

Crossings

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

Volume 9 Issue 2

February 2014

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Friends in Christ,
Do you ever have days that are going wrong from start to finish? No matter what you do, nothing works out right? I have them frequently and sometimes I can really begin to question why I even exist. I can't seem to please anyone – you know the feeling because we all have days - maybe even weeks! – like that.

One of my favorite hymns is "Just As I Am" by Charlotte Elliott. The words of this hymn remind us of the love and grace of God that embraces us AS WE ARE, where we are, when we are – warts and all. The following is a quote about the back story of this hymn from the book, *"Then Sings My Soul: 150 of the World's Greatest Hymn Stories (pgs 111-112, by Robert J. Morgan.* I thought you might enjoy it and find deeper meaning the next time you find yourself singing this hymn:

"Just As I Am"

1836

All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.
John 6:37

She was an embittered woman, Charlotte Elliott of Brighton, England. Her health was broken, and her disability had hardened her. "If God loved me," she muttered, "He would not have treated me this way."

Hoping to help her, a Swiss minister, Dr. Cesar Malan, visited the Elliotts on May 9, 1822. Over dinner, Charlotte lost her temper and railed against God and family in a violent outburst. Her embarrassed family left the room, and Dr. Malan was left alone with her.

"You are tired of yourself, aren't you?" he asked. "You are holding to your hate and anger because you have nothing else in the world to cling to. Consequently, you have become sour, bitter, and resentful.

"What is your cure?" asked Charlotte.

"The faith you are trying to despise."

As they talked, Charlotte softened. "If I wanted to become a Christian and to share the peace and joy you possess," she finally asked, "what would I do?"

"You would give yourself to God just as you are now, with your fightings and fears, hates and loves, pride and shame."

"I would come to God just as I am? Is that right?"

Charlotte did come just as she was, and her heart was changed that day. As time passed she found and claimed John 6:37 as a special verse for her: "...he who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

Years later, her brother, Rev. Henry Elliott, was raising funds for a school for the children of poor clergymen. Charlotte wrote a poem, and it was printed and sold across England. The leaflet said: *Sold for the Benefit of St. Margaret's Hall, Brighton: Him That Cometh to Me I will in No Wise Cast Out.* Underneath was Charlotte's poem—which has since become the most famous invitational hymn in history.

Charlotte lived to be 82 and wrote about 150 hymns, though she never enjoyed good health. As her loved ones sifted through her papers after her death, they found over a thousand letters she had kept in which people expressed their gratitude for the way this hymn had touched their lives.

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."

I John 4:10-11



Council Minutes

January 26, 2014

Present: Amanda Thomas, Curtis Kelley, Lana Kaldenberg, Richard James, Gail Clouse, Kay Spieler, Marilyn Woods, Anita Simmons and Pastor Nancy Reed

Absent: Colleen Putnam and Julie Stocker

Subjects discussed were:

To gradually increase the budget to include a health insurance fund for the "pastor" should it be needed at a future time.

To discuss having a meeting bi-annually or quarterly instead of an annual meeting.

These ideas will be discussed at the council retreat.

The Council approved Pastor Nancy Reed's request to designate an amount of her 2014 pay as "Housing Allowance", for income tax purposes.

Some Council members will meet with the Representative from Edward Jones to discuss possible investment changes.

The Council Retreat will be on February 9, 2014 at the church.

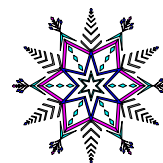
Gail Clouse presented a fund raising idea to help with the cost of the parsonage air conditioner & furnace.

Installation of the Council will be on February 2, 2014.

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Richard James and seconded by Lana Kaldenberg.

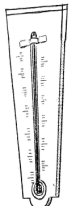
Motion carried.

Respectively submitted,
Marilyn Woods



Parsonage

Air Conditioner & Furnace Fundraiser



In the 2014 approved budget there was \$6,200.00 earmarked to replace the air conditioning and furnace at the parsonage. St. Paul's Council has decided to fund this through a mini-capital campaign drive; which means to raise the money separately and help out the budget.

There will be a thermometer in the fellowship hall where we can see how much is collected each week.

You can add the amount to your weekly offering check; be sure to note how much you want to put toward the fundraiser. Details to be announced.



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

**Education/
 Prayer Team**

Alex Amante
 Merrill Baker
 Karen Blomme
 Bill Brubaker
 Kevin Bunch
 Gail Connerly
 Mary Datschefski
 Gary & Mary Egbert
 Judith Giertz
 Sharon Glenn
 Brantley Hemann
 Victor Hernandez
 Myron Johnson
 Casey Keel
 Rev. Laura Koppenhaeffer
 Marty Kroenecke

Bryce Kroenecke
 Kenneth Leaven
 Loren Lettington
 Richard McDonough
 Dale Madison
 Laura Moore
 Ronda Morgan
 Colleen Putnam
 Trisha Raven
 Richard Rowley
 Sheila Ryan
 Charlie Smallwood
 Ed Scieszinski
 Misty Smith
 Bert Whitlock
 Rev. Nicole Woodley



In Sympathy

Our sympathy goes out to the family & friends of Dorothy (Clester) Caster who died on January 11th and Marilyn Illingworth who died on January 9th. May they all be reassured by God's presence and strengthened in the certain hope of the resurrection.

