

**From Jenn Warnock, Lay Minister**

**“ Summer and winter and springtime and harvest**

**Sun moon and stars in their courses above**

**Join with all nature in manifold witness**

**To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love! “**

What a beautiful summer we have had, and now we are headed toward the season of harvest and back-to-school time! So much about our seasons are consistent, particularly in our rural, agricultural community. Our county fairs are at the same time every year (and nobody has their fair at the same time as the neighboring counties!) The first football games are at the same times. Back to school schedules are usually the same. In Minneota, we celebrate Boxelder Bug Days at the same time every year, and in my hometown of Madison, we celebrate Norskfest (including the excitement of the lutefisk eating contest) every November. For some of us, sameness and predictability gets boring, stale. We want to see things get stirred up a bit sometimes...for others of us, stability and constancy and consistency in life is comforting.

When I was a child, one of my favorite books was Anne of Green Gables. The character Marilla in the book adopted young Anne, who tended to have a lot of adventures and misadventures. Whenever Anne would declare herself “in the depths of despair” or state that she could not go on after one of her escapades, Marilla would tell her that no matter what she has done, or gotten herself into, (like the time she accidentally died her hair green!) the sun will continue to rise and set!

The mercies, love, and constancy of God is like that. No matter what season we are living through physically or spiritually, God makes the sun to rise and set upon us. No matter what mistakes or accidents we may have gotten ourselves into, His love never fails. His mercies are new every morning. Great is His faithfulness!

In Christ Alone,

Jenn