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The Rev. Gregory W. Frey, Pastor

JUNE, 2021

I had a class my first year of seminary in which we studied all of Paul's letters in the New Testament. That was a lot to cram into one class. Although I did take other classes on the apostle Paul and the New Testament, this was the only required course. Considering how much we had to cover I was amazed that we spent an entire class period on just one chapter in 1 Corinthians.

The chapter was 1 Corinthians 14 and the passage was Paul's explanation as to why he had decided not to eat meat dedicated to pagan idols. Talk about an irrelevant topic, right!? That is what I thought anyway. But over the past few years I have returned to this passage several times to seek guidance in shepherding our congregation through some of its most trying times.

I wrote a newsletter article on this passage in 2014 when we were considering the issue of same sex marriage. And I have made several references to it during the current Covid-19 pandemic. Few sections of Holy Scripture have proved so fruitful to me in addressing complicated community issues. I guess I found out why my New Testament professor dedicated a whole class to a seemingly antiquated and irrelevant topic.

In the passage (which I encourage you to read) Paul answers a question posed to him concerning the consumption of food sacrificed to idols. The question was, can Christians eat meat that might have been used as part of a ritual for other gods or would this be wrong?

Meat was not widely available in the ancient world but one place it was most easily obtained was from a religious temple. Animal sacrifice was

ubiquitous in ancient shrines and the animals were cooked and the "meal" shared with the god and the assembly. Therefore, many ancient people, especially poor people, relied on these religious ceremonies for the majority of whatever meat they ate during the year.

The new Christians in the Greek city of Corinth, especially the poorest converts, were loath to give up these free meals but they feared the food was "polluted" by its association with another god's festival. So, they asked Paul what they should do.

Paul declared that since there are no other gods there was nothing behind the worship of idols and food associated with them was physically and spiritually harmless to consume. Paul continued, however, that some less spiritually secure and more vulnerable Christians were, in fact, troubled in their consciences and their faith by their or other's consuming meat so associated with idolatry and other gods. Paul, although he acknowledges that it is completely fine to eat this "tainted" meat, made a determination for himself that he would not partake so as not to harm the conscience and faithfulness of these more vulnerable Christians.

Standing with the vulnerable, even if you yourself are not vulnerable, is one of the core messages Paul got from Jesus. Paul did not spend much time talking about specific teaching of Jesus, in fact one might observe that he spent almost no time on this at all. But the teachings of Jesus run throughout Paul's letters embedded in the text forming Paul's advice and pronouncements.

Making sacrifices, not for your own glorification but to stand in solidarity with the vulnerable, is one teaching I have found myself returning to again and again. It stands as the spiritual guidepost at the center of Jesus' life and therefore at the center of his direction to those who follow.

Over the past year we have had the opportunity to stand with the vulnerable because we have all been vulnerable. We have also made sacrifices, sometimes very much contrary to what we really wanted to do, so that we could do our part to reduce the spread of Covid-19 and help protect the lives of the most vulnerable who are most at risk for a bad outcome from the virus.

I have tried to point out that directives from Jesus like “Take up your cross and follow me...” sound very abstract until we see daily sacrifices like mask wearing and restricted activity as a cross borne not simply to protect yourself but for the sake of the most vulnerable.

With improving circumstances, especially on account of the growing initial reception of the Covid vaccine, we are better able to imagine a life that looks more normal. This is good. We have been told if we do the right things we can begin to regain some normalcy in our lives and it is happening.

But as Christians we must also give a thought to those who remain vulnerable to the virus for a variety of reasons. At St Paul’s we are relaxing our mask mandate to allow fully vaccinated persons to choose to wear a mask or not in worship. I was an advocate of making this change now because we have been telling you we would follow the science and the guidelines, and it is important to be consistent.

But for myself, even though I have been fully vaccinated for months already, when not alone up front in church I will continue to wear a mask for a while because I know there are those who have not yet received the vaccine; people remain vulnerable, and my old friend 1 Corinthians 14 is much on my mind.

