



The Pastor's Page

As I sit down to write this month's newsletter article – the first article for 2016 – we are in the throes of our first blizzard of the winter.

Even though it made driving home from my office a bit of a challenge this evening, the snow that has been falling all afternoon is a beautiful sight.

It's clean.

It's pure.

It's unblemished ... at least for now.

And because it's the first real, substantial snowfall that we've had this winter, there's something magical, something refreshing, something nostalgic about it. Seeing it falling so softly outside the window makes us pause in the midst of whatever we're doing and just watch it for a while. It makes us yearn for a cup of something warm in our hands – coffee, tea, hot chocolate. It makes us want to snuggle into our baggiest sweaters and most stretched-out wool socks, curl up on a couch, and just be warm and content.

insert contented sigh here

As I watch the flakes fly and the world outside grow steadily whiter, I find snow to be an interesting metaphor for our faith and the way we live our lives.

Think about this: We are on the cusp of a new year: 2016! The year ahead of us lies bright and new and full of possibilities just like an open field after a fresh snowfall. The only question we have is how we will leave our mark on the blank canvas in front of us.

There are times when our faith can feel like that. It can feel fresh. It can feel clean and new. It can feel like all the potential in the world lies before us. All we need to do is follow God into the future: boldly, confidently, reassured in the goodness of God and the strength of our faith.

But all too soon, the pristine blanket out white outside the window will become less perfect. There will be footprints. There will be what we aptly called "snirt" at our house – that unpleasant mixture of snow and dirt. There might even be dog pee. Before long, we will be wishing for the end of the snow and longing for warmer days and cleaner roads, complaining about the struggle and the cold that the snow brings.

Basically, it doesn't take long for the magic of that first snowfall to wear off.

And it can feel like this with our lives and our faith sometimes, too. The polish wears off. The sparkle dulls. And we are left with the reality – that we live in a broken world ... that we and the people we work with and the people we love are less-than-perfect ... that even people with the strongest faith have struggles, questions and doubts.

So what do we do when that happens? What do we do when things around us look ugly instead of inviting? When the magic wears off and all that's left is the work to be done?

Don't you know? Haven't you heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. [God] doesn't grow tired or weary. [God'] understanding is beyond human reach, giving power to the tired and reviving the exhausted. Youths will become tired and weary, young men will certainly stumble; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength; they will fly up on wings like eagles; they will run and not be tired; they will walk and not be weary.

~ Isaiah 40:28-31

Whatever lies ahead of us ... whatever is coming to replace the magic with the mundane ... whatever will make us weary and worn, God will be there when it comes. God will walk with us. God will guide us. God will even carry us when the need arises ... and we know that it will.

As we venture into the new year ahead, may we go holding that magic of a fresh snowfall in our hearts and the determination to overcome whatever comes our way with God at our sides.

Paster Sina

In Our Prayers



I pray that you may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ. Ephesians 3:17,18

Marlene Kosobucki and her family as they mourn the loss of her father, John, Dave Kaempfer, Eunice Markham, Dick Wedge (Jim's brother), Ann Hawkins, Sue Wedge, Jo Ludington, Jo Ludington's brother (Butch) and Monica Blue (sister-in-law to Dick & Janice Ostrom).

Annual Meetings – Mark Your Calendars! O – January 31st Z – February 7th

A reminder to all committee chairs: please have your annual reports in at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting for Sue to assemble.

Reports may be emailed to the church office, or paper copies may given to Bob Hawley (Z) or Mike Rand (O) for forwarding. Thanks to all who will be submitting reports. Without your good work, we would have a less complete record of the year's activities.

In Appreciation

(O/Z) Thank you for the Christmas gifts and wishes. It is my privilege to be your organist.

Katha

(O/Z) As always, I am blessed by your generosity and kindness shared with me through your Christmas gift of friendship and money. I am such a lucky gal to work for such wonderful people.

