



Your Pastor's Ponderings

I've been doing some dreaming lately (although technically the pastoral/theological term would be visioning), but really I've been doing some dreaming lately. I've been dreaming about new ministries, dreaming about what the future looks like for our congregations, our parish. I've been dreaming about what God wants to have happen in this place – this year, next year, ten years down the road. And I've got lots of dreams and ideas for what I think God wants to have happen.

But it takes two things for a dream to become a reality – first a dream must be shared. It must be shared both in talking about it (communicating it) and also in inspiring others to participate in that same dream. A dream realized needs a shared understanding, a common togetherness. And I want to share my dreams with you about what plans I think God has in store for us. But first I'd like to hear from you – the people of God who are participants in the ministries of St. Paul's, Samuels, and Messiah because this is our ministry together.

I would like to know what dreams do you have for our congregations? What do you like about the ministries that we are currently doing? What would you like to see happen that we are not doing?

When I ask these questions and you answer them, I would like a different answer than – “I would like to see us grow”. Not because that's a bad answer. On the contrary, I think all of us have that same dream for us. God has that dream for us too. But my question about dreaming is to ask you to dream about what ways that we can encourage that to happen. What ministries can we do in our community to help spread the love of Christ? What ways can we share the good news of Jesus with others – without being street corner preachers but simply doing acts of love and charity that serve God?

To be sure, we are currently doing some good ministries already. But dreaming is a way to say, what else does God wants us to be doing, how else might we serve the one who has blessed us with so much. Maybe the answer is nothing (but I kind of doubt it). For a

body that is not moving, that is not active, is a body that is wasting away. I am convinced that my grandfather who will be 94 this Fall, has lived such a long and blessed life because he is continuously doing something – from banking to farming to gardening to planting on apple orchard in his eighties to puttering in his garage today. So I think God wants us to keep moving -- to continue to do what we do well but also to dream big.

So in an effort to encourage those dreams, I will be placing three large sheets of newsprint in the Narthex of each of our congregations. On those pieces of newsprint, will be one of the three questions I asked above – 1) what dreams do you have for our congregation?; 2) what do you like about the ministries we are currently doing?; and 3) what would you like to see happen that we are not presently doing? Next to each of those sheets will be a stack of sticky notes and some pens.

Please take some time over the next couple of months and consider those questions and then write out your thoughts on a sticky note or notes and place them on the newsprint. Don't worry about signing your name. Just share your thoughts about what dreams you think God has for us in the days and years ahead. Feel free to look over what others are sharing. Let's see how full we can fill them with our dreams. Later in the summer, I will collate them and share your dreams and my dreams with you at the same time. Hopefully, through this process, we can imagine together the vision that God has for our congregations in the years ahead.

Happy dreaming.

Pastor Will



Anyone interested in purchasing a geranium for Pentecost



Thank You

To anyone who helped out with our Holy Week worship and Easter celebration this year. Thanks to our to worship participants – our readers, our drama participants, our choirs, our organists and pianist, our altar guilds, our flower organizers, our nursery attendants. Thanks to those who helped with all our meals (dinners and breakfast) – from preparing food, setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Without your assistance, our Holy Week would not have been as special as it was.



Worship Planning Meeting

The Parish's Worship Planning Team will hold a worship planning meeting on Wednesday, May 5th, at 7pm @M. We will be picking hymns and worship themes for the summer. Hope to see you there.

Support Our International Counselors @Camp

This year Camp Sequanota is hosting a young man from Kenya , as well as two counselors from Spain , as our international counselors and we need your help! During the month of May, we are hoping to gather at least \$100 from our congregation (contributing to the \$3000.00 from around the synod needed to offset the costs of transportation and hosting them for the summer). Please help us to meet this goal in Christian love; we would like to have all gifts in by June 1. Designate -- Camp Sequanota International Counselor on the For line of your checks or offering envelopes.



