

October, 2019

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FROM THE PASTOR “Discomfort is a Teacher”

Several weeks ago, while preaching on a parable of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke, I referenced a phrase from a commentary that I said had become meaningful to me: “Discomfort is a teacher.” The commentator used the phrase to encourage us, the hearers of Christ’s words, not to simply dismiss those words which make us uncomfortable. In the parable I mentioned, from Luke 14, Jesus advises us to extend our hospitality and resources towards those who can never repay us; certainly difficult advice to hear or to act upon! To intentionally go beyond those in our comfort zone to connect with those who cannot or will not ever return the favor—who may never even acknowledge our effort or thank us—is certainly setting the bar high! Which Jesus does so often in the Gospels! He asks a great deal of us, and he often makes us uncomfortable.

Each of us, whether we realize it or not, likely have a mental list somewhere of “Things we wish Jesus had never said.” Did he really say that the poor are blest and the rich are not? Did he seriously ask us to love our enemies? Does he really mean that we should associate with those others avoid at all costs, just as He did? So much that Jesus did or said makes us uncomfortable! And it’s so easy to just dismiss or ignore those passages.

That’s why I found this particular phrase, “Discomfort is a teacher”, to be such a wise reminder to me. When something in Scripture makes me uncomfortable, perhaps that is the very moment at which I might learn something new, even if something challenging or difficult. And I believe this mantra extends truthfully to life beyond our study of Scripture. As I write this, my husband and I are about to take a long-awaited trip to Europe. We are very excited! And we are also anxious and uncomfortable! What will that long plane ride be like? How will it be to not speak the language? What if we get sick or injured while abroad? Anything new journey upon which we embark involves discomfort; that’s just the reality of living. But that discomfort is a teacher for us; we can learn something in dealing with our anxieties, even if what we learn is that we need to grow further in trusting God’s Spirit to be with us, where ever we may be.

There are news stories that make us uncomfortable; that doesn’t mean we should pretend they’re not real. There are people who make us uncomfortable; that doesn’t mean we should act as though they’re not there. Discomfort is a teacher.....what might God show us through our encounters that cause us discomfort?

In our church, the kitchen renovation has been discomforting in many ways! Regular activities and fall start-ups have been postponed or relocated. It’s noisy, dusty, and sometimes smelly. The need to fund the renovation causes concerns and extra activities. In choosing to renovate our kitchen to better serve our needs and the needs of our community, we intentionally chose discomfort over the comfort of doing nothing; and we did this as a response to God’s leading and vision. We now wait eagerly to discover all we are and will learn from this temporary discomfort as we move forward in faith to continue our ministry of hospitality and service. Even in uncomfortable times, God leads, inspires, and teaches us!

In Christ,

Pastor Susan Berge

WORSHIP IN OCTOBER ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Oct. 6 - A Sunday after Pentecost. We will worship using our traditional worship order, including Holy Communion at the altar. Christians around the world will be sharing in Holy Communion on this World Communion Sunday.

Oct. 13 - A Sunday after Pentecost. This Sunday will find us using our Bread of Life Celebration Service and communing by intinction.

Oct. 20 - A Sunday after Pentecost. We will use a traditional service this morning, communing by intinction, There will be an opportunity for healing and anointing.

Oct. 27 - Reformation Sunday Using our We Are Called service, we will commune by intinction.

CONFIRMATION STARTING UP!

For the first time, our congregation will host our own Confirmation Program for 7th and 8th graders. We will be using a more flexible format, meeting once a month as a group, and doing other learning and activities at home or online. **Our first group meeting will be October 20 at 2 PM at the church; we strongly encourage students and parents to attend this introductory meeting!** Prior to that date, an online “faith talk” (in the spirit of Ted Talks) will be available for our students to watch, accessed through a link on our church website, and they will have received their student books and study Bible, so they can be prepared for October 20th. We presently have 3 students, but we would gladly welcome more---including adults! We also presently have 7 or 8 teachers, with each teacher responsible for one or two months of the program, but we would welcome more teachers, also! Helene Hedlund is our Confirmation coordinator; thanks for that, Helene! If you are interested in attending or have questions, please contact Pastor Susan.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Randi Alreck
6 Tami Magnuson
8 Kay Bloom
10 Sue Sigel
11 Austin Hubbart
12 Lisa Anderson
Sheri Gray
14 Miranda Jackson
Anne Jaspersen
Thomas Gray
15 DeWayne Rubedor
18 Ava Bailey
19 Mercedes Gorman
24 Laura Kavajecz
Sharon Shelrud
25 Glen Johnson
28 Wyatt Hubbart
31 Susan Hubbart

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

5 Christin Carlson & Brad Frankenstein
8 Luke & Laura Kavajecz
Dawn & Dale Davidson
11 Curtis & Bobbie Mattson
21 John & Gail Safstrom
25 Jim & Pat Hanson

