

# The Lighthouse

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## I Want to Ask You a Question!

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When I have attended any of the church health meetings in the recent past it has been pointed out that the Christian Church in America is losing ground. For some years we heard first that main line denominations were falling behind. Then the word was that not only main lines but many of the non-denominational are shrinking. They were saying that non-Christian religions were where people were going. Now even that is changing.

According to the latest numbers the fastest growing segment of our population is the nones. These are people who have no affiliation to any church, denomination or religion. Not only do many of these people have no affiliation, many have no back-

ground. Not only do many have no background, but their parents and, for a growing segment, their grandparents have none.

The problem this presents is that in the past many churches looked to the parents or grandparents to offer instruction on belief or at least bring the child to Church. Now that avenue is no longer there. So it falls to each of us more than ever to be the main portal of invitation.

So with said, my question is, what would make you more likely you to invite someone to Church? I am not just writing this to fill a newsletter. I am in fact asking for answers.

For many of you the only time you see me is on Sunday mornings, and that is the worst time to have a conversation with me.

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If I am not preparing for the Sunday service, I am trying to fix something or four other people are wanting to talk to me. Since I am really wanting to know your thoughts I am asking that we have this conversation by email or by written letter. It is my hope that we can use email for the greatest part. To that purpose I have set up a new address.

revrick@edgertonchurch.com

My other email, rev@saa.net , is still the main contact to me and is available to me wherever I go. The revrick account is for conversation on this subject and because of it I will only check and read this account when I am in the office and when I have the time to give this my full attention. This is also a clean account, by which I mean I have not released to others and it is not tied to my communication net. I will not have to wade through ad and offers and other junk email. (You would be surprised how many people say that if a simply watch their 30 min. video it will change my life. Then again you may not be!)

If we are going to reach others for Christ it will come only through the efforts of each of you. It is my mission to make each of you a success. So- What would make you more likely you to invite someone to Church?

Pastor Rick



**Join us Sunday, February 8, 2015, for 'Dinner & A Movie' night at Edgerton United Methodist Church. A taco dinner will be served from 5-6:00 PM. The movie will begin in the sanctuary at 6:15 PM**

A free will offering will be taken at the meal to help fund Katie Krill's mission trip to Mexico this summer (July 25-August 1). The movie we will be showing is '23 Blast', which was just released. Hope you will join us!

**Open prayer times in the sanctuary at Edgerton UMC are Mondays from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM, and on Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 PM.**

This is open to anyone in the community and has been announced in the newspaper, as well as posted on the church website. People will be available to pray with you



if you would like, or you are welcome to come in and pray silently & privately. If you are unable to make it in for these open prayer times & have a prayer request that you want others to join you in prayer for, you can contact the office or Karlyn.

**Pancake/Sausage Supper**



**Feb 25, 2015**

**5-6:30 PM at Edgerton UMC**

The Methodist Men of Edgerton, Emanuel & Melbern churches & the Zion Lutheran's men are hosting this. A free will offering will be taken to raise money for the Food Resource Bank Project.



Preparations are already beginning for this summer's Vacation Bible School! And your help is needed securing items for use in decorating, as well as supplies needed for this year's Science area. A partial list of supplies needed is listed below (more supplies will follow, this is just to get started). If you have any of these items laying around taking up space in your house or garage and can donate any of them, it would be greatly appreciated.

Black landscaping fabric (any amounts, any size)

PVC pipe or connectors (any lengths, any size diameter)

White twinkle lights

Empty paper towel rolls (needed for crafts AND science areas)

Please see Stephanie if you have questions or items to donate.

## ***Scouting News...***

Edgerton's scouts remain very active, following their sales of Christmas trees & wreaths over the Christmas holiday. They are preparing for Scout Sunday, which will be held on February 8. This will mark the first Scout Sunday celebrated in the new sanctuary! In February, the Scouts will also be holding their Blue & Gold Banquet. This event will be held on Saturday, February 21, in the Fellowship Hall of the Edgerton UMC.

## **VBS Planning Meeting**

**Thursday, February 5**

**7:00 PM**

On the agenda: Setting the date, discussing opportunities to promote VBS in the community leading up to the event, assigning positions to volunteers & discussing what rooms each session will take place in & discussion on the date for the end of the week VBS Program for families. This meeting will be held in the new Fellowship Hall.



Scouting for food drive will take place in March. Bags will be distributed on Saturday, March 7. Because we know wind has been a factor in bags being

lost in the past, if you don't find a bag in or on your door (or if you need extra bags), please contact Sandy Wood. The Scouting for Food pickup will take place the following Saturday, on March 14. Please make sure you have your items in the provided bag sitting on your front porch or next to your front door, where the scouts can easily find it and pick it up. Thank you in advance!!!

## February Birthdays & Anniversaries

2/2 Diane Frager  
2/3 Pearl Warner  
2/4 Devin Gahan  
2/9 Joe Krill  
2/10 Stephanie Blue  
2/11 Brent Grandey  
2/14 Bryce Krill  
2/17 Jean Hilbert  
2/17 Diana Lutterbein  
2/20 Destiny Hill  
2/21 Ruth Mayer  
2/26 Rob Richardson  
2/26 Kaylyn (Stark) Brown  
2/27 Adrew Wagner

2/10 Joe & Marge Hinkle  
2/13 Neil & Sandy Imm



**PRAYER REQUESTS**  
We are here to pray for you!



Tom Nichols  
Sandy Castor  
Rob Pettit & family  
Chloe Merillat  
Jim Pringle  
Geina Lynn Carwile  
Cleon Krill

Elton Monosmith  
Greg Sims  
Pedro Ramirez &  
family  
Pastor Crystal  
Adaya Strobietto

Family & Friends of Ruth Etoll  
Family & Friends of John Rider  
Family & Friends of Myrtle Lutterbein

### Edgerton Liturgists

1- Denise Farnham  
8- Janice Hill  
15- Iva Peverly  
22 -Dee Gilbert

Coffee Hour  
A stylized illustration of a coffee cup with steam rising from it, integrated into the text.

**Thelma  
Riehle**

*At Emanuel*