Gloria will be out of the office from September 1– 11.

**Next Council Meeting:
Sept. 17th after worship.**



Mowing & Property Upkeep: As we have been blessed with much needed rain; we need help with mowing the church property. Please sign up if you can help.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Semi-annual Meeting Minutes

July 30, 2017

10:00 Meeting called to order by Gail Clouse.

Pastor's Report

Pastor is impressed with our ministry, locally and globally, and she is very thankful for all of our efforts. She asks us to prayerfully consider these areas: 1) inviting others to our church, and 2) calling on those who have not been at service or seen lately and expressing our care and concern toward them.

Pastor reported that we are losing two members who are relocating to distant places in the state- Ruth Johnson and Lana Kaldenberg.

Pastor also asked the congregation for any feedback on how things are going at St. Paul's since she has gone to 50% time. She asked if there were any wishes? Anything we would like to see? Gail asked Pastor how she feels about going to half time. Pastor said she has a hard time only doing that amount (worship and one other day) because she loves her work. There were no other comments or concerns raised by the congregation.

There will be a Christian Ed meeting next Sunday after service. Parents and members are asked to be present to discuss the future of Sunday School/Home Huddles.

St. Paul's Finances

Anita spoke to the congregation about St. Paul's finances. Each month we need \$1499 to meet the budget, but our average weekly giving has been \$1237. Anita has twice had to transfer \$1000 from the land sale money to cover monthly bills. She noted that expenses have been normal- at or near-budget. She wonders if giving will increase when summer ends?

Pastor noted that we have been 11 years in the red. She went to 50% (in an effort to save money), but we still are not meeting budget. We need to think about what kind of congregation we want to be, and how will we get there? Money, time, participation- we all need to give to God's ministries. Council wants and needs ideas from the congregation.

Anita encouraged using auto-tithe because this system helps her budget St. Paul's giving, knowing exactly when and how much will be coming in so she can pay the bills. She assures that auto-tithe is confidential and easy. You can set up your giving the way you want it- once a week, or once a month. And the amount can be changed at any time.

Parsonage & Church Building Report

The parsonage has had repairs following fixing the chimney including fixing the water-damaged ceiling and walls, and also replacing some carpet and linoleum flooring. There are plans to move ahead to complete the chapel. The roof of St. Paul's has been replaced-Lana Kaldenberg commented that it looks great!. Next is to re-stain the exterior walls before Winter and remove some dead trees.

Lana thanked everyone for the 40 years of friendship she has experienced being a member of St. Paul's. Lana will be relocating to Vinton late this year.

10:17 Meeting adjourned

St. Paul's minutes submitted by Amanda Thomas, secretary



Back Pack Mission



Thank you

We want to thank everyone who contributed to this ministry . Eight kindergarten students will have a great start to the school year with your help.



Thank you to everyone who donated water bottles for Restoration Days.

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

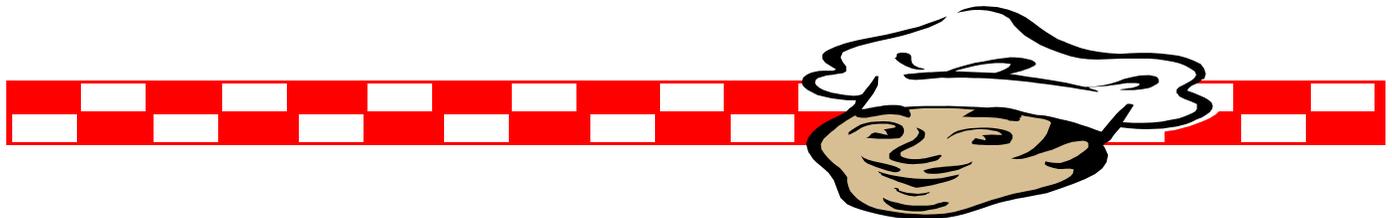
Toothpaste

Shampoo

Body wash (not bar soap)



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



God's Grace is Free ————— Community Spaghetti Supper- 5th year

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 12 from 5-7 pm.

Come join us for food & fellowship.

Please Sign-up to help work to put on the meal and we also need cookies and bars for desserts.

Set-up will be Sunday, 9/10 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; please wear your Thrivent Action Team t-shirt if you have one; there will be t-shirts that evening if you need one.



Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Linda Preston & Sharon Wilkin

<u>Sept. 3</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Andy Fuhs
	Lector:	Gail Clouse
<u>Sept. 10</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Tom & Linda Preston
	Lector	Preston
<u>Sept. 17</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	??????
	Lector	Marilyn Woods
<u>Sept. 24</u>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Ushers/Greeters:	????????
	Lector:	Anita Simmons

Worship Team Ministries



everyone is welcome

all voices are needed

no experience

is necessary

to sing!

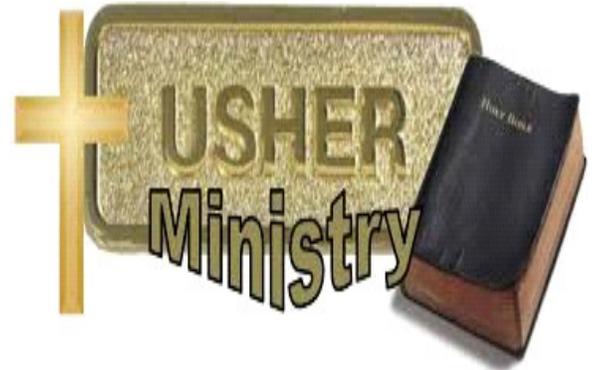
JOIN THE CHOIR TODAY!

First choir practice will be September 24 at 8:15 am.



Schedule for September

Sept. 3	Sophie light & put out the candles Parker collect communion cups
Sept. 10	Morgan light & put out the candles Grayson collect communion cups
Sept. 17	Lydia light & put out the candles Nikko collect communion cups
Sept. 24	Parker light & put out the candles Sophie collect communion cups



NO SATURDAY WORSHIP

After careful consideration, the Worship Task Force is canceling Saturday worship at this time.

(Due to lack of attendance and budget constraints)

We tried having worship every Saturdays again for 7 months; with only 1-2 members or no one showing up; it is not good stewardship.

USHERS / GREETERS Needed: We need your leadership as ushers/greeters offering a warm welcome to those attending worship.

Lectors



LECTORS: we need someone to share God's word by reading the Holy Scriptures on Sunday's.

Please put your name down on the sheets in the fellowship hall if you can help in these areas.

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.



St. Patrick's Georgetown Annual God's Portion Day:

Sun., Sept. 3. Dinner from 11 am-1 pm; live auction at 1 pm, etc.

More detailed info on flyer in entry.

Blood Drive: Tues. Sept. 19 from 3—7 pm at the Trinity United Methodist Church. This event is sponsored by the Albia Ministerial Association. Call 800-452-1097 to make an Appointment.

