

Bishop's Office Message for June

Dear Partners in Ministry,

"And suddenly from heaven there came the sound like the rush of a violent wind....Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them." (Acts 2:2 NRSV) We have come to the end of the Easter Season. We observe the Ascension of our Lord on May 25, and now Pentecost stirs our hearts once again as we celebrate the release of the Holy Spirit into the hearts of fearful disciples. Resurrection is a hard sell. Death is always easier to accommodate than life. Even after seeing the risen Christ, the disciples needed the power of the Holy Spirit to move them out of their protective shell into the midst of a hurting world that clung to death.

We will gather as a synod in convention on June 8-11 to, among other things, elect a new bishop. We will celebrate Trinity Sunday together at the convention and begin the growing season of Pentecost as we return to our home congregations. Please pray for the convention, and for the person God is leading to become the next bishop of our synod. Like the first disciples, we need the power of the Holy Spirit to lead us out into our world, sharing the Good News of Resurrection in the face of death and hopelessness. May God empower us to be the church "out there". I thank you for the prayers which have sustained me in this office over the past 12 years. Uphold your new bishop in prayer. One cannot do this ministry without it.

In Christ,

+Stephen P. Kristenson, Bishop
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