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Chronicler



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Transitional periods between pastors is the perfect time to review, renew and rethink priorities and perspectives as pertains to pastor/parish relations.

As I have worked with the call committee, I have noted the very reasonable desire, expressed repeatedly, to find the best possible pastor for the parish. Nobody goes out looking for frogs, we all want a prince.

Nevertheless, it will probably serve the parish's own best interests to reframe the question and say to yourself, "HOW CAN WE BE THE BEST POSSIBLE PARISH FOR THE NEXT PASTOR?" Ask not what can your pastor do for you; but, what can you do for your pastor.

Pastors aren't perfect. But the best way to bring the best out of them is to love them into shape.

We – loving another person is one of those things that, if not defined precisely and with particularities, easily dissolves into a rather shapeless idea that usually amounts to little more than a shallow, syrupy-sweet niceness that doesn't really take seriously the roll-up-your-sleeves, hard work aspect of love with true substance.

SO HOW DOES A PARISH LOVE ITS PASTOR?

1. Appreciate your pastor as a very vulnerable person. The pastor who is new in town is totally alone. He doesn't know any of you from Adam. You would like him to assume the good intentions of each and every one of you. But each and every one of you knows that not all people are full of goodwill and charity – even church-folk. And he, your pastor, is absolutely in the dark. If he seems cautious and reserved, it may be because he's been shot at before by "snipers in the bush". He may be jumpy. He may be wary. Whatever he is – give him time; give him room; give him grace, patience and understanding.
2. Communicate clearly. If you need or desire your pastor's services; tell him. Spell it out for him. Don't leave him to guess. He's bound to guess wrong. I've had people perturbed because the pastor didn't visit them at their house. I've had others absolutely and adamantly resistant to any incursion on their privacy. The pastor never knows. 'Do I go or stay away'? If the pastor does other than what you would wish – go and talk to him civilly and individually. The nastiest thing you can do is to stir up general and public dissension before a matter is ever even brought to his attention so that the pastor, standing in vulnerable, naked isolation is imperiled if not domed before he ever even has a chance to answer.
3. --- allow him to lead. There are few things more frustrating than being put in charge but not really being allowed to be charge; to be told how to run things; to be constrained by the practices of your predecessor; to be held up to other pastors' in comparison rather than being (con't page 3)



Midweek Advent Services begin 12/6 and continue 12/13 & 12/20 at 7p

Carolling : 12/10 at 3p, Chili Supper after **Christmas Eve:** Divine Service at

9:00a with Children's Program **New Years Eve:** Divine Service at 8a

**Holiday
Schedule**



Jerry and Sue Fortune, with the assistance of a \$250 Thrivent grant (and a 10% discount courtesy of Fareway!) and donations collected at OSL delivered a huge quantity of goods to the Salvation Army food pantry. Thank you to all who donated!

Window Replacement

At the October Voters' meeting, the congregation agreed to proceed with the purchase of new windows at all 21 remaining locations around the church. This plan includes 18 windows from Pella Corporation and 24 windows from Marvin Corporation, 2 windows being installed at each of the 21 locations. On November 22, official orders were placed after having our chosen installer checked and double-checked dimensions of the existing windows. Down payments were made to lock-in quoted pricing, and fabrication is in process. The Marvin windows will be delivered near the end of the year or early in January. Those windows will be stored in the area adjacent to Room 8 until they can be installed. Pella was able to schedule build and delivery for April 1, 2024 which is closer to when our installer will be able to install them. The fundraising campaign to pay for installation of the windows recently surpassed 40% of the \$30,000 goal, so thank you to everyone who has contributed. There will be plenty of opportunity if you haven't yet contributed or sponsored a window. Donations will be collected up to the January Voter's Meeting.



Don't forget to look for the lighted display sponsored by



OSL at the Maytag Park Holiday

Lights this year!



Our quilters continue to work diligently on their quilts. Here are a few photos from the last session of 2023! Plus a photo of the 6 quilts delivered to the Comfort House in Pel... to thank them for the wonderful care they provided to James Moses in his final days. They were most appreciative.



Christ the savior is born.