



KOINONIA



January-February 2017
LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS
VICAR JAMES MILLER

Bishop's Message: "With great hope"

The Rev. Dr. Robert Rimbo shares regular thoughts and reflections about our life together. Dec 14, 2016

You might think I'm crazy to admit this, but sometimes the first thing I do in the morning, right before praying, is look at Facebook. This morning when I checked in I was met with three things that gave me so much to pray for.

First I saw the fourth anniversary of the Newtown Elementary School Shooting.

Second I saw the destruction and killing in Aleppo.

Third I saw that Dylann Roof's confession of the Charleston church shooting.

Having taken in the law, I looked for the Gospel by reading Zachariah 8. Take a moment to read it, looking for words of hope.

This text follows a series of visions from Zechariah and is during a period after the exile and destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. Now this is how God responds to the prophet's visions. As you can see, this is a passage filled with great promise to people who are yearning for restoration. There is great hope for the world.

Even though we are quicker to see jealousy lead to anger and rage, God's jealousy is leading to a deep passion for the people of Zion. There is hope in God being so jealous and passionate towards restoration, justice, and bonds of community.

In the news we see images from Aleppo of people standing in the streets in the midst of utter destruction and rubble. The images all look soft from the dust that clouds the air. It is a stark contrast to the prophet's vision of a faithful city with men and women in the streets and children playing. It truly seems impossible.

Our world is full of vulnerable people and places. Children whose future will be unseen. Refugees who are seeking peace. And the faithful who seek sanctuary in the word of the Lord. We are constantly finding ourselves needing this message of hope and restoration in a broken world.

And here is my hope in this season: that we as a church and as individuals can find ourselves in the remnant people of Zion. I hope for the sowing of peace and the fruits that can be yielded for generations to come. I hope for us to not be afraid, but to have strong hands in working to build God's vision here and now. We are the remnants that must bring a message of hope and peace to a world yearning to be restored. We must speak truths. Make peace. Love one another. And love the truth.

I hope for all of these things as we enter into a time unlike any other. Our hope seems impossible and bearing fruit seems improbable.

When we developed our theme for 2017, "Faith Not Fear", we didn't know what lay ahead. But it is in our most vulnerable places that we need God's word to not be afraid repeated over and over again.

"Faith not fear" is a sentiment that is full of challenge. We act very differently when acting out of fear versus faith. And it is out of faith that I hope we will all act. I hope that we can act with a clear passion for welcoming Christ into our lives and communities.

In this Advent and Christmas season I wish abundant blessings upon you and your family.

—Rev. Dr. Robert Alan Rimbo, Bishop

Zechariah 8:1-17

The word of the LORD of hosts came to me, saying: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I am jealous for Zion with great jealousy, and I am jealous for her with great wrath. Thus says the LORD: I will return to Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem; Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the LORD of hosts shall be called the holy mountain. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of their great age. And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. Thus says the LORD of hosts: Even though it seems impossible to the remnant of this people in these days, should it also seem impossible to me, says the LORD of hosts? Thus says the LORD of hosts: I will save my people from the east country and from the west country; and I will bring them to live in Jerusalem. They shall be my people and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.

Thus says the LORD of hosts: Let your hands be strong — you that have recently been hearing these words from the mouths of the prophets who were present when the foundation was laid for the rebuilding of the temple, the house of the LORD of hosts. For before those days there were no wages for people or for animals, nor was there any safety from the foe for those who went out or came in, and I set them all against one other. But now I will not deal with the remnant of this people as in the former days, says the LORD of hosts. For there shall be a sowing of peace; the vine shall yield its fruit, the ground shall give its produce, and the skies shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things. Just as you have been a cursing among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you and you shall be a blessing. Do not be afraid, but let your hands be strong.

For thus says the LORD of hosts: Just as I purposed to bring disaster upon you, when your ancestors provoked me to wrath, and I did not relent, says the LORD of hosts, so again I have purposed in these days to do good to Jerusalem and to the house of Judah; do not be afraid. These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another, render in your gates judgments that are true and make for peace, do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath; for all these are things that I hate, says the LORD.

PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

Wow! 2016 is now history....where did that year go? I realize these words are cliché, but honestly where did this past year go? Our Parish has seen a lot of successes this past year. Parish Mission and Vision statements were developed. We collected personal care items; assembled over 80 personal care kits and sent them to Lutheran World Relief for distribution. Many members of our Parish participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. According to the organizers, our team was the first religious organization to participate. We received several awards and recognition for our participation. For God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, which was the 15th Anniversary of the September 11 attack, members of our Parish assembled cookies and goodies for our local first responders. These were distributed to local police, fire, ambulance and EMS departments in our northern Dutchess area. We also have an ongoing Free Children's Clothes Closet operating at Third Lutheran every 1st and 3rd Friday each month. Volunteers and clothes donations are always needed. Thank you to our members who worked very hard to organize these activities and make them successful.

A disappointment this year was the unexpected resignation of Pastor Will Starkweather. We continue to work with our Synod during the time of transition. Vicar Jim Miller has provided continuity on Sunday mornings during this transition as our stated supply pastor. By the way, Bishop Rimbo has extended Vicar Jim as our stated supply pastor through March 2017. Pastor Sonja Maclary, Pastor Justin Johnson and Pastor Tobias Anderson have been very helpful and comforting as our Pastoral Care team. A Parish Call Committee has been organized and will meet with Rev. Kathleen Koran, Assistant to the Bishop on January 8, 2017.

Let's look ahead to 2017 with hope, enthusiasm and optimism! Let's continue doing God's good work as we have been, but look for more opportunities to do God's work and spread the Good News. Who can we reach out to? Let us continue to nurture the good things we have done and do more!

May God's Peace, Love and Joy be with you at all times.

In Christ,
Carl Dowden

GREETINGS FROM LPND'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our Sunday School classes are moving along in this year's Whirl program and we are now in the Winter Session. The students have gone through the end of the Pentecost, Christ the King Sunday, Advent, the Christmas season, and Epiphany on January 8th. The Epiphany Pageant was held at Third Lutheran in a joint service at 10AM with the children participating in all parts of the service. Practices were held on January 2nd and January 7th at 5PM at Third Lutheran, in Rhinebeck.

As a reminder, check the bulletin for any changes in the weekly Sunday School times. The 6th grade classes meet on Sunday mornings at 10AM, directly before the 11AM service. Through the winter, they will be meeting in St. Paul's Kort room. Our 1st grade class meets at Memorial Lutheran in Rock City on Mondays at 4PM. With the holidays, school breaks, and Epiphany practices upon us, classes will resume on Sunday, January 15th for the 6th grade and Monday, January 16th for the 1st grade.

Yours in Christ,
Brad Patton

Meetings

Third W&M	Jan. 3 & Feb. 7 @ 4:00p.m. @ Third
Parish Call Committee	Jan. 8 2:00p.m. @ Third
Parish Council	Jan. 17 & Feb. 21 @ 6:00p.m.
Joint Session of Councils	Jan. 17 & Feb. 21 @ 7:00p.m.
Congregational Councils	Jan. 17 & Feb. 21 following joint session
<i>Council Meetings January @ St. Paul's & February @ Memorial</i>	

Annual Reports

St. Paul's

Due	January 15
Available	January 29

Third

Due	January 15
Available	January 22

Council Installation

Memorial	January 22
Third	February 5
St. Paul's	February 12

Annual Congregational Meetings

Memorial
January 15 @ 1:00 p.m.

Third
January 29
Brunch & Meeting
immediately following the 9:45 a.m. worship service

St. Paul's
February 5
Lunch & Meeting
immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service

Lenten Services and Events

Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper

Feb. 28 at 6:00 p.m. @ Memorial

Ash Wednesday **March 1**

Soup & Sandwich Supper & Worship Service
Details being developed. Stay tuned for updates.