There's Wisdom in the Word – Parish Bible Study

All are invited to come, pray, and study scripture as we continue to explore God's Word. This month we are taking a break from the People of Faith series to explore **a new topic – Keep Climbing: Why God Doesn't Give Us Everything We Want.**

It is in trials where our faith is shaken and we're forced to abandon our comfort zones. When we're torn from our security, we can realize our trust must be founded completely on Christ. Our prayers to God aren't so much about what God will for us, but about God's faithful presence in our lives. God calls us to keep climbing, even in terrifying storms of life, to continue what we know is truth. Our time will be spent in four sessions entitled – Leaving Comfort Behind, Flatten the Mountain, Climbing in Silence, and A Better View.

Our Bible study meets on the last Tuesday of the month. This month, we meet on Tuesday, May 25th at 7pm @Messiah.



Community Choir – Rockwood High BACCALAUREATE

Rockwood High School is organizing a community choir to sing at this year's Baccalaureate. Rehearsals will be held in the chorus room at RHS at 7:30pm -- mostly on Mondays -- May 3, 10, 17, 24, June 7, and 14. The only Tuesday practice is June 1 at 7:30 p.m (because of Memorial Day)

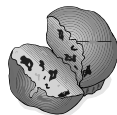
The service itself will be held on Tuesday, June 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rockwood High School auditorium.



A Peek at Summer

Here's are some things to put on your summer calendar –

- 1) Synod Assembly – June 10-12
- 2) Pastor Will @Camp Sequanota as chaplain – June 27- July 3
- 3) Parish Picnic – July 18th
- 4) Vacation Bible School – July 26 – 30
- 5) Joint Parish Worship/VBS Wrap Up – August 1st
(Bakersville Grove)
- 6) Music in the Mountains @Camp Sequanota – August 21st



Attention Bakers:

Again Messiah has been asked to donate baked goods the week of May 10th for Meals On Wheels. The service committee is asking those who would like to donate baked goods to have them in by Sunday May 9th. Lets all help to give to this much needed program. Things requested are:

- 10- 9x12 cakes*
- bundt cakes*
- 20 Doz. -cookies*
- 15 - quick breads*
- 12 - angel food cakes*
- 15 Doz -muffins or cupcakes*
- pumpkin pies*

***Just keep in mind – No nuts, chocolate, or icing.**

Your kindness and generosity will be much appreciated. Bring your donations to the church Sunday morning May 9th, 2010. All help will be sincerely appreciated.



Volunteers Needed for Meals on Wheels

The Meals on Wheels program is in need of substitute volunteers to help pack the meals and drivers or carriers to deliver the meals. This service is greatly appreciated by the clients you would be serving and dedicated volunteers who help, have testified that they thoroughly enjoy their work. Please step forward and volunteer some of your time to help those in need. For more information call 443-2787.



Confirmation- Schedule for May

May 2nd – 2pm: Service Project, Canned Food Collection in Somerset

Meet at Mt. Calvary parking lot
This is the Final Event for this spring's confirmation class.

Additional Confirmation Thoughts

- 1) Thank you to our first and second year students for a successful year of confirmation. Thank you for your participation, attendance, and attention in class. Thank you to parents for helping to make this happen. Enjoy your summer off, we will see those who are returning in the fall.
- 2) 2nd Year Students – You have completed all the classroom requirements. All that remains is year of independent service projects – kind of like the disciples being sent out on their own to serve in Jesus name. A letter detailing the expectations of this third year will be sent out later in the summer. If you want to get an early jump on your service projects, you may begin as soon as you like.

REMINDERS TO 3RD YEAR CONFIRMANDS

- 1) Day of Confirmation is: **MAY 23rd – The correct date for Confirmation Sunday is May 23rd.**
 - 2) How are you coming on your service project? Talk to Pastor Will if questions
 - 3) Don't forget to select a Bible verse to read at your Confirmation
 - 4) Don't forget to Turn in your Affirmation of Faith Report **by May 15th**
- PS – Info about your Affirmation of Faith Report may be found in the material you received at the beginning of the year. If you need a refresher, please call Pastor Will at 926-2215.



Come Holy Spirit

Pentecost will soon be here. On that day (May 23rd) we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early church through a worship service of Confirmation & Affirmation of Baptism. This is the church's birthday when we remember the arrival of Jesus' promised gift to the disciples and its coming to us in our own

baptisms. Empowered by that Spirit, we share the good news of Easter by witnesses by God's activity in the world, especially our community.

