

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

What an odd October. We may have not had the flurry of the leaves falling, but we certainly engaged in a flurry of ministries at St. Paul. The month began as we loaded a truck with donations for the Lutheran World Relief. Can you imagine how much space it takes to stack flood buckets and then to load over 500 into a truck. Folks in western PA are generous in responding to disasters. Boxes of blankets, baby kits, health kits [which were not so heavy] were loaded next. My thanks to all the volunteers who arrived early on October 3rd to load the truck and to all who were present to collect items in the days preceding the truck's arrival, especially Phyllis Metz and Marty Goetz who worked overtime.

Following a short "break" all hands and feet were on deck to prepare food for the Fall Festival on October 14 and 15. My thanks to all who assisted cooking, serving, greeting and directing traffic in our parking lot. I hope I didn't slight anyone as I was getting acquainted with those who came to be fed. Such great weather enhanced the weekend for the community.

Thanks to Jen McMurray for organizing the beginning of our year-long celebration of the Protestant Reformation. I have enjoyed walking with all who gather after worship monthly as we continue our Walk to Wittenberg. We continue our celebration of the Reformation with our pork and sauerkraut dinner. This year Reformation Sunday included our young people assisting with worship. Our remembering the Reformation will continue through spring.

Since this is the November newsletter, I will mention the special worship services during the month. Of course November begins with All Saints Sunday. Please let Colleen or me know of any loved ones you want remembered by November 1st. On November 5th we turn the clocks back and will gain an hour sleep. On November 12th we will be honored with the presence of our bishop, The Rev. Bishop Kurt Kusserow. Bishop Kusserow will meet with the adult Sunday school class at 9 am for a question and answer period and then preach during worship. We hope you can all come to meet and greet him. We will have a luncheon following worship.

November 19th is our Harvest Home Sunday, so bring extra non-perishable food items for the local food cupboard. When we proclaim "God's Work, Our Hands" our continued volunteering and donating to the food cupboard is a wonderful community witness to the church in action.

We will have a First Communion Class during Sunday school the first three weeks of November. The class includes a craft project as well as learning more about the sacrament of Holy Communion.

My thanks to your generous giving of time and talents as we continue the many ministries at St. Paul. *Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good and his mercy endures forever. Amen*

Shalom,

Pastor Bev