I want to explain this because this is not about what I have heard some call “virtue signaling” (despite the fact that my ordination vow demands “virtue signaling” when I promised to be a “model of the Godly life”). Rather because of the call to bear one another’s burdens I feel, in this moment, it is necessary for me to share the burden of masking. That burden will not be forever, but it is, for me, for the time being.

As we make this transition, we will be looking to one another, as we humans tend to do, to figure out what is the right practice for ourselves. Let us not stand in judgment over one another but be more willing to share one another’s burdens.

If you are fully vaccinated and you decide to shed your mask in church, good for you...you earned it! If you are fully vaccinated but you are still wary about taking off the mask, good for you too; do what you feel you need to do! If you are not vaccinated or even if vaccinated you remain

in an at-risk category and therefore must continue to wear a mask, I got you, we’ll stick together.

Let’s make the transition out of Covid an even more caring, thoughtful and considerate time than our ministrations on behalf of one another in the midst of the pandemic. If we can do that we will be living out our brand as a church of St. Paul and we will once again vindicate my seminary professor who first shined a light on 1 Corinthians 14 and its centrality to a community that cares in the name of Christ.

--Pastor Frey

FROM THE PARISH RECORDS.....

Baptism: 6/6 -- **Willow Louise Zepp**, daughter of Justin & Lynn (Rinehimer) Zepp

Contributions to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Bob Wendel** given by:

JoAnne Merkel

Henry & Gloria Rhoads

Contribution to the **Memorial Fund** in memory of **Dick Wise** given by Pat Levengood

--YTD Giving thru April 2021--				
	<u>Jan.-Apr. 2020</u>	<u>Jan-Apr. 2021</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>% chg.</u>
Offerings	\$ 122,564	\$ 123,706	1,141	.93
Vision 2020 Contr.	21,067	19,125	-1,942	-9.22
Total Giving	\$ 143,631	\$ 142,831	-800	--.55

thank you!

Thanks to all who have been faithfully mailing their contributions to the church office and to those who signed up for electronic giving through Simply Giving

THOUGHTS ABOUT CHILDREN’S SERMONS AND REVELATION-- WHICH ARE NOT REALLY CONNECTED.....by Joy Gerhart

Did you ever hear me say I enjoy teaching the Bible? Well, I do. Even though I originally planned to be an English or math teacher, and actually was an English teacher in Poughkeepsie for two years, I enjoyed all of my religion classes in college (religion was my other major), LOVED VISITING Egypt and Israel, and thoroughly enjoyed seminary. Making Bible stories understandable for children can be loads of fun, but also challenging. You all know I love to play with props to tell the story. (And I know you know that you all enjoy the children’s stories as much as the children do, if not more.)

Just for fun let me share two brief memories of children’s sermons done by –sorry–pastors; experiences which urge me to be careful of what I say. One pastor talked about how “Hobab was the eyes of Moses.” (see Numbers 10:29—he was Moses’ brother-in-law, in case you never heard of him.) He served as a guide for Moses, but it sounded a little scary, I don’t remember the point of the sermon but can you imagine how that would sound to a child? Sometimes I guess we don’t think it through. (Now, I’m not knocking pastors, but in many churches only pastors give the children’s sermons. We are blessed to have so many willing and devoted lay people to share Bible stories with the children!) Another children’s sermon said, “Jesus is like a hamburger.” I guess he was aiming at how the good stuff was in the center, but I’m not sure. I try to avoid using the word “like” and always avoid saying “hamburger.”

Our latest series of the Adult Sunday Study has been very interesting. The book of Revelation when studied in a way that includes an understanding of the times in which John of Patmos wrote –the oppressive time of the roman Empire—and an understanding of the type of literature being written –apocalyptic—makes a lot of sense and removes the gloom and doom and fear associated with the book. I was also amazed to learn that John built his writings on themes already known in Old Testament and intertestamental writings. Did you know that there are a lot of parallels between Revelation and Exodus? In Exodus, plagues are sent by God to eventually free the Hebrews from Egypt and enable them to enter into a new land, away from the oppressive Egyptian system where they were slaves. Plagues are sent in Revelation, too, to urge repentance among the pagans and worshipers

of the beast. There is even a song of praise and victory in Revelation 15 that we can compare with Miriam’s song in Exodus 15. Did you now that some of the most revered hymns and songs for worship come from Revelation? (My favorite is “Love Divine All Loves Excelling.”) “This is the Feast,” which we were able to sing for the first time on Pentecost, comes from Revelation 4:11 and 5:12. Scholars believe that the hymns (at least the words) may have actually been sung in the 1st century Christian church.

