

Wilderness Words

Newsletter—

September 18, 2014

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Vicar's Report

This Sunday we join with people of all faiths all over the world in celebrating the United Nations International Day of Peace.

What is peace? A simple dictionary definition defines it as lack of war or of conflict. But we know there have been times in the history of the world when an absence of conflict masked terrible oppression and injustice. (South Africa under apartheid, for example, was less dangerous than it is now because of the oppressive regime.) Peace is not simply absence of conflict.

The Hebrew word for peace, Shalom, speaks of more than an absence of conflict—it has echoes of a positive presence of good will of justice, of hope, of well being.

If ending conflict or warfare seems difficult; establishing peace in this Shalom sense seems impossible.

And yet, like the bumper sticker reads—IF YOU WANT PEACE, WORK FOR JUSTICE. There are things we can do to work for justice.

As we come together on Sunday to pray for peace in our world, let's hold this question before us—what can we do in our own lives to work for justice? As another bumper sticker says, THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY.

It's possible to look at the various conflicts in the world and feel overwhelmed—is this world going to hell in a hand-basket? As Christians we have a different story to tell—one in which God is active, working through people to bring about change and hope.

Like God said to Moses, "I have heard my people's groans in Egypt, I know their oppression....Come, I am sending you...."

What can we do to make a world where peace might break out? How can we be people of hope, as Christians, telling a story of faith, hope and love?

Prayer is about asking just these questions—about various worn torn parts of the world and here in our own backyard.

Blessings, Mary Ellen



Prayers for a new school year!

though I don't think Sophie (the golden) is starting school!

Coming Up!

Sept. 21—We celebrate International Day of Peace at SOTW

Sept. 25—Centering prayer at Schmidt's.

Oct. 1—Bishop's committee

October 5th—Blessing of the animals at Church—invite friends with four or two legs.

October 9th—Field trip to check out Ruby's Pantry in Cook MN (let MEA know if you'd like to go...)

October 9th—Centering prayer at Schmidt's.

October 12th—Rescheduled forum—How were the books of the Bible chosen?

October 19th—Annual meeting after church.

November 7th and 8th—"All Hearts are Open" liturgy workshop at St. John's Linden Hills—let me know if you're interested!

November 10th—Stewardship Sunday

International Day of Peace

In church this Sunday we will be celebrating the United Nation's "International Day of Peace"—joining people the world over who are longing for and praying for peace.

Here are the readings we're using:

Isaiah 2: 2-4

Colossians 3: 12-17

Matthew 5: 1-12

This Sunday:

Leading—Lee

Preaching—Kathy Sullivan

Presiding—Mary Ellen

Music—Layne and Karen

Treats—Barb and Marg

Come and help pack toiletry bags—community center, 10 AM, Friday, Sept., 19th.