“It Takes All of Us”

Happy Wednesday Everyone!

 I’m excited…after several months of having to postpone because of ongoing renovations, tonight we are gathering for our first LIGHT Night. LIGHT is an acronym for “Leading In Greater Harmony Together.” Another way of saying that is “it takes all of us.”

 God is up to all kinds of exciting things at Bethlehem! Our physical space has changed considerably and is still changing. We’ve rebranded with a new logo, website, and mission statement. We have started new programs like two new bible studies (Beer & Bible and the bible study that’s currently exploring the book of Revelation) and the “Transformation Lab” process, and we’re preparing to resurrect some programs that were previously an important part of Bethlehem’s ministry like our youth ministry. These are definitely exciting times.

 Whether you have engaged at Bethlehem for a long time, a short time, or no time at all, you are welcome to join us for LIGHT Night this evening. We will have a meal from 5:30-6:30pm. During that meal time, I (Pastor Vern) will give a walkthrough of meeting times, as well as our new website (in case you haven’t had time to explore that yet). From 6:30-7:15 three of our ministry teams will have a meeting. Then from 7:15-8pm our other three ministry teams will meet.

 Here is where “it takes all of us…” Each of you have a gift! Maybe your gift connects to worship. Maybe your gift connects to Finances. Maybe your gift connects to outreach & mission. Maybe your gift connects to caring for young people. Each person reading this reflection has a gift. There is no such thing as a person who “doesn’t have a gift.” And friends, “it takes all of us.” When Mandy and I were brand new parents we were so thankful for the community of people that made us food, brought us gifts of diapers and wipes. People who volunteered to sit with our little one so that we could get some much needed rest. And when I thanked a family friend one day as she dropped a meal off to us, she said something that still rings in my ear, “it takes a village.”

 It does take a village. “It takes all of us.” We are created for life and relationship; for worship and prayer; for service and for action…together. “It takes all of us.” Church isn’t an individual, it’s not a pastor, or a council, or a ministry team. It’s a community of people on a journey together. It’s not part of that community. It’s all of that community. “It takes all of us.” I’m mindful of a little tune I learned in my early years in Sunday School, “I am the church. You are the church. We are the church, together.”

 So, I hope you will join us this evening. If nothing else, come to enjoy a meal, and if you’re so willing, bring a curiosity with you about where you can share your gift, whatever that might be. Because you are gifted. We all are gifted. And “it takes all of us.”

Let your light shine!

Pastor Vern