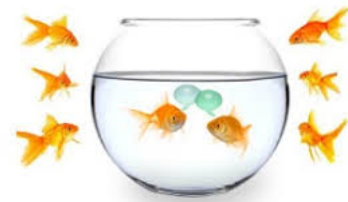




June 5, 2020

Fishbowl

Years ago, I was blessed to hear Father Elias Chacour, the, then, Archbishop of Akko, Haifa, Nazareth and All Galilee of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church speak. He said that when people spent a day in his country and saw the conflict, they knew exactly how to bring peace. After spending a week, they had some good ideas to keep things peaceful, and after a month they had no clue how peace could happen. He knew then, that people were coming to see and beginning to understand a part of their world that was held at arm's length. He knew they were becoming immersed in his world and were seeing the reality he and his people lived with daily.



It is good, too, for us to immerse ourselves in the world of our neighbors, but that doesn't always happen. I realized that, in a hard way.

During a workshop, I was invited to participate in an exercise called, "What's in your bowl?" I was given a sheet with a picture of a fishbowl and invited to describe my own culture. So, I filled out the family description, values, both personal and religious, and world view, writing it inside the bowl. This was easy enough.

Then, I was invited to look at what my community and my people looked like. While this seemed fairly simple, there was a trend that began to develop. A trend that came into full view with the third invitation: Who were the people outside of your group, how did you become aware of them, what experiences influenced your feelings? We were to write these outside the bowl.

This was hard.

The values inside the fishbowl were not opposed to those who were outside the fishbowl. It was just the clear lack of connection between the inside and the outside of the fishbowl. I grew up in a diverse city, but still managed to have my primary community remain homogeneous. I had no idea what their lives were like. I had made no effort to know what they were living with, daily.

As a Christian who follows a God who loved humanity enough to be born as one of us, with no illusions about how we treat one another, I felt ashamed. I was ashamed that this had happened, but motivated to make a change.

This change was a not a perfectly researched idea for peace, because I know that I have much to learn about the realities that people outside my fishbowl live with every

day. The first step to learning is listening. It is setting aside the need to be right and opening our ears to hear and understand what life is like for them. This requires the basic understanding that we are all human and that our lives have value, but invites us to understand how very different life is outside of our fishbowl.

This is hard because it means that the answers and responses that we have learned will not work in the same way. We are crossing cultural boundaries, we are coming to another country, another people. At first glance, we have all the solutions for them. But if we sit and listen, we come to see what was so simple, is less so.

It is not a bad thing to have the fishbowls we do. They make us who we are. It is a better thing to ask about other people's fishbowls and hear their stories. When we realize that we have twice as many ears as mouths, we can find purpose in listening to the pain and anguish, the hopes and dreams, in other fishbowls. Then we are building the connections that I failed to build.

Pr. Justin

SALC Library Books on Racism Available

Saint Andrew's library has many books on racism for a variety of ages. The books listed below are currently available for check-out in a plastic bin outside the north (Chapel) entrance. A sample of book descriptions are listed below. To read all the book descriptions, please [click here](#) or on the book.



GOD'S DREAM (Tutu) - C FIC TUT (preschool)

Archbishop Desmond Tutu has a vision of God's dream, which he shares here with the youngest of listeners. It involves people who reach out and hold each other's hands, but sometimes get angry and hurt each other - and say they're sorry and forgive. It's a wish that everyone will see they are brothers and sisters, no matter their way of speaking to God, no matter the size of their nose or the shade of their skin. Aided by vibrant artwork evoking such images as a rainbow and sharing circle, Tutu offers the essence of his ubuntu philosophy, a wisdom so clear and crystalline that even the smallest child can understand.

ALL THE COLORS OF THE EARTH (Hmanaha) - C FIC HAM (ages 4-8)

The simple text describes children's skin tones and hair in terms of natural phenomena and then describes love for these children with rich colors and flavors - a celebration of diversity.

