

## **Faith Notes for Friday from Pastor Ron**

March 25<sup>th</sup> is a special day on the Christian's calendar: nine months from now is Christmas. The story of the Angel Gabriel announcing the birth of Jesus is recorded in Luke 1:26-38. In verse 31, Gabriel delivers God's creative, powerful word: "Now you will conceive in your womb and bear a son and name him Jesus." As we look forward to the mighty word of God that raises us from the dead in the Easter proclamation, may we pray together for openness like Mary's to hear God's creative word in our lives now too. God's Word does amazing things!

*O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, that we, who have known the incarnation of your Son, Jesus Christ, announced by an angel, may by his cross and Passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

**We are more than half through Lent!** But those words we heard on Ash Wednesday are still ringing in my ears: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return, and from this dust you shall rise again through God's grace in Jesus Christ!"

**Here is an idea for Greening Zion: Composters Connecting with Compost Collectors!** With spring gathering strength in the melting snow, why not think about composting? Mildred has been bringing her compost to the church for years—I am now the happy recipient, adding her contribution to our back-alley compost bin every week. It makes good, rich soil for our back yard flowerbeds and fruit trees! Here's the idea: if you are a composter (or want to be), let us know at the office. If you are willing to collect your compost but have no way of composting it yourself, let us know at the office. We will connect composters with compost collectors and the power of nature will do the rest!

**This Sunday is called "Laetare,"** Latin meaning "Rejoice!" The Band (Rosine, Dennis, and Ron) are leading contemporary worship. The Gospel is Luke 15:11-32 ("The Prodigal Son") and the companion Epistle is 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:16-21 ("If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation!") Centuries ago, The Church began giving out roses to people who had lived exemplary faith. Perhaps you have someone who could use a rose right now? This is also the Sunday when older children and adults preparing for baptism at Easter were allowed to stay in church to hear the reading of the Gospel and the sermon and share in the confession of faith in the Apostles' Creed and join in the Lord's Prayer—for the first time ever in their lives! "Rejoice! Rejoice! I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord!" Those who trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which can never be removed."

Joy in Jesus, rbb+ P.S. Thanks for your prayers for my recovery from covid!