This day, we will also rejoice in the confirmation of several of our youth.



Pictures Anyone? -- Looking for Photos

Pastors Will and Elisa have been asked to make a presentation at Synod Assembly regarding the shared ministries that our parishes have done together in partnership the last few years. We are looking for pictures that anyone might have of Lenten dinners, last year's VBS, picnics, Confirmation, Snow Camp, or other events that include members of both our parish and the Lavansville Bakersville parish. Pictures will be returned to you. Please contact Pastor Will if you have any resources we can use (we will need them by May 16th).



On the Horizon: Worship Happenings in May

May 2nd - Love One Another Sunday

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Lord is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today the Lord Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

May 9th – The Peace of Christ Sunday

The risen Lord Jesus provides visions of peace that passes human understanding and power beyond human imagination. As Jesus talks of returning to the Father, he promises to send the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, who will teach Jesus' followers and remind them of all that Jesus taught. Even more, those in whom God makes a home will experience a peace that overcomes fear.

May 16th – Sunday of the Ascension

In today's gospel the risen Christ ascends into heaven and his followers are assured that the Spirit will empower them to be witnesses throughout the earth. The disciples were told to not gaze up

into heaven to look for Jesus; we find his presence among us as we proclaim the word and share the Easter feast. We too long for the Spirit to enliven our faith and invigorate our mission. Today, we also welcome two new participants to the Lord's Supper as Colin Wood and Kaitlyn Barron receive their first communion.

May 23rd – Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost is a day of promises fulfilled. The promised Spirit of God is poured out. The baptized have become "children of God" and "joint heirs with Christ." By the power of the Spirit we have seen the face of the Father in his only begotten Son and been saved by him. Today in worship, we celebrate how faith has made a difference in our lives because of Jesus and the Spirit, especially in the lives of six young people who are going through the Rite of Confirmation today.

May 30th – Holy Trinity Sunday

Today we celebrate the name of God: holy blessed Trinity. There is no other day quite like this one in the church's year. There is no other god like ours. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



VBS Update & Meeting

We have a topic and the date. This year, the theme for VBS will be The Journeys of Joseph, an adventure in the Holy Land and Egypt. The date for this year's VBS is July 26th thru 30th. Like last year, we will be rotating nights between our congregations. Each night we will journey to a different location as Joseph travels from Canaan to Cairo, from pit to prison to the palace. Monday at Mt. Calvary, Tuesday at Mt. Zion, Wednesday at Samuels, Thursday at Messiah, Friday at Mt. Calvary.

Our next joint planning meeting will be on Wednesday May 26th at Mt. Calvary at 7pm as we finalize preparations. We are looking for folks interested in teaching workshops, leading small groups, helping in the kitchen, etc. Anyone interested please contact Pastor Will or Pastor Elisa. Hope to see you there.



National Youth Gathering Update

If you haven't heard, the National Youth Gathering for 2012 is again being held in New Orleans. The organizers still felt that there was plenty of work for us to do there – so we will be going back. As such, it's time to think about starting to raise funds for our next trip. Pastor Will is in discussions for a possible fund raiser this summer – more information will be made available as the idea develops.

Also, Pastor Will would like to meet with interested Sr. High Youth and parents and touch base briefly about this and other ideas. Since many of those eligible youth and parents will be in church on Confirmation Sunday, **he would like to meet immediately after late worship on May 23rd for a brief meeting.** Please let him know if you are able to attend or not.



Attention Synod Assembly Delegates

On Sunday May 16th at 7pm at Holy Trinity in Berlin, there is an informational meeting about the agenda for Synod Assembly for leaders and assembly delegates. Please make plans to attend.



Represent Your Faith: Help Needed for Synod

Assembly

The 23rd Annual Assembly of the Allegheny Synod of the ELCA will be from Thursday evening, June 10 through Saturday afternoon, June 12 at the Blair County Convention Center in Altoona. The theme of this year's Assembly is: God's Work, Our Hands – Telling & Living the Story.

