

SHARING GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND PROMISE IN JESUS CHRIST WITH ALL PEOPLE

THE EPISTLE



EPISTLE ONLINE

www.saintpaulclinton.org

Epistle to be delivered electronically.

Due to rising costs, and for the convenience of members and friends, we will begin the option of delivering the Epistle to you electronically. (Did you know it already is available on our website at www.saintpaulclinton.org)

We also encourage those who are regularly at the church to pick theirs up instead of having it mailed.

Certainly, we will continue to mail it to those who wish.

Please fill out the enclosed response form and deliver it to the office. You are also welcome to email (office@saintpaulclinton.org) or call (242-4102) to let us know your preference.
Thank you!



NEWSLETTER RESPONSE FORM

Please choose how you would like to receive your NEWSLETTER.

Name _____

one

Email me at _____
when the Epistle is ready to view online.

I will access the Epistle online without an email reminder.

I will pick up my copy of the Epistle at church.

Please continue to mail my copy to me.

Please fill out this form and deliver it to the office. You are also welcome to email (office@saintpaulclinton.org) or call (242-4102) to let us know your preference.
February's issue will be the last issue to be bulk mailed.

Thank you!

WORSHIP TIMES

SUN 8:00 am & 10:30 am
THURSDAY 7:00 pm

OFFICE HOURS

MON-THUR 9:00-4:00
FRI 9:00-11:00



From Pastor Elizabeth...

I've noticed some good signs of life around Saint Paul since the beginning of the year – there've been more visitors than we've sometimes had, and there's even been an influx of students in the Sunday school! The

Purpose Team, authorized by the congregation council to do some long-term discernment of God's purpose for us, is in the process of being formed, and will be commissioned at an upcoming worship service. Saint Paul continues to be a good place, where people are nurtured and challenged in their faith, where people know that our mission extends beyond ourselves and respond with their energies and pocketbooks, where people care for one another. I am grateful to be a part of you.

We've just concluded the annual ritual of preparing for an annual meeting, recalling and reporting on all the ministry done among and through us, and presenting a budget for the coming year. There is much to celebrate. This past year, we laughed and cried together, we served and celebrated together, we learned and prayed together. We partnered with other local congregations to build a Habitat for Humanity House; we partnered with the ELCA to provide everything from religious nurture for college students to efforts to eradicate malaria around the world; we sent over \$6000 to combat World Hunger, and provided monthly dinners, holiday baskets, and a lovely Christmas dinner for the community.

As always when dealing with the practical realities of carrying out ministry, we have to grapple with the dual reality that we are a business with obligations to **others and bills to pay, but that we are in God's business**, called also to live in faith and expectancy. We always seek to balance responsible practices with daring to trust **in God's providence**. **Based on the pledges returned for 2011**, the year ahead may be a challenging one for us financially, and that was reflected in our budget and our annual meeting. How do we meet those challenges in the most helpful and faithful way?

I appreciated the concerns that people raised at the annual meeting. If the cuts to the Learning Committee budget cause us to examine our commitment to mentoring young people in the Christian faith – and renew our commitment to that -- that would be a positive. If we spent some energy this year reimagining how we can use the resource of the trust fund in creative and mission-minded

ways, that would be a positive. If we remember that our financial commitment to the larger church – the ELCA -- and its ministries is one of the most effective ways we **extend God's reach in the world, and strengthen that commitment**, that would be a positive. Those are all challenges that we together share.

Saint Paul continues to be a good place, where people are nurtured and challenged in their faith, where people know that our mission extends beyond ourselves and respond with their energies and pocketbooks, where people care for one another.

Let me review our recent history in terms of money management. In 2006, we surprised ourselves by raising \$60,000 for mission (Habitat for Humanity) in honor of our Centennial. In 2007, aided by the expertise of Vicar Randy Bruno, we committed to ending unhealthy financial practices such as passing a \$50,000 deficit budget and relying on accumulated funds, held a second-mile campaign, and tightened our belts to get back on sound footing. **Since then, we've been more faithful in our financial practices. But we've been slipping again, and this will be a watershed year in terms of determining what the future of ministry will look like here.** The temptation will be great to turn in on ourselves.

Trusting in God doesn't mean waiting for money to fall from the sky. It means listening and paying attention to what God might be saying to us and what opportunities God might lay before us, and stepping out not knowing all the information. As a congregation, it means inviting members to understand the valuable work we share, and to step out in trust household by household to support it.

