

MIDWEEK DEVOTION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

JULY 29, 2020

DEVOTION

This morning I woke up sad and disheartened. I felt weary; not of body, but of heart. As the day continues and I interact with people and accomplish work related tasks, I begin to feel more positively, but the fact remains---some part of me is just so ready to be done with much that is going on, and yet we are not even *close* to finished with whatever the rest of 2020 has in store for us! I've heard the term "crisis fatigue" used to describe what perhaps I and many of us may be feeling right now, and I think that's an apt description. For me personally, I'm thinking that "recalculation fatigue" might be more specifically appropriate. When we use Google Maps to navigate and make a wrong turn, the cheerful voice on our cell phone "recalculates" our route and provides a new set of directions to take into account our mistake. This can happen numerous times in close proximity, and that Google Maps voice never betrays impatience, frustration, or exasperation; she just keeps recalculating with seeming good humor. Unfortunately, I am nothing like the cheerful Google Maps voice! The constant reconfiguring of our plans and the ongoing task of recalculating just what we can or cannot do---as a couple, a family, a church, you name it---leaves me feeling depleted and depressed. With Covid-19 numbers heading in the wrong direction and an upcoming election of great importance looming, a general sense of angst tends to permeate everything. It's certainly no surprise that we may experience crisis fatigue and be ever so weary of recalculating the route for our day, our week or the month to come.

In the midst of my weariness of soul, a song that a seminary classmate wrote floated into my mind; it was a simple song based on Psalm 131. "Like a child that is quieted is my soul; like a child that is quieted is my soul. Out of the depths, I cry to Thee; Lord, You hear my plea, and like a child that is quieted is my soul." The image of God quieting our soul, comforting us in our weariness, as a mother comforts a child at her breast(see Psalm 131) gives me some solace. This is a time when many of us are aware of ourselves as feeling vulnerable, unable to control circumstances around us---just like a child, in fact. Moreover, as we await decisions and plans for how schools will operate this fall, we are also aware of how vulnerable our entire population of actual children are right now and how circumstances beyond their control will determine much about the next months in their lives. I can't imagine a better time than this to be praying for our children, our school teachers, our school administrators and school boards than right now. I by no means envy them their challenges. Talk about having to recalculate to adjust for unknowns and potential wrong turns! These are simply *not* very simple times!

Maybe we could all benefit from imagining ourselves in God's arms, our souls being quieted, like a child at their mother's breast. Sometimes we just feel sad, worn out and depleted, and we just need God to quiet, reassure, and console us. This may be such a time! May God bless us with peace as we continue to make our way through a series of unknown routes moving forward.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KNIFE RIVER PRAYER LIST:

In need of healing: Veronica Persons, Susan Anderson, Elsa Keeler, Becca Kuechle, Les Bolen, Fred Wright, Reid Carson, Kayla Davidson, Archie Moore, Pastor John Reppe, Gary Swanson, Faith Swanson, Seth Goodnature, Pat Hovis, Sarah Monaghan, Emily Coolidge, Melyssa Bloom, DeWayne and Maurine Rubedor, Mercedez Gorman

Special circumstances: Jacques Basson (Anne Lu's brother, who is working with Covid-19 patients in Dubai.)

Serving in military abroad: Austin Morreau

Long Term Concerns: Sue Sigel, Laurie Jackson, David Pierce, Jan Moon, Pat Hanson, Pat Levenske, Dani Mattson, Lyle Northey, Leif Zmolek, Kane Bolen, Aspen Winbigler, Deb Allert, Peggy B., Corine Sutherland

SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Wednesday, July 29-Midweek devotions and announcements sent out

Sunday, August 2-Council meets at 10:30 AM.

Monday, August 3-13: Virtual VBS (see below)

Tuesday, August 4- 9 AM-Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper, online

Wednesday, August 5- Midweek devotions and announcements sent out

THANKS TO MICHAEL DENT!

Heartfelt expressions of gratitude are due to Michael Dent who has been our dedicated and hard-working treasurer these last five years. He has decided it's time to step back from that position and take a well deserved respite. Michael made every effort to present clear, accurate, transparent financial reports for us and to stabilize our recording systems and financial transactions. He will be greatly missed as treasurer, but we are so very thankful for all he accomplished! His willingness to assist as needed during the time of transition to a new treasurer is also a real gift to our congregation. Since we can't meet in person to have a typical Sunday morning Coffee-time or Brunch occasion to say "thank you" in person, please let him know via cards, calls, or emails how much his work has been appreciated!

SMART TEAM UPDATE

Our Smart Team met virtually on July 26, with Anne Skadberg, Anne-Lu Hovis, Phil Berge, Sharon Shelerud, Carol Carlson, Ed Lee, and Pastor Susan Berge present. We

reviewed the present status of the Covid-19 pandemic both in our area and our nation; as all of us know, cases are rising everywhere, although our area has avoided a dramatic surge so far. We also defined which metrics seem most significant for us. We concluded that important metrics include the percent of positive test results, the time it takes for the doubling of cases, the sheer number of cases confirmed, and of course, hospitalization and death rates. Given the current situation and considering those metrics, we do not feel that we can change our primary recommendations until the case curve significantly lowers---not only for our state and area, but for the whole country to some extent, given how people travel. This means that in-building church worship is still on hold for the foreseeable future, but that small groups of 10 or less may continue to use the lower level(pending Council approval for August) if they obey the appropriate restrictions and schedule in advance through Melanie McMillion. We noted that this small group allowance could be stepped back if either (1)rules are not followed or (2)there is a surge of cases in our area. All of this will have implications for Christian education for children this fall, as well as what we consider most of the standard start-ups of typical fall programming. Groups involved in those areas will be looking for safe alternatives. Please feel free to contact any of our members with questions or comments! The Smart Team plans to meet again on August 23 for further consideration and discussion.

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OFFERINGS

Please check the church newsletter for a financial update, and remember the importance of supporting the church through your mailed in offerings! P.O. Box 218, Knife River, MN 55609

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WHO ARE WE MISSING?

We are attempting to cast our net wide in sending out these emails, along with postings on Facebook and our church website. Additionally, we are sending snail mail copies to those who are without online resources. If you know of someone we are missing, please let us know, so we may include them too!

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MASK MESSAGE FROM JOANIE LEE We continue to make masks, and realize that masks wear out from wearing and washing. Please don't hesitate to ask for replacements. We have plenty. Contact at joanielee14@gmail.com.

KNIFE RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH . . .

Vacation Bible School Experience (VBX 2020)

Theme: He's Got the Whole World In His Hands



Greetings Parents, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles and friends of VBXers:

With the success of our virtual worship services, we have decided to have a FLEXIBLE virtual VBX 2020 summer experience for interested youth . . .

SAVE THE DATES: August 3 through August 13

- Ages 3 through 11. All youth are invited . . . send to interested parents
- We anticipate 4 activities . . . to be completed in any order, during the 10 day span.
Focus is on flexibility
- We will also encourage a one-time offering to support God's Barnyard, our youth program's designated mission project.
- As a special surprise, Knife River Candy Store has agreed to partner with us by having a candy treat bag for all participants at the conclusion of VBX. Does it get any better??

Details will be available by August 3 on Facebook, KRLC website, and/or member email. You will also hear more about it in the weekly church bulletins. Stay tuned!!

Stay safe and have fun!!