

2021 February Pastor's Newsletter Article

Dear Church Family,

I share with you quite differently as I have in the past, especially with times being as different as they are with this pandemic. As you pastor, as one who has not only been called to care for and love you, but over the past, almost, 9 years, you have allowed me to be your pastor and to care for you, your family, and friends. So, I wanted to share that though you may see it as my "job" to do difficult things, for me it is not only my ministry but also as a servant of Jesus Christ with the responsibilities of a "Shepherd's helper." Jesus is our Shepherd, and I have been called and given the incredibly honored and joyful ministry of being your pastor. Jesus called me to love his sheep. And I have striven to do so. Therefore, and I know you may know this, but I wanted to share in my writings this month that it always hurts when a member of our church family passes away. From the first funeral services I officiated soon after I arrived that included Mary Vanderbush's service that was on October 29, 2012 and Ivan Danzeisen's on Nov. 27, 2012, to the most recent services, I grieve and continue to miss them, understandably. As with each loss, our latest being Corky Naumann, I will surely miss her and each one as you do. What I share is one way that we can connect a bit more through what we are told in Scripture about being the body of Christ, connected to each other by the Holy Spirit, and when one of us hurts, we all hurt...as well as when one rejoices, we all rejoice. (1 Corinthians 12:26)

Again, this month I write something quite different, sharing from my heart. And as fellow disciples of Christ, we know that we do not end in sorrow, grief and despair. It is because of Christ that we have a reason to give thanks, to honor and celebrate the lives of those who are now with the Lord, and we can live with courage, joy and love because we know the one who rose from the dead, our Good Shepherd Jesus, will also raise us up one day to eternal life and reunion with him and all those who have gone before us. Let us always keep that promise and hope we have in Christ.

With joyful hope in Christ,

Pastor Taek