

# Prints of Peace

I don't know about you, but I'm tired of hearing about "the new normal." I've heard people (including myself) talking about the new normal for the past eighteen months, and it always causes me anxiety. The "new normal" is supposed to be the new way things will be done when the COVID pandemic is behind us. It

won't ever be the same, we say, but it will be a new kind of normal. So the "new normal" is something we're all waiting for, something we're all looking forward to, something that's always just over the horizon, which we just can't see yet. It's August 2021, and we're still not yet at "the new normal," are we? Yes, we've made huge strides against COVID, but it's not over yet. New variants keep popping up, and there are still outbreaks in some parts of the United States, and throughout the world. We may be winning the battle, but it's not over yet. The new normal is still coming. Someday.

But I recently came across a phrase I hadn't heard before: "*the now normal*." And to me, that sounds a lot more inviting and comforting. To me, the phrase "the now normal" means that the "normal" we're seeking isn't some perfect day in the future, but rather it's just how to live *today*. We don't know what tomorrow will bring, but we can live as though today isn't a crisis. We can recognize that things aren't perfect, and we don't know when or if they will be, but today is okay. This *now normal* isn't going to stick around forever, but for today, it's here, and it's good.

I'm trying to enjoy the *now normal* this August. I am looking forward to taking our first family vacation in two years. It won't be the same as the last trip we took together (thank goodness we did Disney in 2019!), but it will be good. I'm looking forward to both of my kids going back to school in-person at the end of August, for the first time in over eighteen months. It won't be the same as they're used to, but it will be good. I am looking forward to more and more loosening of restrictions at church over the next few months. We're still not at 2019-normal, and who knows if or when we will be? But we're gathering and worshipping, and that's good. I am looking forward to my seven-year-old son being vaccinated sometime soon. These things aren't the pie-in-the-sky new normal that we crave. But they're what we have *now*, and they're good enough.

I'm reminded of the way that God is bringing the Kingdom into the world today. One day, one day we will all reach that ultimate "new normal," life in paradise singing praises to God all day long. But we don't need to spend our lives waiting for that. God also comes into our world today, making *now* the *now normal*, giving us the hope and the faith to live with whatever we face today. It's not perfect, but it's good.

In Christ,



Rev. Michael J. Scholtes





# CHURCH REOPENING

PLANS & GUIDELINES

## UPDATE FROM REOPENING TASK FORCE

- We **no longer require masking at all** in the building for those who are **fully vaccinated** (two weeks since the final dose). If you are not fully vaccinated, or if you have had any symptoms, we ask that in that case you still wear a mask. Certainly all are welcome to wear a mask if you prefer.
- We also **no longer require social distancing** for worship. We will still have every other pew blocked off, but other than that, you are permitted to sit wherever you like. We do encourage you to continue to keep reasonable distance between families.
- The **Fellowship Hall** is available as a "**safe zone**" for those who would prefer a place to worship where masking and social distancing continue. All who desire are welcome to participate in worship there via the closed circuit TV. If you choose to worship there, you will also have the opportunity to come in for communion. We'll keep that room available for at least two months for this purpose, depending on how much it's used.
- We are providing **announcement folders** again. They will be available after worship each week for you to read at home.
- A few things that are staying the same in worship (for now) are communion, the big offering pot, taking attendance, and no singing at indoor worship. We'll be looking at these things in future months.
- The building is now open to congregational meetings in various rooms **any day of the week**. Wipes and hand sanitizers will be provided in every room, and it will be the **group's responsibility to wipe down** chairs, tables, doorknobs, light switches, and so forth after the meeting. (We are not yet open for outside groups.)

The Task Force hopes that we are all thoughtful and careful as we continue to make the transition through this lingering pandemic. Please remember that people have different comfort levels with restrictions and with things such as masks. Some people will continue to wear masks, and some will not. Please try not to judge one another for whatever decisions are made. We all have our reasons. And we all need to strive to make sure that everyone is welcome here, whatever decision they've made, for whatever reason. Thank you.

## ARE YOU GETTING PASTORMAIL?

Pastor Scholtes sends out emails to the congregation almost every day. These *PastorMails* contain information about upcoming events, about recent decisions made in the church, and generally help to keep us all connected. If you are not receiving them, please send him a note at [pastorMJS@gmail.com](mailto:pastorMJS@gmail.com) to be added to the list.



