

*The Church Window*



January  
2016

FROM THE PASTOR

**"BABY, IT'S COLD OUTSIDE"**

I had been trying to write this article and just continued to have writer's block when this song came on the radio: Baby, It's Cold Outside. This particular version was sung by Suzy Bogguss and Delbert McClinton. There is also a Barnes & Noble commercial airing now with Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga singing the song. My favorite version of it is sung by Darius Rucker and Sheryl Crow. The song was originally written in 1944 by Frank Loesser who premiered the song with his wife, Lynn Garland, at their Navarro Hotel housewarming party. Garland considered it "their song" and was furious when Loesser sold the song to MGM. MGM inserted the song into its 1949 motion picture, *Neptune's Daughter*. The film featured two performances of the song: one by [Ricardo Montalban](#) and [Esther Williams](#) and the other by [Red Skelton](#) and [Betty Garrett](#). These performances earned Loesser an [Academy Award for Best Original Song](#). The song "debuted" at the Oscar ceremony via a performance by [Mae West](#) and [Rock Hudson](#). Did you know this amazing and interesting history?

Anyway, this song got me thinking. Yes, it is cold outside! Today in Fennimore it is cold and snowing and calling for 17 degrees tonight (but will feel like 11) and breezy with a chill that goes right through you. However, the world can be a cold place. Last month the article was about peace and bringing peace into the world. Without peace, the world can and will continue to be a cold place. It can also be a dark place for many.

How do we get out of this cold dark place? I remember one time while deer hunting I was tracking a deer and found it. As I was dragging the deer back to my ATV, my flashlight went out and I had no extra batteries or extra flashlight with me. It was COLD and DARK! I thought I knew where I was, but everything seems to change in the dark.

There was no light anywhere and no stars in the sky. I was getting a little frantic but then paused, caught my breath and bearings – and prayed. I slowly worked my way up a hill and once on top saw a light in the distance (I was relieved). I walked toward the light and eventually hit a farm path which led me to a field and then to the parsonage. I was so relieved to walk in that door and even more relieved that it was warm in the house.

“This welcome has been – lucky that you dropped in. So nice and warm – look out that window at that storm.” What can take us out of that cold and darkness? Light and warmth! Where do we find that? Have we already forgotten? The light of Christmas! We celebrated Christmas and the light that is Jesus Christ – a light that will get us through the year! Jesus spoke to the people again, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me won’t walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’” (John 8:12)

It’s not until the gifts are unwrapped, the meals are eaten, and the excitement dies down that Christmas really begins. Will the light of Christmas get packed away with the ornaments, or will it live and grow inside of us each day of the coming year? Remember the baby born in Bethlehem grows up, teaches His disciples, and commits the ultimate act of love by dying on a cross for the sin of the world.

Today, tomorrow and beyond is an opportunity for each person to carry His message of love and salvation to the world. Why do we still need to carry the message that was started so long ago? John 1:3b-5 says, “What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness doesn’t extinguish the light.”

Jesus did not rid the earth of all the darkness when He came, but His light shines in the darkness and we still need the light of Jesus. As those who live in God’s light, we have the opportunity to spread the light – the message of God’s love. “Baby, it’s cold outside” – not if we let the light of Jesus in! Will you let him in? God bless and Happy New Year!

*In Christ,  
Pastor Bud, Lori, Angela, Brianne*

HAPPY NEW YEAR,  
Let 2016 be amazing!!!!

# JANUARY MISSION

## HEIFER PROJECT

Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth.

Heifer empowers families to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity – but the approach is more than just giving them a handout. Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty. Our animals provide partners with both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs and honey can be traded or sold at market. When many families gain this new sustainable income, it brings new opportunities for building schools, creating agricultural cooperatives, forming community savings and funding small businesses.

The core of Heifer Project model is Passing on the Gift. This means families share the training they receive, and pass on the first female offspring of their livestock to another family. This extends the impact of the original gift, allowing a once impoverished family to become donors and full participants in improving their communities.

The goal of every Heifer project is to help families achieve self-reliance. They do this by providing them the tools they need to sustain themselves, and it's thanks to the generosity of donors that makes it possible.

Through this month's mission, we have the power to give a hungry family the training it takes to feed themselves and their children, as well as help their community. Together, we can change the world, one family, one community, at a time.

