

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On Monday, I watched a segment on WEAU Channel 13 entitled, "Starting Seeds." Diana Alfuth, UW-Extension Horticulture Educator in Pierce County, talked about how and when you can be starting seeds.

Here are some of her suggestions [with a few of my notes added in brackets]--

- * Fill clean containers [recyclable ones are great] with a moistened potting mix made for seedlings. (Do not use regular potting soil.)
- * Follow the directions on the seed packet.
- * Cover containers with a transparent cover, or use plastic wrap with holes poked in it to keep them from drying out.
- * Use a mist bottle to water them.
- * After the seedlings grow, take off the plastic covering and move them to bright sunlight.
- * After the seedlings get a second pair of leaves, they are ready to move to pots.
- * Move the seedlings to the new pots filled with potting soil, and water well.
- * Move the seedling pots out of direct sunlight for a few days [while they get acclimated].
- * Wait two weeks before transplanting them in the garden.

As you know, yesterday was the first day of spring! As we look forward to warmer days, now is the time that we can begin planning and mapping out our flower beds and gardens. Our local libraries have many books and resources to assist you. The Ontario Public Library also has a display entitled, "Seed Library."

Now is the time that we can begin planting seedlings, as we think about the new life that will be lifted up from them. For as we hear in our sermon today, the seed will die, yet it will bear much fruit. How fitting during this Lenten season, for us to think about that which must die in order for new life to begin.

As we walk with Jesus during these 40-days, we know that this is a time of preparation that will open our minds and hearts to what lies ahead. For we have heard the wonderful story before--Jesus will die and rise again, not once, but twice (his resurrection and his ascension). Jesus will die, so that all may know of his forgiveness, grace, and gift of eternal life. Thanks be to God.

Peace,
Pastor Cathy