Our study book for our exploration of Revelation encouraged us to see Revelation as a word of hope for the early Christians and for us—to trust in God’s promises and believe that the victory has already been won by Christ on the cross. Amidst all the scary images of beasts and plagues and crazy hard-to-understand images, I have found Revelation to be quite inspiring. Whether under Egyptian oppression, or Babylonian exile, or Roman persecution, God always remains true to God’s people, claiming them and sealing them and promising them salvation. That promise and assurance is for us too.

One additional thought. I heard a comment today that said “Adversity will reveal you.” Perhaps Revelation not only reveals God to us, but reveals us to ourselves too.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS.....

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL June 13-17



Discovery on Adventure Island is almost here! PLEASE, if you’d like to register your child, call the church at 610-385-6616 NOW so we are prepared for your child. This year we will meet outdoors from 6:30 to 8:00 PM. Children Aged 3 to completed Grade 6 are welcome.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ADULT CLASSES

Sunday school and confirmation classes have ended for the year, but we hope to meet in-person in the fall. The Sunday morning 9:15 AM class on Revelation will continue through June 6. Sunday morning Adult classes will resume in the fall, too.

Weekday adult classes will resume with a little change.

Mondays at 10 AM online will be led by Joy Gerhart and the link will be <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87300892165?pwd=REVXbjJRQmdDSWNWL1FCMk9SSUR4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 873 0089 2165

Passcode: 067059

We will study the Old Testament lesson for the upcoming Sunday.

Wednesday 9:30 AM in-person classes on the book of Daniel will meet in the Fellowship Hall and will be led by Pastor Frey.

Friday 10 AM on-line classes on the gospel for the upcoming Sunday will be led by Pastor Frey and can be accessed by the same old link which is

Meeting ID: 219 384 065

Password: st.pauls



NEWS ABOUT OUR YOUTH.....

Congratulations to our youth who have been inducted into the National Honor Society: Luke Yambor, Cory Miller and Jared Miller. If there are any others of you who have been awarded this honor, please let us know. Congratulations to Luke, Cory and Jared!!!

Congratulations to Marley Yambor who received her Girls Scout gold award in May. This is the highest award one can receive in Girl Scouting and is comparable to the Boy Scout's Eagle award.

Please share news of your youth so we can share it with the congregation. (Send to Joy Gerhart)

GRADUATES FROM HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE

Congratulations to our graduating seniors.

Boyertown High School graduates: Katelin Henderson, Keely Woodruff, and Marley Yambor (planning to go to the Savannah College of Art and Design)

Daniel Boone High School graduates: Madison Albright (who also graduated with an A.S. from RACC) and Marcus Betts

Exeter High School: Ethan Berger (who is planning to go to Liberty University)

The Hill School: William Dollhopf (who plans to attend Wesleyan University)

Owen J. Roberts and TCHS: Jessica Kucharik



College Graduates:

Tyler Esenwein from Immaculata University

Justin Frey from Penn State University

Amber Konarski from Eckert University

Harrison Potts from West Chester University

Graduates will be recognized in church on June 6.

CONFIRMANDS WERE CONFIRMED ON MAY 30

Once again, we say welcome to Kennedy Albright, Patrick Dollhopf, and Henry Smith who have joined us in confirmed membership in the congregation. Please remember them in your prayers as they experience this new part of their Christian journey.



DISASTER BUCKETS

Mission Trip Birdsboro and Beyond is making a request to partner with participating churches for donations of supplies to construct 20 Disaster Relief Buckets. These buckets will be made available to community members who may need them after flood, fire or have other devastating clean-up needs. We have chosen

to collect the following:

- All Purpose Microfiber Cloths (Quickie 12 pack)
- Reusable Latex Gloves (SoftScrub 2pk large)

All items can be purchased at Ace Hardware in Douglassville.
Your donations will be accepted here at St. Paul's until July 11.