And it all starts with YOUR gift.

*PS: Check out their website for more information, at [Heifer.org](http://Heifer.org)  
Watch for an upcoming bulletin board at church to help purchase entire livestock!*

## **WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY**

Our Christian Love and Sympathy is extended to the following families:

~The Avis Edge Family

~The LaVon Hahn Family

~The Richard Carlin family, on the passing of his sister Sandy.

~Sherry Kieler family on the death of her Grandma, Esther Breuer.

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you to UMW for the very nice Christmas goodies that my family and I received. We're thankful for the delicious goodies and nice card. Additionally, thank you to anyone that gave a Christmas "bonus" in my honor to the Good Sam's Chapel project. I thank you very much. May everyone have a happy and healthy holiday season!

*God Bless You All!*

*Renee Thomas & Family*

## **THANK YOU**

Thanks to everyone that participated in Jesus' Birthday Party in any way. If it was helping serve the cake, clean up, a part in the live nativity, or being there. THANK YOU for helping make it very special. God

Bless,  
Jeff Thomas

## **COMMUNION**

Heads Up: Starting in January communion will be done differently. It will also be offered at the 6:30pm worship service. We will have 4 stations at 8:00 worship, rather than 2 and we will have 2 stations at 10:30 rather than 1. We're doing this because we want to utilize the worship time more with learning.

## **TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY:**

Due to Pauline's unexpected health complications we ask for your patience and understanding. We are trying to do our best with bulletins, newsletter and over all office procedures and being timely about it. If things don't seem "normal" this is probably the reason. Melba has graciously volunteered to help out in the office and Karla has been wonderful. THANK YOU! There is a lot that happens in the church on any given day; its hard to keep up on it all.

So, please be patient; we're doing what we can. Thank you! And, please keep praying for Pauline's health and fast recovery.

## **RIDE SHARE**

The Dream Team would like to offer the ride share program to anyone that is unable to drive to worship, but would like to attend. If you or someone you know may be interested, please let either Jerry Ames or the church office know.

## **CONNECTIONAL GROUPS**

We're delayed in getting our connectional groups together, so we will be registering for groups in February and they will start in March. Please watch for more information and get signed up soon. Connectional groups are small groups of people that share the same curriculum, build friendships and grow in Christ together. It's a win win situation. Sign up can be done on the communication cards, on the website or by contacting the church office.

## **New Membership Classes**

Pastor Bud will be holding membership classes starting in February. Additional information will be published shortly. We are aware of some people that want to join the church, if you have not let us know, please do so. If you're unsure, please pray about it and see where God is leading you.

## **Christian Ed. News**

WOW! I first want to thank everyone on such a fantastic Christmas program. The students did a great job reading, singing and acting. We have some very talented students. I have heard some great compliments from many people how awesome it was. Thank you to all the teachers that dedicate their time to teaching the students. Thank you to parents and grandparents for taking the time to practice with your child and for bringing them to the church for the extra practices. Because of everyone's dedication we had an amazing program! Thanks again!

### **Curriculum**

As the year comes to an end and Christmas is over we will be doing a one day lesson called Happy New Year. We will start Jan. 3rd with Time Machine then go into a 4 week curriculum called Penguins. I am very excited to continue with this curriculum and the students seem to really enjoy it. We will be learning more stories from the Bible and how to be the best disciple for God.

### **Food Drive**

Christian Ed. will be having a food drive during the month of January. Students can bring in non-perishable food items to their classroom Jan. 3rd-31st. The food items will be donated to the Fennimore food pantry. The class with the most pounds in food will win a pizza party. Also, however many pounds of food are brought C.E. will match each pound with \$1.00 and donate to Feed My Starving Children. (Ex. 1 pound = \$1) We are very excited to be doing this mission to help others. Thanks for your help and participation.

### **Movie Night**

We are rescheduling movie night that was cancelled in Nov. "Inside Out" will be on Sat. Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>. Concessions will start at 6 and movie at 6:30. Bring your blanket, pillow and if you want, wear your pj's for the movie. Everyone is invited!