So as you balance your pledge to Saint Paul with your other obligations, please consider giving more than you had first intended. If your habit has been to give \$10 or \$20 or \$50 per week, can you raise that by \$5? If your offering has been 2% or 4% or 7% of your income, could you raise it by one or two percentage points? How has your offering kept pace with your car payment amount, your cable TV bill, or the money you spend on coffee, soda, or fast food? What could you sacrifice for the sake of our common ministry here?

EVENTS

EVENTS IN FEBRUARY

- Feb 1 WELCA, 6:00
- Feb 1 **Men's Breakfast, 8:30**
- Feb 1 Committees Meet, 7:00
- Feb 2 Confirmation, 6:45
- Feb 8 Lydia Circle, 7:00
- Feb 10 Executive Meeting, 5:00
- Feb 10 ARCH in FH, 5:00
- Feb 13 Healing Service
- Feb 14 Ruth/Deborah Circle, 1:00
- Feb 15 Council, 7:00
- Feb 17 Hannah Circle
- Feb 20 Epistle Deadline
- Feb 27 Community Meal, 5:30
- Feb 28 Whittier PTA Blood Drive

COMING IN MARCH

- Mar 9 Ash Wednesday Worship, 10:30 & 7:00
- Mar 12 Congregations Together In Mission
- Mar 18-19 Council Retreat

CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER IN MISSION

Deep Roots: Christian Worship in our Local Places
You are invited to feed your mind and soul at CTIM (Called Together in Mission) on Saturday, March 12, at First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids. This wonderful event includes a variety of workshops, keynote presentation, and worship (oh, and lunch, too!). Please find copies of the CTIM booklet and registration forms at the hallway bulletin board. Please speak to Pastor Liggett if you're interested in attending!

NEW OFFICE HOURS

MON-THUR 9:00-4:00
FRI 9:00-11:00

GROUP MEETINGS

WELCA

Tuesday, Feb 1, 6:00

HANNAH GROUP

Thursday, Feb 17

Lunch out at Noon

1:00 Lesson at Church

Lesson Leader - Ardena Z.

LYDIA CIRCLE

Tuesday, Feb 8, 7:00

DEBORAH | RUTH GROUP

Monday, Feb 14

Lunch, 11:30 at Village Inn

1:00 Lesson at Church

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Tuesday, Feb 1, 8:30 am



LENT

Lent is Late This Year!

Ash Wednesday worship services will be held Wednesday, March 9, at 10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. This solemn service includes confession, imposition of ashes, and Holy Communion. Midweek worship will be offered the next four weeks at NOON, with a lunch served afterward (look soon for a sign-up sheet to provide lunch); and 7:00 p.m., using Holden Evening Prayer.

YOUTH NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We have some dedicated Christian people up on the second floor that come week after week to teach our children **about God's love**. I thought it was long past time that I took the opportunity to tell the Congregation how blessed they are to have such wonderful Sunday School teachers. I have felt so fortunate to work with such lovely women week after week.

They are very good and caring with the children and the grace of God is always present in their teaching. There are never any complaints, only positive actions and results.



Sunday School

May God bless current teachers Traci Bailey, Roxanne Adams, Jen Heine, Liz Mink, Robin Housenga, and Olivia Pelham. Also, all past teachers and substitute teachers. **I've loved working with all of them** and I want the Congregation of **Saint Paul's to realize that the fruits of the Spirit are alive and active on the second floor of Saint Paul's education area along with God's love.**

Joan Guidebeck
Co-Superintendent

LIBRARY BOOK REVIEW



Title: JOSHUA, A PARABLE FOR TODAY
Written by: JOSEPH GIRZONE

When I chose this book to read it didn't seem like a very exciting book and I didn't expect to get very much out of it. As I got further into it I realized the book Joshua is a source of spiritual strength and I loved it. It is a very **quick and easy read and I've already decided I will read it again from time to time.** As you read you wonder who this man Joshua really is. He is a quiet unassuming man that keeps to himself and has few needs. However, before long, as people come to know him better, they begin to like him and to listen to his message. What he says has a profound effect on them. **Soon religious leaders begin to notice him with various reactions. I don't want to give away any more of the story, I can only say that this book is filled with God's love, grace, and peace and a timeless message that we all can benefit from.**

I recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a **book they won't want to put down.** It is available in the Zimmerman Learning Center for checkout.

