

Greetings St. Paul Lutheran Church!

Thank you to all who helped and attended the God's Word Made Fresh event. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I wouldn't call it a rah rah, Jesus loves you event, but a time to reflect on Jesus in our lives and in the lives of others. Rev. Ed Kilbourne had his CDs for sale. If you missed out, his website is www.edkilbourne.com You can also find some of the songs and stories from the event on our Facebook page.

One of the songs he sang at the concert on Sunday afternoon was called, "The Gift of Mercy." When I heard it, all I could think of was the Episcopalian Bishop Budde and her comments at the Inaugural Prayer Service last week. I'm sure many of you have heard about it. If you haven't, just google Bishop Budde sermon. In many ways her sermon has been an inspiration to mainline protestant congregation members and pastors. Her direct ask of the president for mercy on the most vulnerable to his expected policies has been lauded as the epitome of speaking truth to power. Rev. Ed's song about mercy being served rather than justice spoke to my heart. I also found out that he will be the musician at an event later this year where Bishop Budde will be the speaker. I told him he definitely needs to play that song.

If you have been looking for ELCA bishops' comments to the current administration policies, the Region 9 Bishop's have posted their response. It can be found on our Facebook page. The ECLA Presiding Bishop Eaton has her responses here.

<https://www.elca.org/news-and-events/presiding-bishop-eaton-issues-statement-on-immigration-executive-orders>

<https://www.elca.org/news-and-events/presiding-bishop-eaton-issues-pastoral-message-on-executive-orders>

They both have resources to learn more about the issues and how to get involved.

In this week's PastorBlast I wanted to include a few member updates.

Many of us knew that Dorothy Boller went with family up north to continue her recovery from a fall. Her health is declining. Her address is 4114 E Blood Rd Cowlesville, NY 14037. I'm sure she would love cards along with your prayers.

It's been announced that June Manselle has entered her heavenly home. Her celebration of life will be on Saturday, March 1 at 1p with a reception following.

It's also been announced that Sharyn Brodnax has entered her heavenly home. Her celebration of life will be Sunday, March 2 at 2p with a reception following.

March 1 and 2 will be a busy weekend with not only the celebration of life but also the annual Shrove Saturday variety show and potluck on Saturday, March 1 at 5p. Please sign up before or after worship, or even just email back and we'll put you on the list. If you have a talent (or not even talent but willing to have fun on stage with an act) we would love for you to sign up. Or if your talent is just eating food and cleaning up after that's welcomed too.

Take care and God bless

-PrAshley