

Sept/Oct/Nov 2017 Cover Letter by Vicar Micki Kautz

Vicar's View while facing the Pews:

As I begin to write this article, I am sitting in my computer room in a long sleeve shirt with the air conditioner off and trying to decide if I should close the door to minimize the wind coming in. It is almost chilly. Wasn't it just one week ago that I had the ceiling fans working full time, the air conditioner running over time, and I couldn't wait until the pool opened after lunch. How things change in just one short period of time?

Autumn – the third season of the year when crops and fruits are gathered and the leaves begin to change and fall. This is what the season of autumn does for all of us – it brings about change. It is visible when we look across the fields and see the farmers harvesting the fruits of their labors that will be shared with all of us. We observe that the colors are changing in our lawns and in the trees. We also notice a change in activity around the school districts as everyone anticipates the first day of school: Aug 21 for Carlisle, Aug 22 -Camp Hill; Aug 24 -Trinity; and Sept 5 – Northern.

As a parent, grandparent or an average active human being, the end of August brings about change on the calendar by what we plan with our children, grandchildren, and friends. Starting in late August or the beginning of September, the list may include playing cards once a month with our girlfriends on the first Monday of the month, the bowling league on the 2nd Thursday, the Bible Study on the 3rd Wednesday, council and parish meetings on the 2nd Tuesday, and then we need to schedule the sporting events like soccer games, field hockey games and of course football games and band competitions. Does it cross your mind to schedule worship or is that just an automatic thing that happens on Sunday mornings?

Then there are the changes within family, changes in job situations, changes in financial accountability, changes with home locations and the list can go on and on. It is hard not to get caught up in each activity as it changes, but we become weary about worrying over each change. It is important to remember that with God's help we can do anything.

As the month of September 2017 approaches, you will begin to hear about changes in Faith United Lutheran Parish. Emmanuel, Franklinton, will be initiating the painful process of making changes within the church. This change is not welcomed but necessary. Since Lutherans are not known for being flexible, this change will be a difficult one whether you are a member of that church or not. Ecclesiastes 3:1(New Revised Standard Version) tells us that everything has its time. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven". During this time of transition, it is important for everyone to be understanding and supportive of each other.

Here are some additional changes to place on your calendars: September 3rd – Parish services @ Barren's 10:30; October 22 – Heritage Day parish services @St. Johns 10:45; October 29 – Reformation Sunday – 500th Anniversary; November 5th – All Saints Sunday ; December 3rd – 1st Sunday in Advent. Changes, changes, changes. Remember Hebrews 13: 8 – Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

It is best if we keep in mind Philippians 4:6-8: Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brother and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things.

Your servant, Vicar Micki