

June is almost here and we are eagerly anticipating the celebration of receiving new members on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Sydney and Luke will be confirmed and at least 2 adults will be joining our congregation. AND the CAT survey will be available for you! More about CAT follows. During the month Marty and I will be attending synod assembly June 15-17 at California University of Pennsylvania. A memorial service will be held for Caprice Alberth Lavery on Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> and I will be at Camp Lutherlyn with Piper Butcher the last week of June.

St Paul's congregation is alive but rather static. We continue the ministries near and dear to the members, we anticipate growth but there has been no real change for several years. The definition of insanity is to continue doing things the same way and expecting different results. In some ways that describes our ministry and mission. At our January congregational meeting, Michelle Snyder from Crows Feet Consulting explained the benefits of participating in a proven church assessment tool to help congregations evaluate where they are and where they are willing to go. At that meeting, the council recommended and the congregation agreed to participate in the Church Assessment Tool (CAT). The reason why we will conduct this anonymous survey is so that INDIVIDUALS have the opportunity to offer their insights into the life of our congregation. This assessment will provide a clear picture of who we are as a church and what directions are most important for our future. CAT provides key indications of our congregational health along with areas of challenge and potential growth. We want to have a clear picture of the possibilities, willingness, capacity and energy for moving our ministry into God's future. The survey will take about 15 minutes of your time and I encourage each and every member to complete the survey.

St. Paul Lutheran has a wonderful past with a proud history and we have a future not yet known to us. In Genesis Abram was quite discouraged because he had no offspring. Then the Lord brought Abram out to the night sky and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars...so shall your descendants be." Abram believed the Lord. Later his great grandson Joseph dreamed dreams that were initially dismissed by his brothers. But Joseph kept the faith and the ancestors of our faith continued to believe in God's future. When the disciples were distressed with the news of the death of Jesus, he assured them he would send a Counselor, he would not leave them orphaned. Later Jesus reassured the believers that, "I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt 28:20) On Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descended and stirred up the believers. We know God has a future for us and the Holy Spirit will stir us up, guide us and probably redirect us to continue to be a witness to this community because God has a future for St. Paul Lutheran in Zeligople!

Christ has Risen indeed! Alleluia! The Holy Spirit continues to be with us, to guide us to stir us up to be faithful people of God.

*Pastor Bev*

For we walk by  
**Faith,**  
not by Sight.  
2 corinthians 5:7