Joan Guidebeck, Library Committee



ANNUAL MEETING NOTES

Thanks to all who attended the congregation meeting January 23 (and thanks to the congregation council for hosting lunch!). The most conversation was generated as we discussed the proposed 2011 budget. As the Council noted **in the annual report, the pledges of intent we've received for 2011** were down from the year before, which means that in projecting for 2011, there are fewer dollars to work with. The Council shaved a great deal from the budget, and still were faced with a deficit of \$14,000. The Council decided to present a budget balanced with the help of a loan of just about \$14,000 from the trust fund, with the anticipation and hope that the congregation would repay that loan within the calendar year.

Discussion of the budget included several people expressing concern about the amount cut from the Learning Committee ministries. People wondered about the details of the trust fund loan, and also questioned what our current plans are for the trust. Clarification was requested regarding the 6% in the budget designated for Mission Support. Following discussion, the budget was passed as presented. The following were elected to various positions:

Congregation Council – Justin Grager, Jule Luckritz, Joan Guidebeck, Jim Nelson, Lisa Clarke, Ted Eilders; Audit Committee – Judy Doughty; Trust Committee – Bill Jacobs; 2011 Nominating Committee – Roberta Jurgensen, Bill Jacobs, Richard Ketelsen, and Judith Colah.

The 2011 congregation council is composed of:

Jean Grager
Brian Johnson
Al Rathje
Sandra Wiper
Evelyn Dymkowski
Mert Schmidt
Justin Grager
Jule Luckritz
Joan Guidebeck
Jim Nelson
Lisa Clarke
Ted Eilders

The council will be installed at worship services on January 30. We are thankful for the faithful service of retiring council members Michelle Goodwin (who served as secretary for five years!), Roberta Gee, and Flora Stralow **(who has done yeoman's work as the congregation treasurer)**.



The Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone who helped make Saint Paul's Christmas dinner a success. 225 dinners were served.

Thank you to those who donated money and food, who worked in the kitchen with John and Ellyne preparing the turkeys and ham prior to Christmas, who served on the line, who delivered carry out meals, provided transportation, or who stayed behind to clean up afterwards. We appreciate the generosity and help we received from those who chose to spend their Christmas day with us.

Thank you and God bless you all.

REORGANIZED BULLETIN BOARDS

Take a look at the reorganized bulletin boards! Information is easier to find with designated areas for the following:

Saint Paul News
WELCA News
Altar Flower Sign Up
Server Sign Up Sheets
Community Meal Sign Up
Messages & Thank You Notes
Community Events
Saint Paul Members in the News
Council Minutes
Angel Food Menu
The Word in Season Devotions
And More

Articles or newspaper clippings over two months old are kept in a folder in the office.

Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach HEALING SERVICE, FEB 13



On Sunday, February 13, our worship will include a service of Healing and Wholeness.

Worshippers will have opportunity to come forward, receive laying on of hands and a personal prayer. This is a wonderful week to invite friends and family who have particular burdens and needs. We will welcome to our pulpit that day Pastor Cindy Ford Breed, who serves with Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach at Iowa City University Hospitals. Several of you have been served by her while hospitalized in Iowa City. This is an

independent ministry not funded by the University nor by the ELCA; folks are invited to consider supporting this vital ministry.

Financial contributions can be sent to:

Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach
123 E. Market Street
Iowa City, IA 52245

Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach is supported by gifts from individuals, congregations and other organizations.



SERVERS ARE NEEDED

PLEASE sign up to help as Lector, Communion Assistant, Altar Guild or Assisting Minister. Clipboards to sign up can be found under the bulletin boards in the hallway. There are many spaces for February that need filled.

CAN'T ATTEND WORSHIP SUNDAY?

Come to Evening Worship at the Foot of the Bridge every Thursday at 7:00pm in the Chapel. Worship is simple, interactive, and intimate with treats after.

PRAYER CHAIN INFORMATION:

If you have a family member or friend who is ill or in distress and you would like for the members of this group to pray for them, call or email the office 242-4102 | office@saintpaulclinton.org



PRAYER REQUEST CARDS found in the pew racks may be filled out and put in the offering plate. These requests will be passed on to the Prayer Chain.

Please call the church office when your family member or friend has recovered. For more information about the PRAYER CHAIN call Ardena Zirbes, 243-1098 or Barb Larson, 242-8130.

