

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Often Lent begins in February and we do not hear all of the Epiphany season lessons. This year we will celebrate 7 of the 8 possible lessons for the season so will hear some lessons we do not normally experience. On the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany this year, Feb. 24, Pastor Sarah Lee-Faulkner, assistant to our bishop, will be our guest preacher. She has been meeting with the joint call committee of Zion and St. Paul during this past year as interviews continue and we prepare to call a pastor to serve both congregations. Please welcome her. If she has no other preaching engagements that Sunday, we invite you to visit with her after worship.

This is the year of Luke, and most of our gospel lessons during Epiphany season emphasize the manifestation motif of Christ. The gospel texts focus on the clear evidence that Jesus is the Son of God. One definition of manifestation is obvious understanding. What has become obvious to us through our faith is sometimes not obvious to others. The gospel texts give us clear examples for us to explain to others how we know Jesus is the Son of God.

One way to dwell on the concept of being made obvious to understand scriptures is to participate in the synod conversation with Luke. Copies of this reading of Luke are available in the back of the church, if you would like to participate in this bible study. Whatever daily devotions you embrace will surely enhance your understanding of how Jesus is the anointed one of God who lived among us to show us The Way. Early Christians were known as people of The Way because they followed The Way of Jesus. Nearly 2,000 years later we continue the tradition of showing people The Way in our worship, prayer life, outreach ministries, and associations with other people.

One way St. Paul recently demonstrated that we are people of The Way was in the donations you made for Abiding Ministry, our synod's outreach to the homeless of Pittsburgh. Thank you for all who contributed to Abiding Ministries. I expected to have half a seat of clothing and other items to distribute. When Phyllis and I loaded my car on January 13, I remarked to her that I already had a car full of gifts for Abiding Ministries. Thanks to all of you for your generosity.

As we continue on The Way, we welcome your prayers, your presence at worship, and continued support of our ministries.

Shalom,

Pastor Bev +

