

BLESSINGS ALWAYS  
February 5, 2025  
Association Minister Message  
Rev. Daniel L. Busch

*EXHAUSTION.* “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing.” (Luke 5:5). Often we are so *EXHAUSTED* mentally, physically, and spiritually that nothing more gets done. Fatigue sets in and work and play come to a standstill, and often relationships with family and friends are tense. We are annoyed by others (and ourselves) because of being irritated at what seems like unreasonable demands. Others get the brunt of our irritation because we are *EXHAUSTED* mentally, physically, and spiritually.

The disciples in Luke’s story are *EXHAUSTED* from fishing all day and disappointed that they caught nothing. They came back to the docks and were cleaning their gear for the next day’s fishing when Jesus gets into Simon Peter’s boat, still preaching to the crowds who followed Him, and soon instructs the fishermen to “*put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.*” In spite of being *EXHAUSTED* and discouraged, the fishermen do as Jesus says. Amazingly they caught so many fish that their nets were falling apart, and they had to call other fishermen to come and help them with the catch. However, there is more to the story than catching fish.

Jesus disturbed the normal and the tools of the fishing trade were torn apart. Our lives are never the same following Jesus who changes us, especially when we are *EXHAUSTED*, weary of the day’s routines and responsibilities. It is Jesus’ call that gives new meaning to what we have done, are doing, and will be doing. The first disciples still were in the catching occupation but were now “*catching*” people for the sake of the Gospel and Good News of transformation. “*They left everything and followed Jesus.*”

Jesus gathers us in nets of God’s embrace, God’s affirmation, and God’s Spirit that make all things new. Are we willing to give up everything to follow Jesus? When we are *EXHAUSTED*, terrified, strained, self-centered, sinful, arrogant, rude, and with hurt minds, bodies, and spirits, with Jesus’ love we find recovery. We are called to go to the “*deep*” where God’s amazing grace rescues us and turns things around, and we, too, fish for people. “*Let’s go fishing!*” *BLESSINGS ALWAYS.*