

Report to Congregation Council
March 21, 2023

Today is the first full day of Spring. Both yesterday and today the sun shines on us! Signs of spring are everywhere ... Daylight Savings started and lengthened our hours of light into the evening, trees are starting to bud, the daffodils are up but not yet flowered, and I saw my first purple crocuses at Lutheran Memorial Camp this past weekend. This is one of my favorite times of the year, filled with the anticipation of spending more time outdoors once again. But although Spring has “officially” arrived, there are reminders that Winter lingers, especially on these morning like today when it’s in the 20’s.

Similarly, we’re still traversing through a season of repentance and the darkness of Jesus’ Passion. The joy of Easter is quickly approaching, and there are signs of it everywhere we look ... but here in the Church, we remind one another that we’re still in Lent. My dad and mom came to one of our Wednesday soup meals and worship services. He was amazed and impressed at how many people were in attendance. He’s not wrong ... many congregations are lucky if they have 15-20 people venture out mid-week for worship. Many no longer have Wednesday services at all for lack of participation. We are blessed to have such an active and faithful group of people who choose to make mid-week services a part of their Lenten (and Advent) preparations!

We are a busy congregation with lots of activities, active committees, and additional ministries and meetings coming together and propelling us forward. That said, Lent predictably adds to the schedule with the additional worship services and preparation that goes into them. I’m thankful for the people who’ve helped out with our drama and made it such an enjoyable part of our services this year. I’m also thankful for the willingness of people to jump in for the Passion reading coming up, and for those who will continue the tradition of the Living Cross on Good Friday. It’s nice to approach Holy Week knowing we have this all covered. Additionally, we also had a group of young adults (9) this past month continue in their 1st Communion instruction and get welcomed to the table March 19th. Deacon Lindsay and I also spent part of a weekend with 11 different young people and 3 adults at Confirmation Camp. It was a wonderful month to see so many of our young people excited about their faith between these two events!

There were other items that “added” to the busy-ness of this season, like the first 5 Star quarterly meeting, a Renovations Committee meeting, and the continuing work of the Constitution/Bylaws committee. The other normal monthly meetings continue to happen. Visits with the membership of St. Matthew continues, and both Thursday evening and Sunday morning Bible studies are well attended.

As a reminder, I will be away this coming Sunday as I preside and celebrate with Deacon Lindsay and her family as she marries Austin Stertzbach. I also plan to take a week of vacation following Easter, April 10 thru 16.

In Christ, with Christ, for Christ!
Pastor Steven M. Mahaffey