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*"...that they may be  
encouraged in heart  
and united in love..."*  
Colossians 2.2 (NIV)

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Dear friends,

We can finally proclaim, "Christ is risen!" We have journeyed through another Lent. We have unburied the Alleluias. We (maybe) have packed up the eggs and baskets. And, if we are really good, we have had a few days of vacation AND cleaned our offices; ready to move into the next season.

When I served as an Associate Pastor, one of the areas I focused on was Faith Formation. Another colleague made the comment that it must be nice to have the summers off from Sunday School. The reality is that, when we serve in faith formation and family ministry, there is no down time. We move from one season to the next. We go from Easter to Pentecost Confirmation services, graduation celebrations to Vacation Bible School and back to fall planning. It is a rhythm that we grow into. Season after season.

I had another conversation with a doctoral student looking for a definition of faith formation. How do we take everything we do, from birth to death, and summarize it into a single sentence? Faith formation begins in the home. Faith formation includes milestones and every day activities. Faith formation focuses on growing the faith practices as we continue to grow disciples. It is an ongoing journey. Season after season.

How do you explain to a non-believer what you do? How do you define Faith Formation? Be sure to visit the Christian Education Network of the ELCA Facebook group to share your answers and continue the conversation.

And enjoy this Easter celebration as we proclaim Christ has triumphed!

Peace and joy!

The Rev. Juli Lejman-Guy, President