

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

When I'm traveling the roads of Vermont I notice that some of the trees wear a slightly lighter shade of green and others already are tinged with a pale orange brush.

In the church too, we look forward to what is to come. Committees are busy preparing their calendar for the coming months; the council talks a lot about conservation of energy and cost effectiveness; Sunday School plans to begin teaching about God's love under the banner of "Caring for God's creation" and I look forward to once again seeing those of you who migrated to seaside camps and outdoor activities for the summer.

In the month of September, we will welcome several new members. Already, we are enriched by their presence among us. Already, they have found a niche for themselves in the ministry of the church. God continues to bless us in so many ways.

Our High School youth will begin the new Sunday school year at the New England Synod youth gathering at Hammonnasset Beach in Madison, Connecticut, with Vicky Milton as their leader, while our newest confirmation class will meet with Irene Wrenner as their teacher. And I am looking forward to meeting with our fifth graders for their first communion instruction. In all, we have a busy year planned for the ministry at Good Shepherd.

You may have noticed that we still have the World Hunger farm set up in the narthex. Some of you already brought in your boxes, which will buy farm animals and/or other important items, such as water purification, fruit tree seedlings for a community orchard and more. We will also include the proceeds from the book and bake sale to continue helping these families. On World Hunger Sunday, we will dedicate all your contributions and send them to the ELCA World Hunger Outreach ministry. While we may not be personally present to see their joy and smiling faces when subsistence farmers receive our gift of love, we will know that we have made a difference.

I thank all of our leaders who unstintingly give of their time and talent to the glory of God. I am always amazed at your depth of commitment, your expertise and insight that you are willing to share and consider myself blessed to be among you.

God's blessing to you.

With love,

Pastor Dagmar