

Dear Flock:

Last month, we had a marvelous event called *On the Way: Lutherans and Catholics Together*. Seven Lutheran and Catholic congregations in Moline came together to have a fine event that brought 250 interested people out. In it, we heard from Bishop Lowell Almen, current co-chair of the Lutheran Catholic Dialogue in the U.S. speak about the progress toward reconciliation between the two churches, we worshipped together in a stirring service at First Lutheran, and several people gathered to build porches at five homes in the Floricente neighborhood sponsored by Habitat for Humanity. In the weeks around this event, people from our congregation have read and studied the *On the Way* document that has been produced between the two churches. Finally, in our Destiny Book Group, we read a Luther Biography, *Luther the Reformer*. All this came about in observance of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation....October 31, 2017

So, what do you think our stewardship theme is this year? It's *On the Way*! Our committee thought, "Why would we not use these themes of 500 years of Lutheran spirituality, renewed ecumenical hope, and people coming together to make things happen?" We are *On the Way* to 2018 years of Christian spirituality in the world. We are *On the Way* to whatever new thing God is doing in the Church. We are *On the Way* to working in Christ's Church in the next year.

To that end, Stewardship Sunday will be Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, when we will make our financial pledges to the Church for the coming year. As you know, the pledges we make will help to craft a realistic budget for 2018. During the weeks ahead, we'll hear in temple talks about the work of the Church in all three arenas in the ELCA; Church wide, synodical, and congregational that will help us see the bigger picture of what all our offerings do. We are one Church that has different areas of work at local, regional, national, and worldwide levels and it's always *On the Way* to something!

Please consider prayerfully what you think you'll be able to give in 2018. Stretch if you can. Know full well that every dollar given to the Church is carefully used for Christ's mission in the world. And make your pledge on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

Yours,

Pastor Dan