

**BLESSINGS ALWAYS**  
**July 3, 2020**  
**Association Minister Message**  
**Rev. Daniel L. Busch**

RESCUE. St. Paul writes to the church at Rome (chapter 7), *"I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate...Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"* I am rather perplexed, confused and (I admit) judgmental these days of those who are not, *in my opinion*, being safe. It has to do with keeping my distance and wearing a mask and observing others who disregard doing the same. Out in public I do consciously wear a mask and keep a safe distance from others. I have noticed some people just glare at me as if I am overreacting to the covid. There are some, though, who have a guilt look that they, too, should be wearing a mask. Many just seem oblivious or indifferent. I am choosing to be cautious. Churches are making decisions either to resume in-person worship or remain closed and provide worship in different ways. It has been difficult and lonely being isolated from others. We have experienced all kinds of isolation when we avoid others or when we are not welcomed by others because we look, talk or act different than each other. *"Who will RESCUE me from this body of death?"* Paul's words remind us of the struggle we have: we want to do good but do not; we do things that hurt others or ourselves. It is more than having good intentions. Our actions betray us when we act in ways that harm relationships or damage God's Creation. Actions can also convey respect and wanting safety for others. It is being responsible and is a reflection of God's love in us and in others, shared in ways that RESCUE us from all that would destroy life. It is important that we are all safe and that we make sure others are safe. RESCUE us, O God, from arrogance and thinking only of ourselves. *"Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"* BLESSINGS ALWAYS.