

**Deepening Discipleship Table**  
**South Carolina Synod Assembly**  
**2020**

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

Our congregational staff at St. Stephen's is taking great delight in reading and discussing together Garrison Keillor's book entitled *"Life among the Lutherans"*. It is a wonderful walk through his hometown, "Lake Wobegon" in Minnesota, which in actuality is a collection of his talks on his radio show on public radio, *A Prairie Home Companion*.

As we reflect over our year of Discipleship in our Synod together, Keillor shares some apt thoughts that can make us both blush and smile. His words have the ability to both inspire and empower us to deepen our discipleship as we share the Gospel. He writes on page 3:

*"The people who occupy the pews of Lake Wobegon Lutheran on Sunday are ordinary people, doing their best to be good and walk straight in a world that seems to reward the crooked and mock the righteous. They gather together and give alms to the poor; they sing, "Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring," so that tears come to your eyes; and they pray to God, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation...". And then they go home and put on their work clothes and tend their flower beds and groom their lawns. While they do their best to love each other, they also watch each other very closely. There is gossip, on occasion. There are cold-shoulder treatments and grudges and ferocious rivalries. Despite one's best efforts, envy of the achievements of someone else's children is a tough thing to deny. So back to church they go, seeking forgiveness and grace. Church is the place where, like Robert Frost said, when you need to go there, they have to take you in. You can come back every Sunday promptly; or come on Easter and Christmas if that's what you can manage. If you wander in and find a potluck supper going on and you forgot to bring a hot dish, it's okay- Lutherans always have extra. And there always is coffee. It may not be the best coffee, but it's good enough."*

Church is where we seek forgiveness and grace to be empowered to go forth into the world proclaiming the love of our Crucified and Risen Jesus the Christ. We the members of the Deepening Discipleship Table, its Networks, and Task Forces are deeply grateful for the grace lavished upon us in the Lord Jesus Christ. In faith we respond with lives of discipleship. Our table seeks to encourage Discipleship as Jesus has called us not to be admirers but disciples.

Grace be with you,

Patrick W. Riddle

Rev. Dr. Patrick W. Riddle

Convener Deeping Discipleship Table

**Communication and Technology Table  
South Carolina Synod Assembly  
2020**

No Report

**Community Engagement Table  
South Carolina Synod Assembly  
2020**

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