Your secretary, Sue

(O/Z) Christmas "Thank Yous"

I want to extend a thank you to all of you who sent us Christmas cards, dropped of little gifts, and shared your Christmas goodies with me and my family this Christmas. All of those little remembrances are day-brighteners for me and are greatly appreciated. I also want to thank those who stopped by for our Christmas Open House. We were few, but we certainly had

a wonderful time. And finally, thank you to those from the Z church who contributed to our Christmas gift. We are incredibly grateful for the continued love, support, and prayers of both congregations. Thank you.

Pastor Lisa

(O) Presbytery meeting

The next presbytery meeting is **Sat., Jan. 23, 2015**. It starts at **9:00 a.m.** and will be held at **Valley Community Presbyterian Church in Golden Valley**. Pastor Lisa will be going, so anyone wanting to ride along is more than welcome! Just give me a call.

(O/Z) Confirmation

We will have our confirmation kick-off meeting on Wed., Jan. 6 at 6:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in Oronoco. Dinner will be provided. Students and families need to be there, and anyone who has already agreed to be a mentor should be there as well. This will be our first chance to get to know each other.

Following this meeting, the confirmation classes will meet the 1st Wed. of every month at O church and the 3rd Wed. of every month at Z church, both from 6:00-8:00 p.m. As with the first night, dinner will be provided at these classes as well.

(O) Bible Study



We're starting a monthly Bible study. It will be held the 2nd Wed. of the month from 6:00-7:00 p.m. (This means that Session will meet at 7:00 p.m.) The first meeting in Nov. went really well, and we'd love for anyone else to join us. If you're interested, please talk to Kim Stanton or Peter Johnson.

(O/Z) Food Shelf Sunday

Food Shelf donation Sunday for both O and Z is January 3, 2016. Non-perishable food items and paper products are greatly appreciated. Monetary donations are always welcome. Your generosity is appreciated more than you know.

(O/Z) Readers of OZ



The book discussion group will not meet in December. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at the home of Rex and Lynn Wiederanders (40054 Highway 58 Boulevard, Goodhue). If you need help with directions, give them a call at 507-251-3034.

Our selection this time is "All The Light We Cannot See" by the highly acclaimed, multiple award-winning Anthony Doerr. This winner of the Pulitzer Prize is a beautiful, stunningly ambitious, instant New York Times bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

Be sure to use these next two months to sneak in a little reading and join us for the January discussion.

(O) Per Capita

Oronoco Church Members:

Please pay your per capita for 2016 of \$32.87. Separate checks or envelopes with "per capita" designated is appreciated.

Why per capita? Per capita exists as a way for all Presbyterians to share costs that belong to the whole church. It exists to allow the whole church to share equitably in those things that make us Presbyterian: • our theological identity • our connectedness • our system of mid councils that allow elders and ministers together to discern the mind of Christ • our ecumenical connections that make us part of the church universal • our core structures that keep us together as a church • our call to work for full participation in decision making. Per capita allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

(Z) Feed My Starving Children trip

We will once again be taking a group to help pack meals at the Feed My Starving Children facility in Eagan. We will be helping fill the afternoon shift on Sat., Jan. 30, 2016 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. We will be

carpooling up from Z church and leaving at 1:00 p.m. for any who are interested.

(Z) Hearing from Missionaries

Tom Liddle is currently serving as the interim at First Congregational Church in Cannon Falls, but in early 2016, Tom, his wife, Monica, and their children will be returning to mission work in East Timor. Tom and Monica have spent many years working at the same site in East Timor, building relationships and acting as the hands and feet and love of God for the people there. Because of a change in the way mission workers are funded, the Liddles have to raise their own mission funds.

Our council has recently voted to help Tom and Monica raise these funds, and we will be hearing from them about that mission very soon. (The date has not been confirmed in time for this newsletter.) Be on the lookout for more information about their visit.)

(O/Z) Lenten preparation – A Question for You

In preparation for something that will be a part of our Lenten worship services, I have a question for you: What gets in the way of your relationship with God? What do you feel pulls your attention and focus away from God? There will be inserts in the bulletin every Sunday in January giving you the chance to answer that question, but if you don't have the chance to answer during worship or would otherwise like to send the answer to Pastor Lisa, you can email it to me: PastorLisaJ@gmail.com. In advance, thank you.

