



Grain

“The Reformation is much broader than that singular day.” Stephen J. Nichols, *The Reformation*
Quoted in *The Living Lutheran*

Field

“1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. 6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled... Matthew: 5:1-6

Thoughts

Just after celebrating the Reformation, next Sunday many of us will engage with the Beatitudes on All Saints Sunday. Living in a culture that does not encourage us to take a lot of time for grief, in many congregations we will have an opportunity to remember people in our lives who have gone before us. What will you remember? The generosity of someone? The fun they were? Your love for them despite everything? The parts of them that taught you about love or how to deepen your faith? When I am stirred to recall someone's influence in my life I generally don't think about how powerful they were materially, but how they reflected the beatitudes, their love and vulnerability that gave me permission to love.

Whom else do we see in the Beatitudes? It seems Jesus gave his Sermon on the Mount to a crowd whose faces he recognized in those he named as blessed. Jesus encountered the people not according to their wealth, positions in society or social connectedness to him or others, but as followers of Yahweh who realized their need for God. He gave them/gives all of us a chance to respond to God's love as part of this scenery of blessedness.

Tomorrow, on Reformation Day, bishops in Wisconsin will gather in Milwaukee for a press conference to support fair policies for refugees and immigrants. There are clear economic arguments to make, but as people of faith they/we also know that the faces of our brothers and sisters seeking refuge are in the Beatitudes. Blessed are those who have been displaced and mourn the loss of home. We find ways to stand with one another. Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy