## Steeple News

## **May 2024**

## **Problems**

A problem, we think, should be something to be solved just like a puzzle. It should be solved, then set aside and forgotten. That is what we would like to think. We might pray to our Lord and ask Him to make our burden lighter today. Then we look forward to a time when things will level off. When we've taken the test, gotten over our sickness or financial burden, then all will be well. Unfortunately, that is not the case.

Problems are a part of everyone's life. There is no escape from them. There is no security from them. Helen Keller is quoted as saying that "security is mostly superstition." Security does not exist in nature, nor do the children of mankind as a whole experience it. Trying to avoid danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. So, we can then conclude that life is either a daring adventure or it is nothing.

Sometimes the dangers of living can seem to overwhelm us. We can begin to feel that problems will manage us rather than vice versa. Perhaps we could manage them if they came one by one with some time interval between them. Very often they overwhelm us.

The only solution is to turn to the Gospels and hear their message. For God, nothing is impossible, and we are not alone in our dilemma. He who has known us from the very beginning can give us back to ourselves. We were not born to fail. However, much evidence we can muster to the contrary, He knows that we have the power within us to meet any problem with His help. The late Eleanor Roosevelt used to carry this prayer in her purse; "Our Father, who has set restlessness in our hearts and made us all seekers after that which we cannot fully find, keep us at tasks too hard for us, that we may be driven to Thee for strength." We must never doubt that He will deliver us.

Rev. Hans Lillejord