

## From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Congregational vitality is a topic that has been talked about quite often throughout the church in recent times. Bishop Jon Anderson has shared a list of responses that he received from Conference Deans in our synod concerning signs that indicate congregational vitality.

- \* A vital congregation is noisy. There is a holy buzz. A quiet church is often a sign of a dying church.
- \* A vital church is outward looking. It is interested in what is happening outside its walls. It gathers energy inside the congregation to be sent into God's world.
- \* In a vital congregation kids are asking the congregation to step up and be the church they are called to be.
- \* A vital congregation sees visitation as the work of the whole community.
- \* A vital congregation believes God brings new people to them.
- \* A vital community of faith is willing to take risks. It has a vision and it works to get to them.
- \* Vital congregations find ways to involve children in the worship service – as readers, greeters, ushers, etc.
- \* Vital congregations try new things. They are willing to share new models of ministry that might serve this time better.
- \* Vital communities of faith share their buildings with 12 step groups, their community, and with other communities of faith.
- \* Vital congregations help their neighbors, valuing those younger and older. They notice and appreciate gifts from others.

Many of these signs of congregational vitality can be seen within the congregations that are a part of our ACT Parish. Thank you for all of the many things that so many of you have done, and continue to do, in order to make our churches vital and vibrant places of worship, ministry, and mission.

May we continue to strengthen our relationships with God, nurture our relationships with each other, and maintain a strong presence in our communities. May we continue to work together to share the good news of the Gospel in word and deed, and may we continue to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.



Meeting  
March 8th



March 7th, 6:30 pm

at St. John's Church

Bring your favorite appetizer.

Beverages provided.

Teams will be formed that night.

### Lenten Services Schedule

6:00-6:45 Supper

#### March

7:00 Service

4th at St. John's & Hope

11th at Mamrelund & Hope

18th at St. John's & Hope

25th at Mamrelund & Hope

#### April

1st at St. John's & Hope



March

8th

### Spring Hotdish

Dinner & Bake Sale

Sunday, April 19th

Sign up sheet for our Spring  
Hotdish Dinner in the basement.



Maundy Thursday

7 pm at Hope

Good Friday

Worship 7 pm at

Bethesda

Holy Week

### March Holidays to celebrate

1st National Pig Day

3rd What if Cats and Dogs had opposable thumbs  
day.

5th Potty Dance Day

9th Get over it day

13th National open an umbrella inside day.

14th Potato chip day

22nd International Goof off day

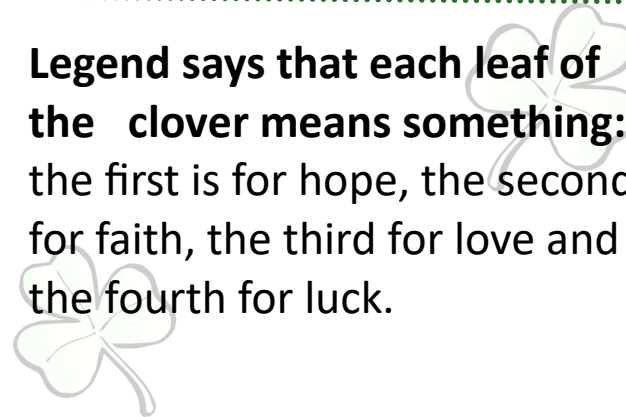
23rd OK day

24th National Chocolate Covered Raisin's Day

26th Make up you own holiday day

31st National She is funny that way day.

Legend says that each leaf of  
the clover means something:  
the first is for hope, the second  
for faith, the third for love and  
the fourth for luck.



Riddle of the month:

How can a pants pocket  
be empty and still have

