



Pastoral Update—July 17, 2020

*“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...”* Ephesians 3:15



**Peace Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:  
where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console,  
to be understood as to understand,  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive,  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

This prayer is attributed to the Saint Francis of Assisi. At the age of 20 he devoted himself to a life of prayer, embraced a life of poverty, and dedicated himself to God. Francis was a lover of nature. He is the patron saint of those who care for plants and animals. Hence, the picture of the squirrel.

My sister sent this picture to me from her yard in WI, and it gave me joy! I love squirrels and miss their silly antics in my bird bath and watching them bury nuts in the fall. I also love St. Francis. He’s my favorite saint even though Lutherans don’t venerate saints! Martin Luther teaches us we are both saints and sinners. A saint is simply a forgiven sinner. That’s why this prayer resonates with me. Try as we might to do good, as St. Paul writes in Romans 7, there is always the opposite in us at the ready. This is a good prayer for such a time as this. I wish you all things St. Francis, squirrels, and the peace that surpasses understanding.

With love,  
*Pastor Andrea*