

Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135

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DAVID A. REPENNING, PASTOR

JANUARY 2014

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year. Jesus used to tell people, "The Kingdom of God is at hand." or "The Kingdom of God has come near you." So on Epiphany, the last day of Christmas, (also Jan 6th) I pause to reflect. Before the ornaments came down from the tree and the tree was thrown to the curb, I paused to think about those moments when it seemed the kingdom was near. We had many visitors. Some were family, others friends, people from church, and a few strangers. Each one was a visitor making God's light in our lives a little brighter. There were moments of worship; the cantata, Christmas Eve services, Sunday School program and so on. Each was an encounter with God's kingdom. Deeper yet were the two funerals I conducted; one for Ethel Dodge and the other for Doug Burns from Texas. I saw Ethel every Sunday but never met Doug. I did speak to Doug once or twice and kept up with his struggle with cancer and growth in Christ for seven years. Again the comfort of God's presence was in each of these experiences.

Let me share with you two of the most touching God moments. The first was during communion on Christmas Eve. A man came to receive the bread. Normally I would say, "The body of Christ given for you." or some other appropriate words. As our eyes met I could not speak, he looked at me, we nodded, and whatever words God wanted said were understood by both of us. The second moment was right before Doug's funeral. One of his daughters got out of the car. I hadn't seen her for 6 years. I baptized her then as she was preparing for Army boot camp. Her life has taken so many twists and turns I couldn't tell you exactly what happened to her. I have just tried to keep up with her status. That day I saw her get out of the car and again was speechless. We caught up on 6 years of conversation in one 2 minute hug. That said it all. God was there and has kept her alive for those 6 years. Praise the Lord.

Last month I told you to slow down for Christmas. Christmas Eve I asked you to "RE Think Christmas." Now go back and just acknowledge the wonders of God's presence in the season of Christmas. Give God thanks for being with you and remember the last words He said on earth, "And surely I am with you, even to the end of the age." Matt 28: 20. "Emmanuel" - God with us, revealed in us.

Be Blessed,
Pastor Dave Repenning

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Early Service</u>	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
Dec. 1	25	161	40
Dec. 8		106	40
Dec. 15	32	146	40
Dec. 22			38
Dec. 29	23	102	30

<u>Stewardship:</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>S.School</u>
Dec. 1	\$3,460.25	\$490.50	\$19.28
Dec. 8	\$7,019.05	\$1,383.50	\$
Dec. 15	\$3,907.45	\$814.50	\$37.80
Dec. 22	\$4,951.52	\$485.50	\$11.00
Dec. 29	\$4,795.89	\$397.00	\$23.75

January Birthdays Happy Birthday to All!!!

1st	Lonnie Riddle, Jr.
2nd	Barbara Repenning & Linda Amme
4th	Natalie Wulderk
5th	Jarrold McDonald
8th	Janet Hill & John Ireland
9th	Becky Wodtke
10th	Mary Lou Timberman
11th	Carolyn Wygor, Benjamin W. Timberman & Aaron Console
13th	Emily Bucolo
17th	Brody Moore
18	Jacob Wriggins
19th	Elena K. Wentz
21st	Anna Priggemeier
22nd	Cody Maurer & John Schwartz, III
24th	Andrew Repenning
25th	Rita Greene
26th	Faye Brady
30th	Gabrielle Hennessey, John Timberman, Robin Priggemeier & David Cooke

Middlers & Wednesday Nite Owwt:
Wednesdays: 6:30-7:30pm at the Hangar

Saturday, January 18th
Hangar Sub Sale - \$6 each

Contact Donna Stemberger to order:
856-358-2509 or dkstembug@yahoo.com





**HEALTHCARE MINISTRIES:
PERICARDITIS**

Pericarditis is an inflammation of the lining of the heart. It is not life threatening but needs to be evaluated because it shares symptoms with a heart attack or blood clots in the lungs. The pericardium is made up of two thin membrane layers that surround the heart like a sac. It helps limit heart expansion and helps the heart work efficiently. There should be a lubricating fluid that smooths the rubbing of the layers together. The pain associated with pericarditis could be a result of the inflamed layers rubbing against each other.

Acute pericarditis comes on quickly. The most common symptom is sharp, stabbing chest pain behind the breast bone or in the left side of your chest; but it can also cause chest pain that is dull, achy or pressure-like. The pain may travel into your left shoulder and neck, intensify when you lie down or inhale deeply. Other symptoms include difficulty breathing, a dry cough, feeling sick with fever and chills and feeling weak.

Pericarditis can usually be diagnosed by listening with a stethoscope for the sound made by inflamed pericardial membranes rubbing together. You may also have an ECG, chest x-ray, and echocardiogram. About 70% of the time, acute pericarditis is attributed to a viral infection. Initial therapy attempts to control pain, reduce inflammation, and reduce the chance of recurrence. Therapy may include aspirin, Aleve, and an anti-inflammatory drug called Colchicine. Also, you might need to take something to prevent stomach pain or bleeding that can be side-effects of aspirin or Aleve. Temporary restriction of strenuous activity may be necessary. Most people respond to this treatment within a week - or an underlying cause may be found and treated. If too much fluid collects between the layers, it may be necessary to drain the fluid with a catheter inserted into the pericardium.

(Information taken from Mayo Clinic literature)

“Know ye not that your bodies are the temple of the Holy Ghost?”
1 Cor. 6:19

Bonnie Kanady



**Junior Choir Rehearsal
Day and Time has changed!!**

All children ages 9 thru 13 are invited to be a part of the Junior Choir led by Carissa Quinn. Rehearsals are now held during the Children's Church part of the 10am worship service downstairs in the Primary Dept. The Junior Choir performs during the 10am Worship Service on the first Sunday of each month.



The Navigators

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for supporting what God is doing through The Navigator ministry.

I recently heard a story about a man named Mark, a soldier in the US Army. Early in Mark's military career he was mentored by fellow soldiers who were involved in The Navigator ministry. "When I saw the enthusiasm these guys had for Christ and sharing the Gospel, I knew this was something real. This was something exciting and profound and life-changing." Mark recalls.

Inspired by this group of soldiers, Mark asked God to show him how he could spark that same enthusiasm in someone else. God brought not just one but two young men in to his life, and Mark began to disciple them. As he shared his life and love for Jesus with these men, they began to share their faith with others. Mark witnessed the power of spiritual generations in action.

As Mark's Army career took him from base to base, and even to difficult overseas deployments, he lived a life connected to Jesus, shared that life with others, and helped others. In the context of everyday life and with each new assignment, Mark and his wife, Amy, caught glimpses of God's plan, and were excited to play a part in it. Sometimes they planted seeds of the Gospel, as it says in I Corinthians 3, and other times they were able to water the seed that had been planted by others.

Today, Mark and Amy are stationed at West Point – where Mark first met The Navigators – and they're continuing to impact young men and women for Christ.

The Navigators have a long history of serving members of the military. We started with Navy sailors back in 1933 and now make disciples for Christ among men and women from every branch of the military service. We are honored and privileged to serve those who serve our country.

Stories like Mark's inspire The Navigators to "keep on keeping on" in the work of making disciples. By God's grace, and through your partnership, we'll do just that.

In His Grip,
Doug Nuenke
US President
The Navigators