

Crossings

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

Volume 10 Issue 2

February 2015

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ –

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

Let's unpack this greeting a little bit:

"Grace to you" What does this mean for you and me? As Lutheran Christians we believe that "grace" is the unmerited and undeserved acceptance, forgiveness, and mercy of God towards those who rightfully earn only condemnation before God, on account of the life and work of Jesus Christ through the cross. "Grace" is God's forgiveness of our brokenness, our failed attempt to be #1 in the universe of everyday life; "grace" is God's delight in us, God's wayward children; "Grace" is God *coming down to us in love* to the point of death on the cross *for* us; "Grace" is God drowning our mortal life in the waters of baptism and raising us to a new eternal life filled with possibility; "Grace" is walking daily – hour by hour, minute by minute – in the constant presence of God through the Holy Spirit; "Grace" is the Holy Spirit at work within us to mold us into the likeness of Christ and, through us, to bring the love of God to a world in desperate need of that same love.

"Peace" is the depth of certainty we having in knowing that, because of God's grace for us in Jesus Christ, we are defined by God as God's children. We are not subject to, obligated by, or responsible to any claims made on us by our culture's parameters – our identity is in Jesus Christ. We have innermost peace because of the certainty that God, in Jesus Christ, has laid claim to us and, as such, we belong to God on account of Christ. This peace brings with it, freedom; freedom to see outside the box and to be excited by the possibilities presented to us by the Holy Spirit.

So every time I say this to someone, and every time someone says this to me, there is a blessed exchange of the love, grace and peace which only God the Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can give. We have the privilege of being conduits through whom this grace and peace is extended to all the folks we meet.

Too good to be true? Come and see – attend worship on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm or on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Come and see as we explore, "Reclaiming the "L" Word: Reclaiming the Church From It's Lutheran Core" by Kelly Fryer. This class will be offered after worship on both Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings through Lent for 5 weeks beginning February 25th. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in fellowship hall – please sign up so we know how many books are needed.

God is always calling his children to be "ambassadors for Christ" as Paul writes in 2 Cor 5.16-20:

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

During this upcoming season of Lent, let us be intentional as we prayerfully consider what it means to be the recipients of God's grace and peace in a world defined by its greed, violence, and war.

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

Lenten WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday Worship: February 18th at 6:30 pm with distribution of ashes and Holy Communion.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend; all who desire to may come forward for the imposition of ashes. The imposition of ashes is a recognition, a remembrance “that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. By remembering that we are dust, fatally flawed, we also remember that Jesus Christ stands in our place and provides the only way to eternal life and the forgiveness of all our sins.

Themes for Lenten Worship

Wednesday At 6:30 pm with a Bible Study after worship

Sunday at 9:00 am with a Bible Study after worship

February 25—March 1

Jesus Is Lord

March 4—March 8

Everyone Is Welcome

March 11—March 15

Love Changes People

March 18—March 22

Everybody Has Something to Offer

March 25—March 29

The World Needs What We Have





St. Paul's Shut-ins:

Myron Johnson
Bob & Ruth Johnson

**Education/
Prayer Team**

RECENT PRAYERS

Mckenna Swaboda
Larry (Pastor Lynda Carson
Brother)
Linda Whitlock

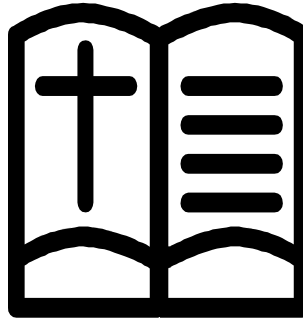
(2014)

Susan Anderson
Opal Bloomer
Vickie Buckingham
Addie Fausett
Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Gary Hollst
Lynda Johnson
Alyson Karl
Richard McDonough
Martha McGlothen
Gail Maddy
Pat Mason
Gerald Mosbey
Amy Pottorff
Dr. MARRIDEE RANDALL
Carol (Keegle) Reed
Mark Russell
Devin Sinclair
Jeff Stoffa
Frank Tharp
Paulette Williams

Continuing Prayers

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

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In Sympathy

Our Sympathy goes out to the family & friends of Karen Bloome, Marlene Beadle's sister, who died on Jan. 23.

Comfort the family and friends of Sherman Elgin, Pastor Bob Elgin's father, who died on Jan. 11.

Console all who mourn the death of Robert Johnson, Myron Johnson's brother, who died in January.

May they all receive comfort as they rest in the certain hope of the resurrection.

WELCA Bible Study:

Thursday, February 12 at 11:00 am.

This month we will be studying: **"Making conversion last"** the Bible and the communities we live in can cause and nurture spiritual transformation.

"He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing." Acts 8:38-39.



PRAYERS UP-DATE — Your help is needed!

If you gave us a name of someone to be included in our prayers; (or if you know the status of any one listed above) please check with them to see how they are doing.

Let the church office know if they have improved and/or are better. Check with them to see if they want us to keep praying for them. Thank you for your help.

Sunday School 10:15 am—10:45 am

Lesson	Teachers
2/1 Jesus Calms the Storm	Richard & Ruth James
2/8 Loaves & Fishes	Stephanie Kelley/ Gloria Smallwood
2/15 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	
2/22 Blind Man Sees	Cameron & Carson Stocker

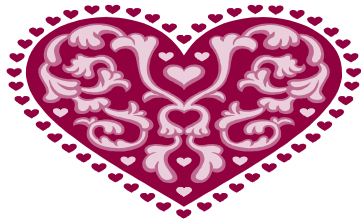
New Adult Bible Study

starting Feb. 25th after the Weds. worship and after the Sun. worship. We will be studying **"Reclaiming the "L" Word. (Renewing the Church from its Lutheran Core).**

We will be ordering books, if you want to participate in the Bible Study, please sign-up for us to order you one. Sign-up sheet is in the fellowship hall.

Fellowship Team Ministries

Sunday Brunch



February 15th

Senior Fellowship

Pot-luck lunch: February 4th our meeting will have a soup and valentine's theme. A large pot of vegetable beef soup will be furnished. Bring another small soup for variety or something that would go with soup. Let's not forget desserts too.

WELCA

Monthly MEETING: Feb. 26 at 7:00 pm (TIME CHANGE)
This month our hostess will be Anita Simmons. Agenda items will be electing new officers and deciding on a mission for our soup luncheon funds.

WELCA Bible Study Thursday, Feb. 12 at 11:00 am
(See more info on page 3)



Birthdays & Anniversaries



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

Baptismal Birthdays

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



Anniversaries

None in February



Council



Council Notices

Council Meeting: Feb. meeting will be held during the Annual Council Retreat that will be held at St. Paul's on February 8 from 11 am—3 pm. Council members are encouraged to bring an item for a pot-luck lunch that day.

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RECYCLED Offering Envelopes available:

No envelopes were ordered this year, 2015, to help with budget costs. We do have outdated offering envelopes for you to use. Please be sure to put your **NAME on the outside of the old offering envelopes (especially is giving cash)** so the Financial Secretary will be able to record your contribution for your quarterly contribution and the end of year contribution.

2014 ANNUAL REPORT & DIRECTORY: If you would like a copy of the 2014 St. Paul's Lutheran Church Annual Report and the 2015 Address & Telephone Directory they can be found in the fellowship hall.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Minutes - - January 6, 2015

Present: Pastor Nancy Reed, Pr. Eric Carlson, Colleen Putnam, Anita Simmons, Gail Clouse, Lana Kaldenberg, Richard James, Amanda Thomas and Marilyn Woods. Absent: Curtis Kelley, Kay Spieler, Julie Stocker

The Council had a detailed discussion with Pr. Eric Carlson on the strengths of our church. These included the radio ministry, our members are active in the community, and are welcoming to visitors. We also discussed the purposes and visions of the church which include prayer, worship, fellowship and a passion for Christ.

The minutes as amended were approved with a motion from Colleen Putnam and seconded by Lana Kaldenberg. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was approved with a motion from Marilyn Woods and seconded by Colleen Putnam. Motion carried.

