

Pastor's Point

Church Lady #1: That's how life is Lars, everything at once.

Church Lady #2: We brought casseroles.

Lars: Is there something I should be doing right now?

Church Lady #3: No, dear. You eat.

Church Lady #1: We came over to sit.

Church Lady #2: That's what people do when tragedy strikes. They come over and sit.

Church Lady #3: Don't you feel a little better?

Scene from Lars and the Real Girl, 2007

The 2007 movie *Lars and the Real Girl*, chronicles a few months in the life of a young man who is experiencing a delusion in which a mannequin he purchases is actually his girlfriend Bianca who has come for a visit. The local doctor, noting that he is responding to trauma from his childhood, convinces his family and the whole town, including his church family who loves him dearly, to go along with the delusion in order to help his work through his illness.

Over time, the town, and especially his church, enthusiastically embrace Bianca, picking her up to go to parties, volunteer at the hospital, have her hair and nails done with the girls, etc. They even elect her to the local school board. Eventually, Lars does begin to recover and as he gets better, Bianca's health declines. And as she does, the Lutheran church ladies do what church ladies do: bring casseroles and company.

Our theme this week is "What Do You Need?" And our scripture comes from Job and II Timothy, both chronicling community responses to tragedy. I wonder what times in your life you've experienced tragedy and found your needs met by food and presence? I wonder if you've always been able to ask for what you need? I wonder when you've been able to be present for others; when you've been able to meet and expressed need? I wonder how you've found the presence of the Holy in the midst of community care?

Blessings,

Pastor Heather