

Crossings

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

Volume 9 Issue 3

March 2014

Pastor's Epistle

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ –

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

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

I write this just days before this coming Sunday, which normally would be Transfiguration Sunday. Using the Revised Common Lectionary, we would normally celebrate and prayerfully reflect on the Glorified Jesus Christ, who then comes down from the mountaintop experience to walk up to and embrace the shame and humiliation of the cross – all for our sake. But this year we are using the Narrative Lectionary, the purpose of which is to help the congregation see the sweeping breadth of God's love for and pursuit of God's creation, which begins with Genesis 1 and flows through all time culminating in the ultimate love expression of the cross and the empty tomb. So this Transfiguration Sunday we will continue to prayerfully ponder the identity of Jesus through the story about the healing of the man who was born blind in John 9. Who is this man Jesus? Who is he for us? Do we believe the claims made about him?

Then Tuesday, March 4th, is our Shrove Tuesday feast of pancakes and sausage – yum! The whole town is looking forward to this! But the festivities of Shrove Tuesday lead us into Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Ash Wednesday – the day we wear the cross in ashes as we are reminded that, "We are dust, and to dust you shall return." We are reminded that we are totally dependent upon Jesus Christ for eternal life; that through HIS death, we are truly made right with God and given new life.

Lent is a 40-day season in which we give God extra time with prayer; fasting *from* events, or food, or experiences; maybe fasting *for* the sake of the other – volunteering time at Helping Hands, or the Emergency Assistance Office, or at school. Maybe we begin to tutor or mentor students, or visit our shut-ins, or spend longer time in prayer. Maybe our day is so full, all we can do is pray—so do that! Whatever we do, we do it for the sake of renewing our faith in Jesus, recommitting ourselves to serving God by serving others in the world around us. It is a time when we focus on repentance – that is, turning our focus away from those things which distract us from God, and turning our attention back to God. Repentance is more than just acknowledging our sinfulness; it is a responsive "turning" from and "turning" towards on account of the love God shows us through the person & work Jesus Christ.

I prayerfully wonder about God's timing of the season of Lent: In winter, the days are short, the dark and cold of night is long and lonely. But the days slowly grow longer, the sun moves higher in the sky, and we see signs of the coming rebirth of the earth with spring's arrival. So it is in the Church year: We hear about the birth and early ministry of Jesus, then his growing conflicts because of his claims to be God's Son and his miraculous signs which announce God's kingdom has come near. Then Lent begins: and as the spring of our new birth approaches, as the days of warmth and sunlight grow longer, we listen again to the stories of Jesus walking intently to his own death for our sake. His days grow colder, darker, and shorter, as our days of new birth and light grow longer. What wondrous love is this, O my soul?!

I hope and pray that you will embrace the season of Lent and take advantage of this precious time of year. Read the Gospel stories of Jesus' passion, prayerfully ponder the shame and victory cross, and turn your focus to the Lord your God. Come to worship on Wednesday evenings and the 2 worship services on the weekends. Ash Wednesday worship service is at 6:30 pm, and the following Wednesday services are at 6:30 pm. During this time, the confirmands will provide a skit each Wednesday evening on a particular subject, so I hope you will attend and support their ministry to the congregation. Confirmation class will follow the worship service.

May God richly bless your Lenten experience. May it be a time where we grow closer to God, deeper in faith, and in community with one another.

Walking with you along the Way — Pr. Nancy

Lenten WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday Worship: March 5th at 6:30 pm

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.

The season of Lent has, as it’s emphasis, the personal and corporate reflection on who God is in the person and work of Jesus Christ – God’s love enfleshed in human form – that our sins may not separate us from God forever. God’s love in Jesus drives him to the cross and the tomb for our sake. As part of that reflection, we will have weekly worship services that will begin at **6:30 pm on Wednesday evenings**.

Themes /Skits for Wednesday’s Lenten Worship

3/12	Fear
3/19	Confidence
3/26	(Com) Passion
4/2	Humility
4/9	Love

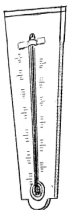
CONFIRMATION

Confirmation Class during Lent: The confirmands will meet at 6:00 pm each Weds. before worship for highs and lows. They will attend worship and perform a skit and then they will meet after worship to get ready for the skit for the next Weds..

Confirmands will be required to attend Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter morning worship.