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY GREETERS/USHERS

Oct 6 Anne/Scott Jaspersen
Oct 13 Sharon/Scott Shelerud
Oct 20 Ed/Joanie Lee
Oct 27 Michel/Nancy Dent

LECTOR

Laurie Jackson
Sharon Shelerud
Ed Lee
Trish Northey

OFFERING COUNTERS

Tami Magnuson/Darci Stiff
Kay Struve/ Joanie Lee
Anne/Scott Jaspersen
Lisa Anderson/Melanie McMillion

COMMUNION ASSISTANT FOR OCTOBER – Sharon Shelerud

ALTAR GUILD FOR OCTOBER – Sharon Shelerud/Anne Jaspersen

OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS (cont)

SUNDAY

COFFEE

FLOWERS

CHILDRENS CHURCH

Oct 6	Dawn/Dale Davidson	Sue Hafffield	Carmen Smith/Lee Bujold
Oct 13		Sharon/Scott Shelerud	Carmen Beardsley/Lee Bujold
Oct 20			Sharon Shelerud/Lawrence Burkhard
Oct 27	Kristy Pollard & Kids	Sadie, Caleb & Sydney	Bjorn Ojard/Nicole Ojard

GIFTS RECEIVED

A gift to the kitchen fund was received in memory of Jim Hanson from Lee & Jim Bujold.
 A gift to the memorial fund was received from Joanne Lind in memory of John Ellestad, Jr.
 A gift to the memorial garden fund was received from Del & Susan Hubbartt in memory of John Ellestad, Jr.
 A gift to the kitchen renovation fund was received from Lillian Hanson & family in memory of Ken and Steve Hanson.

KRLC Treasurer's Report		YTD thru August 30, 2019	
General Operations Fund Summary			
	Actual	Budget	Difference
Income	68,561.73	76,710.68	-8,148.95
Expenses	73,275.81	80,025.75	-6,749.94
Net Income	-4,714.08	-3,315.07	-1,399.02
Fund Balances and Activity			
	Balance	In ---	Activity --- Out
General Operations Fund	285.92	68,561.73	73,275.81
Capital Improvement Fund	37,071.81	48,841.81	73,758.00
Mortgage Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Memorial Restricted Fund	3,596.08	0.00	0.00
Memorial Unrestricted Fund	1,348.44	6,085.00	6,031.33
Reserve Fund	5,000.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	47,302.25	123,488.54	153,065.14
Thrivent Mortgage Balance		0.00	Payoff in 0 Months

General Operations Fund Budget Summary	
	Income Under Budget
	Expenses Under Budget
	Net Income Under Budget

FALL FOOD AND FUN FEST

On September 7 at the Rec Center in Knife River we held a Fall Food and **Fun** Fest in order to raise funds for our church Kitchen Renovation Project.

The operative word of the day was **FUN**, and there was plenty of **FUN** to go around!!

- 1) A CAKE-WALK!!! Lots of beautiful and delicious cakes were waiting to be eaten! And lots of folks, it seems, were waiting to help the cakes out! So much laughter and **FUN!!** Oldsters and youngsters alike tried their luck, while Delores Jackson and Carol Carlson kept the music playing and the cakes coming!!
- 2) A YARD SALE!! Wow . . . the sale that kept on going and going and going! There were treasures galore, and plenty of folks on hand to help buyers carry them away! Following the sale, the leftovers were donated to Neighbor to Neighbor --- and the huge trailer-full of remainders will surely keep Neighbor to Neighbor busy for some time!! **FUN!!** A special thank you to all those who donated sale items, and to Kay Struve, Trish Northey, Joanie Lee, Kristy Pollard and all their helpers for wrestling those donations into a well-organized sale!!
- 3) DUNK-TANK!!!! Now that's what I call **FUN!!** What a wonderful event this turned out to be! So much laughter! So much fun! So much **COLD** water!! A special thanks to "dunkees" Captain Plunger-Sword, the African Queen, Princess Kate, Sir I.M. Mature and the Swedish Chef!
- 4) MINI-FARMER'S MARKET!! Praise God for the bounty of the earth! Fresh flowers, veggies, homemade jelly ... all presented in a beautiful garden setting arranged by Kay Bloom! Thanks, Kay! **FUN** from God's creation!!

FALL FOOD AND FUN FEST (continued)

5) **FOOD!!** Thanks to Chef Extraordinaire Noel Walter who fired up the grill and to Lee & Jim Bujold who got the corn pot boiling to provide much appreciated sustenance that kept us going strong throughout the Fall Food and Fun Fest!! On the menu were burgers,

brats, hot dogs, and corn on the cob from Bob the Corn Man! All paper goods were compostable, so we produced a minimum of trash! **FUN!**

6) **FUN FOR THE KIDDOS!!** There were plenty of **FREE** activities for the kiddos to keep them happy and busy! Games and face painting were **FUN!!** Special thanks to Anne Jasperson and helpers!

