

Crossings

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

Volume 11 Issue 1

January 2016

Pastor's Epistle

Happy New Year to my Friends in Christ!

With the chapter of 2015 now finished and given to God, we face 2016 with excited anticipation, maybe some trepidation, and many questions: What will happen this year? How will I get along with my family and friends and neighbors? How will I survive this election year? Who will be our new president? What will happen around the globe and how will all of this affect me? What are my hopes and fears as this new year looms before me?

As I was pondering these questions, I was reminded of a hymn which brought a "God moment" perspective to these questions. "It Is Well With My Soul" was written in 1873 by Horatio G. Spafford and is based on 2 Kings 4.26 and Psalm 146.1. I suggest you read the whole story, 2 Kings 4.11-37, and, together with Psalm 146.1, you shall have a deeper appreciation for this lovely hymn:

**When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

Refrain:

*It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

**Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.*

**My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!*

**For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.*

**But, Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul!*

**And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.*

(http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/It_Is_Well_with_My_Soul/)

Our Mission Statement

*Called by Christ to love
God & neighbor
through **deepening prayer,**
broadening fellowship,
and **expanding worship.***

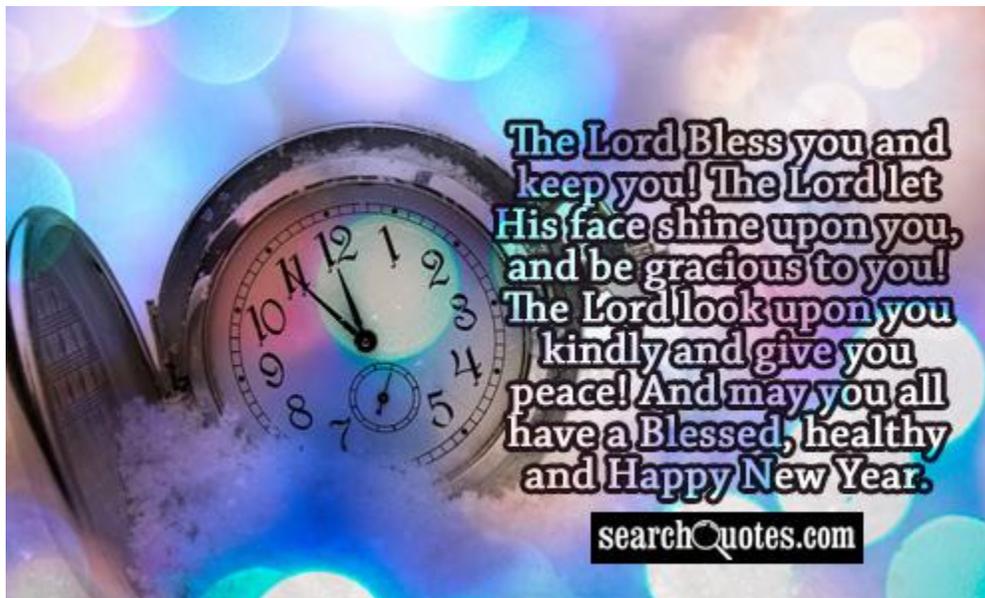
"In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loves us so much, we also ought to love one another."

1 John 4:10-11

Here is the story behind the hymn: (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/It_Is_Well_with_My_Soul)

“This hymn was written after traumatic events in Spafford's life. The first was the 1871 Great Chicago Fire, which ruined him financially (he had been a successful lawyer and had invested significantly in property in the fire area). His business interests were further hit by the economic downturn of 1873, at which time he had planned to travel to Europe with his family on the *SS Ville du Havre*. In a late change of plan, he sent the family ahead while he was delayed on business. While crossing the Atlantic, the ship sank rapidly after a collision with a sea vessel, the *Loch Earn*, and all four of Spafford's daughters died. His wife Anna survived and sent him the now famous telegram, "Saved alone ...". Shortly afterwards, as Spafford traveled to meet his grieving wife, he was inspired to write these words as his ship passed near where his daughters had died.^[3]”

As one year closes and another year opens before you, may you begin each day by saying, “It is well, it is well with my soul.” Walking with you along the WAY – Pr. Nancy





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 Gail Connerly who died on December 12, 2015. Comfort them in their time of grief.

