

Dear Members of the Body of Christ,

Have you ever noticed the drama associated with worship? On Easter morning we get up before dawn to join the women going to the tomb. On Christmas Eve we stay up late to welcome the Christ Child as did the shepherds. Carefully crafted dramas are often designed so that so that youth can participate in the drama of both Easter and Christmas. Gradually the kids realize that it is not just a story but the story of Christ!

Each Sunday we again remember the resurrection story. Our weekly routines are halted as we gather for worship to remember the drama of the Last Supper. During Lent, we gather on Wednesdays to remember the drama of the seasons. During Sunday worship we hear for the first time or again the stories of faith in Holy Scriptures. Our choir offers prayers, praises and stories of the God we worship. Baptisms and funerals are drama stories that tell of our faith.

Again on Maundy Thursday at 7:00 PM, we will gather to celebrate the Holy Eucharist both as a remembering of the Passover meal and the story of the exodus of God's people as they prepared to leave Egypt. But the meal is more than remembering. As our first communion students learn, the Holy Supper is one of the sacraments of the church, Eucharist means thanksgiving, and the gathering is also a meal and foretaste of the feast to come. Often congregations prepare the holy meal for members so we can re-enact the drama of that meal in the upper room.

As with any drama, there is much behind the scenes planning and preparations. The worship and music committee carefully makes sure that the hymns sung each Sunday are known and appropriate for the texts. (Notice that we don't sing Christmas carols during Lent!) The committee also arranges for appropriate decorations, for the communion table to be set up before worship. Our choir is always looking ahead in rehearsals as they prepare to enhance our worship experiences. Third Sunday fellowship lunches are planned. My thanks to all who help with the behind the scenes preparations as well as participation in the drama as ushers, acolytes, communion assistants, lay readers.

We begin the season of Lent on Wednesday, March 1. Purple is the color and our church reflects the new season. Wednesdays we will gather at English Lutheran for a soup supper and worship with Taize music. We are preparing for the Passion and Resurrection of our God. We at St Paul look forward to your continued presence at worship and Wednesday soup suppers as we remember the life, death and resurrection of our God.

My thanks to all who taxied me around in January when I was prohibited from driving. I fell on black ice on January 11th, spent a night to recover in the hospital, and was then discharged after the diagnosis of 2 fractures in my right pelvis. Slowly I am regaining strength and stamina as the pain has let up. I'm not sure if I have learned patience as a patient, but I do know that your prayers have helped me. Even the doctor remarked about my quick healing. I told him that was the power of prayer and listening to my physical therapists! Thank you all.

In His Name+

Pastor Bev