

HEARTBEATS Staying Connected 10/20/2023

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

Many of you know that St. Andrew Lutheran has a labyrinth. Some of you have even walked it. A conversation this week led me to consider the difference between a labyrinth and maze. In ancient times, a labyrinth was a maze, designed to trap a person inside and perhaps lead them to their doom. A maze is convoluted with many possible turns and branches to follow. There are frequent dead ends and the goal is to try to find your way out. Today, a labyrinth is understood differently. A labyrinth is one path, though not straight. It is not difficult to navigate. While it winds around, it does lead from a beginning to an end, either in the center or back out. On the journey through the labyrinth, there are opportunities to stop and reflect or meditate, often marked by special stones. The goal is not getting to the end, but the journey itself.

It seems to me that this is a lot like reading the Bible. When we read a passage, the path may wind around a bit, but it is a journey from beginning to end. And there are many opportunities to stop and think about what is happening, to reflect, and even ask questions.

Too often we rush through a Bible passage without taking the time to discover what it is that GOD wants us to know. We fail to stop and reflect and meditate and consider. We miss the opportunities to ask questions. The value of a labyrinth is the journey. The same is true when reading the Bible.

In CHRIST'S love,
Pastor Jeffrey