

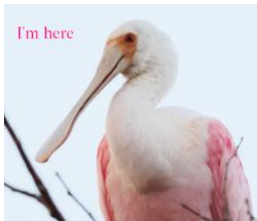


Grain

"Forrest Gump : 'Lieutenant Dan, what are you doing here?'
Lieutenant Daniel Taylor : 'I'm here to try out my sea legs.'
Forrest Gump : 'But you ain't got no legs, Lieutenant Dan.'" From the movie "Forrest Gump" before a hurricane, subsequent catches of shrimp, and Lt. Dan's new hope and attitude toward life and community.

Field

²²Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ²⁸Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." Matthew 14:22-33



Thoughts

Hey, what are you doing here? That's what I ask when seeing someone I know from one part of the region in another. That pastor is supposed to be serving a church in the UP, and that one in northwestern Wisconsin. What are they doing at a synod assembly in La Crosse? The same holds true for wildlife. A rare pink bird, a roseate spoonbill, was just spotted in Green Bay for the first time in 178 years. Hello.

A bear was recently sighted on the west side of Madison in a tree, around which a whole neighborhood and DNR staff gathered. An endangered bumble bee made a surprise visit at the Milwaukee Zoo, stunning for those who notice details about bees and care for their existence.

Detecting people and other creatures where our minds don't usually place them can be intriguing, disconcerting, and/or dangerous. What is incongruous can also sometimes be an opening to how God is working. Who shows up as God's vessel or in need of one? Where is justice emerging or injustice turning us toward God with only the words, "Save me" or "Save us"?

As the disciples were crossing the lake in a storm, it was outside their realm of expectations to see Jesus or anyone walking on the water. Their beloved teacher turned up when they were in peril, but they were frightened by his extraordinary appearance; Jesus was just too out of place. When the disciples absorbed the reality of Jesus' presence in the storm, they had to wonder what else was possible for them and how God could work through them. Peter was able to walk on the water briefly; he failed and was lifted by Jesus. As they crossed the body of water, they reached a new horizon in their being. So much love is possible with grace? Happy Monday!

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy