



Pastor Ann's Ponderings...

Redeemer Lutheran Church

May 2019

"To Live and Tell the Story of Jesus"

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"I have called you by name, you are mine." Isaiah 43:1

In the light of the risen Christ we arise each morning a new and fresh creation. *"The core of our faith is living and acting out of radical and ridiculous trust in that good future, not yet revealed, that God has prepared for God's people,"* quoted from Weird Church by Beth Ann Estock and Paul Nixon. Several times this past month the scripture above has come up for various reasons. In this season of Easter following our celebrations of the resurrection, what does it mean for us to live as God's own, identified with Christ, and called by name?

First it invites us to take a moment when we first awaken to offer gratitude for God's love as revealed not only in Christ Jesus, but through those who bless us with deep friendship and companionship.

Second, we are invited to notice and wonder. Look around and see that which happens without any assistance from us. Look at what God has made and how it is sustained.

Third, live generously by offering your kindness, patience, honest vulnerability and recognition of our own harmful behaviors. Practice acceptance in love, forgiveness and gracious hospitality.

In writing this list, I would like to say: "Thank you" to all those who have continued to give generously of your financial offerings to Redeemer and to the SPURT program. You are making a difference!! We have reduced our shortfall by half of what it was last year. Our spending has stayed stable. This is great news! In addition, I thank you for the ways you serve and give to other causes and live graciously every day of your lives.

I wonder how God might be inviting us to participate in being Kingdom bearers in the future. Could it be we learn more about how we can live sustainable lives for the good of the future of the earth? My yoga instructor Bekah Gant offers these wonderful ideas for each of us to put into practice:

In the Kitchen ● Reusable glass storage instead of plastics ● Cloth napkins instead of paper
● Beeswax wrap instead of plastic wrap ● Wooden or metal utensils instead of plastic ●
Ceramic/pottery dishware ● Wooden cutting boards ● Compost bin (continued...)

Grocery • Bring your own reusable bags • Shop for bulk items • Avoid items packaged in unnecessary plastics • Stop putting veg/fruit in plastic bags • Save seeds from veg/fruit for planting later

Cleaning • DIY cleaning products (vinegar, baking soda, and essential oils solve most problems; vinegar and alcohol will clean mirrors and glass) • All you really need is an all-purpose cleaner, a heavy duty scrubbing cleaner, and a glass cleaner • Use old towels and rags for cleaning instead of paper towels • Use all-natural sponges/scrubbers • Use eco-friendly dish powder instead of pods or gels • Avoid the Swiffer; use a broom and a mop with a detachable, washable, reusable head • Use cold water to launder clothing • Air dry clothing or use the low setting • Use wool dryer balls

I am sure you can think of others. We could begin composting our coffee grounds we currently toss out at church. Would anyone like to take these home? Let me know.

As we continue to discern our direction for the future based on the ideas shared by the wisdom of the people of Redeemer, we are planning to host a community wide free meal called: "The Neighborhood Table" How exciting!! A team has been hard at work collecting data, checking out other communities and their offerings, and considering what it is we hope to accomplish. I look forward to what could be in store for us and for the community of Rio.

Your prayerful support and continued groundedness in Christ in this community of faith will help us to listen to God as we wind our way forward one step at a time in the wonderful potential God will make possible.

Happy Spring!

Shalom,

Pastor Ann

SATURDAY, MAY 4TH:

"Wage Hope at Purplestride", The Walk to End Pancreatic Cancer.

This event is scheduled for Saturday, May 4th starting at Warner Park. Opening Ceremony at 9:00 am, with Walk/Run beginning at 9:30 am. The hope is to raise \$140,000. Please consider this event as a wonderful way to spend the day and raise money for a very important cause. For further information please contact Sarah Risgaard Wescott at:

(920-988-5476)

or email: swescott@pancanvolunteer.org

Sarah shared her faith story and gave us information on signs to watch for and ways we can help. We raised \$350.38 in support of this cause. Thank you, Redeemer brothers and sisters!
