

HOW ARE YOU DOING TODAY?

Each morning my wife and I read a devotion from either Time of Grace or Meditations. We find them uplifting and strengthening for a new day.

Recently one from Meditations was quite awaking to read. It was from a Pastor that was full of surprises. During the years of my employment, I had the privilege to be part of the Lutheran Hour. My responsibilities involved visiting with the pastors from the group of churches(circuit) that we were trying to build a stronger involvement of the lay people. In some cases, I have stayed in their homes and became friends with them and their families. This was the best part of my employment.

These men really don't have a person to visit with about what challenges are happening in their lives, they would often open up to me, I guess because they felt safe. You see they really can't go to a member in their congregation or even another pastor in their circuit. But no one has opened up to me as strongly as this pastor from Mediations has to the readers. (See letter following)

[I get the question "how are you doing today?" I couldn't count the number of times I've been asked that question and didn't tell the truth. Although I faked a smile and cheerfully responded, "I'm great!" There have been days when I've felt just plain awful. There have been those days when I've worried about how the bills would get paid. There have been those days when I've felt like a failure as a father, as a husband, as a pastor – those days when I know I haven't been there for my children, when I've hurt my wife with the things I've said, when I've let down my congregation. There have been those days when the guilt of my sin makes me lose my appetite and keeps me awake at night in my bed. "How am I doing today? I'm depressed. I'm sad. I'm scared!" You too?]

You could have knocked me over with a feather. When I look at my pastors and their outlook on life they always seem so positive. One would never guess that they might be carrying some personal challenges in their lives like the one above. When I observe our pastors, I see Jesus in them.

You may wonder what this has to do with you. That is a good question to ask. As your pastor, they are in prayer on your behalf, they visit the homebound and those who are in the hospital. They also visit members who are having spiritual problems in their lives. They are responsible for teaching bible studies, confirmation classes and sermons, besides their own family responsibilities.

Here's what we can do for them and for each other, have a quiet prayer. There is nothing better than older (& younger) people praying for you. The instructions are to pick four or more people you want God to bless (include your pastors). This prayer is powerful, and prayer is one of the best gifts we receive. There is no cost but a lot of rewards.

Father, thank you for each and every day you have blessed us here on earth. Thank you for your tender mercies. Thank you for giving us friends, relatives, brothers and sisters in Christ and those I care deeply for who are reading this right now. Where there is joy, give them continued joy. Where there is pain or sorrow, give them your peace and mercy. Where there is self-doubt, release a renewed confidence. Where there is need, fulfill their needs. Bless their homes, families, finances, their goings and their comings. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Joe's Rocking Chair Greetings
Joseph E Stickney – August 1, 2016
David's Star EV Lutheran Church - Vol. 9, No. 12
www.davidsstar.org