

Visitation Team

The woman in the photo is not a member of our congregation but she easily could be. We have more members than you might think who, a few years back, were very involved in the life of Immanuel. However, now, because of age or poor health, they sit in their homes and wonder what is happening “out there”.



In order to minister to them and along the lines of our mission “sharing the love of Jesus with all!” and our vision “a church creating a connected community!”, about twenty members of Immanuel form a team of active visitors. They stay in touch with our shut-in members through in-person visits, phone calls, and by mailing cards. It is amazing what such a simple effort can mean to shut-in members. It tells them they still matter. It tells them their stories and their history are still important. It tells them they are still loved by God. It tells them they are still connected to the community.

St. Francis of Assisi wrote, “Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words.” People who are on our visitation team actually do use words as they read from the Bible in a devotion or write a few words in a card, but just showing God’s love by taking the time to visit or call is “preaching the Gospel” as well.

Each member of the team commits to contact one, two or even more shut-in members about once a month. COVID can make this a challenge as visitors always work within protocols.

The team also meets quarterly for mutual encouragement and to share highlights of their ministry without betraying confidences. If they notice a care receiver has pastoral concerns they simply let the team leader know and the pastor is notified.

This ministry is a two way street. Team members notice, often especially after their first visit, that they too are blessed by the visit. Being God’s voice and hands and feet by serving His people gives real joy that is hard to describe. If you would like to learn more about the Visitation Team please contact Charlotte through the church office or Pastor Peter.

Grief Care

Grieving a loss comes to every one of us. Most often we think of it as grieving the death of a loved one be it spouse, parent, child, sibling, friend, or even a pet. However, grief can also happen because of divorce, the loss of friendships, employment or our health.



Grief has been described as a fog that rolls into our lives, surrounding us so thickly that we might go shopping but leave our groceries at the store, read a paragraph five or six times and not know what we read, watch a show and not really register what we have seen.

The Christian hope is that when something even as basic as our faith is in that kind of fog — when it seems our hold on God is slipping — God does not loosen His hold on us. This understanding — that God is with us even while we think we are alone — is a great comfort that we can offer to each other as well as to people who are not yet believers.

With that truth, that God loves us and holds on to us, we can begin the process of integrating our loss into our lives and, stepping onto a healthy path toward healing. As we journey we learn that we travel along that path each at our own speed.



One resource that Immanuel uses to help people on that journey is the “Journeying Through Grief” booklets. Four times during the first year of grief we give them one booklet which describes the next stage of the journey. “Journeying Through Grief” was written by Dr. Kenneth Haugk, a Lutheran pastor, after he lost his wife to cancer. The books are written in a warm, friendly way and can be read at one sitting or a bit at a time. Time and again we hear that people really appreciate these books.

If you need help on your grief journey, or know of someone who does, please contact Pastor Peter.

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