7) **SILENT AUCTION!!** Special thanks to the donors of the 24 items on our silent auction! And . . . not one phone call or personal request was made to solicit those items!! **INCREDIBLY FUN!!**

8) **RESULTS: \$7,391** (so far!) for our Kitchen Renovation -- **FUN, FUN, FUN!!!**

CHURCH MOUSE

Fall Fest Appreciation!

Who knew what an extravaganza our Fall Fest would be? Well, some of our committee chairpersons estimated, however no one imagined that our whole community would contribute in so many ways to the success of this fundraiser for our kitchen remodeling project! From the yard sale to the cake walk, corn and picnic fare to the silent auction, face painting and kids' games, it was a blast as well as a financial success! Thank you to all that made it so. Chairpersons Scott Jasperson and Melanie McMillion are to be commended for their vision and their persuasiveness in recruiting chairs and volunteers for each event! Well done! Neighbor-to-Neighbor Thrift Store also benefitted from donations of our unsold items! Yay Everyone!

Dear VBX Teachers, Thank you for the awesome week that you planned for the kids!! Brynn, Soren & Elin were excited to go to VBX every day, and we enjoyed hearing what they learned! Thank you for the fun crafts, delicious dinners and great program on the last day. It's a highlight of their summer and we appreciate each of you so much! Sincerely, The von Goertz Family

Beth Anderson is appreciative of everyone's prayers and well wishes! Beth reports that she is on the mend following knee surgery. Physical therapy is underway and she looks forward to being in church sooner rather than later!

Thank you so much for the generous contribution of \$692.24 to the Two Harbors Area Food Shelf. THAFS distributes an average of 9,000 pounds of food each month serving over 130 families in food crisis. Your investment to the community is so appreciated and truly makes a difference. Michelle Miller, Executive Director

Kay Struve, Lillian Hanson, Scott Jasperson, Anne Jasperson and Diane Friebe continue as our KRLC stalwart volunteers weekly at the Food Shelf. On behalf of a grateful congregation, thank you for your commitment to this important mission outreach for KRLC!

AN OCTOBER TWIST TO WELCA!

WELCA meets at 6PM on Tuesday, October 8 at the church! Given our ongoing kitchen remodel, participants are invited to bring their own beverage and snack along with the October GATHER magazine.

The bible study, entitled "*No Hard Feelings: The Ache of Grief*" was developed by the Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen, a freelance theologian with OMG: Center for Theological Conversation (omgcenter.com) on the North Shore! In October and November, we will continue the study selections of Old Testament poetry from Job, Psalms, Lamentations and Song of Solomon. Drawing from the experiences of these ancient writers we continue looking to God for help in stewarding our deep emotions, finding hope and grace along the way. See you there?

FALL FLOWER SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES!

Commemorate a special event or person in your life by sponsoring altar flowers. Opportunities are open for the fall season. The cost is \$15 weekly and you will get to take one bouquet home with you or give it to a special person in your life! Sign-up sheets are in the gathering area on the bulletin board. Checks can be placed in the offering plate with a notation for altar flowers!

MEDIA ASSIST

With the upcoming Kids Connects lessons, we will need an additional TV-DVD combo player at Church. We would want a TV-DVD player with built-in DVD player. Might you have one to donate?

GO SHOW-OCTOBER 22/9 AM-3PM/DECC

The Northland Senior Expo is now the *GO Show!* At the GO Show, you'll still find all the important information you need as you get older - estate planning, healthcare, etc. Focusing on more active lifestyles, over 100 exhibitors will feature travel, beer, food, outdoor gear, hobbies, and afternoon entertainment that will rock! FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ALL WALGREEN STORES!!

An Invitation from the Lake County Developmental Achievement Center:

Flannel Jubilee

Wear your BEST Flannel

Friday, September 27, 2019

6 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Two Harbors Curling Club (downstairs)

Tickets \$25 (available at the door or call 834-5767)

Cash Bar (21+) & Food Vendors

Please visit our Donation Stations

Music throughout the Evening

Proceeds to Benefit the Lake County Developmental Achievement Center

626 Second Avenue, Two Harbors, MN 55616

THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE SEASON!

Mark your calendars for Friday, November 1st from 4-7PM! It's the annual KRLC Fish Cake and Meatball Supper! It's a rite of passage for some, a beloved tradition for others! See you there! Take-outs available!

FINALLY! A SHARED OPPORTUNITY!

The Church Mouse is opening up a seasonal position for Church Mouse-say November-May! This is a wonderful way to find out what's happening within our congregation, to celebrate those that make our congregation and the world a better place individually and collectively! It's a way to keep an ear to the ground on the buzz around town and the right individual can put their own spin on the job description! Who will take the bait?