



The Bridge

September 22, 2020

Encouraging thoughts from Silke Pyrlik, Spiritual Director

Unplugged - The Blessing of the 21st Century



Last week I talked about spiritual disciplines and how important they are to a God centered life. Prayer was only one of them.

Having an opportunity to visit one of the greatest National Parks the USA has to offer, namely Yellowstone NP, provides a host of options to practice other spiritual disciplines.

The sheer overwhelming beauty of Yellowstone naturally invites worship. I cannot imagine being engulfed in such stunning beauty of creation and not being in awe and worship of the creator, EVERY SINGLE DAY !

Now on a funny side, the idea of a fasting experience while in Yellowstone during a pandemic is not too far off since many campgrounds, lodges, stores and other facilities were closed.

It needed careful meal planning to enter that park for 8 days and nights but of course it was possible.

This careful planning naturally lead to a consciousness of the amount of food that was being consumed every day. No overeating, no senseless munching on junk. Every meal was prepared with joy and gratitude and then mindfully, prayerfully and even celebratory eaten.

This in turn lead to simplicity: on my flight to Bozeman, MT I had packed what was needed for a trip like this, but nothing more. A visit to the one open coin laundry was carefully planned into the trip, we only bought and stocked groceries that were needed for 8 days.

We had all we needed but zero surplus.

I knew ahead of time there is almost no cell phone reception or data access in Yellowstone. So my laptop stayed home. My phone was with me and occasionally I was able to sent off a very short "I am ok" message to Benny.

Speaking about the spiritual discipline of solitude, simplicity and quiet....what a blessing it has been to be unplugged! Most of us do not even realize that we are "on" 24/7, 365 days a year.

When was the last time you were not able to be reached by anyone? No phone, no text messages, no email, no news, no weather forecast, just NO/ZERO/Nada outside information whatsoever?

It was just you, creation and God?

It was almost funny....wondering if the sun would shine the next day or if it would rain/snow?

You can get the weather forecast while checking into new campgrounds because they have whiteboards with the weather forecast written on it (yes, hand written:-)) One day I was trying to read a board from a distance while in a socially distanced line with masks, I couldn't make out if it said "cold/sun" or "cold/snow"....so I walked closer to be able to determine and yes, sure enough it said "snow" after the day before we had about 80F.

That was surprising news, since no cell phone weather app had been able to forewarn us.

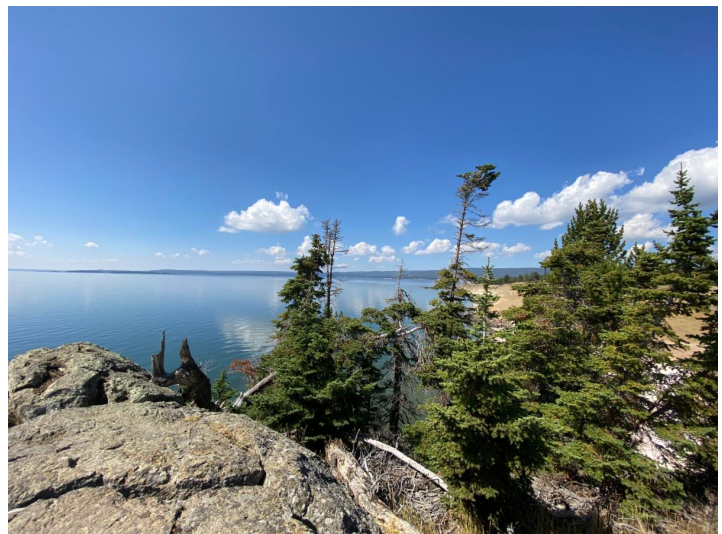
I cannot even start to tell you what that does to your soul! The deep level of relaxation (after an initial anxiety...I admit). We are not used to being unplugged, to being "off" anymore, but one will be able to reach a peaceful state of mind when voluntarily and happily unplugging to just BE. The ability to acknowledge that we are a "human BEing" and not a "human DOing" is a goal to work on.

When was the last time to tried to just sit, walk, hike, sleep totally unplugged, preferable for days, in peace and quiet and gratitude, no distraction for your overloaded mind? A time where you have to sit/walk with your thoughts and possibly an initially racing mind, that will calm and become quieter after a couple of days?

A prayerful and mindful time of solitude and simplicity is healing.

May the peace be with you, always!

Silke



**Next Sunday, September 27th,
we will bid Farewell and Godspeed
to:**

Gary and Kathy Reynolds

**during the 10am Worship Service.
Please Zoom in and stay for coffee hour!**

**Come to the church for an outside party
that afternoon from 4 to 6 pm.**

ELCA God's work. Our hands. Results:

On Sunday, September 13, we received many donations from our members towards the projects we had determined to get involved with.

- We received 3 beautiful and lovingly prepared and packed baby kits that Pastor will take with her to Columbia SC, to drop at the agency who is collecting and shipping them.
- We received about 60 lovingly homemade mask that also will be donated and given away (partly in our food pantry).
- We received \$1,510.00 for Malawi (Ministry of Hope Crisis Nursery)
- We received \$ 5,065.00 for our "Adopt-a-child" initiative. (Internet for HHI children who need it for online school).



A huge thank-you goes out to all participating members!

