



June 23, 2022

Staying in Touch June 23, 2022

Seeing All the Things

*Copied from Richard Rohr's Daily Meditations
from the Center for Action and Contemplation*

For Rev. Dr. Jacqui Lewis, religion at its best teaches us how to “see” with greater clarity, which increases our courage and capacity to love ourselves, others, even our enemies.

In its truest sense, religion should reconnect human beings—bind them again—to the creation, to one another, to the divine, to love. Religion should reveal to us how much we need one another to survive and thrive. Religion should be revelatory and revolutionary, helping us see how our biases about color, gender, sexuality, and class cause deep hurt to both body and soul. . . .

The teaching of rabbi Jesus is simple: Love God. Love neighbor. Love self. Love period.

At a lecture in Israel, I heard one of my favorite rabbis, Donniel Hartman, say, “A life of faith isn’t just about walking with God, but how one walks with humanity. *The core feature of a moral life is to see.* Choosing not to see is immoral. The goal of religion is to improve our willingness and our ability to see.” A spiritual life is supposed to help us see better. The aim of Love, and any God worth worshipping, is improved sight.

An ethical and moral life is about letting go of indifference and *learning how to see.* It’s about waking up to love ourselves, love our posse, and love our world. Imagine love as our shared spiritual practice, binding us to one another, enabling us to see our connection—that we are kin.

In order to live a moral life, a good life, an *ubuntu* life [1], we must commit to a life of love that means *seeing all the things.* See your neighbor suffering and do something about it. See a stranger laboring under a heavy load and help out. See lies spoken and shared in social media and call foul. See a friend soaring, and say, “I see you, beautiful creature!” to build their self-love tank.

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Sneaker Collection for Wholly Kicks

Now - July 10

Bring new sneakers, any size, for any age, male or female, to St. John’s.

Wholly Kicks is a non-profit organization whose presence in Aurora, Colorado, and the Denver Metro area, exists for the purpose of “walking with” those in impoverished areas or those at risk of or experiencing homelessness. Through the distribution of new shoes and socks, the focus of Wholly Kicks is to mentor and build relationships in “walking with” individuals experiencing economic disparity.

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Friend, you are the only one standing where you stand, seeing what you see, with your vantage point, your story. You are right there for a reason: to have, as my dear friend Ruby Sales says, “hindsight, insight, and foresight.” I want us to learn to see, with our eyes wide open, how best to be healers and transformers. I want us to really see, *to fully awaken*, to the hot-mess times we are in *and* to the *incredible* power we have to love ourselves into wellness.

I want us open to revelation, not afraid of it, and open to the ways that it will provoke us to believe assiduously in how lovable we each are, and in the love between us and among us because, actually, *believing is seeing*.

Believing is seeing our connection: We are one.

[1] Jacqui Lewis, “*The Spirit of Ubuntu*,” *Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditation*, February 7, 2022.

Jacqui Lewis, “Apocalypse Now: Love, Believing, and Seeing,” *Oneing* 10, no. 1, *Unveiled* (Spring 2022): 41, 42–43, 44–45. Available in [print](#) and [PDF download](#).



**Fill a Belly—
Fill a Backpack!
Now - July 31**

Bring school supplies and non-perishable food to St. John’s any time until July 31. We’re partnering with the City of Thornton to provide assistance for Thornton students and residents.

School Items Needed

New or gently-used backpacks, new crayons, markers, #2 pencils, glue sticks, highlighters, college and wide-ruled loose leaf paper, 3-ring binders of all sizes, spiral notebooks, blue and black ink pens, scissors, rulers and protractors.



Some beauty from our community garden.

May Budget Information			
May 31, 2022 Budget Information		May, 2022 Account Balances	
YTD Income	\$84,706	Checking	\$6,923
YTD Expenses	\$107,234	Savings	\$2019
Thrivent Mortgage Principal Owed	\$118,694	Scrip Checking	\$793
		Scrip Savings	\$315
		Building Fund	\$74,1667

A Prayer for Guidance

By Nancy L. Winder

As written in "Living Lutheran"

Nancy L. Winder, now retired and living in Seattle, served twice as pastor of Holden Village and has been researching "The Holden Prayer" for more than 30 years.

For 60 years the Holden Village retreat center in the Cascade Mountains of Washington state has welcomed people into the wilderness to form and renew their relationships with God, the earth and each other. Guests and staff in this remote, beautiful setting enjoy nature, community life, music, art and worship while engaging in conversations about life, faith and the world.

When people return from Holden to their homes, schools and faith communities, they take their new discoveries with them. One treasure that guests have taken with them for all of Holden's history is a prayer:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Written by Eric Milner-White, dean of the chapel at King's College, Cambridge (and designer of its famous Christmas Eve service, "[A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols](#)"), the prayer, titled "The Call of Abraham," was first published in 1941 in a little book titled *Daily Prayer*, compiled by Milner-White and G.W. Briggs.

Certainly the people of England, gathered in their churches and worried in their homes during World War II, could identify with "The Call of Abraham" and its sense of an uncertain future held in God's guidance. The prayer offered hope for the future in a hopeless time.

