



Mayville Conference

October 23, 2022

Lectio Divina – Mark 6:34-44

Themes

- Is this a reference to Psalm 23
- Was it hard to give up what you had?
- How did they cook fish?
- How did they keep 5,000 men quiet
- Equipping and Empowering – “You feed them” – Participating role of disciples
- Potluck – always enough
- Scarcity and Abundance
- Why did the author describe the crowd as sheep?
- What did Jesus teach them?
- Rural area here too – How do you organize – What about darkness
- In your face miracle
- Showing up imperfectly – Participating in a meal that isn’t done or ready
- Crowd knew something was happening and wanted to be there
- Are we the disciples?
- Were they aware a miracle was taking place?

Post-it Activity

Who Are We Now?

- We are people (sinners) who are flawed, worried we are not good enough
- We are God’s hands on earth
- Our church Parish: smaller than before, but giving, committed and faith-filled
- We love older hymns and liturgy BUT are open, flexible and will try new things
- “One”
- “Family”
- We are all God’s children
- We are a church filled with compassion for helping people
- A person who wants the world to become more Godly
- Wanting to help
- Faithful
- Judgmental
- Drifters
- Wanderers with no map
- A country of people sorely in need of a relationship with Jesus based on what He actually says and does, not what many leaders say he stands for.

- The ELCA
- One church united
- Beloved children of God (3)
- Wanting to do something
- Capable
- Scared
- Welcoming place
- Judgmental place
- Lackadaisical
- Safe Place
- Safety Net
- Struggling
- Thriving
- Healthy
- Listeners
- Collaborative Community
- Faithful servants
- People who care – compassionate
- Disciples (3)
- Leaders
- Followers
- Declining
- Dust (and to dust we shall return)
- Truth Tellers
- Anti-racist
- Believers in Christ
- Saved
- Human
- Advocates
- Body of Christ
- A small group
- People sharing the love of God
- Trinitarian
- Sinner/Saint
- God's Church
- Named and Claimed
- Missional
- Our WELCA – small but mighty
- Brothers and Sisters of Christ
- New Parish
- God's people
- Distracted
- Tired
- Bearers of Good News
- The Faithful
- Sheep
- Independent culture (North Dakota)
- Euro-American majority
- Agriculture-based
- Small percentage people of color
- Post-Pandemic
- The Living Body of Christ
- Messengers of Good News

What are We Called to Do?

- Feed the hungry/people (8)
- Welcome people of color
- Welcome LGBTQ+ (youth/adult)
- Welcome people ostracized
- Welcome ALL people
- Love neighbor (2)
- Love God
- Be Christ's presence
- We are called to listen to God's voice as he speaks to our heart
- We are called to share God's love with the world
- Present Christ fairly, accurately, and without distortion
- Called to take care of God's children by: Kindness, Friendly, Clothes, Food, etc.
- Love one another (2)
- Glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
- Be good stewards
- Serve the Lord
- Be disciples of God
- To spread the word to our fellow humans (2)
- Live the faith 168 hours per week
- Share the hope available through faith
- Welcome and whoever moves in we call them a neighbor
- Be there for others in their need
- Serve
- We are called to be the church
- Pray for all
- Provide an open door
- Give them something to eat
- Be our sibling's keeper
- Be God's hands and feet in the world
- Take care of our neighbor
- Do justice
- Be awake
- Live Hope
- Live Love
- Be Hope
- Give people something to eat
- Trust (2)
- Pray always and not lose heart
- Help people experience the Love of God (4)
- Help our neighbor
- Anti-racist work!
- Discern God's mission
- Take care of the sick
- To keep God's word alive and present
- Invest in our children, youth, and young adults
- Develop future church leaders, both lay and rostered
- To help everyone
- Love
- Mission as sending
- Minister to the lost
- Love God above all else

- Have faith
- Believe
- Accept
- Welcome
- Comfort
- Tell others about Christ

Who is Our Neighbor?

- Everyone (13)
- Our neighbor is the person who we are to welcome
- Our neighbor is the person we are to forgive
- Our neighbor is the person we are to love
- Our neighbors are all around us – wherever we are, wherever we go – they are neighbors
- All God's people – the ones that believe and the ones that don't
- The Poor
- The Weak
- Unbelievers
- Democrat
- Immigrants (last 20 years)
- The person you do not like
- People in our community
- People in pews
- People across the globe
- People of all faiths and no faith
- Our neighbors are people not only next door but across the world
- "Be there for each other"
- Republican
- Straight (sexual orientation)
- LGBTQ+
- People of color
- U.S. Indigenous people
- Local People
- People around the world
- People near and far that we share with
- Our entire community(s) is R-B-C – our church
- Friends
- Strangers
- All races
- All of humankind
- The murderers and thieves (2)
- The least, the lost, the lonely
- Siblings in Christ
- Siblings of others faith/nonfaith traditions (2)
- People who we agree with and people we don't agree with
- Family
- The lonely
- The Hungry
- The lost
- Terrorist
- Muslim
- Gang member
- People with different pasts
- Other political parties



EVENT OUTLINE

Materials Needed: Nametags, Markers for nametags, Scripture for Lectio (printed copies), 3 questions for post-it activity (printed copies), Post-Its (3 different colors & 1 pad per table), Large White Sticky Pad (3-5 sheets per event) and markers for that, ¼ size blank white papers (enough for everyone to have one), Pens, Basket with handle

Room Set-Up: Round Tables is preferred with pens, 3 colors of post-its, ¼ sheets, 3 questions, and scripture on the center of each table. A microphone can be helpful and a clear space to lead from up front. Wall space near the front for three large post-it sheets (write one question per sheet at the top)

Welcome & Prayer

Introduction

MOVEMENT I - Lectio Divina – Mark 6:34-44 (10 minutes x 2 + sharing = 35 minutes)

MOVEMENT II - Post-it Activity

- Introduction/directions & prayer for wisdom/discernment (18 minutes)
 - **Color #1 Who Are We Now?** (changing landscape, COVID, etc.)
 - **Color #2 What Are We Called to Do?** (God's abundance; What does it mean to be church today?)
 - **Color #3 Who Is Our Neighbor?** (We = ELCA Lutherans in Eastern North Dakota, including but not limited to your congregation)
- Each color/question has a "captain". Each captain collects their post-it's and reads them out, while arranging them on wall / large sheets
- Verbal sharing/reflections

MOVEMENT III – Most Essential

Invite people to partner up and each share ONE thing from the event that they consider most essential. Each person record on a ¼ sheet that is placed in a basket as they depart

CLOSING

- Info will be shared of your gathering & all gatherings compiled
- You could host something like this for your own congregation
- Information from the Baskets events will inform synod priorities in the coming years and are a part of a visioning process currently in process

Closing prayer