*Please keep these people in prayer on the anniversary of their birth...*

- Taylor Baker, August 1
- Pauline Newell, August 2
- Wilma Hill, August 2
- Carol Gillow, August 2
- Leon Vanderpool, August 3
- Eric Fraunfelter, August 4
- Isabel Baker, August 5
- Maxwell Manicke, August 6
- Stephanie Steele, August 7
- Evelynn Diabo, August 7
- Craig Hughes, August 8
- Barbara Reimer, August 9
- Sharon Shook, August 10
- Lori Heitzman, August 10
- Donna Ott, August 12
- Betty Steinmetz, August 12
- Robert Duran, August 13
- Erica Schuette, August 14
- Trista Artley, August 15
- Lee Ann Lambert, August 15
- Diane Kimsey, August 15
- Autumn Williams, August 20
- Nolan Reinhart, August 21
- Kale Baker, August 22
- Cathy Mullen, August 22
- Lauren Flyte, August 23
- Eleanor Hill, August 24
- Petrina Billger, August 25
- Miriam Eichlin, August 27
- Thomas Rotzell, August 27
- James Poliskiewicz, Jr., August 28
- Nathan Newhard, August 29
- Natalie Fraunfelter, August 29
- Isaak Griggs, August 29

**COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS**

Congregation Council took the month of July off. Watch for August highlights in the next newsletter.

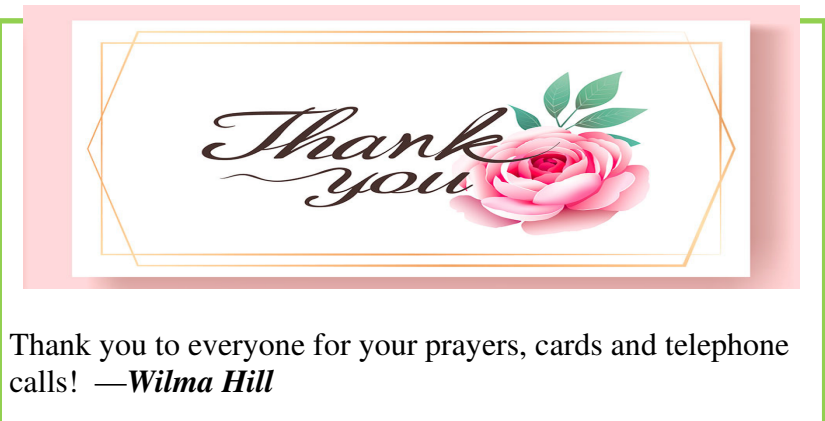


**In-person (9:45 on Sundays – OUTSIDE in the grove on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month)**

*All in-person worship services may include alterations to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including (but not limited to) altered seating arrangements, the wearing of masks, no singing, and so forth. If you are not feeling well, please do not attend.*

**Online / Facebook / Telephone**

Watch our worship each week at our website ([popbangor.org/](http://popbangor.org/) video-worship). Or watch it on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/popbangor](https://facebook.com/popbangor)). You can also call in to hear our worship each week at 877-POP-2-POP (877-767-2767). New videos and audio files will be added each Monday.



Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards and telephone calls! —*Wilma Hill*

**RECENT PASTORAL ACTS**

Funeral: Ernest H. Lohman, July 8  
Velma V. Shook, July 9  
Jean E. Callie, July 27

Baptism: Aria Joy Hughes, July 24



Dear Prince of Peace,

Thank you so much for the beautiful gifts and wishes! As I go through changes in my life, I will continue to turn to God and church family!

With Love,  
—*Lauren Harrison* ♥



## Social Ministry News Update:

Social Ministry thanks you for the socks to be donated to Safe Harbor that have already been donated, but the need is great so please continue to bring them in. Let's try to fill the basket in the Narthex to overflowing. The program will end on **Sunday, August 29th**. Remember if you don't feel comfortable shopping one of the committee members will be happy to do it for you. See: Mary O'Meally; Sherry Hock or Holly Blakeslee. Thank you for your continued support of this and all our ministries!