Children's Church

This is where the children 2nd grade and under leave church during the sermon and have a Bible story and then return during the passing of the peace.

| Lesson | Teacher |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 2/2 Good Shepherd | Cameron Stocker |
| 2/9 Healing the Servant | Brooke Sparks |
| 2/16 Lost Sheep | Linda & Tom Preston |
| 2/23 Raising Lazarus | Gloria Smallwood |

Christian Ed Meeting:
 February 27th at 9:00 am

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Class: Weds. Feb. 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th. Starting at 6 pm.
 Skit on Sunday Feb. 16th.
 Confirmation Group 2 will meet after worship on Feb. 16th at the church.
 Confirmation Group 1 will meet after school on Feb. 24th at the school.
 Dan Stocker will lead confirmation on Feb. 12th.



Women's Bible Study:
 February 19th at 11 a.m. See more info under WELCA on page 4.

Fellowship Team Ministries

3rd Sunday Brunch



February 16th

Senior Fellowship

Join us for a potluck lunch on **Weds. Feb. 5th at 11:00 am.**
We will be making valentines for shut-ins.

WELCA

Women's Bible Study: Wednesday, February 19th at 11:00 am.
The Bible study for February is Woman of Endor, a seer and communicator. 1 Samuel 28:7

MEETING: will be on Thursday, February 27th at 6:30 p.m.
Our hostess for this month is Anita Simmons.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays

2. Carson Stocker
2. Kay Spieler
5. Greg Dorpinghaus
6. Connor Ray
7. Bristol Lynn Dowdy
11. Rhonda Mason
11. Sophie Hemann
12. Joyce Tangie
13. Dan Stocker
16. Jay Heaton
17. Karter Spieler
22. Judy Van Polen
23. Richard James
24. Mary Carder
24. Logan Dorpinghaus
25. Dakota Steele
28. John Cole Blomgren
28. Amanda Thomas



February Baptismal Birthdays

3. Becca Mason
7. Alex Mason
11. Mitchel Sparks
16. Sharon Wilkin



New Baby Girl

Tyler and Kelly Simmons are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Kelsey Lynn. Kelsey was born on January 27th, 2014 and she weighed 6 lbs and 1 oz. She was 19" long. Grandparents are Terry and Anita Simons and Great-Grandparents are Steve and Marilyn Larson.

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Stephanie Sparks & Gloria Smallwood

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>Feb. 2</u> | Worship Assistant: | Gail Clouse |
| | Ushers/Greeters: | John & Lise Nelson |
| | Lector: | Gloria Smallwood |
| | Acolyte: | Karter Spieler |
| | | |
| <u>Feb. 9</u> | Worship Assistant: | Marilyn Woods |
| | Ushers/Greeters: | John & Lise Nelson |
| | Lector: | Gloria Smallwood |
| | Acolyte: | Karter Spieler |
| | | |
| <u>Feb. 16</u> | Worship Assistant: | Marilyn Woods |
| | Usher/Greeter: | Lana Kaldenberg & Marilyn Johnson |
| | Lector: | Lana Kaldenberg |
| | Acolyte: | Sam Nielsen |
| | | |
| <u>Feb. 23</u> | Worship Assistant: | Anita Simmons |
| | Usher/Greeter: | Lana Kaldenberg & Marilyn Johnson |
| | Lector: | Lana Kaldenberg |
| | Acolyte: | Sam Nielsen |

Worship Team Ministries

CHOIR Practice

8:15 am

- Feb. 2 & Performance
- Feb. 9
- Feb. 16 No Choir
- Feb. 23 No Choir



Council Notices

Council Meeting: *NOTE DATE CHANGE* we will have our Feb. meeting at the retreat on Sunday, February 9th.

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Council Installation: Sunday February 2nd during worship.

Council Officers:

President: Amanda Thomas Vice Pres.: Gail Clouse
 Secretary: Marilyn Woods Treasurer: Anita Simmons

Council Retreat: We will be meeting here at the church for the council retreat on February 9th from 11 am to 4 pm. Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share for lunch.

Pastor Nancy will be out of the office: February 11th through the 13th for vacation.

2013 Annual Report & St. Paul's Phone Directory: These are available if you did not get one at the annual meeting.

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



Mission Task Force

Meeting February 2nd after worship.



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>.

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



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 9 am—Noon & 1—3 pm Friday 9 am—Noon

HELPING HAND CENTER HOURS:

Monday 9 am—2 pm Tuesday & Thursday 4 pm– 6 pm
Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 9 am—12 pm (noon)



Your Help is needed: "Helping Hands invites you to make a difference. We are in need of volunteers to hang clothing. on a Friday or Saturday between 9:00 AM and Noon. Bring a friend. Call Helping Hands (932-5984) for scheduling."

Christmas Cards for Hospice : If you usually throw away your used Christmas cards, the hospice department is requesting that you save them. We can recycle the tops to use for Breakfast with Santa next December. We have the kids write notes to hospice, hospital, nursing home patients or other shut-ins. If you would like to donate your cards, feel free to drop them off in the hospice office any-time.