Wednesday Evening Services in Red Hook

details to be announced

Faith Building Opportunities	
<u>Christian Ed</u> Sunday 10:00 a.m. @ St. Paul's 1 st Grade: Monday 4:00 p.m. @ Memorial Confirmation <i>Contact Brad Patton</i> 889-4437	<u>Bible Study</u> with Pastor Sonja Maclary <i>from Christ Lutheran in Woodstock</i> Organizational Session Tuesday January 10 10 a.m. at Third Rhinebeck <i>Upper meeting room</i> <i>Watch for updates on upcoming sessions</i> <i>Contact Monica G.</i> 914-475-6613
<u>Men's Breakfast</u> Saturday 8:00a.m. Memorial in Rock City <i>Contact Fred Novak</i> 758-2915	
Invite a friend!	

Service Opportunities	
<u>Crafty Christians</u> Tuesday January 10 11:00a.m. – 1 p.m. at Third in Rhinebeck <i>Upper Meeting Room</i> <i>Immediately following the 10 a.m. Bible study</i> <i>Contact Carol Cronk</i> 845-889-4168 <i>Specific schedule to be determined at this session.</i>	<u>Children's Community</u> <u>Clothes Closet</u> 1st & 3rd Fridays January 6 & 20 February 3 & 17 9:30a.m – 1:00p.m. at Third Rhinebeck <i>Contact Carol Cronk</i> 845-889-4168

END OF YEAR MESSAGE FROM YOUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT FOR SAINT PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

As we look back on 2016 I am thankful and encouraged by the faithful service of the many members of the Body of Christ that year in and year out are willing to lend their varied gifts and talents to help insure that the Word is proclaimed and evident to all those that may visit or make their home here at Saint Paul's. Also encouraging are the strengthening bonds that continue to develop with members of the Lutheran Parish of Northern Dutchess as we come together in worship and fellowship.

2016 was a very eventful year. Aside from the annual events such as Hardscrabble Day, Apple blossom festival and our Oktoberfest dinner we also had the opportunity to participate in many Parish wide activities not the least of which was the Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society fundraiser at the Dutchess County Fair where we raised in excess of \$5000.00 for a very worthy cause, and just as important had a fun time gathering with and getting to know other members of our parish.

It was also a productive year as we came together in stewardship of our many facilities. A special word of thanks to Rich and Betty Dill for their generous donations that made many of the improvements possible.

We made great strides paying down our debt resulting from our roof and steeple renovation. This was made possible in large part through the sale of one of our subdivided properties. The proceeds were used to pay the lawyers and realty fees and replenish funds borrowed from the endowment and pay back loans from several of our generous parishioners. We are closer to completely paying down our debt which is good, but we must keep in mind that there are several costly and necessary projects on the not too distant horizon, replacing the asbestos roofing on the parsonage and parish hall roofs just to name one.

It was also a year of surprises and some sadness as Pastor Will tendered his resignation and moved back home with Molly and Ryan to facilitate and assist Molly answering her call to serve. We can, however, celebrate what I believe to be true, that there is more love in this place now, then when he first arrived. Well done Pastor Will Starkweather. We now embark on a new path as we seek to call another minister to guide us along the way that is Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Stephen Bucala

ANNUAL MEETING

Our annual meeting is scheduled for February 5th after church and it is very important we all attend. Lunch will be served. The revised constitution that we will vote on was sent out to the congregation via email, so please take some time to review and make your vote an informed one.

Also the annual reports are now due. Please get them to Chris Murray or Mary Lou Williams as soon as possible.