"The Call of Abraham" first found a Lutheran readership in the 1958 *Service Book and*

Hymnal (SBH). Luther Reed, chair of the joint commission for that hymnal and president of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, owned two prayer volumes by Milner-White, including *Daily Prayer*, and copied out petitions from those books for the "Collects and Prayers" section of the SBH. "The Call of Abraham" became No. 96, "For Guidance."

"Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go..." The SBH was the worship

book at Holden Village, and Carroll Hinderlie, named its first director in 1963, used "For Guidance" right away. Perhaps Hinderlie and his wife, Mary, first learned of the prayer from the Anglican missionaries with whom they were imprisoned by the Japanese in the Philippines during World War II. Or maybe they heard it when they studied in Norway in the 1950s.

Villagers at Holden in its first years might remember the invitation to turn to "prayer 96 on page 231." As the prayer made its way from the village to countless other contexts, it became known as "The Holden Prayer." In 1987 the prayer was published in the *Lutheran Book of Worship* under "Morning and Evening Prayer," and in 2006 the prayer was included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.

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Thank you all for the 90th birthday wishes. I feel so blessed and loved. Thank you 90 times!

Bee Lee

Thank you to all of you who prayed for me while I was sick the last weeks. I am much better.

Maxine Kunz

All Creation Sings!

A few of the photos sent in for our “All Creation Sings” bulletin board.

“Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord!” Ps. 150:6



Brook & Tyson’s beautiful ornamental tree.



Gorgeous ‘mustard & ketchup) rose in Meier’s garden.



Maybe a new home for this birdie at the Korsen’s.



Laura and grandkids on a hike.



An ‘escort’ for the Wilkenings on their Alaska trip.

More creation singing praises!

"This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!" Ps. 118:24



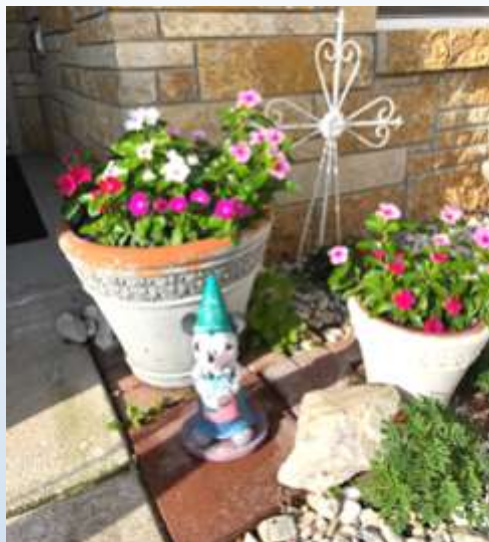
Rosemary's peonies in full bloom.



Silas watering Grandma Fran's flowers.



Tim & Char's roses at the front door.



Nicolle Bates' vincas enjoying the warm Oklahoma sun.



"Neighborhood" friends.

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This prayer resonated in the hearts and minds of people of all faiths and vocations, who recite it at worship, weddings, ordinations and even funerals. Valparaiso (Ind.) University uses it at graduation every year. Lutheran congregations also use it as a template for their ministry,

“The phrase in this prayer that most seems to capture people’s imagination and spirit is “good courage.” These are words for every season, every person, every community.”

including Westwood in St. Louis Park, Minn., and St. Mark in Spokane, Wash. Many congregations, including Immanuel Lutheran in Pepin,

Wis., recite it as their prayer of sending in every service.

It’s also been set to music, and visual artists have rendered it in many mediums.

At Holden, the prayer is most often used as staff leave the village. Its strong sense of a foundation for life’s journey, for God’s calling to service and vocation, and its vision of new paths and even perils blesses each person for whatever might come next.

The phrase in this prayer that most seems to capture people’s imagination and spirit is “good courage.” What strength and direction these words give, especially when sustained by God’s guiding hand and supporting love! These are words for every season, every person, every community. Thanks is given for Milner-White and this treasure, which has gone out everywhere with “good courage.”



Happy June Birthday to these St. John’s Family Members!

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 4 Jodi Foster | 20 Holly Moore |
| 11 Nina Korsen | 22 Virginia Tomerlin |
| 13 Bernice Lee | 23 June Bernatchez |
| 14 Terry Stutesman | 23 Randy Olson |
| 17 Lee Meier | 24 Mike Werpy |
| 20 Craig Wilkening | |

June Anniversaries



- 4 Fran & Mike Jarrett
- 4 Ashley Ross-Velasquez
- 6 Rick & Leslie Young
- 20 Paul & Tami Yott
- 22 Lee & Jill Meier
- 25 Wes & Joyce Dunbar
- 25 Kim & Tim Flanagan



St. John’s Lutheran Church

11040 Colorado Blvd. Thornton, CO 80233

303.457.2476

www.stjohnsthornton.org

Sunday Worship - 9:00 a.m.

Livestream at

www.stjohnsthornton.org

Did you know you can get VISA gift cards through our Scrip Program? AND there’s NO



activation fee like when you buy them at the store! They come in \$50, \$100 and \$250 cards. Contact the church office to place your order.