



## Message from Pastor Tim

### *July 2011: Seeing Abundance*

*"And Moses said, "When the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because the LORD has heard the complaining that you utter against him — what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against the LORD." Exodus 16:8*

Whenever I think about the congregational transition between clergy, I am drawn to the stories about the Children of Israel in their march between the slavery of Egypt and the promise of the Holy Land. Having done a couple of these transitions I can see that there are some similarities. During times of transition it often times seems like we are wandering in the desert. The sights are not familiar...familiar is behind us, the place where we used to be. And the promise of the Holy Land, the land of milk and honey, is just that...a promise.

Most of the time on that trip is spent in the desert. The desert is a place of scarcity. When the children of Israel were on their walk, all they could see was how little water, how little food, how little security they had. But Moses spoke a word of divine abundance—of quail in the evening and manna in the morning—that silenced their muttering and revealed a God of bounty and faithfulness.

Seeing abundance when others see only scarcity is an act of faithfulness. It is to fly in the face of what others consider self-evident, limiting and problematic. Those who see abundance see possibility and future while others dwell on caution, security and practically. Seeing abundance allows one to remain hopeful and gives one the courage to be venturesome and bold.

When congregations are in transition we are never quite sure of the ETA for the end of our journey. From my experience as an Intentional Interim Pastor, I would estimate us to be currently somewhere just past the halfway point. The Transition Team has completed the Ministry Site Profile. Our Bishop will be with us on Sunday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at both of our worship services to share the good news of the divine abundance of God. Between services he will be with us in the fellowship hall for a time of questions and answers. Following the 10:30 worship service he will be meeting with the Transition Team, Call Committee, and Church Council to review and finalize the Ministry Site Profile. Following that meeting he will be doing an orientation session with the Call Committee. There are some things the Call Committee needs to do to organize themselves, but I would expect that Call Committee could be receiving names of potential clergy candidates by sometime in August. Then the interviews begin.

It is a time of continued prayer. It is a time of remembering in prayer the person that God is already working on the heart of to become the next Pastor of LCOS. It is a time of prayer for the Call Committee as they go through the task of discerning the work of the Holy Spirit in this process.

But primarily it is a time of seeing abundance. The opposite of faith is not doubt, as we often suppose, but fear. For the root of "faith" is trust. When we cannot fully trust, we fall into a fearfulness that seeks to preserve, protect and control the world around us. Drawing in on ourselves, we close ourselves off to the world around us. We go into a fortress of self-preservation. If we are to be faithful witnesses to the Gospel, then it requires that we resist the urge to preserve and open ourselves instead to the abundance of God. When we trust in the fullness of God's bounty, there will always be enough, and more than enough.

I pray that we, as faithful witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus, might always be able to see the abundance of God, especially as we make this transition journey between pastors. **Pastor Tim**

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