

Elmer United Methodist Church



CHURCH OFFICE AND PETER'S PANTRY - 358-0135

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DAVID A. REPENNING, PASTOR

JANUARY 2015

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year,

The new year is a time to reflect on the past and look forward to the future. For me personally there have been ongoing issues with my health, which I hope are now over. The New Year immediately brought changes for Barb and me with the birth of a baby girl, Ariyah, to our daughter Danielle. That happened in the afternoon of New Year's Day. Danielle and Ariyah will be living with us in the parsonage. And so time goes on and lots of surprising things continue to happen. We wish to thank so many of you who have stepped up to help with Church during my most recent illness, and to drop off baby things, give words of encouragement and also give us a very nice monetary gift for Christmas.

Well that's a glimpse at the parsonage. As I look at the Church there are many different ministries that have accomplished great things and will accomplish greater things in the coming year. Small group ministries is one place we have excelled in the past year. Our groups last spring led many people into deeper walks with God and the people around them. An ongoing small group and an outreach to Lake Side Manor on Main Street are just two of the blessings growing out of these groups. Another aspect of this type of ministry is stronger relationships and support systems.

This spring we will have another series of small groups based on the book, Be the Message, by Terry Shook. Rev. Dave Bailey will kick off our Lenten Study with special services on Friday, February 20th through Sunday night, February 22nd. Following that weekend we will begin the five week series, Be the Message. Please begin planning to be a part of this church wide activity.

More immediately, we are providing a different type of small group called Celebrate Recovery. This group is based on 8 principles which come from the Beatitudes (Mathew 5: 3-20). It is designed to help members of the group work through "hurts, habits and hang-ups." A number of people have expressed their sense of losing control of their world around them. Together, we will search scripture, ourselves and our lives to find new and more effective ways of dealing with the chaos in our lives.

Celebrate Recovery will meet Sunday Nights beginning this Sunday at 7pm in the Parlor. (off of the church kitchen) I hope we can get 6 to 12 people to participate in

this 6 week experience. If it goes well we can continue for a longer period of time.

Once again, please plan to attend at least some of these events, so that we might begin the New Year growing stronger in and through the Grace of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dave Repenning

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Early Service</u>	<u>Morning Worship</u>	<u>Sunday School</u>
Dec. 7	27		46
Dec. 14	31	114	28
Dec. 21	25	115	25
Dec. 28	21	110	30

<u>Stewardship:</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>S.School</u>
Dec. 7	\$5,151.25	\$1,252.00	\$16.00
Dec. 14	\$4,117.75	\$585.00	\$15.50
Dec. 21	\$4,731.10	\$362.00	\$39.00
Dec. 28	\$7,906.00	\$2,095.00	\$20.50

January Birthdays Happy Birthday to All!!!

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

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

Saturday, January 17th

Drama Ministry Sub Sale - \$6.50 each

Contact Donna Stemberger to order:

856-358-2509 or dkstembug@yahoo.com





Joy in the Harvest

Lowell and Claudia Wertz are celebrating a great year of joy while serving in the mission field in Tanzania. Joy in the Harvest has experienced great things in 2014. Hal and Sue Hoege, two-year missionary volunteers arrived to assist with the mission work. The new recording studio was finished and 55 visitors became involved with the ministry. The Destitute Camp was renovated and electric lights were installed. A free Medical Clinic treated over 1400 patients of which over 90 received follow up hospital treatment. The Beck House was completed and is in constant use. Joy received two pallets of 24 boxes of 2,334 LPs for their radio program, The Vinyl Hour, for JOY Radio. Their feeding program has served over 56,000 meals mostly to children.

Joy harvested a "Romans Project," an intense study of God's Word which required over 500 hours to read Romans over 20 times so that it would be recorded for MP3 players and used as a theological library source. It also had to be written in long hand for library use. Dr. Rick Calenberg and Jonathan Galven, from Texas, led the seminar with over 70 in attendance.

Lastly, the Kigoma Regional Commissioner (like a state governor) called and spoke with the Minister of Information and Communications and a five-year broadcast license was signed on December 8. Radio JOY should begin broadcasting in 2015. Music CDs are ready to air and workers are gathering Swahili programs, updating computers and equipment, and solving last minute problems at the station.

Lowell and Claudia, in a thank you note to Elmer UMC said, "As we look back over the three and a half decades of missionary service, we know that it is the faithful giving of God's children that has made our ministry possible. Each gift has been so important and used by the Lord to bring God's hope, and salvation to Africans. Thank you for obeying Jesus' command to 'go into all the world.'"

Al-Jo Voeckler
Missions Chairperson

TWENTY THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Faith is the ability to not panic.
If you worry, you didn't pray.
If you prayed, don't worry.
2. As a child of God, prayer is kinda like calling home every day.
3. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.
4. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still.
God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.
Do the math. Count your blessings.
5. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
6. Dear God: I have a problem. It's me.
7. Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.
8. Laugh every day - it's like inner jogging.
9. The most important things in your home are the people.
10. Growing old is inevitable, growing up is optional.
(Live it; Preach it!)
11. There is no key to happiness.
12. The door is always open. Come on in.
13. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
14. He who dies with the most toys is still dead.
15. We do not remember days but moments.
16. Life moves too fast so enjoy your precious moments.
17. Nothing is real to you until you experience it,
otherwise it's just hearsay.
18. It's all right to sit on your pity pot every now and again.
Just be sure to flush when you are done.
19. Surviving and living your life successfully requires courage.
The goals and dreams you're seeking require courage and risk-taking. Learn from the turtle, it only makes progress when it sticks out its neck.
20. Be more concerned with your character than your reputation.
Your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are. No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting. Leave gentle fingerprints on the soul of another for the angels to read. I don't want to get to the end of my life and find that I lived just the length of it. I want to have lived the width of it as well.

Take your turn and sign up for Altar Flowers



We have openings for placing flowers in the altar vases for Sunday morning worship services. If you are interested in placing flowers in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please write your name on the calendar and fill out a green slip which are located on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you