

Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135

FAX: 856-358-9295 Email: elmerumc@juno.com

DAVID A. REPENNING, PASTOR

OCTOBER 2014

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,



It is officially autumn. Last week was our last pool party and I have begun planting my fall/winter plants in the garden. So I am obligated to begin acknowledging those around me who want to talk about Christmas plans. We have already scheduled a Cantata for the Sunday before Christmas and try-outs for the Christmas play were last Sunday. In fact the news on TV talked about Wal Mart beginning to set up Christmas displays.

One thing that is very big in my house is Christmas presents. Each year we are going to do less gift giving among ourselves and we end up with more presents under the tree. We also try to have some sort of order in the opening of presents. Somewhere in the process chaos prevails. There is great anticipation about what you might get and an equal amount of excitement about how others will respond to the gifts we give them. Have you ever thought about how excited God must get about giving us gifts? I also wonder how God feels when we don't open His gifts or when we complain about the gifts we receive from Him or set them aside for later.

During October I will finish up a sermon series on "The Marks of a Disciple." This could also be called Spiritual Disciplines, Means of Grace, or Spiritual Exercises. They include Daily Prayer, Weekly Worship, Bible Reading, Acts of Service, Spiritual Friendship, and Giving. These are not the only marks, but they are all very important and the most common practices. The inclination is to look at these as obligations or things we have to do. Perhaps it is better to look at them as gifts from God; opportunities to experience God and each other, and to grow deeper in our relationships. Maybe God sees them as blessings that we at times would rather not receive.

Prayer is an opportunity to share with God our deepest thoughts and desires. He listens, and though He may not always agree, God does not condemn or ridicule us for having such thoughts. Prayer grows into worship. Worship provides a chance to enter into community with God and with other humans as we praise and adore Him together. Bible reading is how God most obviously ministers to us, instructs us, and speaks to our lives. The Bible is not only read and explained but often revealed by God for new and challenging truths. Through Service to and Service from others we gain a sense of self-worth and

of belonging to a greater community. God can also provide us with special friends. God puts spiritual friends in our lives to mentor, affirm, and support us as we go through life. Finally, through opportunities to give, God blesses us with the joy of saying thanks to Him and blessing others. As I said earlier, we too often look at these as requirements rather than gifts from God to bless us. When we don't use these gifts, we become spiritually stale. Are you intentionally allowing God to bless you through these disciplines? Our challenge is to see how we can respond to God's gifts and open ourselves to the fullness of His blessing. As we meditate each Sunday on one of these aspects, we will be challenged to make commitments to use these gifts; to allow God's grace to nurture our growth. On Sunday, November 2nd, we will have an opportunity to consider each of these gifts and how you will choose to receive them. I will send you more details as the day approaches. Please plan to join us this month and especially on November 2nd as we renew our commitments to God, receive Holy Communion, and prepare to live deeper in the blessings of God.



Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dave Repenning

<u>Attendance:</u>	Early Service	Morning Worship	Sunday School
Sept. 7	28	117	
Sept. 14	25	114	27
Sept. 21	27	90	
<u>Stewardship:</u>	Church	Missions	S.School
Sept. 7	\$7,538.00	\$2,212.00	\$
Sept. 14	\$2,881.71	\$385.00	\$13.22
Sept. 21	\$2,260.37	\$363.00	\$



October Birthdays Happy Birthday to All!!!

- 1st Olivia Hagen
- 2nd Lee Sutton & Terry Both, Jr.
- 5th Hunter Batten
- 7th Ron Amme
- 8th Dori Ireland, Abigail & Cooper Willoughby & Jay Hennessey
- 10th Angelina Montana, Bobby Richards, Erika Evans, Matthew Wildman & Herb Black
- 12th Jessi Baldosaro
- 14th Clayton Bishop & Jay Bucolo
- 16th Anna Schneider, Todd Batten, Sr.
- 17th Athena Eberl & Melissa Hemsley
- 18th Evan Elliott
- 19th Gia Shimp, Larry Wriggins Jr., Al-Jo Voeckler & Darla Timberman
- 21st Jackie Bowers
- 22nd Sharon Zeck & Layla Cooper
- 24th Alkmini Schneider & George Mottola, IV
- 25th Mary Jane Horner & Justin Snyder
- 26th Matthew Richards
- 27th Alexandra Ayd, Theresa Wriggins & Bobby Griffith
- 30th Todd Chapman
- 31st Stefanie Fox & Connor Rodriguez



Wednesday Nite Owwt and Middlers

Every Wednesday Evening from 6:30 to 7:30pm at the Hangar beginning October 1st through the end of April. Our program is for Preschool through 6th grade. We have a Bible lesson, crafts, activities and more. For more information please contact Linda Thomas, 881-2631, lthomas@folsomschool.org for WNO or Donna Stemberger, 358-2509, dkstembug@yahoo.com for Middlers.

Harvest Day

Semi - Annual Fundraising Day Yard Sale Preview



6:30-8:30pm Friday, October 3rd

Yard & Sub Sale

9am-12pm Saturday, October 4th

Donations of yard sale items may be brought to the church and left in the Fellowship Hall any time after Sunday, September 28th. Sub Sale benefits the Women's Retreat. Please see Leah Bucolo for more info.



Harvest Day Sub Sale

To benefit the Women's Retreat

Pick Up Between 10:30 - 11:30am at the Church
\$6.00 each.

To order please contact Donna Stemberger:
358-2509 or dkstembug@yahoo.com.



Hangar Sub Sale Saturday, October 18th

Pick Up Between 10:30 - 11:30am at the Church
\$6.00 each.

To order please contact Donna Stemberger:
856-358-2509 or dkstembug@yahoo.com

American Red Cross Blood Drive



Monday, October 20th

1:30 - 6:30pm in our Church
Appointments are preferred
Please call 1-800-RED CROSS

Or sign up online at www.redcrossblood.org
Enter Sponsor Code: Elmer



Special Sunday School
Harvest Party
Sunday, October 26th
More details coming!!

Women's Retreat

Featuring

Women of Faith Video Series

"Joy-Filled Life"

"Moses" at Sight and Sound Theatres

November 14-16, 2014

ONLY FOUR SPOTS LEFT!!

Please see Donna Stemberger, Pat Hall, Barb Reppenning or Charmaine Sutton for your brochure.

Cost of weekend all inclusive: \$225

Mark Your Calendars!!

Our Annual Punkin' Chunkin'

Beginning at 11am

Sat., Nov. 9th

at Zeck Farm,
91 Pinyard Rd,
Monroeville



GAMES, FOOD & HAYRIDES!!

Come join us for a day of family fun!!



Wycliffe Bible Translators USA

www.wycliffe.org

I have to admit, I take it for granted that every Bible I pick up is written in English, my native language. I can't imagine otherwise. Thankfully the team of Wycliffe Bible Translators is doing God's work around the globe thereby allowing all people to have this same experience of the Bible in their native tongue.

President and CEO, Bob Creson, recently met a ten year old boy who is a third generation Christian from the Peruvian rainforest. He recited verses from Matthew and Luke because faithful Bible translators have obeyed God's call to them. This little boy's Bible in his Matsés language and these verses have transformed his family and community.

In Burkina Faso, Africa (close to the present Ebola outbreak) a literacy coordinator for Sissala Old Testament reminds us that even if we lost everything, we could not lose the Word because it is our strength and saves us in our difficult times. The impact of Bible translation is visible and evident and keeps going by our donations.

To learn more please visit Wycliffe.org and to browse the Village Shop go to shop.wycliffe.org.



Submitted by
Jane Cooke
Missions Committee