

Crossings

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

Volume 12 Issue 3

March 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.

I want to thank the folks from St. Paul's Lutheran and St. Mary's Roman Catholic churches who put in their time, effort, prayers, love and intellect into the joint class about the Eucharist based on the newly published document, *Declaration On the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist*. Both congregations are peopled with folk who take their relationship with Christ seriously, who desire continued growth in faith and greater unity within the Body of Christ.

I want to give my personal shout-out to Fr. Mike Volkmer of St. Mary's, my colleague and brother in the Lord, whose graciousness, humor, and friendship was key to this group's endeavor being a success. I also want to thank Fr. Mark Yates for his willingness to participate as he was able. Our congregations are more united than ever – Praise God!

This 8-week conversation between our 2 congregations has only strengthened my passion for greater unity within the Body of Christ! I am amazed at the importance of this beautiful scriptural analogy of the living Body of Christ. Think your own body – the incredibly complex and inter-dependent unity of the skeletal, muscular, circulatory, digestive, sexual, excretory, skin, nerve, electrical, chemical, psychological, mental, emotional, spiritual, cellular and atomic systems that work *together* in ways that make it possible for each individual to work independently or in groups – to live and to thrive personally and corporately. This image of the Body of Christ – all aspects small and large, blatant or modest – working in *unity* to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus' radical love for everyone in the world – is essential to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to every spot on the planet. Think of what God could do through us if there is greater unity within the Body of Christ! God invites every one of us to participate in this great undertaking. Each are called to do our part, just like every cell in our bodies is expected to do their part for the greater health and wholeness of our body.

As Lent begins with Ash Wednesday next week, let us take time to reflect on Jesus' passion for you and me, and for all people. Let us reflect on how Jesus sacrificed his own body - beautiful and sinless though it was – in order that all might come to be reconciled with God and experience God's great love, mercy, and acceptance. Receiving these great gifts, we become a member of the living resurrected Body of Christ, alive in the world to bring this same love, mercy, and acceptance to everyone we meet. Life just can't get any better than that, can it?!

Be open to renewal, restoration, forgiveness, and transformation this Lenten season. United in Christ, let us go forth confident that we are working together as the Body of Christ for the sake of the world.

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



Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes:

Join us on **March 1 at 6:30 pm** as we start our Lenten journey. 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.



Lenten Worship	March 4	5 pm
Lenten Worship	March 11	5 pm
Lenten Worship	March 18	5 pm
Lenten Worship	March 25	5 pm
Lenten Worship	April 1	5 pm
Lenten Worship	April 8	5 pm

Our weekly Lenten worship this year will be on Saturday. (**Not on Weds.**) We will have Communion each Saturday as well.

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday	April 9	9:00 am
Maundy Thursday	April 13	6:30 pm
Good Friday	April 14	6:30 pm
Sat. Worship	April 15	5:00 pm
Easter Sunday	April 16	9:00 am



St. Paul's Shut-ins:
Ruth Johnson

Education/
Prayer Team

RECENT PRAYERS

Anthony Allen
Pat & Gerry Anderson
Nate & Ann Baggett
Boyce Bailey
Mary Carder
Gene Dobson
Gerry Gillette
Maya Griebel
Wendy Henexson
Margaret Jordan
Cora Leshin
Arlene Lewis
Roger Lewis
Richard McDonough
Maddy Murphy
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
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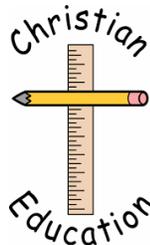
WELCA Bible Study:

Wednesday, March 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)**



Meeting: March 12 after worship.

**We will be discussing VBS and
Faith Formation for the fall.**



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.

Fellowship Team Ministries

Senior Fellowship

Pot-luck Luncheon: on Weds., March 1 at 11 am. This month we will have the video *The Story of the Nativity Stones* and Gail Clouse will share memories of her trip to Israel.

Pot-luck



March 19

Thrivent will be bringing a cake, nuts, mints and juice to our monthly pot-luck

WOMEN of the ELCA

International Women's Day: March 8

WELCA Bible Study: Weds. , March 8 At 11 am.
(See more info on pg 3)

Monthly Meeting: Thurs. March 23 at 7 pm.
Our hostess will be Anita Simmons. She will be sharing materials that show the impact of international women leaders on communities around the world.



