



Wednesday Prayer

5th Sunday after Epiphany – Called into deeper waters

When Jesus had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” Simon answered, “Master, we’ve worked hard all night long and haven’t caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets began to break... Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.” So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him.

Luke 5:4-6,10-11

I don't like fishing. Growing up I didn't like the worms (they were squishy) and I all out refused to put a hook through the minnows. My dad only took me with him once or twice and that was the end of that.

In church circles, we throw around the term “fishing for people,” but, at least in my circles, I don't think we actually like fishing very much or know what it really entails.

Sometimes fishing for people is sharing a testimony of your faith; telling someone about Jesus who loves us unconditionally no matter what you've done or where your life has taken you. Assuring them that there is a place for them in God's family of perfectly imperfect saints, and that living within the kingdom of God's grace here and now has made all the difference in your life.

Sometimes casting that net is an invitation to share a cup of coffee or a meal, dispelling the loneliness and receiving someone's story. Sometimes it's praying for them. What would it be like to be known as the person who everyone knows they can go to when they're hurting and you'll listen without judgement and pray for them? How might this impact young people who are hurting and need adult's unconditional love?

Jesus asks us to paddle out into deeper waters that we might cast a wide net. It might be awkward, scary and exhausting, but when we do so the results are that more people than we could imagine know and live within God's grace. Who around you is lonely, hurting, and in deep waters? May we all have courage to paddle out to them in order to share the love of Jesus and find ourselves in God's transformative presence as well.

Holy God you call us into deeper waters that we might cast the net of your grace over the lost and hurting in our lives. Give us courage to share our faith in ways that bring light and hope to many. Amen.

Written by Liz Eide, pastor of Lutheran Church of Peace, Maplewood, MN.