

Crossings

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

Volume 12 Issue 2

February 2017

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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

The annual meeting held Sunday, January 29th, 2017, was a great time of conversation, food and fellowship as together we prayerfully considered what God is calling us to do this year. We decided what to do with the funds from the sale of the land; planned some needed upkeep projects for the building; and looked forward to several ministry projects - both local and global in scope.

In general, the report from folks attending is that this past year has been a good year, even with the congregation reducing the pastor's time to 50%. I remain very grateful for all of the ministries St. Paulians carry out as followers of Jesus. Praise God for all of the folks who have come forward to serve on council, the committees, and assisted with the many and various ministry and property tasks to which God continues to call us.

I am so warmed by the eager participation of folks from St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and folks from St. Paul's in the "Declaration On the Way" classes. We have about 20 people attending. Our trust in each other is growing; conversations are deeper as together we discern and prayerfully consider all the ways in which Lutherans and Catholics have come closer together. What a grand time we are having!

I believe God chose this time for us to embark on these classes as a way for all of us to learn to communicate our faith on a deeper level. It's a wee bit easier to take risks and discuss our preconceived notions and judgments which have been a wall between us. In a world in which people shout at each other, and listen only so we can respond with a resounding defense of our own "right-ness" - what we experience and learn from these classes will have profound effect.

I sense American Christians are entering a new era - not unlike the 1960's in some ways - where we are being called upon to declare the justice of God. To be a Jesus follower is to believe and trust that indeed, Jesus Christ is alive in all the baptized. As such, we are guided by the Spirit of Christ to see the world through God's eyes, to give voice to the Good News that is Jesus Christ, and to extend welcome, warmth, compassion and love to those beyond our walls, beyond our comfort zones, beyond our own understanding.

Jesus was open, honest and direct when he talked about what it means for a person to be his disciple:

¹⁰"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you" Matthew 5.10-12. And again: ⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' ⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect" Mat 5.43-48.

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

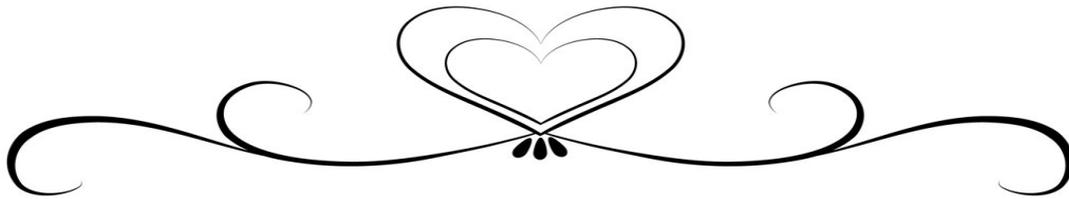
Sisters and brothers, we share a calling to love the world as God loves it. It is hard, challenging and risky. But we are not left on our own: we gather together for prayer, to hear God's word, to worship, share in sacrament and fellowship. Thus strengthened by the gift of God's grace and each other, we can do what God calls us to do. We shall get it done because Christ got it done on the cross for us and for all people. Hear the word of the Lord: ³³"I have said this to you, so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution. But take courage; I have conquered the world!" (John 16.33).

Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy



Global Church Minute Prayer

Starting in February and through the rest of 2017; there will be an insert in the bulletin that will have a short prayers for each week of the month. These prayers serve as a reminder of our connection to our brothers and sisters around the world.



**WORSHIP
WITH US**

Every Week SATURDAY EVENING WORSHIP is BACK

NEW Time 5:00 pm
with Holy Communion

Starting on February 4 we will be having Saturday worship every Saturday of the month. Please help support this ministry by attending. We need a maintained attendance of 9 people to continue. It is not good stewardship of our resources if no one attends.





