

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you would like to schedule an event at the church, contact Steph at 309-848-4050 or [portbyronfirstumc@gmail.com](mailto:portbyronfirstumc@gmail.com). She will provide you with the building agreement, policies, and forms to book the date on the church calendar.

**MONTHLY DONATIONS BLESSED ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH: *Immediate Food Pantry Needs*** - The Upper Rock Island County Food Pantry at Messiah Lutheran Church has immediate needs for kid-friendly summer food items: cereal and single-serve meals. ***Be sure that your donations are within the "best by/best use" expiration date and that the item has not been opened. The food pantry cannot accept items that are expired.*** Thank you for your continuing support of this ministry!

**MONTHLY DONATIONS BLESSED ON THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH: *Wish List for the Mission Welcome Kits***: The Mission Committee is preparing ongoing Welcome Kits for new residents at Whispering Hills. The following items are needed: shampoo, body soap, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dish soap, small laundry detergent, cleaning wipes, small all-purpose cleaner, single-roll paper towels, and a 4-pack of toilet paper. Thank you for your donations and support of this local mission!

### OTHER EVENTS ON THE CALENDAR:

**Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup> – Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>** Pastor Becky on vacation. Please get in touch with Kathy Mahraun during that time for questions or emergencies.

**Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>** - United Women in Faith is meeting at 1:30 at the church. The speaker is a representative from Anne's Helping Hands. All women of the church are invited. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

**Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>** - Is a fifth Sunday. United Women in Faith will be serving a meal following worship. Please plan to join us for good food and fellowship.

### COMING IN JULY

Pastor Krey Leesman will begin his ministry with us on July 1<sup>st</sup> and will preach and preside over communion on Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.

SUMMER BASH AT WHISPERING HILLS! Wednesday, July 9<sup>th</sup> from 5-7PM. Walking tacos and hot dogs (for the kids) will be served. Sign-up sheets are in the fellowship hall for items needed and to sign up to serve that night. Contact Sabra, Chad, Nancy, Rick or Deb Baker with questions.

### Wisdom for receiving a new Pastor

By: Rev. John Vidakovich (IGRC Retired Elder)

**If your church is receiving a new pastor, here are some things to not say and to say.**

1. Please do not say "You have some big shoes to fill." The new pastor is already feeling the weight of expectations of starting at a new place with new people. He or she doesn't need to hear that you expect him or her to live up to the previous pastor. Instead, say, *"I am looking forward to your leadership. I will support you."* Acknowledge this is a new person with new gifts and graces.
2. Please do not start a sentence with "we really need to do something about...." Every church has issues that need to be addressed. The first Sunday, the first conversation is not the appropriate place for that conversation. You might instead say *"how can I help you get acclimated?"*
3. Please don't speak negatively about the preceding pastor. This is vital. We as clergy know that if you will talk in a negative way about our predecessors, you will probably talk about us the same way. Instead say *"I am looking forward to getting to know you."*
4. Don't create unrealistic expectations by saying something like "You are just exactly what we needed!" It is the first Sunday after all. Your new pastor will at some point disappoint you. They don't need to be set-up from the get-go. Instead, you might say *"I look forward to discovering the gifts you will bring to our church."* This is not an exhaustive list.

The main thing to remember is that this is the start of a new relationship.

Give it time.

### **How To Begin a Relationship With Your New Pastor**

This is the time of year when churches get new pastor's. The first few months are important for beginning to develop relationships with your new pastor. Here are some ideas for you to consider.

1. Go slow. Your new pastor is probably disoriented from the move. He or she is trying to unpack and settle their family. They are trying to get their feet underneath them. Ask how they are doing, offer to help, take a meal over and give them some time and space.
2. Do not go to the new pastor and share with them everything you didn't like about the previous pastor. If you badmouth the former pastor, the new pastor figures it will only be a matter of time before you badmouth him or her.
3. Don't present an agenda of things that need to be fixed. Most pastors struggle with trying to fix things. Focus on getting to know the new pastor as a person first. There will be plenty of time to get to the other stuff.
4. Don't forget the spouse and kids. Everybody wants to meet the new pastor, sometimes at the expense of meeting the pastor's family. Respect that they are in a new situation (not necessarily of their choosing). Respect their personality types, especially if they are introverted.
5. Say your name the first few times you talk to the pastor. You have one name to learn, the new pastor has many.

## **Update: Driveway & Parking Lot Fund Drive**

In late February, the Trustees announced a fund drive to resurface our entire parking lot and both driveways. Based on current funding, the Trustees have explored alternative quotes for a lesser amount while having potential for the work to be completed this summer.

The Trustees asked several local contractors what they could do with \$50,000 starting with our key areas of concern. What we get with the new quotes is a new layer of asphalt on the half circle driveway, the entry from 94<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and a generous portion of the parking lot. We also get the rear portion of the parking lot sealed and the entire parking lot striped. This addresses the high traffic portion of our driveway, the garbage pickup area, the low spot in the circle drive near the playground, and the most frequently used portion of the parking lot. This round of work would not include the entry from Hillsdale Road.

If we can achieve our new \$50,000 goal by mid-July, we can get these key areas addressed this summer.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask any of your church Trustees and know we appreciate any generosity.

Have a nice week! Stay cool!