(O) Direct Deposit

If you're interested in signing up for electronic offering or changing the amount you currently have withdrawn, please complete the authorization form supplied in the newsletter and submit to Kay Erdahl or Kim Stanton.

If you're currently donating electronically and do not wish to make any change for 2016, no action is needed. Thank you!

Direct Payment Authorization

Presbyterian Church of Oronoco (PCO)

PO Box118

Oronoco, MN 55060

Use this form to set up a repeating electronic funds transfer from your bank to the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco's bank. A record of each contribution will show up on your bank statement. You will also continue to receive an annual statement from PCO showing all your contribution records. Each contribution will be paid automatically until you notify PCO to change it. You can stop your EFT contribution at any time.

Name:	Bank Name:
Address:	Address:
City/State:	, City/St/ZIP:
Zip Code:	Bank Routing #
E-mail:	Check Acct #
Phone:	
I wish to contribute \$	Bi-Monthly, on the 1^{st} and 15^{th} day of the month
	\square Monthly, on the 1 st day of the month
□New Authorization	□Change Authorization □Cancel Authorization
_	ffect until I notify Presbyterian Church of Oronoco in writing to make the specified changes within til my bank or Presbyterian Church of Oronoco notifies me that the agreement needs to be canceled
In the event of an error, I have the for the accurate and timely posti	ne right to tell my bank to reverse any transfer. I understand and agree that my bank is responsible ng of my transfer.
Signature:	Date:

If this is a new authorization, please attach a copy of a cancelled check (if the EFT is from your checking account) or a deposit slip (if the EFT is from your savings account).

If this is a change in authorization and the bank account information is NOT changing, no need to attach a check copy or deposit slip.

You can direct any questions to the Presbyterian Church of Oronoco Treasurer.

Birthdays for the Month of January

1/1 Lisa Johnson

1/3 Jayna Lee Hartzell

1/4 Hailey Vath Robert Rueber

1/6 Robert Rolland

1/9 Andrew Pahl

1/11 Skylar Olson

1/12 Jack Rucker Ava Tiede

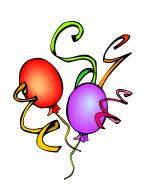
1/14 Coleen Johnston

1/25 Mitchell Watkins Nickolas Vath

1/27 Cayden Olson

1/28 Gerry Webster Janice Ostrom

1/31 Larry Smith



(O) Clearwater Forest Summer Camp

Registration for summer has opened! We are busy preparing for yet another incredible year of outdoor ministry and personal growth for those who attend! Our theme, "Fearless Faith: Courage in Community" will allow for campers to grow in their faith throughout the week. We've designated one week (week seven) as a week dedicated for elementary and jr. high students to "have the place to themselves" which will provide amazing opportunities that will have incredible life-changing experiences!

Mark your calendars now for our Friends and Family Day, Saturday, June 13 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Come spend the day, walk the grounds, meet and help commission the staff, and sign up for some of our earlier programs.

(O/Z) Confirmation Mentors Needed

Studies have showed that one of the most influential elements of keeping youth in the church after confirmation is solid, authentic relationships that they have with adults in the congregation who are not their parents or their pastor. Basically, confirmation mentors are incredibly important to the confirmation process!

So we need some confirmation mentors for our upcoming class. We still one mentor from O, and two mentors from Z, preferably one male and one female. For those who are considering this, you need to be willing to spend quality time with your mentee throughout the entire confirmation process, which, at this point, looks like it will be an 18-24 month process. If you're interested in being a confirmation mentor, please talk to Pastor Lisa.