St. Paul's Shut-ins:
Ruth Johnson

Education/ Prayer Team

RECENT PRAYERS

Anthony Allen
Pat & Gerry Anderson
Boyce Bailey
Mary Carder
Gene Dobson
Gerry Gillette
Maya Griebel
Wendy Henexson
Margaret Jordan
Cora Leshin
Arlene Lewis
Roger Lewis
Richard McDonough
Cathy Tietje Osmundson
Leo Oye
Dr. Marridee Randall
Lester Rue
Leeta Sanger
Scott Sanger
Lyle Spieler
Greg Tilton
Fred Witte
=====

Continuing Prayers **(2015)**

Linda Ulrich Johnson
Ella Teno

(2014)

Sharon Glenn
Nick Griffin
Pat Mason
Devin Sinclair

Continuing Prayers

Brantley Hemann
Laura Moore
Trisha Raven
Bert Whitlock
=====



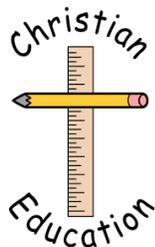
WELCA Bible Study:

Wednesday, February 8 at 11 am.

Reformation anniversary Bible study on "Galatians: Christian faith and Christian freedom."

"Biblical scholars describe Paul's letter to the Galatians as the Magna Carta of Christian freedom," Kleinhans writes. "Martin Luther called it 'my Katie von Bora.' Like his marriage to Katie, Luther's relationship with Galatians was a rich and lasting one: over a period of 20 years, he published six commentaries on the epistle. Luther's reformation was centered in the doctrine of justification by grace through faith for Christ's sake, which he saw as the heart of Paul's letter to the Christians in Galatia. It is also the heart of Paul's—and-Luther's message for us today."

**Session 1: No other Gospel
(Galatians 1:1-2:21)**



Bible Study "Reformation till Now"
Declaration on the way. Still time to get into the class.

Roman Catholic—Lutheran Dialog Declaration on the Way Classes

Join us for these adult classes where we discuss the Statements of Agreement on church, ministry and eucharist.

The classes continue at 6:30 pm on Thursday, Feb. 2, 9, 16, and 23. They will be at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

You can join the class anytime if you are interested. Let Pastor Nancy know.



Comforting God, we thank you for the life of Elizabeth Culbertson (Laura Clouse's mother) and Donna Stafford.

Embrace those who mourn their death with your comforting assurance of eternal life.

Fellowship Team Ministries

Pot-luck



February 19

Senior Fellowship

Pot-luck Luncheon: February 1 at 11 am.

WOMEN of the ELCA

**Special Meeting place & Time: WEDNESDAY,
February 22 at 7 pm.** Our hostess will be Colleen Putnam

WELCA Bible Study: Weds. , February 8 At 11 am.

(See more info on pg 3)

At our January meeting we decided to purchase 15 more ELW hymnals and we will be sending \$125 each to the following missions:

- Lutheran World Relief
- Ministerial Assistance Office
- Lutheran Chaplaincy at Univ. of IA Hospital
- Anamosa State Prison Ministry
- Oskaloosa Crisis Center

Birthdays & Anniversaries



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



Baptismal Birthdays

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



Shrove Tuesday- Pancake Supper:

Feb. 28th 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 event of St. Paul's.



Council



Council Meeting: February 19 after worship.
Installation will be March 5

Treasure Report

Our weekly budget offering amount for 2017

\$1,499.27

St. Paul's 2017 Council

| | |
|------------------|--------------|
| Kay Spieler | President |
| Gail Clouse | Vice- Pres. |
| Amanda Thomas | Secretary |
| Anita Simmons | Treasurer |
| Marilyn Woods | Worship |
| Karter Spieler | Youth |
| Richard James | Property |
| Ruth James | Christian Ed |
| Stephanie Kelley | Christian Ed |



If you would like a hard copy of the 2016 Annual Report- you can pick one up in the fellowship hall.

There are also copies of the Church Phone Directory too.



Our Lenten Journey starts with Ash Wednesday worship March 1 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



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.



