



Grain

“And the more I considered Christianity, the more I found that while it had established a rule and order, the chief aim of that order was to give room for good things to run wild.” –C.K. Chesterton

Field

⁴⁰“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; ⁴²and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.” Matthew 10:40-42

Thoughts by Reverend Jim Lynch, Town of Dunn, WI

Welcome the prophets, Jesus tells us. Listen to them. And things will turn out the way they are supposed to.

I asked a member of the congregation where I was serving as a student pastor in 2008-'09, how sinking so much money into the organ help us reach out to the people around the church? He pointed to how without the organ leading the masses in raising a joyful noise to the Lord, worship wasn't worship, didn't have a lot of meaning.

The church where I did my internship – Capitol Drive Lutheran Church in Milwaukee – was trying to determine how to truly welcome the people in the neighborhood where it lived. That's hard work. It requires a change in attitude and outlook, a flexibility not many of us possess. Do the people we want to join us on Sunday – and not just on Sunday but throughout the week – care if there is organ music? Maybe something else will make their time with us and our time with them more meaningful, I said. Because if that's true, and we don't figure that out, we are going to have to close our doors.

As long as the doors stay open so I can be buried from the church, and the organ is part of it, the rest doesn't matter, he said.

Sigh. “It's all about me” isn't what Jesus was getting at when he asked us to give the little ones a cup of cold water and assured us that by doing so, that by welcoming people, by being flexible, we will gain so much more than we ever stood to lose. This is not to throw shade at Capitol Drive, the pastors or the members. They are good and faithful servants. They did welcome a prophet. Their efforts will be rewarded. Have been already, just not in the way they hoped or expected.

Capitol Drive the congregation dissolved late in 2022. Capitol Drive the building lives on as home to the urban ministry in all its phases of Venice Williams, who long has championed providing a space for community to grow and serve and be served from urban gardening to vocational training, counseling, yoga, art therapy, small business growth and more. Happy Monday!

Share

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to cindyc@loppw.org

All Monday Quotes found under the Resources & Advocacy Tools tab at www.loppw.org

Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Jim