

Crossings

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

Volume 11 Issue 2

February 2016

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I often enjoy praying prayers written by others. Sometimes my own words seem inadequate and I find new depth in the words of others. Since this congregation has recently voted to change in an effort to get our feet back under us, I thought the words written by Ted Loder, author of *Guerrillas of Grace*, might help all of us pray for our life together in the light of these recent changes, (I took the liberty of changing the subject from 1st person singular to 1st person plural):

Gentle Our Desperation*

Come, Lord Jesus, touch us with love, life-giving as light,
to quiet our anger a little and gentle our desperation,
to soften our fears some and soothe the knots of our cynicism,
to wipe away the tears from our eyes and ease the pains in our
bodies and souls,
to reconcile us to ourselves and then to the people around us,
and then nation to nation, that none shall learn war anymore,
but turn to feed the hungry, house the homeless and care
compassionately
for the least of our brothers and sisters.

Reshape us in your wholeness to be a healing people, O Lord.

Come, Lord Jesus, expand us by your power, life-generating as the sea,
to accept and use our power, to do something we believe in and be
something more

of who we are meant to be and can be,
to inspire us to dream and move, sweat and sing, fail and laugh, cuss and
create,

to link our passion with courage, our hope with discipline, our love with persistence,
to enable us to learn from difficulties, grow in adversities, gain wisdom from defeats,
perspective from disappointments, and find joy in simply living it all fully.
Release us through your power to be a powerful people, O Lord.

Come, Lord Jesus, startle us with your presence, life-sustaining as air,
to open our hearts to praise you, to open our minds to attend you,
to open our spirits to worship you,
to open us to live our lives as authentically and boldly as you lived yours.

Come, Lord Jesus, be with us in our longing; come, stay with us in our needing;
come, go with us in our doing; come, struggle with us in our searching;
come, rejoice with us in our loving. Amen.

Walking and praying with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy

* Found on pages 94-95, "Guerrillas of Grace: Prayers For the Battle, 20th Anniversary Edition" by Ted Loder. (Augsburg Books, Minneapolis, 1984, 2005).

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

Water Needed for People in Flint, MI

To help please send a donation to this address:

**Southeast Michigan Synod/ELCA
8115 E. Jefferson, Detroit, MI 48214.**

Note on your donation one of the following:



illustrations of.com #1206139

Bottled Water



FILTERS



Faucets

Salem Lutheran Church in Flint is working on getting their pipes replaced in the church and install a new filtration system so that the water at the church is safe. Then people can go there to the church to get their water and fill their bottles and jugs. If you wish to help Salem with this project mark your check with Faucets.

Your donation goes directly to the three needs listed above.



Shrove Tuesday- Pancake Supper:
Feb. 9th from 5 – 7 pm. Join us for all-you-can eat pancakes, bacon & sausage.

Please sign-up if you can help with food items and help with cooking & serving this annual out-reach of our church.





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



Continuing Prayers

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

In Sympathy:

Our sympathy goes out to the family and friends of Richard Haeussler who died on Jan. 6 and Opal Blumer who died on Jan. 10.

Comfort them in the their time of grief.

**Education/
Prayer Team**

**WELCA Bible Study
February 10 at 11:00 am**

Our Bible study is an exploration of the book of Philippians.

Christian Citizenship 101

Session 2: **Servant-shaped soldiers** (Philippians 1:27-2:18)



RECENT PRAYERS

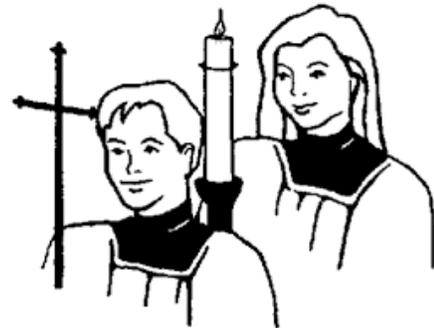
Jenni Beckwith
Carrie Bergland
Mary Carder
Ray Hopkins
Frank Hunter
Linda Ulrich Johnson
Lana Kaldenberg
Martha McGlothen
Karen Moon
June Morrison
Rosealee Rhodes
Devin Sinclair
Ella Teno
Paulette Williams

(2014)

Vickie Buckingham
Addie Fausett
Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Gary Hollst
Alyson Karl
Richard McDonough
Pat Mason
Deloris Perry
Gary Perry
Amy Pottorff
Dr. Marridee Randall
Carol (Keegle) Reed
Devin Sinclair
Paulette Williams
=====

**Building Faith Through Family
Home Huddles
(BF-T-FHH)**

Family Home Huddle Mission Craft day will be Sunday, Feb. 7 after worship. We will finish the hearts for the Senior Center and home delivered meals in Albia and Lovilia. We will be handing out the devotions for Lent.



Acolyte Training: Pastor will be having training for those who wish to help with being an acolyte today after worship and on Feb. 7 after worship @ 10:30 am.

Fellowship Team Ministries

Sunday Brunch



February 21

Senior Fellowship

We will have a pot-luck lunch on Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 11:00 am.



We will be playing BINGO this month. Please bring a white elephant item for prizes.

WELCA

Monthly Meeting: Thurs., Feb. 25 at 7:00 pm.
Our hostess will be Colleen Putnam.