Anita Simmons presented a budget which included the recommendations of the council members. The motion to accept was made by Gail Clouse and seconded by Colleen Putnam. Motion carried. The budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Woods
Council Secretary

Council Officers for 2015 are:

President—Kay Spieler Vice-Pres.—Gail Clouse
Secretary—Amanda Thomas Treas.—Anita Simmons

****Note still need 1 more person to be on council.**

Financial Secretary—Marilyn Johnson

Teams:

Worship—Marilyn Woods, Gail Clouse, Also: Jessica Hemann

Fellowship—Colleen Putnam, Lana Kaldenberg, Kay Spieler

Missions—Amanda Thomas, Also: Anita Simmons, Sharon Wilkin, Kara Tomlin, Karen Niebuhr, Gloria Smallwood

Education/Prayer—Kay Spieler, Also: Ruth James, Stephanie Kelley, Gloria Smallwood

Property—Curtis Kelley, Richard James, Also: Greg Dorpinghaus, Jacob Hemann, Doug Sparks, Ron Hohneke, Don Niebuhr



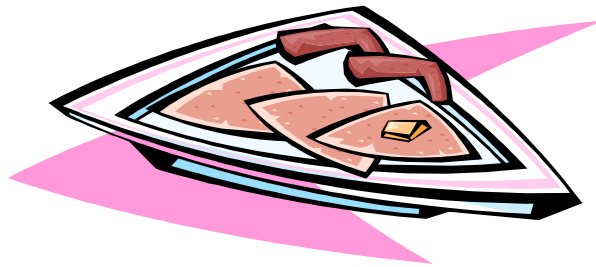
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper— FEBRUARY 17

Serving from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Free Will Offering.

Come enjoy **all you can** eat blueberry or plain pancakes with bacon & sausage patties. We will also have syrup, strawberries and whip cream toppings.

Please help with this event by signing—up on the lists in the fellowship hall. Funds raised in the past have been used for maintenance for the church property.



American Heart Association Benefit

In memory of Bekah Sherman

WHEN: Saturday, March 7th

WHERE: American Eagles Club in Albia

WHAT: Walk-a -Thon in the morning

Dinner

Auction

Dance

Starting at 5:30 pm

SPONSORED BY: Thrivent Financial and St. Paul's Lutheran Church

If you would like to donate an item for the auction and help with this event contact Gail Clouse or St. Paul's .

100% of all funds raise will go to the American Heart Association.



Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Karen McCombs & Marilyn Woods

<u>Feb. 1</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Greg & Jani Dorpinghaus
	Lector:	Gail Clouse
<u>Feb. 8</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Greg & Jani Dorpinghaus
	Lector:	Anita Simmons
<u>Feb. 15</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Usher/Greeter:	John & Lise Nelson
	Lector:	Lise Nelson
<u>Feb. 18</u> Ash Weds.	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Kelley Family
	Lector:	_____
<u>Feb. 22</u>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	John & Lise Nelson
	Lector:	Lise Nelson

Worship Team Ministries



CHOIR Practice

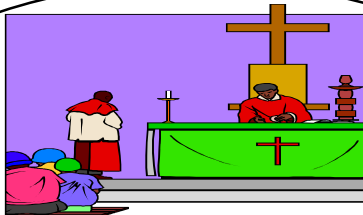


8:15 am

Feb.	1	Practice & Performance
Feb.	8	Practice
Feb.	15	Practice
Feb.	23	Practice

Missions Task Force:

Will meet on Sunday, Feb.
15th after worship.



Wednesday Evening Worship:

Join us every Wednesday for
our mid-week worship with
communion.

Worship starts at 6:30 pm.

Worship Team: will meet on
Monday, Feb. 2 at 9:30 am.



Sunday Worship 9:00 am
Sunday School 10:15 am
Adult Bible Study 10:20 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 9 am—Noon & 1—3 pm Friday 9 am—Noon

Helping Hands Hours: Monday 9 am-2 pm Tuesday 4—6 pm Wednesday 9 am-12 pm (noon)
Thursday 4—6 pm Friday 9 am-12 pm (noon) Saturday. 9 am-12 pm (noon)
Closed on Sunday Phone: 932-5984

Blood Drive: Tues. February 3 from 3-7 pm at Trinity United Methodist Church. This is sponsored by the Albia Ministerial Assoc.



Soup Luncheon: First Christian Church is having on Thurs., Feb. 5th from 11 am – 1:30 pm a Free
Will Donation lunch with chili, vegetable soup and bean soup. Everyone is welcome.



FEBRUARY 18th at 6:30 pm with distribution of
ashes and Holy Communion.



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.