

HEARTBEATS Staying Connected 10/17/2022

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

ONE AT ONE – *Every day this week beginning on Tuesday, October 18 you are encouraged to pray for one minute at one o'clock. This week, pray for our new bishop, David Nagler following his installation this past Sunday. Ask GOD to bless him and equip him for this new calling in his life. Pray that the HOLY SPIRIT grant him vision and discernment as he works to lead the Pacifica Synod in the Kingdom work to which GOD calls us.*

I have a neighbor who likes to put out a chalkboard with clever little sayings and thoughts. As I arrived home from church this week, I saw that she had offered a message that said, “Sunday Fun-day. Spend your day in love and laughter.” What flashed into my mind was a sort of correction: “Sunday ONE-day,” as in “Sunday is the day to spend with the ONE GOD.” (Okay, I know I’m a pastor, but...) And it led me to wonder when most of the folks from our congregation feel that they meet GOD

In the story of GOD’S formation of, well, everything in Genesis, each day of creation ends with, “And there was evening, and there was morning, the (first or second or third, etc.) day.” Every day begins at sundown and flows through the night and then through the daylight. Then in Genesis 3, we are told that the LORD GOD came walking in the Garden of Eden in “the cool of the day,” that is in the evening at the beginning of the day. Apparently, this was a common occurrence for GOD to come at this time to meet Eve and Adam. After eating the forbidden fruit, the now naked and embarrassed Adam and Eve cover themselves with leaves and try to hide from the GOD they know will again show up to be with them. Every single day, again at the beginning of the day, GOD comes to spend time with them.

Certainly, on Sundays, we come to meet and spend time with GOD. Sunday, in scripture is the first day of the week, the day upon which JESUS rose from the dead. This is why we worship on Sunday as followers of the risen CHRIST, rather than on Saturday, the last day, the Sabbath day of rest, as do the Jews. It makes sense to me that we meet with GOD at the week-begin (not week-end) so that GOD can give us what we will need for the week ahead. And this is just like Eve and Adam meeting with GOD at the beginning of each day in the Garden.

We should have time with GOD every day and not just on Sunday. We need to intentionally take time to allow GOD to encourage us, to teach us, and to equip us for later engagements this day. We may be granted a sense of calm about what lies ahead, a new insight that will help us with a personal encounter this day, or a connection with GOD that will strengthen us and help overcome a challenge to our faith. GOD knows what lies ahead for us and wants to equip us for the Kingdom work that will cross our path. But we have to take the time to be with GOD, and the best time to do that is at the beginning of our day. Make it a point each day to meet with GOD!

In CHRIST'S love,
Pastor Jeffrey