



Dear Friends,

Christmas has come. Once again, we are reminded of the miracle of God coming to earth in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Once again, we are reminded of how very much we are loved.

Recently I watched the film version of the book, [A Wrinkle in Time](#), by Madeleine L'Engle. It's the story of a spiritual journey undertaken by a young girl and her younger brother, searching for the father she idolizes and he has never known. Three mentors take them part of the way and then leave them to finish the journey. The mentors depart, leaving the girl with gifts; one gives her the gift of her faults – a seemingly odd gift. As the journey continues, the girl becomes discouraged, depressed and despondent; her brother gives up on her and the search, becoming alienated from both. In anger at her brother, she finally shouts all her faults at him – “I am impulsive, I am impatient, I hate my hair,” etc. etc., finishing her tirade with the statement, “and in spite of all this, you still love me.” Reminding one another of the love they share in spite of any and all faults, brings the journey to its happy conclusion and the return of their father. I found this scene a metaphor for God's love; recalling my faults and limitations reminds me that God STILL loves me with a love that never wavers.

It sustains me, making it not only possible but imperative that I continue the work God has given me to do on my particular journey, loving and serving as Jesus did.

This week as I pondered the Christmas miracle, I was also feeling the loss of our beloved Rector – our mentor and leader for three tumultuous years. And I was reminded that no matter the giant emptiness where Lyn was, our shared love of one another and of God will sustain us to do the work God has given us to do, loving and serving God as faithful witnesses of Jesus, our Lord who came to bring light into our darkness and teach us The Way to be the people God created us to be, faults, limitations and all.

As we enter this New Year, painfully aware of our own faults, losses and limitations, John and I thank God daily for all who are on this journey with us. God can use our weaknesses as well as our strengths, transforming loss into blessing as we live into where and to what God is calling us in 2019.

With grateful hearts, your Wardens,
John and Rhoda



Announcements, 12/30/18

USHERS NEEDED! Be the face of welcome for those visiting St. Paul's by helping people to feel comfortable in our worship services. Hand out bulletins, pass offering plates and help people to know when to come up for communion. Express our value of abundant hospitality. To sign up, talk to Pony Davis, ponydavis@comcast.net or 970-443-0547

SAVE THE DATE: FFH TRAINING: on January 14 at 7 PM at Trinity Lutheran. Four faith communities will be coming together for this training: Trinity Lutheran, Ft. Collins Friends, Mary of Magdala, and St. Paul's. Annette Zacharias, Executive Director of FFH, will be presenting information on all things FFH. If you haven't met Annette, she has been a driving force for caring for homeless families through this program. She is a fun, dynamic speaker.

FOOD BANK VOLUNTEERS, SAVE THE DATES: Wednesday, January 16, 9-11 am and Friday, February 22, 1-3 pm. Any questions, please contact Jo Baietti at 970-223-1686 or the_baiettis@hotmail.com

TLC BOOK GROUP: Members of MOM and SPE are invited to join the Trinity book group on Monday, January 7th, at 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room to discuss The Book of Joy. Two global heroes, the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, look for answers to one burning question: How do we find joy in the face of life's inevitable suffering? Questions? Call Nadine Hunt at 825-3730.

SIGN UP FOR THE E-PISTLE, St. Paul's online newsletter. If you are not already receiving the E-pistle, please email Laurie Gudim, roseanlaurie@gmail.com. You can also grab it from our website, www.stpauls-fc.org. The link is under the "Connections" tab.