### **Singing**

We will again be singing on Jan 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 worship. The students do a great job singing in church and everyone really enjoys watching them. Please have your child attend this service to participate. In Nov. there were so many students that attended and did a fantastic job singing that Jeff earned a pie in the face. They are always up for a challenge and if it includes anything messy the students are all for it. Great Job!

### **VBS**

It's official! Renee has received her VBS 2016 planning Kit. If you haven't heard the theme is Surf Shack. We are very excited to start the planning. Watch for announcements of upcoming VBS workdays. We will start scheduling them soon and get the process going. Who knows what will be in store for decorations this year!

### **YOUTH IMPACT**

The youth enjoyed their trip to Planet Wisdom in Eden Prairie, MI. We had safe travels, spiritual growth and bonding time.

We're still trying to book a weekend for Winter Camp at Pine Lake. The weekend we thought would work best, they're booked already so we'll see what happens. We'll keep you posted.

We'll be going to the trampoline park in Madison on January 10th. We'll be leaving at 11:00am from church. Alex & Kevin will let you know cost & additional needs.

### **GREETERS**

January 3rd 8:00 Shannon & Kaitlyn Winkers  
 10:30  
 January 10th 8:00 Bobbi Jo Pink & Pauline Wetter  
 10:30  
 January 17th 8:00 Torgerson Family  
 10:30  
 January 24th 8:00 Linda O' Kane  
 10:30  
 January 31st 8:00 Jim & Ruthann Mergen Family  
 10:30

### **USHERS**

January 3rd 8:00 Shannon & Kaitlyn Winkers  
 10:30  
 January 10th 8:00 Kevin Klais Family  
 10:30  
 January 17th 8:00 Susan Hilger & Sam Kammes  
 10:30  
 January 24th 8:00 Judy & Carl Nelson  
 10:30  
 January 31st 8:00 Jim & Ruthann Mergen Family  
 10:30

### **ACOLYTES**

January 3rd 8:00 Libby Wood  
 10:30 Brayden Fry  
 January 10th 8:00 Izzy Bender  
 10:30 Wes Fry  
 January 17th 8:00 Ethan Sheckler  
 10:30 Cooper Leffler  
 January 24th 8:00 Blake Droessler  
 10:30 Natalie Zaluski  
 January 31st 8:00 Sydney Stewart  
 10:30 Faith Kite

### **LITURGIST**

January 3rd 8:00 Phil Alm  
 10:30  
 January 10th 8:00 Rochelle Lindow  
 10:30  
 January 17th 8:00 Carmen Burkum  
 10:30  
 January 24th 8:00 Joann Schrader  
 10:30  
 January 31st 8:00 Carl Zabel  
 10:30

### **COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

January 10th 8:00 Trent & Saralyn Klais  
 Trey Hunt & Logan O'Brien  
 Kevin & Marianne Klais  
 Bobbi Jo Pink & Pauline Wetter  
 10:30 \_\_\_\_\_  
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### **KIDS TIME**

January 3rd 8:00 Catrice Hunt  
 10:30 Pastor Bud  
 January 10th 8:00 Brooklyn Henkel & Riley Kieler  
 10:30 Pastor Bud  
 January 17th 8:00 Rose Mouw\*\*  
 10:30 Pastor Bud  
 January 24th 8:00 Carrie Friederick\*\*  
 10:30 Pastor Bud  
 January 31st 8:00 Tara Wood \*\*  
 10:30 Pastor Bud

\*\* This may change with Confirmation Students doing them. We'll contact you. Thank You!

### **ATTENDANCE**

Dec.	6	13	20	24	27
8:00	141	102	177		100
10:30	43	249	41		32
6:30	13	4	8		10
5:00				345	
8:00				114	
11:00				90	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>142</b>

### **Remember our Members at:**

#### Morningside Assisted Living

Norma Neuroth

#### Orchard Manor

Doris Schneider

#### Good Samaritan Center

Becky Belscamper, Bob Belscamper, Carol Christiansen, Arlene Fry, Nip Leffler, Arlene Schmahlenberger, Jerry Wepking, Dave Lindow, Gerry McReynolds, Lois Jean Preston, Jeannette Schneiderwind

### **JANUARY FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

Vegetable Beef Soup, Cream Style Corn, Mixed Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Ramen Noodles, Oatmeal (C.E. is having a food war & match...join the fun)