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthday's

1. Nathan Dorpinghaus
3. Hayley Dobson
6. Kara Tomlin
19. Robert Zarn
22. Grayson Kelley
25. Mike Spieler
29. Larry Wilkin

Baptismal Birthday's

3. Betty Hohneke
8. Marilyn Johnson
10. Rhonda Mason
11. Carson Stocker
21. Ron Hohneke
22. Mary Carder
22. Sophie Hemann
27. Nikko Dobson
27. Lydia Dobson
27. Hayley Dobson
- Kay Spieler



Shrove Tuesday- Pancake Supper

Thank you to everyone who helped with this event.



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South Central Chapter of Thrivent will be sponsoring a coffee hour following a Sunday worship service on March 19. This is also our 3rd Sunday Brunch Sunday; they are bringing a decorated cake, nuts and mints and juice. This coffee hour is to thank all the Thrivent and non-Thrivent members who have helped with South Central Chapter Thrivent events in the past years. The South Central Chapter will be dissolved in the near future.

Council



**Council Meeting: March 19
after worship.**

Installation will be March 5

Treasure Report

Our weekly budget offering amount for 2017

\$1,499.27

January 29, 2017

Council Meeting Minutes

President Kay Spielier calls meeting to order.

There will be a council meeting February 19th after church service.

The Council will also be installed during worship service.

There will be no musician through the month of February.

Pastor Nancy reported that there was interest in using the music room for private piano lessons. She proposed we charge \$25 per month for use of the room. Gail motions to approve, and Stephanie seconds. Choir room would be used each Sunday from 2—5 pm.

It was proposed that St. Paul's Lutheran Church form a Memorial Fund Committee. All members of St. Paul's should be considered for a position on this committee. The committee will work together to create a procedure or plan that will help make it easier for families to determine where memorial funds might be utilized. This committee will work to determine uses of memorial money when its use has not been specified.

As for the 2017-2018 Council, the committee officers remain the same. Kay Spielier is President, Gail Clouse will serve as Vice President, Anita Simmons as treasurer, and Amanda Thomas as Secretary.

Amanda Thomas would like to be taken off of the Missions Task Force due to other obligations.

Ruth suggests younger members join the Education Committee, sighting that their everyday use of technology might enhance the opportunities we provide children at VBS. With that idea, Karter Spielier will join the Christian Ed committee and Ruth will go off of it.

There was a vote to approve the new members, motion approved.

Kay clarified a question from previous meeting: Pastor's work days are Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday morning. Her time at 50% is 25 hours per week.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Amanda Thomas, Council Secretary

February 19, 2017

Council Meeting Minutes

Present to meeting: Kay and Karter Spielier, Richard and Ruth James, Gail Clouse, Anita Simmons, Marilyn Woods, Pastor Nancy Reed, Stephanie Kelley.

President Kay Spielier calls meeting to order. The next council meeting will be March 19th after worship.

Marilyn motions to approve agenda and Gail seconds

Ruth motions to approve annual meeting minutes and Richard seconds

Marilyn motions to approve January minutes and Richard seconds

Anita gave Treasurer report: Average January offering \$1163.80 & \$684 for giving tree donations. The Smile Train donations are able to purchase one child's cleft palate surgery. Anita will work on Memorial funds transactions. Motion to approve Financial report by Richard, Ruth seconds.

Need council members to help find Memorial committee.

Worship committee needs to get the word out that Saturday service is now every week at 5 pm.

Gail suggests the radio station should be called to update the info.



Lenten Mission: “Pigs with a Purpose to Fight Hunger” during Lent we will be collecting funds in the Piggy Banks again this year. Last year we were able to purchase 35 piglets. Let’s see if we can top that number. Please take 1 or more piggy banks home with you and bring it back. One idea to help fill it; is each of the 40 days in Lent save your change and put it in the piggy bank.

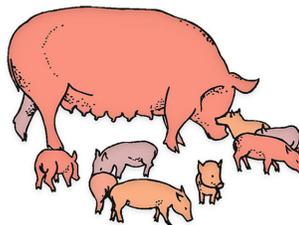
“Pigs with a Purpose to Fight Hunger” HELP FILL A PIGGY BANK



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?**



February Council Minutes Continued from page 5

Old business discussed to get more estimates on the parsonage damage to be fixed and church roof. Richard and Ruth will call to get estimates. Pastor and Kay will go to Mick’s to have them measure and order replacement flooring.