Yours in Christ ,
Stephen Bucala



January					
1	Bob Unson	10 Vineyard Court	Tivoli	NY 12583	
5	Uri Marcos	7460 South Broadway	Red Hook	NY 12571	child
5	Edra Marcos	7460 South Broadway	Red Hook	NY 12571	child
5	Debra Kazantzis	10 Poplar Court	Kingston	NY 12401	
7	Nabil Ayoub	7460 S. Broadway	Red Hook	NY 12571	
8	Laura Donegan	44 Trestle Lane	Clinton Corners	NY 12514	
12	Rev. Dennis O'Rourke	16 Rondout Harbor	Port Ewen	NY 12466	
13	Charlie Lueck	1 Locust Tree Drive	Red Hook	NY 12571	child
14	Ryan Wright Starkweather	35 Livingston Street	Rhinebeck	NY 12572	
15	Glen Murray	39 Hampton Court	Clinton Corners	NY 12514	
21	Emma Walker	45 Benner Road	Red Hook	NY 12571	
23	Rob Frey	44 Jefferson Road	Red Hook	NY 12571	
24	Steve Semke	7 Winding Brook Lane	Rhinebeck	NY 12572	
February					
1	Christine Murray	39 Hampton Court	Clinton Corners	NY 12514	
9	Alexandra Piaget	22 Hoffman Woods Road	Red Hook	NY 12571	child
10	Ian Bucala	31 Grandmour Drive	Red Hook	NY 12571	
12	Marshall McConville	789 Spring Lake Road	Red Hook	NY 12571	
18	Don Campbell	22 Country Club Drive	Red Hook	NY 12571	
20	Pat Holden	7460 S. Broadway	Red Hook	NY 12571	
20	Michael Edward Semke	7 Winding Brook Lane	Rhinebeck	NY 12572	child
20	Madyson Semke	7 Winding Brook Lane	Rhinebeck	NY 12572	child
25	Mary Lou Williams	53 Sunrise Drive	Red Hook	NY 12571	
25	Ruth Queen	23 Cambridge Drive	Red Hook	NY 12571	
26	Gladys Putnam	3 Sunset Terrace	Red Hook	NY 12571	

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT @ THIRD

Happy New Year!

We often pause during this transition from one year to the next to reflect on the activities and events of the past year and look forward to what lies ahead. Carl has already mentioned some of the reflection in his message and more will be included in the annual report to the congregation. For the moment I would simply like to say thank you for who you are and for all you have done: for Third, for the Parish, for the community and beyond.

For now let's focus on the year ahead. Good things have been and continue to happen with pastoral coverage. The Call Committee is meeting with Pastor Koran from Synod in a joint training session with the Call Committee from St. John's Poughkeepsie on January 8. Vicar Jim will continue his current service as stated Supply Pastor through March 2017 and pastoral care needs are being met by Pastors Sonja Maclary, Justin Johnson, and Tobias Anderson. Please remember that pastors don't somehow "just know" that you are hospitalized, ill, or for some other reason may wish to hear from the pastor. As a result of HIPAA laws, information is no longer freely shared with pastors by hospitals, nursing homes, and other care providers. So, should you desire pastoral conversation or a visit, please contact Pastor Sonja directly at 845-389-2481 or contact me.

On Tuesday January 10 Pastor Sonja will lead a Bible study at 10:00AM at Third and at that time coordinate with participants as to a mutually agreeable schedule for an ongoing study. Watch for further scheduling updates. All are encouraged and invited to participate.

In keeping with what has become a consistent theme in my communications: *the faith workout*. With the transition to a new year, it's once again time to recommit ourselves to:

- 1) Increased participation in regular Sunday worship.
- 2) Building faith through exposure and study of Scripture.
- 3) Inviting others to participate in worship, study, service, and/or fellowship.

See you in church!

God Bless,

Monica C. Gabryszewski

Third Council President 914-475-6613 gabrymc@frontiernet.net





*O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light*



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LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS

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**Dated Material Address Correction Requested
THE SEASONS OF CHRISTMAS & EPHIPHANY & LENT**



LUTHERAN PARISH OF NORTHERN DUTCHESS

**SEE INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OTHER UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Lenten Services and Events

Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage Supper

Feb. 28 at 6:00 p.m. @ Memorial

Ash Wednesday

March 1

Soup & Sandwich Supper & Worship Service

Details being developed. Stay tuned for updates.

Wednesday Evening Services in Red Hook

details to be announced

Parish Council President: Carl Dowden
Memorial Lutheran, Rock City, Council
President: Fred Novak

Sunday Holy Communion 8:30 am

St. Paul's Lutheran, Red Hook, Council
President: Steven Bucala

Sunday Holy Communion 11:00 am

Third Lutheran, Rhinebeck,
Church Council President:

Monica C. Gabryszewski

Sunday Holy Communion 9:45 am

Vicar James Miller