Scripture Reading for January 2016

Sun., Jan. 3

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12

Sun., Jan. 10

Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sun., Jan. 17

Psalm 36:5-10; John 1:1-11

Sun., Jan. 24

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19

Sun., Jan. 31

Psalm 30; 1 Thessalonians 3:7-4:1

O church annual meeting

SECRETARY'S OFFICE HOURS



Tuesday in Oronoco 10-3:00 Thursday in Oronoco 10-3:00

Office Phone (507) 367-4711 Email address: oronocopc@bevcomm.net

Paily Lectionary Readings - January 2016

John 6:30-33, 48-51 Evening: Pss. 16; 62 Friday, January 1 Morning: Pss. 98; 148 Gen. 4:17-26 Evening: Pss. 99; 8 Heb. 3:1–11 Isa. 62:1-5, 10-12 John 1:43-51 Rev. 19:11-16 Friday, January 8 Matt. 1:18-25 Morning: Pss. 46 or 47; 148 Evening: Pss. 27; 93 or 114 Saturday, January 2 Exod. 17:1-7 Morning: Pss. 48; 149 Col. 1:15-23 Friday, January 15 Evening: Pss. 9; 29 John 7:37-52 Morning: Pss. 51; 148 1 Kings 19:1-8 Evening: Pss. 142; 65 Eph. 4:1–16 Saturday, January 9 Gen. 6:1-8 John 6:1-14 Morning: Pss. 46 or 47; 149 Heb. 3:12-19 Evening: Pss. 27; 93 or 114 John 2:1-12 Sunday, January 3 Isa. 45:14-19 Col. 1:24-2:7 2nd Sunday after Christmas Saturday, January 16 Morning: Pss. 111; 150 John 8:12-19 Morning: Pss. 104; 149 Evening: Pss. 107; 15 Evening: Pss. 138; 98 Sunday, January 10 1 Kgs. 3:5–14 Gen. 6:9–22 Col. 3:12-17 Baptism of the Lord Heb. 4:1–13 John 6:41-47 Morning: Pss. 104; 150 John 2:13-22 Evening: Ps. 29 Monday, January 4 Gen. 1:1—2:3 Sunday, January 17 Morning: Pss. 20; 145 Eph. 1:3-14 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Evening: Pss. 93; 97 John 1:29-34 Morning: Pss. 19; 150 Josh. 3:14—4:7 Evening: Pss. 81; 113 Eph. 5:1-20 Monday, January 11 Gen. 7:1-10, 17-23 John 9:1-12, 35-38 Morning: Pss. 5; 145 Eph. 4:1–16 Evening: Pss. 82; 29 Mark 3:7-19 Tuesday, January 5 Gen. 2:4-9 (10-15) 16-25 Morning: Pss. 99; 146 Heb. 1:1-14 Monday, January 18 Evening: Pss. 96; 110 John 1:1-18 Morning: Pss. 135; 145 Jonah 2:2-9 Evening: Pss. 97; 112 Gen. 8:6-22 Eph. 6:10-20 Tuesday, January 12 John 11:17-27, 38-44 Morning: Pss. 42; 146 Heb. 4:14-5:6 Evening: Pss. 102; 133 John 2:23-3:15 Wednesday, January 6 Gen. 3:1-24 Heb. 2:1-10 Epiphany of the Lord Tuesday, January 19 Morning: Pss. 72; 147:1-11 John 1:19-28 Morning: Pss. 123; 146 Evening: Pss. 100; 67 Evening: Pss. 30; 86 Isa. 49:1-7 Wednesday, January 13 Gen. 9:1–17 Rev. 21:22-27 Morning: Pss. 89:1-18; Heb. 5:7-14 Matt. 12:14-21 147:1-11 John 3:16-21 Evening: Pss. 1; 33 Thursday, January 7 Gen. 4:1-16 Wednesday, January 20 Morning: Pss. 46 or 97; Morning: Pss. 15; 147:1-11 Heb. 2:11-18 John 1:(29-34) 35-42 147:12-20 Evening: Pss. 48; 4 Evening: Pss. 27; 93 or 114 Gen. 9:18-29

