



Emmanuel Lutheran News

Located at the corner of Laurel & Cottonwood Streets

PO Box 207, Reardan WA 99029

Telephone: 509-796-2531 Email: Reardanlutheran@gmail.com

Website: www.emmanuelreardan.org

Pastor's Word for August 2023

August 2023

So, it's hot out. It's coming up on August: That's to be expected. Leaving North Dakota after three winters in 2005, I told folks, 'It can't get too hot for me.' I'd lived in Okinawa, the Philippines, flown to Hong Kong and Thailand, all really, really HOT places in summertime. I've lived through hot; I've lived through cold. I'm okay with hot.

My sister and I rode down the Route of the Hiawatha, the old Milwaukee Road railroad grade that crosses under Lookout Pass about 90 minutes east of here on the freeway. The tunnels were deep and long and spooky, but the main attractions were the trestles that shot across deep draws in the mountainsides. It was glorious - you could look down on the tall firs and cedars and pine trees. Those were big trees, too. Yet the oldest of them was no more than 110 years old - all this beautiful area had burned in 1910, in one of the worst forest fires ever recorded. These trees were grown from the ashes of appalling destruction. The world we live in is so wonderful, and so fragile. Just like us, I guess.

It's easy to forget: Humans, the Crown of God's creation, are both capable, and powerless. We are astonishingly complex, '*fearfully and wonderfully made*' (Psalm 139), precious in God's sight, yet we are also fragile, ephemeral, so tiny and insignificant. Not one or the other, we are BOTH. Psalm 8 speaks of this:

When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

I thought about this watching the sun rises over the Cabinet Mountains east of Lake Pend Oreille. We stayed in a lovely place on the western shore for a whole week, just looking across the water. Well, we DID throw sticks for our dogs to swim after about a gazillion times as well, but in between we sat and...gazed? Beheld? Stared at? We just let the view sink in, from the Pack River delta way over there to the Scotchman mountain shining in the sun over there. Just drank it in.

It was just what we needed - no airplanes to catch, no 'people to see, things to do, places to go' - what we ordinarily do on vacation. This was different- and I'm STILL energized.

That's the power of such beauty - such beauty that is every bit as fearfully and wonderfully made as we ourselves are. This whole planet is a spinning, orbiting, shining miracle. So powerful, so ancient, and yet so fragile and priceless and vulnerable at the same time. It's ours to love and care for. So, get out there and love and care for what God has given you! It's mighty and fragile, just like you and me. And may God be with you, and stay cool out there!

In faith, hope and love,
Pastor Greg