



## **Rector's Essay - Celebrate the Start of Summer with Abundance!**

By Jarrett Kerbel (05/29/26)

A small joy of my Memorial Day weekend was discovering five volunteer apple trees in my meadow just below our porch. My best guess is that these apple tree saplings are the product of some apple cores I chucked off the porch after a snack. In the way of God's abundant nature, the seeds germinated and I now have saplings to plant in our apple orchard.

After decades of gardening and forestry I have observed that super-abundance is the way of nature when left on her own. My struggle in my forest is not with too few trees. My struggle is with the outrageous fecundity of maple helicopter seeds, acorns from oaks, pine cones, popple roots, and ash samaras. Trees sprout everywhere and vie for the sunlight. For me, it is a joy to dig up the saplings to plant where they are most needed and to thin out crowding.

Abundance is God's way with the world. We humans deface that abundance with our sinful imposition of scarcity which is the product of greed, hoarding, willfulness, and the misdirection of resources. We have always had more than enough, and will always have enough, especially when the folks with too much learn to settle for just enough.

As a parish we will celebrate abundance as summer begins with a neighborhood picnic on May 31 and a Perennial Planting Sunday on June 7.

Our Picnic is a potluck. In my experience church potlucks never come up short! We always end up with a super-abundance of food. As such, the Kingdom of God is like a potluck. Whether you signed up to bring something to share or not, bring something to share! We will provide hot dogs and hamburgers, drinks and games as

well. Weather permitting we will be on the lawn. For inclement weather or a swarm of black flies we will be in the undercroft. For all who are bringing food to share, please drop it off in the kitchen before church and then retrieve and bring it to the picnic after church!

Perennial Planting Sunday is also a potluck of sorts. In this case, the pots are potted perennials that we will plant in our front garden and in the garden bed on the lower level. Up top we need full sun perennials - cone flower, daisy, black-eyed susan, sedum, bee balm, and phlox among others. If you are feeling super abundant - it would be great to have a forsythia or two and some winterberry or meadowsweet bushes. Double points for native plants like milkweed, yarrow, lupine, etc. Down below we need part-shade to shade plants especially: hostas, astilbes, lenten rose, huechera, jacobs ladder etc. For the children we will have a tray of annuals for them to plant. Wear your best gardening gear and bring a trowel and shovel. You can drop your plant donations by the church sign before worship!