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.

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)
Shampoo
Deodorant**

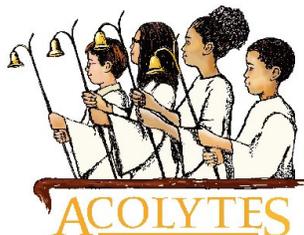


Laundry Supplies



Toilet paper

IN MEMORY



A new acolyte torch/candle lighter was given in memory of Gail Phoenix and Barbara Reed on January 8, 2017 by Martin & Rev. Nancy Reed.

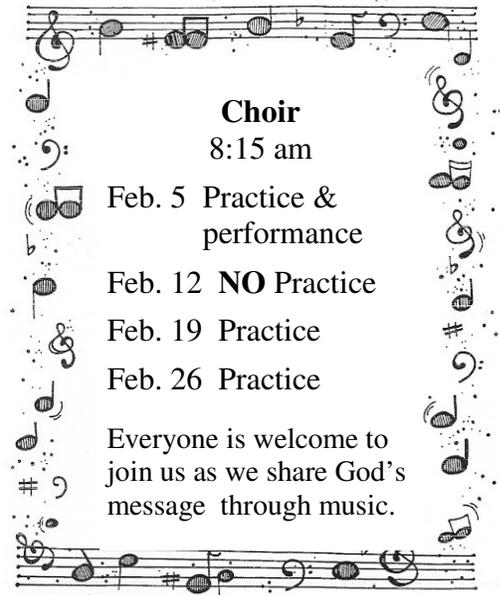
Thank you for this much needed gift.

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Colleen Putnam & Gloria Smallwood

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <u>Feb. 5</u> | Worship Assistant: Gail Clouse Ushers/Greeters: Tom & Linda Preston Lector: Gail Clouse |
| <u>Feb. 12</u> | Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Ushers/Greeters: Evelyn Sharpe & Marilyn Johnson Lector: Marilyn Woods |
| <u>Feb. 19</u> | Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Ushers/Greeters: Tom & Linda Preston Lector: ???????? |
| <u>Feb. 26</u> | Worship Assistant: Anita Simmons Usher/Greeter: ???????? Lector: Anita Simmons |
| <u>March 1</u> Ash Weds. | Worship Assistant: Marilyn Woods Usher/Greeter: Smallwood Family Lector: Gloria Smallwood |

Worship Team Ministries



Choir
8:15 am

Feb. 5 Practice & performance
Feb. 12 **NO** Practice
Feb. 19 Practice
Feb. 26 Practice

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



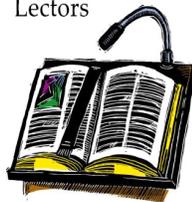
Schedule for February

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Feb. 5 | Sophie light & put out the candles Parker collect communion cups |
| Feb. 12 | Morgan light & put out the candles Grayson collect communion cups |
| Feb. 19 | Lydia light & put out the candles Nikko collect communion cups |
| Feb. 26 | Parker light & put out the candles Sophie collect communion cups |



Saturday Worship
Every week starting Feb. 4
NEW Time 5:00 pm

Lectors



LECTORS Needed: Help with worship by reading the Holy Scriptures on Sunday's. Please put your name down on the orange sheet in the fellowship hall.



USHERS Needed: Please help us with worship by signing up on sheet in the fellowship hall.

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.



First Christian Church is having a free will donation **SOUP LUNCH** on
Thursday, February 2 from 11 am—1 pm.

Soup Tasting Lunch: on Feb. 24 from 11:00—2 pm at the Trinity Family Life
Center. This event is hosted by the Monroe County Food Summit Committee and
your free will donations will help to purchase household items for the Ministerial
Emergency office and the Gate Community Holiday Laundry Basket Program.



**St. Paul's Lutheran Church Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper**

Feb. 28th from 5 – 7 pm. Join us for all-you-can eat pancakes, bacon &
sausage.