FEBRUARY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 8:30 Men's Breakfast 6:00 WELCA 7:00 Committees Meet	2 5:00 Singing Saints 5:00 Luther Choir 4:45 Youth Bells 6:30 Adult Bells 6:45 Confirmation	3 7:00 Worship	4	5
6 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sr Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Sunday School & Lazarus Group 10:30 Worship 2:00 Purpose Team Meeting	7 10:00 Prayer Group	8 7:00 Lydia Circle	9 5:00 Singing Saints 5:00 Luther Choir 4:45 Youth Bells 6:30 Adult Bells 6:45 Confirmation	10 5:00 Executive Meet 5:00 ARCH in FH 7:00 Worship	11	12
13 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sr Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Sunday School & Lazarus Group 10:30 Worship	14 10:00 Prayer Group 1:00 Ruth/Deborah Circle	15 7:00 Council	16 5:00 Singing Saints 5:00 Luther Choir 4:45 Youth Bells 6:30 Adult Bells 6:45 Confirmation	17 1:30 Hannah Circle 7:00 Worship	18	19
20 Epistle Deadline 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sr Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Sunday School & Lazarus Group 10:30 Worship	21 10:00 Prayer Group	22	23 5:00 Singing Saints 5:00 Luther Choir 4:45 Youth Bells 6:30 Adult Bells 6:45 Confirmation	24 7:00 Worship	25	26
27 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sr Choir Rehearsal 9:15 Sunday School & Lazarus Group 10:30 Worship 5:30 Community Meal	28 10:00 Prayer Group Whittier PTA Blood Drive					

SERVER SCHEDULE

		FEB 6	FEB 13 Healing Service	FEB 20	FEB 27
ACOLYTE	EARLY	Kory K. Avan C.	Katie P.	Marisa H. Katie P.	Kory K.
	LATE	Hannah B. Haley V.	Anna Marie B.	Elley H. Kiersten H.	Hannah B.
ALTAR GUILD	EARLY	Flora S. Marilyn R.	Flora S. Marilyn R.	Flora S. Marilyn R.	Flora S. Marilyn R.
	LATE	Liz M. Jeanette K.	Liz M. Jeanette K.	Liz M. Jeanette K.	Liz M. Jeanette K.
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	EARLY		1. 3. 2. 4.		
	LATE		1. 3. 2. 4.		
LECTORS	EARLY	Barb L.			Ardena Z.
	LATE				
GREETERS	EARLY	Ardena Z.	Julie P.	Jen, Marisa & Payten H.	Phyllis E.
	LATE				
ASSISTING MINISTER	EARLY				
	LATE				
USHERS	EARLY				
	LATE	W. Schilling	W. Schilling	W. Schilling	W. Schilling
FLOWERS	BOTH				

A dollar spent for God is
an investment for eternity.

NEW OFFICE HOURS

MON-THUR 9:00-4:00

FRI 9:00-11:00

PEW CARE

FEB 7 Darlene C.

FEB 14 Dixielee S.

FEB 21

FEB 28 Evelyn H.

TELLERS

FEB 7 Elayne G
Judie C.
Irene N.

Feb 14 Elayne G.
Darlene C.
Lois S.

Feb 21 Judie C.
Darlene C.
Judy D.

Feb 28 Lois S.
Irene N.
Darlene C.

CONGRATS

anniversaries

Jule & Jean Luckritz	02/09/1961
Olivia & Mike Pelham	02/09/2002
Sandra & Ronald Birt	02/10/1968
Christy & Mike Cannon	02/13/1993
William & Elayne Goldsmith	02/14/1953
Henry & Pat Clark	02/15/1953
Kenneth & Jeanne Borja	02/25/1984



birthdays

Daniels, Susan	02/02
Goff, Tyler	02/04
Gifford, Robert	02/06
Bousman, Margo	02/08
Gifford, Scott	02/08
Meyers, Kristen	02/08
Clement, Noah	02/09
Bousman, Sandra	02/10
Schabillon, Robyn	02/10
Anderson, Megan	02/11
Pelham, Jack	02/14
Grager, Jean	02/15
Holste, Donna	02/15
Brunson, Payton	02/17
Hunter, Chelsea	02/19
Dymkowski, Laura	02/20
Land, Garry	02/20
Clarke, Lisa	02/21
Hunter, Carol	02/21
Brunson, Brennon	02/22
Nichols, Patsy	02/22
Nelson, James	02/24
Housenga, Robin	02/26
Schilling, Fern	02/26
Elmore, Adalynn	02/27



"Honor the Lord
with your wealth."

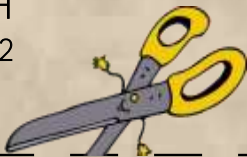
Proverbs 3:9



NewsLetter
DEADLINE
FEB 20

LAUGHS

SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
715 S. THIRD STREET, CLINTON, IA 52732



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Name _____

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FEBRUARY 2011
VOLUME 15 | ISSUE 2



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February

MARCH ISSUE DEADLINE - SUNDAY, FEB 20