**Galatians 6:2 "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."**



### OUTSIDE WORSHIP FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH!

We will have our regular Sunday worship outside in the church grove on the first Sunday of each month. Worship will begin as usual at 9:45 am. Please wear a mask, and bring a chair to sit in. (There are some benches, but not enough for everyone.) If you would prefer to remain in your car, that is fine. Speakers will be setup so that you can hear the service, and communion will be brought to you. Unlike the outdoor services we did last summer, these will be **full** services, with sermon, hymns, communion, and so forth. One of the best things about worshipping outside is that we will be able to sing together!

Depending on how this goes, we plan to do this through the fall. If the weather is inclement on a given Sunday, we will hold worship inside instead.

## Are you willing to help?

It's lawn care season! Can you help to keep our grounds looking wonderful? See John Martocci for details, questions and to sign-up to help!

Thank you to all who help with these important tasks!



**Thank you for your willingness to serve!!! If you are unable to fulfill an assignment, please find someone to take your place and let Pastor Scholtes know of the change as soon as possible.**

**For last minute changes be sure to leave the message on**

**Pastor Scholtes' voice mail (610-588-2355) or email him at PastorMJS@gmail.com.**

| Date:                         | Greeters                       | Lay Reader      | Assisting Minister | Ushers   | Power Point                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Sunday, August 1<br>In grove  | Kale Baker,<br>Brooks Baker    | Sherry Hock     | Laraine Brands     | Brenda Hughes, Vivian Fahr,<br>Georgia and John Suranofsky | Jim Jennings<br>(if inside building) |
| Sunday, August 8              | Vivian Fahr,<br>Connie Itterly | April Miller    | Connie Itterly     | Traci Rumsey, Bob Gist,<br>Kale Baker                      | Kim Jennings                         |
| Sunday, August 15             | Georgia and<br>John Suranofsky | Mary Hendershot | April Miller       | June and Sherk Jones,<br>Brooks Baker                      | Tina Johns                           |
| Sunday, August 22             | Traci Rumsey,<br>Brenda Hughes | Kim Jennings    | Kale Baker         | Georgia and John Suranofsky,<br>Vivian Fahr                | Antonioli Family                     |
| Sunday, August 29             | Brooks Baker,<br>Kale Baker    | Janet Martocci  | Marlene Stana      | Traci Rumsey, Bob Gist,<br>Connie Itterly                  | Jim Jennings                         |
| Sunday, Sept. 5<br>(In grove) | Vivian Fahr,<br>Connie Itterly | Sherry Hock     | Tina Johns         | Brenda Hughes, Kale Baker,<br>Brooks Baker                 | Cathy Mullen<br>(if inside building) |

Thank You



### Technology/Communications Committee Update, submitted by Jackie Horn

The technology/communications committee would like to thank **Isaak Griggs** for being the go-to person for our website and Facebook page. Isaak has decided to make a move in this field of employment, and will no longer be able to manage our online interests.

Currently we are looking for someone to take on this role for these sites. While the website needs to be updated occasionally, the Facebook page requires a little more continual attention. If you are interested, please reach out to Jackie Horn or me and we will be able to guide you through the process. Please consider this as a way of helping your church, and again, thanks to Isaak for having done a great job with our sites!

FYI, at this time, the weekly church service will still be uploaded to YouTube, Facebook, and the phone service POP2POP, but it will no longer be available Sundays. Expect each worship service to be available sometime on Monday.

Thank You

# weis

### Weis Receipt and Gift Card Program Update, submitted by Jackie Horn

POP has had a long relationship with Weis or Mr. Z's. When we started to collect the receipts it was an easy way to raise money. Thank you to Terry Stiso for managing our Weis receipts for the past few years, and thank you to Laraine Brands for taking up the reins now. We earn 1 percent from each receipt that comes from purchases from the Bangor store. We cannot receive or use receipts from other locations.

