

Word from Bishop Rindy:

Ah, Spring! The words sound so sweet...

Yet the Lenten journey continues. The way of the Cross is still before us. Dr. Harry Wendt, of Crossways International, says, "If we want to follow Jesus, we need to look good on wood." I see the cross manifesting itself in the lives of those who give of themselves for the sake of others; often times for people they don't even know. It's what a child of God does in following Christ. Some are laying sandbags, others give of their life and time by feeding those doing the heavy lifting. The cross of Christ for each of us can take many shapes. Yet the mystery of it all is that when we lay down our lives for the sake of others, we truly find LIFE. Sometimes we are even able to be joyful in our giving and in so doing, we reflect the image of the God by whom we were created. Imagine that.

Water may threaten buildings, but the Church stands strong. Even though water has threatened to destroy their community, the people of God at Zion Lutheran in Churchs Ferry are seeking to find a way to further the mission of God's Church, even as they are facing the difficult task of bringing the ministry at that place to a close. The members of Maple-Sheyenne Lutheran are looking to help NDSU's campus ministry even as they are canoeing in-and-out of their own homes. These, along with many others throughout our synod, are inspiring me and others as they keep the mission of God in front of them. Imagine that.

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The "Extra Mile" continues through May. Thank you so much for going the extra mile for the sake of our ministry partners! We will wrap up this journey in May, with our mission partner ministries continuing on strong because of your support. Some goals have been reached (motorcycles for the C.A.R.), while others are ongoing. You are making a difference both locally and globally. In addition, keep Diane Billie and pastors Randy Schlecht and Chad Brucklacher in your prayers as they represent us in the Central African Republic. Upon their return, consider inviting them to share their stories of what God is doing through our ministry together.

Financial realities continue to shape the way in which we do ministry together. Our synod assembly will be very important in the life of our synod for the future. Keep our church, our synod, and our synod council in prayer. God is continuing to shape us into the image of Jesus. I look forward to the day when Christ is fully formed in all of us.

Even in the midst of many challenging things, God's work through our hands is so evident. I thank God for the privilege of serving along side of you all; for the staff who serves you so well; for the grace and mercy you have shown me as I seek to live out this call faithfully. God is good; all of the time.

Ah, Spring!



Pastor Bill Rindy

Serving as Bishop of the Eastern North Dakota Synod



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