Thursday, January 14

Morning: Pss. 97; 147:12-20

Heb. 6:1-12

John 3:22-36

Deut. 8:1-3

Col. 1:1-14

Paily Lectionary Readings - January 2016

Friday, January 22 147:12-20 Morning: Pss. 130; 148 Monday, January 25 Evening: Pss. 81: 116 Morning: Pss. 57; 145 Evening: Pss. 32; 139 Gen. 16:15-17:14 Gen. 11:27—12:8 Evening: Pss. 85; 47 Heb. 10:1-10 Gen. 14:(1-7) 8-24 Heb. 7:1–17 John 5:30-47 John 4:16-26 Heb. 8:1-13 John 4:43-54 Friday, January 29 Saturday, January 23 Morning: Pss. 88; 148 Morning: Pss. 56; 149 Tuesday, January 26 Evening: Pss. 6; 20 Evening: Pss. 118; 111 Morning: Pss. 54; 146 Gen. 17:15-27 Gen. 12:9—13:1 Evening: Pss. 28; 99 Heb. 10:11-25 Gen. 15:1-11, 17-21 Heb. 7:18-28 John 6:1-15 John 4:27-42 Heb. 9:1-14 John 5:1-18 Saturday, January 30 Sunday, January 24 Morning: Pss. 122; 149 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Wednesday, January 27 Evening: Pss. 100; 63 Morning: Pss. 67; 150 Morning: Pss. 65; 147:1–11 Gen. 18:1-16 Evening: Pss. 46; 93 Evening: Pss. 125; 91 Heb. 10:26-39 Gen. 16:1-14 Gen. 13:2-18 John 6:16-27 Gal. 2:1-10 Heb. 9:15-28 Mark 7:31-37 John 5:19-29 Sunday, January 31 4th Sunday after Epiphany Thursday, January 28 Morning: Pss 108; 150

Morning: Pss. 143;

Concerned about Growing Fear and Hate of Muslims

I am concerned about the growing fear and hatred of Muslims in this country. The vast majority of Muslims just want to live peaceful lives, take care of their families, and treat people with dignity and respect, like people of all faiths and no faith everywhere. We don't have to live in fear of our Islamic neighbors.

I am not afraid of my Islamic fellow citizens, but I am afraid of the hate and fear of Muslims that is reaching near hysteria. Imagine your child or a child you know being called a terrorist by peers, or being afraid to wear a culturally appropriate article of clothing (a headscarf in the case of Muslim girls.). Imagine your child knowing that houses of worship for his/her faith are being defiled. Children should not be subjected to these things in our country, nor should adults.

In 1993 in Billings, MT, hatred and violence against minorities including Jews, was rising. Someone threw a piece of cinderblock through a 5 year-old Jewish boy's window because the menorah in the window identified the family as Jewish. Concerned non-Jews in Billings started putting pictures of menorahs in their windows, and the local newspaper printed a full-page picture of a menorah. Thousands of families put these pictures in their windows, and gradually the violence and nastiness abated.

It is time for people of good will to stand up against fear and hate. It's up to us. I urge people of peace and tolerance to put a picture of the Islamic crescent or crescent and star in their window, to show solidarity with moderate Muslims and to stand against fear and hate of Muslims. Include your own religious symbol, such as a cross, with it, if you prefer. Google "image Islamic crescent" or "image Islamic crescent and cross" to find a picture and print it out. My husband and I are Christians, and we have the crescent and star in our living room window, easily visible from the street.

Please also send this to 2-5 others who will further this cause.

Thank you. Linda Magdsick Quammen

Evening: Pss. 66; 23

First Congregational UCC 455 East Avenue Zumbrota, MN 55992 (507) 732-7015





Presbyterian Church of Oronoco PO Box 118 Oronoco, MN 55960 (507) 367-4711

Worship Times for the Month of January 2016



 1/3
 9:00 (Z)
 11:00 (O)

 1/10
 9:00 (Z)
 11:00 (O)

 1/17
 9:00 (Z)
 11:00 (O)

 1/24
 9:00 (Z)
 11:00 (O)

1/31 O Annual Meeting during 10:00 worship service

Pastor Lisa Johnson—Contact Information Cell Phone (507)696-8753 E-mail address: pastorlisaj@gmail.com Pastor's Blog: pastorlisaj.wordpress.com