

## From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

October is the month of geese noisily flying overhead on their way south. It is the month when the fragrance of wood smoke rising in the early morning mist makes me glad I am alive. And most of all, October is the magical time when our hills and valleys are bursting with color - burnished orange, sun dappled yellows and deep magenta reds. Nature's harvest is providing us with a feast not only for our stomachs, but for our eyes.

The church too is filled with high energy at this time. It is wonderful to come to church on Sunday mornings and see so many of you entering the sanctuary. What an exhilarating vigor when all of us come together to worship.

We began the season with an offering of classes for the young and the young at heart. There are choir opportunities, times to reflect in quiet prayer, time to come together for bible study and for fellowship. We enjoy gathering at Christ's table, but we also look forward to the gastronomic delights of an authentic German Dinner on the eve of Reformation Sunday. The following morning we celebrate a special liturgy, Martin Luther's "Deutsche Messe."

This season we also look forward to getting together with members of Calvary Episcopal Church. Father Harrison Heidel of Calvary Episcopal Church and I will enter into a pulpit exchange later this year, I will inform you when the exact date has been set.

In addition, both churches will take turns hosting a "Family Game Night," so bring yourselves, your kids, and your favorite games.

October is also Good Shepherd's month to host the Food Shelf. This means we need more Good Shepherd members to help with setting up the tables on the Thursday or Friday before Food Shelf and also have a presence on the day of the food distribution. This way you have the opportunity to appreciate and come to know the greater family Christ has called us to serve.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your faithful support. You continue to bring in food items for the Food Shelf. You continue to fill boxes to purchase livestock for subsistence farmers (remember, October 19<sup>th</sup> is dedication of these gifts, so bring your boxes in by that date) and you continue to support the ministry at Good Shepherd. You truly are the church - the church is not a separate entity -you are the church.

I thank you for the blessing that you are.

Pastor Dagmar