WELCA Bible Study: Weds. Feb. 10 at 11:00 am
(See more info on pg 3)



Birthdays & Anniversaries

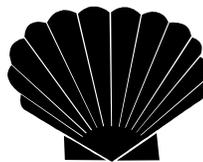
Baptismal Birthdays



Birthdays

2. Carson Stocker
2. Kay Spieler
5. Greg Dorpinghaus
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
28. Amanda Thomas

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



True Love

For God so lo **V**ed the world,
That He g **A**ve
his on **L**y
Begot **E**n
So **N**
That whosoever
Believeth **I**n Him
Should **N**ot perish,
But have **E**verlasting life."
John 3:16

Council



Council Retreat

On Sunday, February 14 from 11 am—2 pm the council will have their annual retreat. Please bring a dish to share for lunch.

There will be installation of the council that day (2/14) during the worship service.

2016 Council Officers and Members

Kay Spieler, Pres.
Cutis Kelley, Vice Pres.
Amanda Thomas, Secretary
Lana Kaldenberg
Colleen Putnam
Richard James
Marilyn Woods
Gail Clouse

A few high-lights of Congregational Annual Meeting

Jan 24, 2016

The second vote of St. Paul's Up-dated Constitution passed.

Budget was approved with Pastor Nancy going to a 50% call.

Pastor Nancy's days in the office will be Sunday, Monday & Tuesday.

Approval to sell some of the church property to Albia CHS.

Still looking for 1 more person to be on council.



If you would like a copy of the 2015 Annual Report– you can pick one up at the church office from Gloria.

We also have copies of the Church Phone Directory at the office too.

Offering Envelopes: We have leftover offering envelopes from past year for your use. BE sure to put your name on the envelope if you put cash in it.

Auto-Tithe: Start off the new year by signing-up for Auto-tithe where you can donate to the church weekly (or monthly) on a scheduled basis. If you are unable to attend worship because of other obligations, out of town, or on vacation you are able to support the ministry of St. Paul's. See Gloria for the form to start your Auto-Tithe.

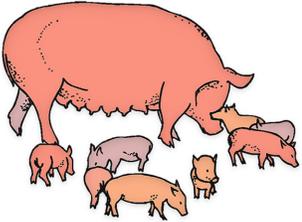


MISSIONS TASK FORCE Lenten Mission Project

ELCA Good Gifts **Piggy Banks**. Starting on Ash Wednesday we will be joining in the World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving.



FILL A PIGGY BANK



For \$ 30, one piglet can be provided to a family in need. When that little pig grows up, she will give birth to as many as 16 piglets each year. Pigs help fertilize fields and provide food to eat.

A pig in the pen is like money in the bank. Within months, a tiny piglet grows to weigh over 200 pounds! Should a family have a failed harvest, medical expense or other unexpected financial needs, this pig can be sold for much-needed cash at the market.

We are encouraging everyone to take a piggy bank home and fill it through Lent.

How many pigs can we get in 6 weeks time?



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.

Worship Team Ministries



Sunday Worship
9:00 am



CHOIR

Feb. 7	Practice
Feb. 14	Practice
Feb. 21	<u>No</u> practice
Feb. 28	Practice

January Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Linda Preston & Sharon Wilkin

<u>Feb. 7</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	John & Lise Nelson
	Lector:	Jessica Hemann
<u>Feb. 10</u> <u>Ash Weds.</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Usher/Greeters:	?????
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods
<u>Feb. 14</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	John & Lise Nelson
	Lector:	Jessica Hemann
<u>Feb. 21</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	John & Lise Nelson
	Lector:	Anita Simmons
<u>Feb. 28</u>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	John & Lise Nelson
	Lector:	?????

Lenten Journey

"Lent" actually means "springtime" giving Christians a wonderful image of the growth and maturing of faith even as the new plants take root and begin to grow. The focus is on penitence and preparation, a time to reflect on Baptism and its basis in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The season of Lent lasts for 40 days, recounting the time that the rains fell, the years the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, and the days of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday worship **February 10 at 7:00 pm**

The sign of ashes suggests our human mortality and frailty. What seems like an ending is really an invitation to make each day a new beginning, in which we are washed in God's mercy and forgiveness. With the cross on our brow, we long for the spiritual renewal that flows from the springtime Easter feast to come.

Mid-Week Lenten Worship: Starting Feb. 17 our theme will be "*Creation to Salvation*". This is a daily Lenten devotion booklet that we encourage everyone to use. Each Weds. Worship we will be using that day's message.

Lenten Worship Dates

Worship Services start at 7:00 pm

Feb. 10	Ash Wednesday
Feb. 17	Mid-Week Worship
Feb. 24	Mid-Week Worship
March 2	Mid-Week Worship
March 9	Mid-Week Worship
March 16	Mid-Week Worship
March 24	Maundy Thursday
March 25	Good Friday
March 27	Easter

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

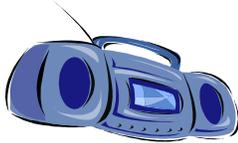
Place Mailing Label Here

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.



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.



Prayer Concerns: If you or a loved one is ill, injured or hospitalized and would like to be included in our prayers or have the pastor visit, please call the church with the message. Hospitals, by law, no longer automatically inform us of admissions.

Please keep us up-dated on the person we are praying for and tell us when we can remove them from the prayer list.

Blood Drive: on Tues. Feb. 2 at Trinity United Methodist Church from 3-7 pm; sponsored by the Albia Ministerial Assoc. More info on the flyer in church entry.