

**Deepening Discipleship Table
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2021**

Dear Partners in the Gospel,

I have taken great delight in 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 talk's on his radio show on public radio, *A Prairie Home Companion*. As we of the South Carolina Synod discern our calling to discipleship for our Lord Christ Jesus, Keillor shares some apt thoughts. They can make us blush and smile but also 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 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 flowerbeds 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-shoulders, 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."

Grace be with you,
Rev. Dr. Patrick W. Riddle
Convener Deepening Discipleship Table

**Communication and Technology Table
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2021**

No Report

**Community Engagement Table
South Carolina Synod Assembly
2021**

No Report