



### Grains

“When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’” –Fred Rogers

“We are not to simply bandage the wounds of victims beneath the wheels of injustice, we are to drive a spoke into the wheel itself.” –Dietrich Bonhoeffer

### Field

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. John 15:9-17

### Thoughts

When going through the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles several years ago, we began on the ground level looking at displays revealing life in Germany at the beginning of the Nazi era. There was a café setting in which you could hear a recording of people’s voices saying things such as, but possibly not exactly (I’m depending on my memory), “Hitler is a buffoon. He’ll never run this country. We don’t have to worry about him.” The walk through the displays gradually spiraled downward into a basement with almost no light. The people represented in the figures portrayed in the restaurant at the beginning never could have imagined the horrors that lay ahead of them. The most striking was the display of Jewish babies being thrown out of windows. How did hatred go so far? But at the very end there was a display of people who were allies, people who shined light in the darkness that did not win overall. The curator leading the tour said he found hope in those allies.

Allies do give us hope. That’s why we like Mr. Rogers’ quote. We look for helpers in the midst of crises when we personally or as a society need assistance. What Rogers said was meant for children, perhaps who might lose their way or needed to find a safe adult. We sometimes need helpers, but we are also the adults looking for ways to drive a spoke into wheels of injustice that cause children to suffer in Gaza, in the throes of human trafficking, or from pollutants in our water.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who resisted the abuse of power that infected his neighbor and his church, still inspires adults to protect children and befriend our neighbor of any age oppressed by unjust powers. I value looking for helpers and finding hope in allies, but also in God’s call for us to love enough to want to be an ally. “No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” We begin with God’s love and get glimpses into how that is what really matters. Happy Monday!

### Share

Send any quotes you'd like to share with our network to [cynthia.crane@elca.org](mailto:cynthia.crane@elca.org)  
All Monday Quotes found under the Resources & Advocacy Tools tab at [www.loppw.org](http://www.loppw.org)

Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy