

Ms. Victoria A. Horst
All Welcome Lutheran Mission, Tifton, GA

This picture is from All Welcome Lutheran Church a couple of years ago, on one of my favorite Sundays of the year. Holy Humor Sunday (in case you didn't know - gasp) is the Sunday after Easter. We love it. I am in the front row, second from the left, in the charming pointed hat. Directly behind our very talented organist, Todrick Webb, who is doing his imitation of a tennis pro. Because it's Holy Humor Sunday and you can.

I have been a part of the Lutheran world for a very long time. I was raised Lutheran, married a man (Paul) whose father was a Lutheran pastor and have a daughter who is a pastor. Paul and I have actually been employed by the ELCiC (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada), the ELCT (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania) and the ELCA. I am a librarian that now manages the Tifton-Tift County Public Library and I act as the Prime Gofer for the All Welcome Lutheran Mission here in Tifton. Prime Gofer means I get the bulletins printed, am the de facto Altar Guild, bake cookies and often act as the first contact for people looking for information on the church.

My favorite Bible verse is not actually a verse. It's the story of the poor widow who badgered the corrupt judge until he ruled her case in her favor. Just to make her go away. I have had multiple projects in my life and career that took a lot of poking, prodding, cajoling and persistence to bring them to completion. The widow did not worry about being a pain, she did not consider the idea that it might not have been appropriate for her to continue harassing a powerful man -- she knew what she needed to have done and she kept on it until it happened. She's my hero.

I see God in various places. I keep bees and chickens and they have a completely different view of the world than I often do in my day to day slog. Spring is coming and the bees are out, doing what they were created to do -- find the flowers, bring back the nectar, build up their world. The chickens are young, they have just started laying and they are so thrilled with themselves and their accomplishments. They have a joy in their lives that we need to rediscover. And, I see God in the people who come to the library -- people who need our help, are excited about something wonderful in their lives, or just very glad to see us.

It seems to me that I have had more than my share of "Small World" experiences. Paul and I have been to lots of places, places where we really did not expect to know anyone, where we truly believed we were completely ON OUR OWN. But, in so many of those places we found someone who had a connection to either someone we knew or somewhere we were from. Or, because the Lutheran Church in the world is not THAT big a pool of people, we found people who "do church" like we do. I know I am not alone.