COMFORT QUILTS FOR MANOR CARE

Our Pastoral Care Team decided that special comfort quilts would be enjoyed by the residents of the 4th floor of Manor Care in Pottstown. These lap-sized quilts are fashioned with cloth of different textures with other accoutrements to make them fun to sit with and fidget with. Sue Walley is helping to spear-head this project. Cloth is available for those who are willing to sew 6 or 6 ½ inch squares with carefully attached do-dads. Please call the church if you can help with machine sewing or hand sewing.

ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT, MARY.....



Mary Rowe, our CDC preschool teacher, has decided to retire from full-time service after 9 years teaching preschool and 11 years as the CDC director. We hope to see Mary joining us part-time in some of our day care classes in the future. We celebrated Mary's retirement with a luncheon on May 18. Thank you so much, Mary, for all your hard work and the wonderful way you have nurtured, taught, and inspired our preschool children.

PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING THIS MONTH.....



If you see your name here it is not because we think you have a specific need for prayer, but to let you know you are in our prayers whatever your need may be. Please include in your prayers this month: Sherry Rhoads, Ronald Rhoads, Kathy Rhoads, Henry Rhoads, Gloria Rhoads, Sally Rhoads, Courtney Rhoads, Aubrey Ridge, Emily Ridge, William Ridge, Natalie Ridge, Ralph Rohrbach, Robin Rohrbach, Pat Roland, Shamyro Roman, Stephanie Szajek, Alexis Roman, Myro Roman, Connor Szajek-Keppel. If you have anyone to add to the prayer list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card found in the pew racks or call the church office. Please pray for those with special concerns: Dave Bechtel, Makayla Becker, Avery Boorse, Gene Boughton, Michael Burd, Jane Burns, Scott Coyle, Darrell, Barbara DePrefontaine, Ethan, Jevin Heller, Connie Hunter, Nick Imbesi, Terry Johnson, Sandy Klinger, Kim Koury, Troy Lambeth, Cheryl Lucia, Wendy Magargal, Joanne Marnell, Kristyn Mehl, Tina Mehl, Riker Mehl, Richard Pool, Henry Rhoads, Ronald Rhoads, Rich, Lauren Ridge, Elizabeth Roy, Samuel, Gene Schaeffer, Audrey Serrian, Karen Strain, Ava Stumhofer, Sandi Zelinski, family & friends of Richard Wise, Bill McCue and all others listed below or those we name in our hearts: Jake Campbell, Ron Glaser, Ron Mutter, Richard Randolph, John Shaner, Vernet Spence-Brown, Jason Stalneck, Craig Williams, Jane Williams; homebound -- Charles Brown, Fern Brown, Peggy Burns, Jennie Clouser, Carol DeLong, Betty High, Arlene Hildebeitel, Ellen Sheeler, Alma Shirey, Dale Szajek.

(If you've added someone to the list, please help us keep it up to date)



Thank you from Joy.....

"Overwhelmed" is an understatement for the way I feel after the surprise celebration of my 40th anniversary of my ministry in the Lutheran church. Thank you all so much! I hope you all know what a blessing you are to me, and I am so happy that you appreciate my efforts. Thank you for all the kind notes and expressions of appreciation!

Guidelines for Worship Gatherings



- Masks are no longer mandated for fully vaccinated persons but encouraged. Please be responsible with regards to your own health and vaccination level.
- We continue with physical distancing in the sanctuary and all public indoor spaces.
- Hand sanitizing stations will continue to be available throughout the church.
- Many of our regular practices have been altered or done away with for the time being in order to provide the safest environment for our people. We will not be sharing the peace, or passing the offering plate, and communion will continue with individual communion kits. We will be, incrementally, restoring many of our suspended practices as conditions improve.
- Singing at a level consistent with speaking is preferred.
- We will not yet resume handing out bulletins in hard copy format. The service will be projected on the screens in the sanctuary. We will soon begin preparing a weekly worship folder for those who have difficulty following the service on the sanctuary screens.
- Please refrain from attending the service in person if you are not feeling well or anyone around you has shown symptoms of Covid-19.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. (Colossians 3:14-15)



