

“Everything I Need to Know  
I Learned on the Mission Trip to Alaska”  
A, Pentecost 6; 10:00 am  
July 16, 2017  
Congregational UCC, Buena Vista, CO  
Rev. Rebecca K. Poos

**EVERYTHING I NEED TO KNOW**  
**I LEARNED ON THE MISSION TRIP TO ALASKA**

- \* Youth are a lot of fun to hang out with! It might just be possible that they are quite a bit better than adults at being ready on time!
- \*Said youth (and some adults!) can go out into the wilds of the night to forage for French friends and ice cream at *any* time. It matters not, if they have just finished a meal. French fries and ice cream are a food group and source of nourishment totally other.
- \*Instigator is a *good* thing! When 9 youth and 11 adults are set out into the world, charged with being “instigators” , being “stars not idols,” and charged to seek out those who are different, get to know them, and bring them into your world, life and love—powerful things happen.
- \*Moose really do appear out of nowhere and walk toward you!!
- \*Seals come up and say “hello” to boat passengers and pose for pictures! And smile, and say “cheese!”
- \*You can stay up *way* into the night, because it’s still light, and *still* work long and hard the next day. And do it all over again the next night and day!
- \*Big machines (Bobcat) with just the right guy in the cab (Delmar) can do the work of countless people for countless hours! And save said people for other projects taking countless hours!

\*Dislocated joints and thumbnails and heavily bandaged parts can still get a lot done. And, they can even “point directions” as an added bonus!

\*Fantastic leadership can have all the ducks in a row and get twenty people through TSA all in once piece—almost all in one group even! In spite of TSA staff people trying to interfere and “help.”

\*Challenges can be met with grace and creative thinking by said leadership. Broken down vans, not enough vehicle seats, differing preferences for activities, weather changes, and moose and bear close encounters!

**CREATIO EX NIHILO**

In theology and philosophy, there is a concept called:

*creatio ex nihilo*, meaning "creation out of nothing",

The 8 days we spent in Anchorage exemplified the living out of this holy concept.

- \*Something (stairs) can be created out of nothing (a hillside) in 4 days!
- \*Order can be created out of chaos.
- \*Three workshops of hodgepodge chaos can be turned into one shop of organized, labeled, sorted, and fully assessed-to-be-working hand tools, power tools, countless supplies and gadgets. IF you have the right people with unparalleled organizing skills and someone who recognizes what the tools are!
- \*Something can be created out of nothing, when you take an almost-abandoned kitchen with rotting food in it and few cooking supplies, and you add a Board room with a big table, and you put them together with:

--Saint Bowie Duncan and his assistants, hunting and gathering  
and schlepping nourishing vittles and supplies  
--Twenty people gathered round 3 times a day  
--And a Heavenly Banquet Feast for a community is created with  
amazing, nutritious sustenance for body and soul.

And community is created. Where once there were 20  
individual souls, now there is mission. The Body of Christ  
living, working, dining, and sharing life together.

*creatio ex nihilo*

And the Creator God looked around and saw that it was good.  
Very good

And instigators were leashed into the world. Alaska was only  
the beginning!