**Sarah DeMaria's mother, Leora Horst
Susie Fidler's friend, Brian Tandler
Steve Bassford
Victims of recent wildfires and hurricanes
Our nation living with many blessings and much
strife
The family and friends of Rita Hungate**



Memory Book for Rita's Family

Dr. Rita Hungate was a friend to all of us at CLC. The memories we have of her kindness, generosity, vast knowledge, and great sense of humor can be remembered. A Memory Book is a collection of individual memories written on a beautiful card, a piece of stationary or on the computer. I would like to collect these memories from you and place them into a "book" for Rita's family.

Please take a few minutes to remember Rita and write down your memory, send it to Susie Fidler or drop it off at the office. I will put them together give them to Steve. In this time of grief for all of us, let us show our love for one another! Thank you!

Susie Fidler

96 Toppin Drive
Hilton Head Island, SC 29926
ksfid@hotmail.com

Bible Study--Oct. 11 and 12!

Say Her Name: Naming the Witness of Nameless Women in the Bible.

In this study, we will examine the witness of several women in the Bible whose names were never given, but whose faith continues to inspire our own. We will consider together the stories of a few women who are well-known in the Christian community and some whose stories are nearly forgotten.

Pastor Mary will be offering this Bible Study for the Southeastern Synod (Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi) as part of their Lay School of Religion (via Zoom) on October 11th. She will offer it again for CLC on October 12th 5:00 - 6:30pm via Zoom. Hope you can come and invite your friends!

Help Support the Preschool

There are several easy ongoing ways to support the Preschool throughout the year.



* Link your Harris Teeter VIC card to our school. Our school number is 3175 But you can just tell the cashier the name of our school and they will find the code and link it for you! This only has to be done one time each year..and you are connected for the whole year!

* Go online to [KROGER.com](https://www.kroger.com) and you can link your Kroger card also.

* Save used ink cartridges for us.Staples pays us for each one we return!

Unfortunately we no longer collect BOX TOPS. The program is all digital now.

Thanks for your help. All these little things add up to savings for the Preschool!

CONNECTED starting back up on Sept. 30

After many, many months of navigating the pandemic and being unsure on how to proceed, the CONNECTED team met for several weeks to plan a CONNECTED experience.

On Sept. 23 at 6 pm the team will run a "dress rehearsal" CONNECTED with a few regular CONNECTED participants online via Zoom.

Depending on the outcome of this "dress rehearsal", CONNECTED will start back up either all online or combined with online and in-person small groups.

Please stay tuned for more information to come!

We will tackle the topic of "Racism in the USA" once again (historically, nowadays, and in the context of biblical interpretation).

A CONNECTED invite will be sent to everyone with the request to let us know if you plan to participate! Even though we don't have to plan a meal, we have to plan small groups (possibly in person or as break-out groups via Zoom).

Please help us by sending a RSVP to our CONNECTED invite!

We will have four CONNECTED sessions

(Sept. 30, Oct. 7, 14, and 21) before we re-evaluate if we can go on with in house CONNECTED encounters. That of course is still the plan in the long run. When all safety measures are in place, we will be ready to offer in-person CONNECTED meetings in Heinrichs Hall.

Disaster Relief Needs and Thank You's

As you are well aware, the wildfires out West and the hurricane damage in the Gulf have created great damage to structures, people, animals and landscapes. We continue to invite you to give to the ELCA's Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund. If you use the Tithe.ly app on our website by clicking on the green "GIVE" button, "Disaster Relief" is one of your options. We continue to pray for relief from all these disasters!

Remember back on March 3rd when tornadoes went through the Nashville area and completely destroyed St. John's Lutheran Church? We responded by collecting funds for them and forwarded our gifts to the Southeastern Synod office to help. This week, we received an update letter from Pr. Rick Roberts of St. John's. The congregation thanked us again for our support. They are meeting with an architect to re-build their sanctuary and remodel other areas of their church home. If you want to look at their progress, go to www.stjohnsnashville.org.

The road is long but God is indeed making all things new!

FINANCIAL UPDATE



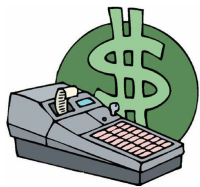
God continues to bless Christ Lutheran!

Remember, you can send your contributions to us by any of these three ways:

- By US Mail: Christ Lutheran Church
829 William Hilton Pkwy
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

Donate online at our website

- www.clchhi.org
by using the "Give" button.
- Donate via Vanco at vancopayments.com



Want to help our Church?

Are you gifted with a love of numbers and attention to detail? Your gifts would be put to good use as a Teller for Christ Lutheran.

Here's how it works:

Each Monday morning a team of two people count the offering that has been collected via mail and drop off during the previous week.

The two person team prepares the deposit and takes it to the bank. Contributions are then posted to individual accounts by another member of the team on Tuesday.

If this is a ministry that appeals to you, please contact Kathy Reynolds at 678-643-6261 or reynoldsglcp@yahoo.com to sign up.

THE CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 22	10 am Staff Meeting 1 pm Worship and Music Team
Wednesday, September 23	6 pm CONNECTED rehearsal
Thursday, September 24	9:30 am Preschool Chapel

**Friday, September 25 through Saturday, September 26
Pastor Mary will be in Columbia**

Monday, September 28

5:00 pm Faith Formations Group, Zoom



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

**The next Red Cross Blood Drive is
Thursday, October 8 from 11 am to 5 pm in
Heinrich's Hall.**

**To make your life-saving appointment,
go to redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor
code "HHCommunity". You can also phone 1-
800-733-2767. Thank you!**