Parsonage Air Conditioner & Furnace Fundraiser



In the 2014 approved budget there was \$6,200.00 earmarked to replace the air conditioning and furnace at the parsonage. St. Paul’s Council has decided to fund this through a mini-capital campaign drive; which means to raise the money separately and help out the budget.

There is a thermometer in the fellowship hall where we can see how much is collected each week.

You can add the amount to your weekly offering check; be sure to note how much you want to put toward the fundraiser. (Please write, on one of the arrows, how much you are donating and pin the arrow to the thermometer poster.)



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

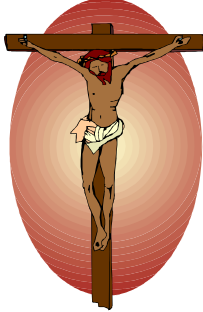
**Education/
 Prayer Team**

Alex Amante
 Merrill Baker
 Karen Blomme
 Bill Brubaker
 Kevin Bunch
 Gail Connerly
 Mary Datschefski
 Gary & Mary Egbert
 Judith Giertz
 Sharon Glenn
 Brantley Hemann
 Victor Hernandez
 Myron Johnson
 Casey Keel
 Rev. Laura Koppenhaeffer
 Marty Kroenecke

Bryce Kroenecke
 Kenneth Leaven
 Loren Lettington
 Richard McDonough
 Max McFarland
 Dale Madison
 Laura Moore
 Ronda Morgan
 Colleen Putnam
 Trisha Raven
 Richard Rowley
 Sheila Ryan
 Ed Scieszinski
 Misty Smith
 Jan Starcevic
 Bert Whitlock

Prayer

O God, your Son chose the path that led to pain before joy and to the cross before glory. Plant his cross in our hearts, so that in its power and love we may come at last to joy and glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen



Children's Church

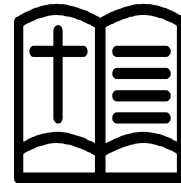
This is where the children 3rd grade and under leave church during the sermon and have a Bible story and then return during the passing of the peace.

Lesson	Teacher
3/2 Raising Lazarus	Jacob or Jessica Hemann
3/9 Twelve Disciples	Cameron Stocker
3/16 Jesus Walks on Water	Brooke Sparks
3/23 2 builders	Linda & Tom Preston
3/30 Palm Sunday	Gloria Smallwood

Christian Ed Meeting:
 ????????

BEN HUR

Special showing of this digital movie at the Albia Theater on March 30th at 2:00 pm. There will be a free will donation with the proceeds going to the Albia Ministerial Assoc. There will also be special door prizes.



Women's Bible Study:
 On March 19th at 11 a.m. See more info under WELCA on page 4.

Fellowship Team Ministries

3rd Sunday Brunch



March 16th

Senior Fellowship

Join us for a potluck lunch on **Weds. March 5th at 11:00 am.**
We will be playing Bingo.
Please bring a white elephant item for a prize.

WELCA

WELCA Bible Study: Wednesday, March 19th at 11:00 am.

March Bible Study is: Daughter, An Honest Virgin. She waves good-bye to a life that she had imagined for herself and her actions become a memorial to her when she returns to face death. Studying Judges 11:1-40, Psalm 130 & Mark 14:3-9

MEETING: will be on Thursday, March 27 at 6:30 p.m. Our hostess for this month is Gail Clouse.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

March Birthdays

1. Nathan Dorpinghaus
6. Kara Tomlin
18. Taylor Duey
19. Bill Van Polen
19. Robert Zarn
22. Reagan Dowdy
22. Grayson Kelley
25. Myron Johnson
26. Mike Spieler
27. Bob Johnson
29. Larry Wilkin



March Baptismal Birthdays

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

March Anniversaries

30. Richard & Nell Haeussler



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.



Council



Council Notices

Bishop Michael Burk from the SEIA Synod will be our guest pastor on Sunday, March 9th.

Council Meeting: NOTE NEW DATE : will have our meetings on the **3rd Monday** of the month this year. **March 17th at 6:30 pm.**

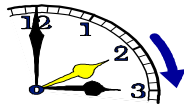
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Council Officers:

President: Amanda Thomas
Secretary: Marilyn Woods

Vice Pres.: Gail Clouse
Treasurer: Anita Simmons



Daylight saving time begins March 9th .
Spring ahead 1 hour
Sat. night before you go to bed.



