



The Bridge

October 6, 2020

Encouraging thoughts by Silke Pyrlik, Spiritual Director

Cleaning out house - Letting the new emerge

As I am sitting on my sofa on a cloudy day in my favorite space in my house, the library/fireplace room, candles lit, a hot tea by my side, and wondering what to write about, I feel a slight unease.



I love this room; the quiet; the peace; the memories. And I know I will have to let it go. My house is on the market and will sell. It's a matter of time. It might go fast, faster than my feelings of attachment would want to....

And then what? (Please feel free to contact me if you should know someone who could help me out with a 6-12 months long term rental here on HHI:-) The house is the last thing to go, after I let go of the RV, the truck, the beloved Tesla, a lot of "stuff" in the house, my son off to college, my husband dead.

Within 18 months my life completely and totally changed. Except for my call at church nothing will stay the same.

And I would be a liar if I'd say that doesn't scare me. Yes it does. It's intimidating. It seems unfair. There is a part in me that just wants to go back, to the old, the known, the comfort zone, the familiar.

But I am also aware that my experience is called life. Life always changes. That's the one constant we know about life, it will change, all the time. And there is only one direction to move...and that's forward! There is no going back to how things used to be.

We live in times of great change. Not just in the USA, but worldwide. The 21 century and its information technology and connectivity have brought a major shift in the way of life for almost all people on the planet.

We live in an era of information profusion. We do not know what to believe anymore. We have so much information, but little substance. We have a ton of social media friends but no true connection.

It is no wonder that many of us wish back the security and safety of a time where things seemed to be easier, more familiar and supposedly better, and definitely without a worldwide pandemic.

Of course we are scared. We are full of fear of the unknown, the new, the unproven, the unfamiliar, the dangerous. It's human. It's normal. It's natural.

Nevertheless, the Bible is telling us about 365 times to "fear not". It is also full of stories about change, upheaval, trials, destruction and death, followed by the emergence of the new, fresh, different, and often better.

With a bit of distance, or let's say a lot of distance, like looking from space onto our beautiful planet, I'd like to believe that the unsettling times of division and fear we live in are "just" the big upheaval before a more conscious, caring, helpful, loving, sharing, fair and equal new world society has emerged.

We are all aware that "bad news are good news", bad news are what pays the bills for all news providing outlets.

Let's concentrate on the good, the beautiful, the new. Let's focus on the one thing that counters fear: LOVE.

There are only two primal feelings (all other feeling can trace back to those two feelings), and those are fear and love.

If I can stay in my routine to pray and meditate daily for at least 30 minutes, then I am nudged to remember LOVE. The love of God for me and my love for creation and life and that is all I need to counter the anxiety about an unknown, different, changed future.

Letting go of the old, cleaning out house (literally for me) can be painful and scary but it is also the only way to bring forth new life.

Surrendering to what is and to trust the flow of life and that God will guide our way in so many beautiful ways that we cannot even imagine is a very helpful exercise to find peace within times of uncertainty and change.

Any day I will choose love over fear! Consciously!

May the peace be with you, always!

Silke



Our Stewardship Campaign is now underway for the month of October under the theme of "Building a Culture of Generosity". This year, this very unusual year when it seems scarcity is everywhere, we are focusing on God's amazing abundance and our generous financial response to those gifts. We will reflect this season on Jesus' teaching, "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." (Matthew 6:21). This past Sunday Pastor Mary offered two personal stories of true Generosity at the beginning of our Zoom Worship Service. Here is a link to the video that captures these two stories - a video she entitled "Little White Envelopes".

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CDIoisB5Oc&feature=youtu.be>

We encourage you to take a few minutes and watch and listen again to Pastor Mary's two stories of Generosity.

Yours in Christ.

Joyce and John Prange

2020 Stewardship Appeal Co-Chairs

6+1 Sacred Time small groups coming soon!

A pandemic, social distancing, political turmoil and changes to every area of life have brought most of us to the limit of our patience, understanding and often sanity.

Christ Lutheran is inviting you to join a small (4-6 people) group, that will meet safely outside at a host's home to share burdens, sorrows, joys, hopes and the love of God.

These are supposed to be sacred conversations where the Holy Spirit (the plus one!) will be part of the meeting (6+1 sacred time) and will be guided by a spiritual lay leader.

We will try to match groups by neighborhoods to keep travel time as short as possible.

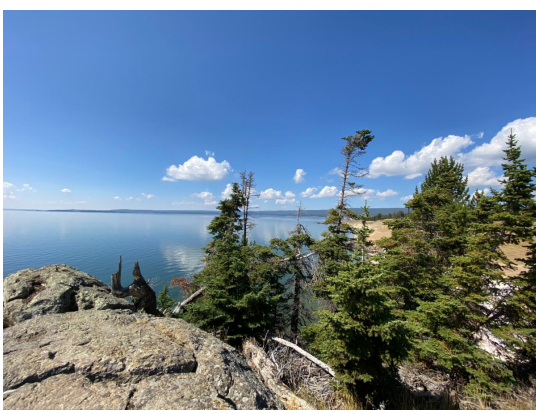
Please reply to this email if you would like to be part of one of these newly formed groups.