**Education/
Prayer Team**

**WELCA Bible Study
January 13 at 11:00 am**

Jan – April in the winter of 2015–16, our four-session Bible study is an exploration of the book of Philippians, written by E. Louise Williams and the Rev. Phyllis N. Kersten. “Philippians is a wonderful book,” the authors write. “Paul had founded the Christian church in Philippi a number of years before and now writes to encourage them. Even though he is imprisoned, Paul does not seem downcast or discouraged. On the contrary, he thinks his suffering might have positive results for the gospel’s continued extension in the world.”

Christian Citizenship 101

Session 1: **Confidence in God’s beginnings and endings**
(Philippians 1:1-26)



RECENT PRAYERS

- Jenni Beckwith
- Carrie Bergland
- Mary Carder
- Eleana Derby
- Ray Hopkins
- Frank Hunter
- Linda Ulrich Johnson
- Loraine Jordan
- Martha McGlothen
- Karen Moon
- June Morrison
- Rosealee Rhodes
- Devin Sinclair
- Ella Teno
- Paulette Williams

(2014)

- Opal Bloomer
- 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

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

We will have our monthly Missions craft project on January 10 at 10:15 am after worship. We will be painting valentines for meals on wheels shut-ins. (We will cut them out at our Feb. 7th craft day.)



Christmas Program Thanks

The Christian Ed Team would like to thank Jessica Hemann for creating and directing our Christmas program this year. We would also like to thank everyone who participated and helped with the program: Dakota Kelley, Grayson Kelley, Parker Hemann, Sophie Hemann, Brody Thomas, Blair Thomas, Curtis Kelley, Jacob Hemann, Michael Thomas and Stephanie Kelley. The time you dedicated for practice and all your efforts were greatly appreciated. The program was enjoyed by all who attended.

Fellowship Team Ministries

Sunday Brunch



Special Day
January 24
(Annual Meeting)



Birthdays

- 3. Mary Mitchell
- 3. Becca Mason
- 8. Wesley Clouse
- 11. Alex Mason
- 13. Paige Lozano
- 13. Leroy Hogeland
- 16. Spenser Johnson
- 21. Mitchel Sparks
- 22. Marilyn Johnson
- 25. Betty Hohneke
- 25. Jean Lozano
- 26. Ruth Johnson
- 27. Kelsey Lynn Simmons
- 30. Sharon Wilkin
- 30. Linda Preston
- 30. Ruth James
- 31. Tyler Clouse

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Baptismal Birthdays

- 17. Olivia Sherman
- 20. Karen Niebuhr
- 21. Kevin Tangie
- 30. Quentin Lee Butler
- 31. Brittany (Sparks) Flattery



Anniversaries

- 23. Ron & Betty Hohneke

Senior Fellowship

NO MEETING IN JANUARY

Bingo on February 3rd

WELCA

WELCA Meeting: Thurs., Jan. 28 at 7:00 pm. We will be setting our budget for 2016 and deciding which missions to support with our soup and candy donations. Come and join us for fun and fellowship. Our hostess is Anita Simmons.

WELCA Bible Study: Weds. Jan. 13 at 11:00 am
(See more info on pg 3)

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Chocolates/Candy and Bake Sale at our Soup event. Sales were \$427.00.

Soup Lunch and Supper was a great success this year. Free will offering was \$480.00 for lunch and \$487.00 for supper. Thank you to everyone who helped by donating food items, cooking the soups, cornbread & desserts, serving the food, waiting on people and cleaning up. Without your participation we could not have this event. We will decide what missions we will be sending our fund to at the January meeting. Start thinking of where we can help others with these funds.



On December 13th we welcomed into the family of God **Whitney Mae Thomas**, daughter of Michael & Amanda Thomas, Sister to Brody & Blair. To help guide Whitney are her sponsors Tim & Brenda Butler and Jeff & Jody Butler.

Council



NEW DAY FOR COUNCIL MEETING:
Sunday, January 10, 2016 after worship at
10:15 am

Council Members needed: If you would like to help make the decisions regarding church matters the council has an opening for you. Please let anyone on council know that you are interested.

