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Lord, here I am. How strange it is, that some days feel like hurricanes and others like glassy seas and others like nothing much at all.

Today is a cosmic shrug. My day planner says, rather conveniently, that I will not need you, cry for you, reach for you. Ordinarily, I might not think of you at all.. Except, if you don't mind, let me notice you. Show up in the small necessities and everyday graces.

God, be bread. Be water. Be laundry. Be the coffee cup in my hands and the reason to calm down in traffic. Be the gentler tone in my insistence today that people pick up after themselves for once. Be the reason I feel loved when I catch my own reflection or feel my own self-loathing fluttering in my stomach.

Calm my mind, lift my spirit, make this dumb, ordinary day my prayer of thanks.

Kate Bowler

- Prayer for This Ordinary Day from "The Lives We Actually Have"



The History of Father's Day

Father's Day was not immediately accepted when it was proposed, and it did not become a national holiday in the United States until 1972 during President Richard Nixon's administration. Why was it a hotly contested debate?

Read About the Forgotten History of Father's Day

Few Churches are Autism-Friendly

A new study has found children with autism (and their families) are



almost twice as likely to never attend church or other religious services. And children with other disabilities—like developmental delays, attention deficit disorder, or anxiety—often are missing from the pews as well.

[Read the Article](#)



ELCA Church Council Appoints Members to the Commission on a Renewed Lutheran Church

The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) met electronically April 20. The council serves as the ELCA churchwide organization's board of directors and interim legislative authority between meetings of a churchwide assembly.

[Read The List of the Council's Actions](#)



Good Reads

Title: *The Beach is Calling: 90 Devotionals for Rest and Relaxation*

Author: DaySpring

Whether you live on the beach or wish you did, this daily devotional will transport you to a place where you can rest and relax in God's love. It will provide a haven of rest for the times when you feel like the waves of doubt are crashing all around you or a storm is overwhelming your faith.

Each devotion begins with an encouraging Scripture followed by an inspiring message to remind you of God's closeness. A closing prayer guides you to rest and receive His peace. This refreshing journey to the beach will assure you that God cares deeply about helping you find rest amid life's chaos.

[Available Here](#)

We Need You!

Are you interested in being featured in or submitting a Servant Story for a future issue of *The Tool Box*? Are you an instructor who would like to share a bit of yourself in "Instructor Focus?" Are you a site coordinator who would like to give us a peak into your program? Do you have observations to share from your a class?

We can all learn from each other's journeys before, during and after the program.

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