

## From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It seems already a long time ago, but it was only two weeks past that three of us from Good Shepherd drove to the Synod Assembly in Sturbridge, MA. Something truly wonderful happens when representatives of all the Lutheran churches in New England gather to meet and worship together. In my case, I met old friends I had not seen for a very long time. For pastors, this gathering and the Bishop's convocation that takes place in October provides an opportunity re-connect and also to meet the newest pastors in our synod.

This year the synod invited an inspiring key note speaker, Kelly Fryer, who was not only very funny, but also very profound in her message to the church body assembled. The workshops were thought provoking and interesting. All of the topics were concerned with the life of the church, and of course, the future of the church. Kim Stavrinakis, one of our congregation's representatives, will present her more detailed report of the assembly at the annual meeting.

In the church year we have entered the lengthy season of Pentecost. You may remember the readings from the Book of Acts that are read on the Sunday of Pentecost and the Sundays following. For me, these readings are interesting and exciting because they tell us about the fledgling Christian church and how the church came to grow with the guidance and help of God's Holy Spirit. I think of the little band of Jesus' followers who in themselves were uneducated men from the hinterlands of Judaism. But even more so, I am reminded of the incredible power that transformed these men and the women too, into the formidable evangelists who would stand up to face the power of imperial Rome.

The church in the book of Acts lived the truth of what Paul expressed so eloquently:

*"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* **Philippians 4:13**

The church of today dare not forget that this awesome power of God is still with us.

Blessings to you all,

Pastor Dagmar