News and Notes

Where all are welcome!

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DON'T FORGET: ***This Sunday*** **(Feb. 26) we will create Alleluia posters between the services, to be placed in storage until Easter. Some art supplies will be provided; feel free to bring you own as well!**

Lenten Study Options 2017

OPTION ONE

In last week's *Epistle*, there was a notice that on Sundays in Lent there will be a study offered between the services (9:10 – 9:45 AM).
We start on March 5 (First Sunday in Lent).

The book is *Christ Is For Us – A Lenten Study Based on the Revised Common Lectionary*, by April Yamasaki.

OPTION TWO

In addition, to the Sunday morning series, we have copies of *Lenten Meditations 2017* from Episcopal Relief and Development. This year's theme is "Living Faithfully in Community." You will find these in the church and in the office to pick up: the *readings begin March 1* (Ash Wednesday). You can also sign up for daily emails, too.

OPTION THREE

The brothers at the Society of St John the Evangelist (SSJE) are offering a daily meditation via email along with a workbook that you can *download for free*, on the theme "The Five Marks of Love." The course BEGINS THIS SUNDAY, February 26. We encourage this as an individual or group exercise (and invite you to establish your own group to work together.)

This *six-week series* invites us to observe and reflect on the ways in which the Divine Life expresses itself in and through us; individually and in our faith communities, as well as in the world around us. Week by week we will explore each of the Anglican Communion's five "Marks of Mission" (Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform, and Treasure) through videos, questions, and exercises designed to help us speak clearly and act truthfully, motivated always by hearts marked by God's love. We Brothers of SSJE believe that the Marks of Mission are actually "Marks of Love," signs that God's love is making its mark on us, and through us, on the world in which we live.

We are eager to share with others our experience that these Marks of Love are not a list of tasks to be checked off; rather they are signs that our life is rooted and grounded in the Being of God. Therefore throughout the series, we will reflect not on what we should do, but on how we should live. We will draw on our own monastic spirituality to suggest how we all can balance action with contemplation, so that our words and deeds proceed from the deepest places of our hearts, where God dwells.

This series is designed for use *by individuals and small groups*. Small group facilitators are invited to download the series facilitator's guide to help you encourage participants to discuss and learn together. For individuals, be sure to check out the *workbook and online video content*, which will guide your own exploration. All materials and videos are *free online* and as downloads at 5marksoflove.org.

By the series' end, we hope you will feel ready to offer yourself, body and soul, to God's Mission, and to live for God's glory.

Yours in Christ,
David Vryhof, SSJE
Director of Formation and facilitator of "5 Marks of Love"