The Opening Service of Holy Communion will be held at First Lutheran in Altoona beginning at 7:30pm. During these days, we will have the opportunity to act as a legislative body for the Synod and to hear and study God's word and sing his praises, to be renewed in faith and Spirit. In addition, we will celebrate the installations of Rev. Timothy Knauss and Rev. Lynn Miller in their positions as Assistants to the Bishop.

Pastor Will is looking for two people to represent their congregations as voting delegates to this year's Assembly. (Currently I have two folks from Messiah and one from Samuels interested in attending.) The cost of this event will be paid by the represented congregation. We are looking for one more person from Samuels and two from St. Pauls.

God isn't concerned about our capability merely our availability. Please pray about representing your faith and congregation at this year's Synod Assembly. Please let Pastor Will know if you are interested in this ministry opportunity.



Becoming the Parent You Want to Be: A Family Time of Bible Study for You and with your Kids

In May, Pastors Will and Elisa are looking to start a **joint Parish Bible study** to help parents with young children learn about some biblical and spiritual traits that can assist them in becoming a better spiritual guide.

This study is more than techniques of getting kids to eat their broccoli and clean their room. The study takes a Biblical approach into the qualities parents want their children to have and what qualities they want their children to see modeled in them. The study is a combination of videos and scripture based lessons. The video portions are led by Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott, a pair of Christian counselors, who have appeared in Christianity Today magazine and on ABC's Good Morning America and on Oprah.

The study is open to parents or even grandparents who have young children to take care of. Their children are invited to come as well. We will open each session with a brief worship time for the whole family. Then the children will be able to spend time in the

nursery or outdoors playing games with adult supervision while Pastors Will and Elisa and parents participate in the Parenting Bible study. At the conclusion of study time, we will get together for another family activity before departing. Snacks, coffee, and juice will be available throughout.

The plan is to hold these Bible studies on the last Saturday of the month for the next six months (May through October). **The first session is set for May 29th at Messiah.** Due to some work schedule concerns, the time of our sessions will be from 1pm to 3pm.

Sequanota Adult Day, Spring 2010

Here Come da Judge!!

The book of Judges explores Israel's history during the conquest of the Promised Land. In Judges we hear the stories of a number of Israel's heroes including Deborah, Gideon and Samson. Come join us for a day apart as we explore Israel's transition from a nomadic to a landed people on Thursday May 6th, 2010 from 9am- 3pm. Call Sequanota if interested @ 814-629-6627.

Hinderlie Newsletter

We have been asked to change our home assignment year from 2011 to 2010, that's right this year. The request came this past couple of weeks, to late for our last e-mail. Due to various circumstances beyond our control, we will be based this year in the Mideast. You will be receiving a letter from our Missionary Sponsorship/ Support Director Twila Schrock concerning this and you'll be receiving a letter from us shortly.

HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

The phrases are used through out the world to welcome Easter morning as we used them for our Sunrise Service in our back yard this year to welcome this life changing morning for Easter is that, life changing! From death to life. For many in Africa death is swift and unannounced. We have invited some friends for Easter service and lunch, a couple whose husband was in the states and was found to have a blood clot in his left leg in which he's getting treated, and a young man who has no direct family. Shortly before noon we got a call that that the young who was

coming and bringing a friend's nephew of 2 years had had some sort of respiratory attack, gone to the clinic but had died and so we couldn't come. We were devastated for the family of this little one as we know only too well how fragile life is for the children, Michael having had malaria in Central Africa while we were there and having to have intravenous medication given to him by Catholic sisters in Baboua in what probably saved his life. So often we take health for granted in our world, not realizing that there are so many who have none, where water is not safe, sanitation risky and available health care hours from where one lives. How do we make a difference?

As we travel our journeys together in ministry, mission and outreach Barbara and I are ever thankful for faithfulness in this work, your commitment to share the gifts that God has given you and the ministry that we have with God and with each other. As I heard recently. Without Easter there would be no Christianity and as my mother always reminded me, Every Sunday is a little Easter"

HE IS RISEN INDEED!!