Council members are:

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

Summary of December St. Paul's Council Minutes recorded by Pastor Reed/Tuesday, 12/15/2015

St. Paul's Lutheran Church Council Minutes — December 15th, 2015

Present: Kay Spieler, Richard James, Curtis Kelley, Colleen Putnam, Anita Simmons, Pr. Nancy Reed, Gail Clouse

Absent: Lana Kaldenberg, Marilyn Woods, Amanda Thomas

President Kay Spieler called the meeting to order @ 6:30pm.

Devotions: Pr. Nancy – Readings from Luke 1 and prayer.

(Pr. Nancy took minutes as Amanda was home with a sick child.)

Gail C. moved and Richard 2nd to approve the agenda – motion carried.

Curtis moved and Richard 2nd to approve the November 2015 minutes as presented – motion carried.

Anita presented the treasurer's report – Colleen P. moved to approve the treasurer's report as submitted; Kay S. 2nd. Motion carried.

Fast report from committees:

Christian Education – continues as reported in November. Gloria Smallwood will write this.

Worship – nothing new. Gail Clouse will write the report for Annual Report.

Fellowship – same. Lana Kaldenberg will be asked to write the committee report for Annual Report.

Property – Curtis Kelley reported he will check on installing a carbon monoxide detector in the furnace room.

Missions – Very active – poinsettia project a big success with many gifts for the 2 families. Will ask Karen Niebuhr to write the report.

Old Business: Furnace replacement update. Will be installed in the spring unless some thing happens.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm. Closed with the Lord's Prayer and dismissal.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Nancy Reed, Council note-taker

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Annual Meeting: As we come to the end of this year; we are looking forward to the New Year and our Annual Meeting that will be held on Sunday, **Jan. 24th** after worship.

Here are some items that are needed for the Annual Report:

Reports from, Council Pres., Treas. And the Ministry Teams; who are: Missions, Fellowship, & Education.

Address/Phone numbers/E-mail: Please up-date this important information for our Church Directory.

If you have E-mail and want to get your newsletter in color please send your e-mail address to Gloria so she can add you to the list.

Worship Helpers Needed for the New Year: Please sign-up to help with worship as Ushers & Lectors. Your help with worship each week enhances worship.

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

Missions Meeting: Sunday, January 17 at 10:30 am.

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.



ADVENT Poinsettia Mission Project

The Poinsettia Missions project for December was very successful with everyone's help.

\$253.00 will be going to purchase animals for ELCA Global Barnyard

\$120.00 will be sent to Smile Train to help fix cleft lip & palates.

We were able to fill the wish lists for our 2 families we adopted for Christmas.

Family A: Dad-6 gift cards & 4 gifts

Son, 9th grade-20 gifts

Son, 3rd grade-20 gifts

Family B: Mom-5 gift cards & 5 gifts

Daughter, 3rd grade-20 gifts

Son, 5 yrs. Old-20 gifts

Thank you to everyone who donated to any of the above missions.



Salvation Army Bell Ringers!!

Due to the efforts of everyone who helped ring the bells this year the funds that will be able to be used to help those in Monroe County is \$7,556.00. Thank you to all the volunteers.

Worship Team Ministries



Sunday Worship
9:00 am



CHOIR

Watch for more January
information in your Sunday
Bulletin.

January Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Karen McCombs & Marilyn Woods

<u>Jan. 3</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	??????
	Lector	Gail Clouse
<u>Jan. 10</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	???????
	Lector	?????????
<u>Jan. 17</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	?????????
	Lector:	?????????
<u>Jan. 24</u>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	?????????
	Lector:	Marilyn Woods
<u>Jan. 31</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
Healing	Usher/Greeter:	?????????
Worship	Lector:	?????????

Worship Server's for the 2016 year: Please sign-up for Ushers and Lectors, these positions are very important; our worship services are enhanced by your participation. As you can see above.....we need your help. The sign-up sheets are in the fellowship hall.

We would like to thank all of you that gave of your time and talents this past year, it is greatly appreciated.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church
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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.

**May You Enjoy The Presence
Of Christ In Your Life
This New Year**

Josh 1:9 (KJV)

**"...Be strong and of a good courage;
be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed:
for the LORD thy God [is] with thee ..."**