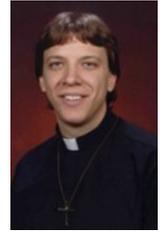


“Glad Tidings

Wysox Presbyterian Church

February 2015

Pastor's Message



Pastor Jira Albers

Visiting Those Who Struggle

One of the most heart wrenching discussions that you can have with a person is when they say, “I was sick and no one visited me. No one even called.” As a pastor, it breaks my heart if somehow I have let someone “slip through the cracks” and have not been to visit them with prayer and scripture. In the same way, I know that it breaks your heart when you hear the same thing from your own family, friends, acquaintances, and fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

Why does this happen in the Church? After-all, Matthew 25:36 encourages all Christians to love and visit their neighbors, “I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” And, James 5:14-15 even gives the church an outline of how visiting the suffering could happen in very specific detail: “Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.” Of course, it is impossible for any of us to be perfect, and people sometimes, accidentally, are forgotten (or their need is simply not known in the first place.) Yet there is one more reason people are not visited. People often tell me, “I don’t visit because I don’t know what to do or what to say.” So, for those who fear visiting someone who is suffering, here is your *Christian Visiting Cheat-Sheet*,

1. **Simply Show Up** – It is OK to simply drop by and see how someone is doing. Just make sure that at the door of the house or of the hospital room that you ask, “Is now a good time for me to visit?” It is better to show up and need to be turned away than to not show up at all. (Note: If someone is in extended cancer treatments, call first before visiting.)
2. **Ask How They Are Doing** – This should be obvious, but it is a cheat sheet right?
3. **Listen To Them** – Of all the points, this is the most important. Being listened to is essential in the healing process, and most of us were not trained to listen well. Listen to their struggles without interjecting a word. Listen to their sadness. Only rarely (almost never) talk about your own similar experience. Don’t feel the need to give solutions. Just listen. Also, some things are hard to put into words. Silence is OK while you are listening.
4. **Read Scripture Together** – A scripture that pertains to the person’s situation is fine, but if you are not up on your verses, just bring the scriptures from Sunday. Read one of the scriptures from Sunday, and if you are brave, discuss what you find interesting
5. **Pray** – You showing up shows the person that the Christian community cares, but prayer shows that God cares. Pray a simple short prayer that God provide peace, healing, and joy.

The Question Box

(Questions About Our Christian Life)

“Sometimes I do not want to be visited when I’m suffering? What do I do?”

When you are suffering, just remember that you are in charge of your own healing process. Of course, it is better for someone to remember you than to forget you, but if visits are too much, gently let people know at the door that they are appreciated, but that another time would be better.- Pastor Jira Albers

News and Upcoming Activities . . .

2015 Church Directory

It is time to update the church directory. Anyone who has changes to their address, phone number and/or would like to add their email address to the directory, please contact the church office at 570-265-6119.

Ash Wednesday

All are invited to attend Ash Wednesday Services on February 18, 2015 at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Towanda. Worship begins at 7 pm.

Lenten Luncheons

Lenten Luncheons will begin on Wednesday February 25, 2015 at the Methodist Church in Towanda at 11:45 am. The focus of the luncheons will be Learning to Pray, Different Ways to Pray.

PEACEFUL WORSHIP SERVICES

All are invited to The Trinity Lutheran Church in Towanda on Wednesday evenings during Lent. A soup supper will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed with a Peaceful Worship Service at 7:00 p.m. The dates are 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, and 3/25.

TRIVIA NIGHT

Save the date - **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28** from 5—8 pm we are going to have a Trivia Night at the Wysox Presbyterian Church. Pastor Jira has agreed to officiate our evening and it will surely be a fun time for all. A variety of topics and questions will be covered and suited for all ages. You can bring a team or join a group when you arrive. Bring a finger food for a light supper and join us for a fun evening to beat the winter blahs.



Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting was held on Sunday, January 25, 2015. Immediately following morning worship a dish to pass luncheon was held. Pastor Albers opened the meeting with prayer and a review of the docket. Following the review of the 2014 annual reports the budget was presented, voted on and passed for 2015. A cake and gift were presented to retiring secretary Crystal Babcock along with well wishes in her new adventures.

Elders for Month of February

Dave and Lori Blascak will be the Elders for the month of February.



Sewing Society

It was a cold sunny winter day for our Tuesday Dinner. We are appreciative for those who came and joined us. We received many compliments. Thanks to all who donated food and to those who came to help. Guys, as usual you did a great job.

We wish Phyllis Mulcahy and Andy Sprnger a fast recovery from their health problems.. You are in our prayers.

Stay warm and we hope to see you next month when we will be serving Baked Chicken.

Lord, whatever we encounter today, we hold onto this one truth, You will walk beside us every step of the way.



Prayer Circle

We are studying the book of Mark. Mark starts off with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. It also shares the story of the temptation of Jesus in the desert and moves on to the ministry of Jesus. We have read of the account of calling the first 4 disciples. Jesus astounded everyone by eating with the sinners and tax collectors. He was also questioned as to why he did not fast. Mark is very fast paced and very enlightening. We are so fortunate to have Pastor Jira as our leader as he has such vast knowledge of the Bible.

The new year starts with still only 3 people attending our group. Believe me, if you had one session of Bible study with us, you would be hooked!

We have sent many cards and have touched some people deeply. We recently received a jubilant reply for remembering a 95th birthday.

If you would like us to remember someone, please give us the name and address, and we would be happy to oblige.

We meet every Wednesday morning at 9:30 am in the conference room. We have lots of room, you are welcome to join us.

Prayer Circle Listing

ANGEL LIST

Mackayla Evans
Mason Barto
Ashley Weed
Abbiella Brown
Marisa Ivey
Shawn Mastrantonio
Betty Miller
Andrew Pardoe
Deb Mathers
Caiden Irvine
Lee Light
Jan Stoddard

CURRENT LIST

Tom Jennings
Cindy Barto
Carol Wright
Gladys Derr
Wilbur Beers
Diane Place
Linda Simko
Andy Springer
Margaret Kithcart
Walt Ellinger
Barbara Middendorf
Earl & Sue Brown
Jerry Smith
Richard Hollenback
Our Nation
Kathy Zdon
People of Pakistan
Janice Durkin Family
Ruth Johnson

Mission

January was Dental awareness month. Anything to do with the mouth and teeth were collected and donated to TACO.

Souper Bowl Sunday was celebrated Sunday, February 1. Soup and money were collected and donated to TACO.

We continue to support our local food pantry with your generous donations of food and money and time by those who volunteer their time at TACO.

March will be Personal Hygiene Month. We will be collecting items such as bars of soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant. Items will be given to TACO.

Thank you to all.

Michelle Irvine