Treasurer report:

Offerings & income through 1/31/14	\$7,460.50
Expenses through 1/31/14	\$7,386.56
Budget through 1/31/14	\$8,354.08
Offering vs. Expenses	+\$73.97
Offering vs. Budget	(\$893.58)
Furnace fundraiser through 2/10/14	\$150.00

ST. PAUL'S COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2014

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

Pr. Nancy opened the meeting with Devotions.

Gail Clouse moved to approve the Minutes from the last meeting and Lana Kaldenberg seconded the motion. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's budget report was made by Lana Kaldenberg and seconded by Richard James. Motion carried.

Pr. Nancy reported:

The sanctuary lights have been fixed.

Discussion of ideas for future Wednesday night services.

Committee reports were given. Committee members are:

Worship: Gail Clouse, Marilyn Woods and Jessica Hemann

Christian Education: Kay Spieler, Ruth James, Stephanie Kelley and Gloria Smallwood

Fellowship: Lana Kaldenberg, Colleen Putnam, Julie Stocker and Kay Spieler

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

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

Old Business:

Update on the new sound system.

Discussion of parsonage campaign promotion.

New Business:

Council meetings will be on the third Monday of the month.


There will be no Council meeting in July.

The possibility of meeting every other month was discussed.

Anita Simmons and Curtis Kelley will meet with the Edward Jones Representative.

Adjourned with a motion by Kay Spieler and seconded by Richard James. Motion carried.

Marilyn Woods, Secretary



Calendar Page

Worship Servers

Altar Guild: Karen McCombs & Marilyn Woods

<u>March 2</u>	Worship Assistant:	Gail Clouse
	Ushers/Greeters:	Curtis & Stephanie Kelley
	Lector:	Kelly Bumpus
	Acolyte:	Ben Mason
<u>March 5</u> Ash Weds.	Worship Assistant:	?????
	Ushers/Greeters:	Stocker Family
	Lector:	Stocker Family
	Acolyte:	Carson Stocker
<u>March 9</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Ushers/Greeters:	Larry & Sharon Wilkin
	Lector:	Sharon Wilkin
	Acolyte:	Karter Spieler
<u>March 16</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Usher/Greeter:	Larry & Sharon Wilkin
	Lector:	Sharon Wilkin
	Acolyte:	Karter Spieler
<u>March 23</u>	Worship Assistant:	Anita Simmons
	Usher/Greeter:	Tom & Linda Preston
	Lector:	Tom or Linda Preston
	Acolyte:	Sam Nielsen
<u>March 30</u>	Worship Assistant:	Marilyn Woods
	Usher/Greeter:	Tom & Linda Preston
	Lector:	Tom or Linda Preston
	Acolyte:	Sam Nielsen

Worship Team Ministries

CHOIR Practice

8:15 am

March 2
March 9 & Performance
March 16
March 23
March 30







Mission Task Force

Meeting March 2nd after
worship.

LWR's Baskets of Promise ————— LWR Personal Care Kits

This Lenten season, our congregation is taking part in LWR's Baskets of Promise appeal. Each week in Lent, we'll collect a **different item** to form the LWR Personal Care Kits that help impoverished people stay healthy in life's most challenging situations. **Personal care kits consist of:**

	2 bars of soap 4-5 oz in original wrapping	March 9
	Combs (large tines/teeth type)	March 16
	Metal nail clippers (attached file optional)	March 23
	Bath towels 52"x27" maximum size (dark colored)	March 30
	Adult size toothbrush in original packing	April 6
	\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ final week a special offering to help with shipping	April 13

(LWR estimates it costs \$2.65 per kit to deliver kits overseas.)

Check the bulletin each week for the collection schedule.

If you have any questions, please contact Anita Simmons or anyone on the Missions Task Force.

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>.

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
Augsburg Fortress—the Publishing Ministry of the ELCA

www.elca.org
www.seiasynod.org
www.augsburgfortress.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 HAND CENTER HOURS: Monday 9 am—2 pm Tuesday & Thursday 4 pm– 6 pm
Wednesday, Friday & Saturday 9 am—12 pm (noon)



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—March 3rd

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.



ASH WEDNESDAY
WORSHIP

March 4th at 6:30 pm

len/ten
WORSHIP

Themes /Skits for Wednesday's Lenten Worship at 6:30 pm

3/12	Fear	4/2	Humility
3/19	Confidence	4/9	Love
3/26	(Com) Passion		