15 new hymnals and council installation will be March 5th during worship.

Hosting Episcopal funeral for Tennessee Montgomery once he dies. Nothing further needed from our congregation.

Discussed information on computer records software. Council determined there were many questions and will ask Gloria to attend next meeting to discuss further.

Meeting adjourned.

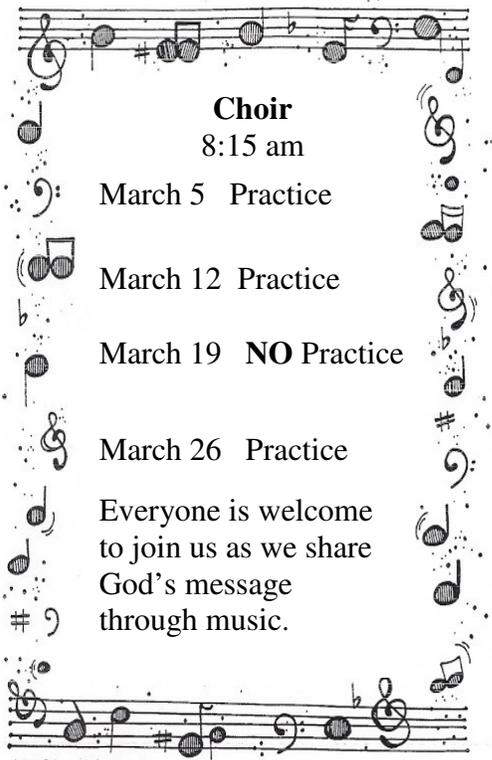
Minutes submitted by Stephanie Kelley, Education Council member

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Anita Simmons & Gloria Smallwood

<u>March 1</u> Ash Weds.	Worship Assistant: Usher/Greeter: Lector:	Marilyn Woods Smallwood Family Gloria Smallwood
<u>March 5</u>	Worship Assistant: Ushers/Greeters: Lector	Gail Clouse Hemann Family Gail Clouse
<u>March 12</u>	Worship Assistant: Ushers/Greeters: Lector	Marilyn Woods Hemann Family Hemann
<u>March 19</u>	Worship Assistant: Ushers/Greeters: Lector:	Marilyn Woods Hemann Family Marilyn
<u>March 26</u>	Worship Assistant: Usher/Greeter: Lector:	Anita Simmons Smallwood Anita Simmons

Worship Team Ministries



Choir
8:15 am

March 5 Practice

March 12 Practice

March 19 **NO** Practice

March 26 Practice

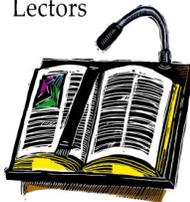
Everyone is welcome
to join us as we share
God's message
through music.



Schedule for March

March 5	Grayson light & put out the candles Morgan collect communion cups
March 12	Lydia light & put out the candles Nikko collect communion cups
March 19	Sophie light & put out the candles Parker collect communion cups
March 26	Morgan light & put out the candles Grayson collect communion cups

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>.

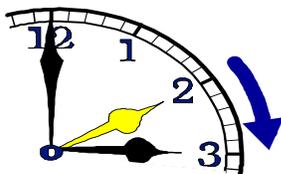
You will find our newsletters, calendar and recipe. Please send the office anything you would like to share on our web site.



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.

Understanding Your Grief: 8 week support group March 20—May 8 from 6—7:30 pm at Trinity United Methodist Church. Pre-registration is required please contact Andrea Dzak at 641-856-5502 or 800-500-2614. More information on flyer in church entry.

The documentary *Paper Tigers* will be shown at the King Opera House on March 16 at 6 pm. This film captures the pain, the danger, the beauty, and the hopes of struggling teens and teachers armed with new science and fresh approaches that are changing their lives for the better. There will be discussions after the film regarding how we can help as a community. More information on flyers in church entry.



Daylight Savings Time Begins
Spring Ahead 1 hour on Saturday,
March 11th after midnight.