6/1	Savannah Walter Sydney Walter	6/14	Susanne Walley
6/2	Erin Day Tracy Detwiler Adam Royer	6/15	Kyle Oesterling
6/3	Paige DePrefontaine Janice Goodman Kathy Kline Cory Miller Jared Miller	6/17	Darvin Levensgood Nicholas Luo Landon West
6/4	Sheamus Breen Aspyn Shaffer Ryan Siwinski Justin Sowers	6/18	Amy McCormick Nancy Stewart
6/5	June Geiger Avery Yetter	6/19	Ellen Buck Addison Cloutier Jameson DeLaTorre Jennifer MacMullin
6/6	George Heath	6/20	Lylia DePrefontaine Rob Edinger
6/7	David Hiser	6/21	Amelia Fretz Julia Price
6/8	Olivia Cozzone	6/22	Maxwell Cicala Jennifer Kochert Patricia Sowers Lincoln Stoudt Larry Swavely
6/9	Andy Berger Annalee Catarious Maya Michener	6/23	Eric Kupp Richard Weiler
6/10	McKinley Albright Tammy Eisenhard Nick Freitag Richard Kaufman	6/24	Louis Day LeRoy DePrefontaine Rory Emery Lisa Lerch
6/11	Gregory Hensley Cynthia Meng Jim Wolfe Ken Yoder	6/25	Ella Flamini Greg Kresge Jake Musselman
6/12	Charles Fix April Royer	6/26	Harrison Potts Carl Pratt Mike Weidner
6/13	Matthew Kresge Jan Schell	6/27	Charles Brown
6/14	Riley Muschick	6/28	Sheila Angstadt
		6/30	Lilian Reber

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE CELEBRATING WEDDING
ANNIVERSARIES.....**

Bill & Carole Berry	6/1	47 yrs.
Matt & Adrienne Stumhofer	6/1	8 yrs.
Richard & Kristin Saylor	6/3	15 yrs.
Len & Geraldine Trauger	6/3	60 yrs.
Carl & Marjorie Pratt	6/4	33 yrs.
Jamie & Sara Trout	6/4	10 yrs.
Dale & Kathy Szajek	6/5	45 yrs.
Charles & Margaret Burns	6/7	69 yrs.
Jay & Pat McClafferty	6/14	46 yrs.
David & Sue Prizer	6/14	46 yrs.
John & Linda Heisey	6/15	53 yrs.
Ray & Carolyn DiSandro	6/17	15 yrs.
Eric & Erika Kupp	6/17	4 yrs.
Patrick & Tricia Magner	6/18	11 yrs.
Ronald & Kathy Rhoads	6/18	44 yrs.
Richard & Mary Jean Talbott	6/19	50 yrs.
Harold & Ruth Grim	6/22	47 yrs.
John & Jeane Serrian	6/22	30 yrs.
Jerry & Jennifer MacMullin	6/24	32 yrs.
Craig & Wendy Yambor	6/26	22 yrs.
Judd & Tammy Eisenhard	6/28	13 yrs.
Christopher & Jill Michener	6/28	15 yrs.
Thomas Beil & Beth Jablonski	6/30	14 yrs.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Quilting 6:15—CDC	2 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person) 7 PM—T3 (Zoom)	3	4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">-----Synod Assembly-----</div>	5 6 PM—Holy Comm
6 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm 9:15—Adult Sunday School 9:30--Finance	7 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom) 7 PM—Christian Ed.	8 Quilting	9 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person) 7 PM--Council	10	11 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	12 6 PM—Holy Comm
13 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm	14  10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom) Fellowship Comm.	15 Quilting	16 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person)	17 10 AM—Social Ministry 7 PM--Technology	18 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	19 7:30 AM--Property 6 PM—Holy Comm
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">-----Vacation Bible School 6:30—8:00 P.M-----</div>						
20 <i>Fathers Day</i> 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm	21 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	22 Quilting	23 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person) 7 PM—Worship & Music	24	25 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	26 6 PM—Holy Comm
27 8 & 10:30—Holy Comm	28 10 AM—Bible Study (Zoom)	29 Quilting	30 9:30 AM—Bible Study (in-person)			

SYNOD NEWS

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

Synod Assembly 2021 & MinLab

Our assembly is virtual to protect the most vulnerable around us, but we will be holding an in-person Ministry Laboratory (MinLab) on August 14, 2021. The MinLab will be held at the Lutheran Center. It's open to anyone, even people who were not voting members to the Synod Assembly. The Lab will allow participants to engage, in real time, with ministry ideas, congregations already participating in ministry projects, and allow space for participants to experiment with ideas, eat good food, and have fun!

Together we'll wonder about how we're healing the hurting, loving the land, and engaging the stranger!

The Good News

June is here, and hope is busting out all over. We can worship outdoors, reducing greatly the still ongoing threat of the pandemic. The vaccines are effective and safe, and I urge everyone to get their doses, so we can move back indoors more safely this fall. Our synod just hosted its first event addressing racial issues, on May 22. Our online Synod Assembly June 4 and 5 is giving us new opportunities for "**growing young and vital**," as we share ministries that **heal the hurt, love the land, and engage the stranger**. And going forward from here, we are discovering how to partner more, as we are "**gaining strength**" and "**going beyond death to life**."

See the **boldface** type? Yes - I've just written a paragraph incorporating ALL the new vision and direction that we are exploring together! But more than just boldface words... what are we called to **BOLDLY FACE** - as ELCA, as synod, as congregations, and as baptized children of God?

The answer comes to us, simply and directly, from our scripture, both Old and New Testaments: St. Paul writes "For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith..." (Romans 1:16). The prophet Micah declares: "[The lord] has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

With these **bold directions**, how will we, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, proceed? HEAL THE HURTING: "**Jesus told them: 'As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.'**" (Matthew 10:7)

LOVE THE LAND: "[The lord spoke to Moses]: **The land shall not be sold in perpetuity, for the land is mine; with me you are but aliens and tenants. Throughout the land that you hold, you shall provide for the redemption of the land.**" (Leviticus 25:23-24)

ENGAGE THE STRANGER: "[The Son of Man will say when he comes in his glory]: **'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me...'**" [Matthew 25:34-35]

These are just a few of the bold words, given to us by the God who created everything; who led the marginalized Hebrew people God loved out of slavery, through the wilderness, into the promised land; who came to us in the person of Jesus, healing the sick and raising the dead; who died for all for the forgiveness of all our sin; and who is raised from the dead and reigns forever, and will return to judge the living and the dead and live here forever with us in our resurrected creation.

This is a **bold promise**. We are called to **bold action**. And in this lovely month of June, one of those bold actions can be, that we love our LGBTQIA+ neighbors, who still feel like strangers in our midst. One bold action - simple, small, but significant - is my request to change our SYNOD NEWS banner, to reflect the BOLD RAINBOW COLORS of June Pride Month. I en-courage all of us to engage in more conversation and work together with our members and leaders who are Queer, to learn more and share more of the Good News and the good work of God, together. As Paul writes: "**For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'**" (Galatians 5:14)

In God's love,
Bishop Christopher deForest

Did you know we are a "Reconciling in Christ" Synod?

Way back in 2001, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod at its Synod Assembly adopted a Continuing Resolution (#39) to make known its caring and concern for LGBTQIA+ people, their families and friends. Across our synod, congregations and organizations have themselves discerned and decided to join the RIC journey. "Reconciling in Christ" is a Lutheran movement led by the group RECONCILINGWORKS, whose vision is "to keep expanding the welcome, liberating those who are forced to live in the margins; to keep dismantling barriers and building bridges; and to keep working until all of God's beloved have equity."



An independent, Lutheran, membership-supported organization, RECONCILINGWORKS advocates for the acceptance and full participation of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions within the Lutheran Church. To find out more, go to www.reconcilingworks.org.