

Devotions for Friday, September 4, 2020
Bread for the Journey
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A Word Please

But how can people call for help if they don't know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it? That's why scripture exclaims,

*A sight to take your breath away!
Grand processions of people
telling all the good things of God!*

But not everyone is ready for this, ready to see and hear and act. Isaiah asked what we all ask at one time or another: "Does anyone care, God? Is anyone listening and believing a word of it?" The point is: Before you trust, you have to listen. But unless Christ's Word is preached, there's nothing to listen to. (Romans 10:14-17. The Message)

Do you have something to say?
Do you have a story to tell?

Of course you do. You have known Christ in your life. You have known His faithfulness when life proves difficult. You have known His promise of life and the courage that knowing gives you to live. You have experienced the power of his forgiving word and how that word becomes your own when someone has broken your trust. Yes, you have a story to tell, something worth saying.

Jokes are told about how shy Lutherans are due to the influence of our Northern European heritage (though that is not the only cultural well from which we draw). *How do you know when you are talking to an extroverted Lutheran? S/he looks at your shoes when s/he stands there not saying anything.*

When she was our synod bishop, Elizabeth Eaton often said we had a problem born of this shyness. We didn't tell our story, we didn't brag about our accomplishments, we didn't blow our own horn to announce the impact we have made in our communities and society as a whole. She was right. We have made a difference in our world, but so often we don't think to tell that story. This is a cultural characteristic worth challenging and changing.

I challenge you today to start talking. Begin with those around you, those of your own congregation or community. Practice and become confident in speaking of what Christ has done for you, and through you for your community. Keep talking until it becomes a habit, a natural response born of love so that when you encounter someone calling for help, you will know how to tell them of the One who can be trusted.

*Faithful God, in the beginning you said human kind was good! In so many ways you have been good to us. Provide for us now what we need to not keep that goodness a secret, but to share intentionally, authentically and lovingly what Christ has done, and continues to do, for us.
Amen.*