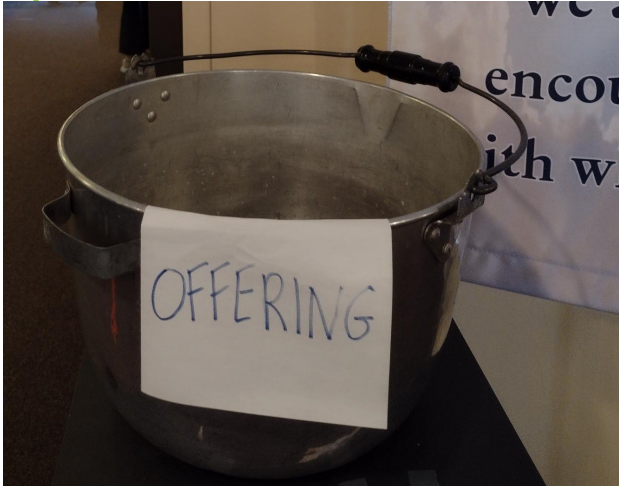
POP also sells Weis cards and we make 5 percent from the sales. There was a misconception that we made 5 percent either way, but that is not the case. While we are very happy with the return from the receipt collection, POP will raise more money from the sale of the Weis cards. So, maybe you will consider this option as our fund raiser. And please remember we can not earn anything in receipts if you have used the purchased Weis cards.

Please see Jim Jennings or me (Jackie Horn) to purchase your gift cards. Thank you for supporting POP in this endeavor!



This year will be the first time we will not be doing the Blue Valley Farm Show food stand. Due to the lack of interested participants, it will be difficult going forward. We want to thank all of the wonderful people that have helped over the years and enjoyed fun and fellowship along the way. Thanks to all for the years of dedication to this event.

## Thank You!



Did you ever think that the kettle in the picture would be used to collect offering? For many years in the past it was used to cook potatoes for the church suppers we held. This kettle has become familiar to those who have come back to worshipping in person. These offerings and those that come in by mail , \*\*online, text or mobile giving are being used to support the ministries of our congregation.

For years now we have been understanding our ministries in 3 areas of worship, learning and outreach. We were able to continue all these areas because of your generosity.

A heartfelt thank you for your offerings in 2021...as we continue through these most unusual times. God is always with us not matter what!

***\*\*You'll find that ONLINE GIVING ON OUR WEBSITE, TEXT AND MOBILE are secure, fast and easy to use. You have the choice of using your checking or savings account, debit/credit cards. You can choose when to give monthly, weekly, bi-weekly, annually or once.***



The Slater Family Network is once again doing the Backpack Buddies project and in the backpacks they include food. No one is sponsoring them this time. A few years ago, we collected drinks and snacks for them. So now we at Social Ministry are asking, "can we fill them once again?"

Information on what items we would donate is forth coming and a list will be posted in the narthex and sent out in emails to follow.

We will begin collecting items as soon as we receive a list and will continue throughout September.

Stay tuned for more information and thank you so much for your caring generosity and willingness to help others. —***Social Ministry***

The LORD is near to  
all who call on him,  
to all who call on him  
in truth. He fulfills the  
desires of those who  
fear him; He hears their  
cry and saves them.