Book Review: Great book that helped a white family with limited exposure to other cultures grant a beginning conversation. Now it is time to move out and into doing.

THE JACKET (Clements) - Y FIC CLE (ages 8-88)

When Phil sees another kid wearing his brother's jacket, he assumes the jacket was stolen. It turns out he was wrong, and Phil has to ask himself the question: Would he have made the same assumption if the boy wearing the jacket hadn't been African American? And that question leads to others that reveal some unsettling truths about Phil's neighborhood, his family, and even himself. This book could open a new door of conversation about racism within oneself. This book is a good family read-together

chapter book.

[WE'RE DIFFERENT, WE'RE THE SAME](#) (Kates) - C 305.8 KAT (ages 3-7)

[WHOEVER YOU ARE](#) (Fox) - C 305.8 KAT (ages 4-7)

[THE COLORS OF US](#) (Katz) - C FIC KAT (ages 4-8)

[LET'S TALK ABOUT RACE](#) (Lester) - C 305.8 LES (ages 4-8)

SALC Communication Coordinator Position Available

The role of the Communication Coordinator is to use written words and various multimedia formats to express ideas and tell a story. In collaboration with the pastors, staff, and lay leadership of the congregation, create content that can be viewed on screen, listened to, or read that will advance the mission of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church.

This is a part-time position - up to 20 hours per week. Please email personnel@salc-wausau.org if interested in this position and a job description will be emailed to you. ***The deadline to submit applications/resumes is 6-19-2020.***

Family Faith Formation



The Faith Formation ministry would like to offer opportunities to connect with children and families this summer in a safe and fun way and your input can help us develop some unique summer program options. The Vacation Bible School team would appreciate hearing what activities you and your family would be interested in and would love to hear your ideas! If you would like to offer feedback to help us plan the program, please fill out [this survey](#).

From the Archives

June 1983 - “Consider With Me” – by Pr. John Roseth

Looking at the calendar is to realize that SUMMER is already here! Our calendar ends in December, but for so many of us, it ends in June. Schools are dismissed, students graduate, organizations cancel meetings until Fall, even churches change worship schedules and put Sunday School “on hold”.

In many ways “shutting down” is a good thing. We need time to “recreate” ourselves for the times ahead. On the other hand, we need to remember that while our busy schedules “shut down”, God’s outpouring of love to us does not! God continues (even in the summer) to watch with us through both the good times and the bad.

The challenge is not to put God on hold until September . A person can become mighty lonely if no one visits them for three months or more.

Many of us will be taking vacations—let’s worship wherever we are. The family of

God is much larger than Saint Andrew Lutheran Church. If you are camping—seek out a campground service. Or if you have to be in “civilization”, check out the yellow pages for the nearest church. When you return I would encourage you to bring back what you experienced and bulletins to share.

So—this summer the church is not “on hold”, God’s activity in the world is not “on hold”, our communion with God doesn’t have to be “on hold” either. Take time to worship, read the Bible, time to be silent, and pray, recognize this part of summer as “recreations” too!

Thank you!

I just wanted to follow-up and thank the volunteers from Saint Andrew. We have distributed over 500 masks to homebound patients and their caregivers across 9 counties in central Wisconsin. People are so grateful to have the masks. Thank you for sending them our way to share. Please share our gratitude with all the sewers.



Thank you,
Anna Kania

[Annalissa Kania RN](#)

Director Home Health, Central Wisconsin
ascensionathome.com

Face Masks for Distribution Locally and Through LWR



As there continues to be a need for face masks both locally and globally, the quilting group would like to offer ready-to-sew kits **with elastic straps** for those interested in helping fill this need. They can be picked up and dropped off in the plastic bin located outside the north (Chapel) entrance of the church. Please call or email Linda Peterson to order kits: 715-573-4866; lindaksp@aol.com.

[About](#)

[Worship](#)

[Education](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

(715) 842-3333

office@salc-wausau.org

www.salc-wausau.org