Groups will start meeting as soon as they are assembled, on a weekly or bi-monthly schedule determined by the groups themselves. Meeting times and dates will also be decided by the individual groups.

Faith formation resources will be used by the spiritual leader of each group.

We hope to be able to offer you comfort and meaning in these challenging times and hope you will appreciate the help these newly formed groups can offer. Please reply to [Silke at CLC](#) if you plan to attend!





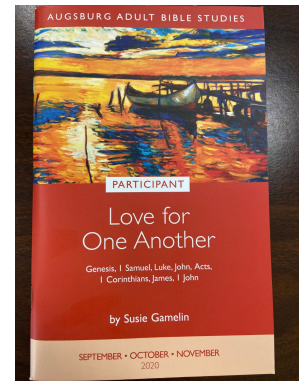
Your Faith Formation Team

LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER BIBLE STUDY

Weekly Bible Study Resumes via Zoom on October 14.

It seems harder and harder these days to remember Jesus' command to "Love one another." It just isn't easy to love some people. "Love for One Another", an Augsburg Adult Bible Study, gives us an opportunity to explore how loving one another can be life-giving, especially when we begin to love people who are difficult for us to love. Old Testament stories, Jesus, Paul and the writer of Acts will speak to our questions about loving one another. Join us as we experience the joy and peacefulness that comes from loving God and one another, no matter what.

We will meet via Zoom on Wednesdays at 11am, beginning October 14. Study Guides are available in the church office. Contact [Kathy Mork](#) if you plan to attend or if you have any questions.



CONNECTED NEWS

CONNECTED is helping a refugee and you can too!

If you attended CONNECTED in 2019 you will remember that after we finished our series on "The Refugee Crisis" we all agreed it is great to learn about a subject but it is even better to DO something about it! Ever since, we have been looking for a worthy cause to get involved!

COVID-19 stopped so many things, including our search for a cause.

That has changed!

We can support the life of a refugee from Zambia, Africa through Lutheran Social Services in Jacksonville, FL.



About Mango:

Mango Kabobo was born in a refugee camp in Zambia, Africa where he lived for 13 years before he and his family were admitted to the USA. They have been in Jacksonville, FL for 5 years now where Mango graduated from Terry Parker High School.

With the support and help from his designated mentor from LSS he has researched,

evaluated and applied to the "jtech INSTITUTE" to pursue an Automotive Technology Operational Associates degree and was accepted.

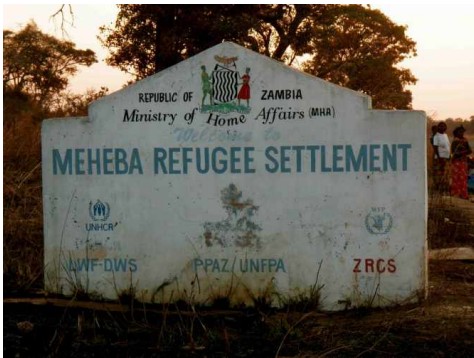
Mango will have to give up his night time job at UPS to be able to concentrate on his studies but has identified a day time job to support his studies and his family. He is short about \$220 for tuition every month.

His education started September 21, 2020 and will run for 21 months.

LSS is supporting Mango as best as they can!

Any funds we can raise to support Mango will go through our church books as a tax deductible donation and will then go to LSS Jacksonville, FL. LSS will be responsible for distributing needed funds to Mango.

If you would like to help, please make your check out to CLC, subject matter "Mango refugee support".



More information:

[jTech-Institute](#)

or contact Silke at [Silke at CLC](#)

CONNECTED has started back up via Zoom

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.

We will meet on October 7, 14, and 21.

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 on Mondays 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 (break-out groups via Zoom).



Please help us by sending a RSVP to our CONNECTED invite or to [Silke at CLC](#).

Here the log-in:
Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87636299009?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87636299009?pwd=ZnlDNUN5YzZVOHlydXdrV2Ewalc5dz09)
[pwd=ZnlDNUN5YzZVOHlydXdrV2Ewalc5dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87636299009?pwd=ZnlDNUN5YzZVOHlydXdrV2Ewalc5dz09)
Meeting ID: 876 3629 9009
Passcode: CONNECTED



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
Family and Friends of Dr. Rita Hungate
Nan Stafford

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!

Holy Conversation--October 26th at 7pm

As our congregation focuses more deeply in October on "Creating a Culture of Generosity", we will have this time to come together to reflect on God's abundance and generosity. And we'll have opportunity to inspire each other with our experiences of seeing abundance and generosity in our own lives.



Service Team Announcements

Food Collection for our 3 local outreach programs is being held TODAY, October 6, from 9 to 10AM in the church parking lot. Food for the Deep Well Food Pantry, the CLC Little Food Pantry and the CLC Thursday Lunch Break will be gratefully received. Please make an effort to get to the local grocery stores, Dollar Tree stores, Walmart, Sam's etc and collect food items for those less fortunate right here on the island. If for some reason you can't make it to the church on October 6,

Followed by "Coffee Hour" conversation