Psalm 145:18-19



The word is a lamp  
unto my feet, and  
a light unto my path  
psalm 119:105

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Sunday, August 1</b>  | Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78:23-29; Ephesians 4:1-6; John 6:24-35        |
| Monday, August 2         | Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43; Numbers 11:16-23, 31-32; Ephesians 4:17-24          |
| Tuesday, August 3        | Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43; Deuteronomy 8:1-20; 1 Corinthians 12:27-31          |
| Wednesday, August 4      | Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43; Isaiah 55:1-9; Mark 8:1-10                          |
| Thursday, August 5       | Psalm 34:1-8; 1 Samuel 28:20-25; Romans 15:1-6                            |
| Friday, August 6         | Psalm 34:1-8; 2 Samuel 17:15-29; Galatians 6:1-10                         |
| Saturday, August 7       | Psalm 34:1-8; 1 Kings 2:1-9; Matthew 7:7-11                               |
| <b>Sunday, August 8</b>  | 1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8; Ephesians 4:25 – 5:2; John 6:35, 41-51      |
| Monday, August 9         | Psalm 81; 1 Kings 17:1-16; Ephesians 5:1-14                               |
| Tuesday, August 10       | Psalm 81; Ruth 2:1-23; 2 Peter 3:14-18                                    |
| Wednesday, August 11     | Psalm 81; Jeremiah 31:1-6; John 6:35-40                                   |
| Thursday, August 12      | Psalm 34:9-14; Job 11:1-20; Acts 6:8-15                                   |
| Friday, August 13        | Psalm 34:9-14; Job 12:1-25; Romans 16:17-20                               |
| Saturday, August 14      | Psalm 34:9-14; Job 13:1-19; John 4:7-26                                   |
| <b>Sunday, August 15</b> | Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14; Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58            |
| Monday, August 16        | Psalm 36; Genesis 43:1-15; Acts 6:1-7                                     |
| Tuesday, August 17       | Psalm 36; Genesis 45:1-15; Acts 7:9-16                                    |
| Wednesday, August 18     | Psalm 36; Genesis 47:13-26; Mark 8:14-21                                  |
| Thursday, August 19      | Psalm 34:15-22; Joshua 22:1-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11                     |
| Friday, August 20        | Psalm 34:15-22; Joshua 22:10-20; Romans 13:11-14                          |
| Saturday, August 21      | Psalm 34:15-22; Joshua 22:21-34; Luke 11:5-13                             |
| <b>Sunday, August 22</b> | Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22; Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-69    |
| Monday, August 23        | Psalm 119:97-104; Nehemiah 9:1-15; Ephesians 5:21-6:9                     |
| Tuesday, August 24       | Psalm 119:97-104; Nehemiah 9:16-31; Ephesians 6:21-24                     |
| Wednesday, August 25     | Psalm 119:97-104; Isaiah 33:10-16; John 15:16-25                          |
| Thursday, August 26      | Psalm 15; Exodus 32:1-14; James 1:1-8                                     |
| Friday, August 27        | Psalm 15; Exodus 32:15-35; James 1:9-16                                   |
| Saturday, August 28      | Psalm 15; Exodus 34:8-28; John 18:28-32                                   |
| <b>Sunday, August 29</b> | Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 |
| Monday, August 30        | Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48; Deuteronomy 4:9-14; 1 Timothy 4:6-16         |
| Tuesday, August 31       | Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48; Deuteronomy 4:15-20; 1 Peter 2:19-25         |



**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
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Bangor, Pennsylvania 18013  
Office Phone: 610-588-2355

**Web-site: [www.popbangor.org](http://www.popbangor.org)**

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**Worship and Holy Communion Schedule:**  
*Sundays at 9:45 a.m. — See Page 3 for details!*  
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- **Pastor: Rev. Michael J. Scholtes 610-588-2314, [PastorMJS@gmail.com](mailto:PastorMJS@gmail.com)**
- **Organist/Music Leader: Martin Yazdzik**
- **Treasurer: Joyce Weishaupt**
- **Financial Secretary: Mary O’Meally**
- **Sexton: Brittnee Brown**
- **Parish Nurse: Justine Cesari, 610-730-7895, [cesarijustine1080@gmail.com](mailto:cesarijustine1080@gmail.com)**
- **Church Secretary: Annette Buss**

**Church Secretary’s Office Hours:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9am–Noon Thursday: 1 to 4 pm  
**Church Secretary’s email:** [poplcbangor@gmail.com](mailto:poplcbangor@gmail.com)

**Church Council Members:**

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Georgia Suranofsky - President  | Dennis Horn     |
| Connie Itterly - Vice President | Luke Hoff       |
| Marlene Stana - Secretary       | Scott Schipps   |
| Dave Karner                     | Kathy Williams  |
| Traci Rumsey                    | Chip Harrison   |
| Benjamin Manicke-Youth Rep.     | Bruce Antonioli |
| Pastor Michael Scholtes         |                 |

**OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT**

*We, the people of Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, will actively seek and serve Christ in all people.*

Would you like to place an article in the monthly newsletter? Highlight your ministry? Post a Thank you? Make an announcement?

**EARLY SUBMISSIONS ARE APPRECIATED!**

**September 2021 Newsletter is: August 10 th**

*You may email your submissions to [poplcbangor@gmail.com](mailto:poplcbangor@gmail.com)  
Or give a handwritten items to **Annette Buss***

**\*\*Items received after the deadline will go into the next month’s newsletter.\*\***

**Publication’s title & number:**  
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**Authorized Organization’s Name and Address:**  
PRINCE OF PEACE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2445 LAKE MINSI DRIVE  
BANGOR, PA 18013-5418



# SYNOD NEWS

## NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD, ELCA

### It's Finally Here! MinLab 2021

We are a church in three expression. The ELCA is made up of congregations, synods, and the churchwide expression. This gives us unique resources we wouldn't be able to access if we were simply unaffiliated Lutheran congregations.

