

May
2018

Messenger & Zepher

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN

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Pastor

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ZION LUTHERAN -

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Special Edition



DEADLINE
May 15th

Send submissions to
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Cohocton, NY 14826

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Dansville, NY 14437

Pastor's Message

Grace and peace to you from God the Creator, Jesus the Christ and the Holy Spirit who moves among our community. I am writing this as the sun shines through the windows of my house! Whew what a relief: No snow on the ground; the lilacs are beginning to bud; and the chives have randomly appeared again on my front lawn. Then those daffodils, ahh, they bring light to my life. But alas, I notice the spots on the windows, the twigs and branches that are littered from the harsh winds of the last month. We need it all. The darkness and cold of winter. The transition time needed to build nests, cleaning up debris, imagining and preparing for what is to come.

This is my absolute favorite time of the year when I can look out my living room window and experience the changes, the light, the colors, the sounds of the birds and am stopped in my tracks as I am reminded of God's presence in my life. The church too is much like this: a fluid organism that is impacted by what is around us, by what is in it, by the movement of the Holy Spirit.

The last two weeks of April we heard two images of Jesus in the Scriptures: Jesus the Good Shepherd and Jesus as the Vine. These remain constant for us. Shepherds in the time of Jesus were the lowliest of the low and they protected the sheep who were needed for their wool and for their food. Jesus laid down his life for these sheep. Jesus laid down his life for us. And as the psalmist reminds us ... Jesus walks with us even during the times of change and transition. Then there is Jesus as the vine. We are the

branches! When we abide in Jesus and Jesus in us, we grow and bear fruit. And a vineyard is part of a large eco system. God is present in all of us and we are called to be responsive to changes in the environment for the vineyard to remain fruitful.

When the world around us seems to be changing so quickly we want to dig in our heels and just keep things going as they have been. It is safe, it is predictable, it is what we know.

This past month the Executive Committee and the Council have begun the hard work of completing the Mission Site Profile. This is time for us to celebrate what has been and discern what God has called us to do and be in the years and months ahead. Listening to the stories and dreams has filled my heart with joy. The commitment to sharing the good news and serving the community is deep and central to the life of St. Paul's Lutheran in Dansville.

The challenge looking forward is to hear how we can work together with others in the community to share resources, energy and excitement to be a light in the community. What does that mean for us? Does it mean "doing ministry" in new and different ways? Perhaps. But I am not sure anyone knows that yet. What it means for now is taking time to discern God's presence and will for the world. We are moving into a time of early spring. A time to clean the windows, sort through the closets and discover what awaits.

In Christ,
Pastor Deb

Loads of Love

Individuals can receive funding for 3 loads of washing and drying.
Families can receive funding for 5 loads of washing and drying.

Our schedule will be as follows:

Eagle Laundromat on West Avenue

May 5th: 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Family Laundromat, 20 Franklin St.

May 7th: 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm

May 19th: 8:30 am - 11:30 am



New

*Please consider joining the team to help with this new ministry.
Contact Joan Brydges or Ann Myers.*