Before COVID-19 wreaked havoc on "normal" we gathered yearly, in person for our synod assembly. At synod assembly, we conducted the business of our church, see familiar or new faces from all over our territory, and share with one another our ministries. We set up poster boards that allowed churches and organizations to share what they're doing, to inspire others to act, and to serve as a witness to the gospel, the good news of God in Christ.

Last year and this year have been different... a divergence from what is "normal"... a step away from our comfort zones. One thing was clear, we longed to gather together in



### Bishop's Message August 2021: Bread for This Journey By Bishop Christopher deForest

What a difference a year makes. This year, we are journeying through the Gospel of Mark in our lectionary cycle. Mark is shorter than the other Gospels, so the lectionary adds bits from other Gospels, especially John. So this late summer, in many of our churches, we get these 5 weeks in a row (from July 25-August 22) from John chapter 6. This chapter tells a single interconnected story about Jesus showing and telling us what he means when he says: "I am the Bread of Life."

Pastors often get to this stretch every three years, and ask: "How do I preach on the same thing for 5 weeks?" Perhaps they turn to the other texts, or forego using the lectionary entirely for this period. Those are all fine choices. However, this time around, this summer, things are so different. The vaccines have brought us to safer places. And for many of us, the necessity of suspending Holy Communion for a time, or

person. MinLab seeks to fulfill that desire and to allow God's people to share their witness and ministry with one another.

At this outdoor ministry laboratory, we are inviting congregations and organizations from across our Synod (and beyond!) to show and share how they have been "growing young and vital" – even in the midst of the pandemic. **How has your church been able to: heal the hurt, engage the stranger, and love the land?** Learn new ideas to take home and try. Show and tell others about the "vital signs" you've seen "growing" in your midst through God's grace, love and care in your community.

**Cafe Esperanza** will be showcasing their Pay-what-you-can ministry with light breakfast items, coffee, and other refreshments. **Bear Creek Camp** counselors and staff will be in attendance to share their stories of God's work in the life of young people through outdoor ministry. The YoYoFa team will be working and to showcase ministries that exemplify the six characteristics of **Growing Young**. And so much more!!!

Join us on August 14, 10am-3pm at the Lutheran Center (2354 Grove Rd.) Register on the synod website at <http://nepasynod.org/minlab21/> which also have a plethora of information for you to engage and share with your community.

at least changing our practices around the sacrament, have perhaps made us appreciate the gift of Lord's Supper all the more.

In the midst of this story about bread, in John's chapter 6 we also get the story of the storm at sea, and Jesus walking on the water. We also hear John's version of the feeding of the 5000. In both cases, it is **Jesus coming to us**: finding us in the storm, feeding us in our fear, and leading us to a new shore.

Once again – do we not encounter these stories with different eyes and ears, different hearts and minds, here in late summer of 2021? Our feelings are so mixed: lament, grief, need, concern – yet also relief, thankfulness, joy, even hope? And do we not have increased capacity, to see and understand the struggles of others around us? Have we not developed more compassion and stamina to deal with the higher, deeper, wider and longer-term challenges facing our world, our nation, our synod?

What makes me most grateful, most motivated, and most hopeful about what we learned through the pandemic, and where it has placed us today – is that we are still together. We have stayed together. And we can now begin to more safely gather together and work together, using new tools (like technology) with new strengths, new perspectives, and new perseverance.

This late summer, into this fall, there will be several gatherings happening, to work together on big problems. Our whole synod, for MinLab on August 14; our Ministry Teams on August 22; our retired pastors and deacons with me throughout September; and our clergy in November for Bishop's Conference – to name just a few. Our challenges are many; time is always tight; there's always a lot to take care of. But in our homes, our workplaces, our congregations and schools – God is here. The Spirit is in us and with us. And Christ meets us and goes out ahead of us – giving us all that we need: safe harbor; eternal life; and his body and blood, his very life – true Bread from Heaven and bread for this particular journey. Holy God, lead us and let us travel well and traverse far, together! Amen!