Nuclear Power: Facts and Myths

By Darrick Moe, President and CEO, Minnesota Rural Electric The Heart of Jesus **Association**

When people think about nuclear power, they often picture Homer Simpson dozing off in a control room or Montgomery Burns scheming to cut corners for profit. Pop culture has shaped that image but it couldn't be further from modern reality.

For decades, nuclear energy has quietly powered Minnesota's homes and businesses with reliable, carbon-free electricity. Yet despite this proven track record, nuclear remains one of the most misunderstood energy sources. As Minnesota works to meet growing energy demands and bold carbon-free goals, it's time to take a closer look at the facts.

Clean and Reliable — No **Matter the Weather**

Nuclear energy generates electricity by splitting atoms to produce heat, which turns water into steam to drive turbines all without releasing carbon emissions. In Minnesota, nuclear is the state's largest single source of reliable carbonfree electricity, with the Monticello and Prairie Island plants running safely and steadily for decades.

While wind and solar are vital to our clean energy goals, their output depends on the weather. Nuclear fills the gap, providing dependable, always-on power when it's needed most. That's critical in Minnesota, where frigid winters and hot summers place heavy demands on the grid.

This reliability stabilizes costs, prevents outages, and powers key industries like farming, food processing, and manufacturing.

A Small Footprint, Big Results

Nuclear energy is also remarkably efficient in its use of land. Producing 1 million megawatthours of electricity requires about 17,800 acres of wind installations or 3,200 acres of solar panels. Nuclear can achieve the same output on just 103 acres.

For Minnesotans who care meaningful difference. Nuclear tomorrow. allows us to meet electricity needs without sprawling across productive or scenic land.

Addressing Safety and Waste Safety is a reasonable concern with any energy source, and nuclear is no exception. The good news: U.S. nuclear plants are among the most heavily regulated energy facilities in the world. With built-in safety systems and decades of experience,

nuclear has one of the strongest

safety records in the industry.

Waste is another common concern. Yet all used fuel from U.S. reactors since the 1950s would fit on a single football field, stacked less than 10 yards high. That spent fuel is securely stored and monitored and has caused zero harm to the public.

To put it in perspective: waste from one person's lifetime of electricity use would fit inside a soda can.

Looking Ahead: Every Tool on

No energy source is perfect. Building new nuclear plants takes time, investment, and careful planning. But if Minnesota hopes to meet future energy needs affordably while reducing emissions, nuclear deserves to be part of the conversation.

State law currently prohibits utilities from even exploring new nuclear projects. Lifting that moratorium wouldn't build a plant tomorrow — but it would allow for thoughtful discussions, research and planning.

At the Minnesota Rural Electric Association, we believe in an "all-tech-on-deck" approach to energy. That means supporting innovation in wind, solar, battery storage, and nuclear alongside other tools that ensure affordable, reliable power for all Minnesotans.

Our energy future depends on

practical solutions that strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and Minnesota powered in every season. With nuclear on the table, Minnesota can lead the way in building an energy sysforests, and open space, that's a today and creates a brighter

Incarnational Inkwell

By Adam LaCrosse

Out of the vast number of subjects that surround my Christian faith, the one that I seem to be returning to again and again most frequently these days is the idea of the heart. In our modern world, the heart is something of a sentimental, highly emotional, touchy-feely subject, but when seen through a biblical lens. The heart is the seat of the will, the power that drives our decision-

What about Jesus's heart? If Jesus is fully God and fully man simultaneously, surely his heart is a powerful thing. We see this most clearly when Jesus has pity on sinners. In the many miracles he performed, he never did them to satisfy himself or just to show off. In fact, the only time he was asked to show off was during his temptation in the desert against the devil.1e John records that God is love, and I take comfort in the fact that God's love is unconditional. Jesus's love is waiting for me despite my sin and because he knows me better than I know myself, I can confidently run to him without

fear or shame, because he is so good to me. I think we can take comfort in knowing that because Jesus is good to us, we all have the ability to say yes to whatever he

asks of us. It may seem challenging or confusing at times, but Jesus did not say that there would not be burdens in this life. He only said, "my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:30). Jesus also knew the weight of life's burdens personally.

Enduring so much during his passion, he lost friends, was betrayed by one and suffered an excruciating three hour-long

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death on a wooden cross. We have a God who is willing to suffer to show how much he loves us. If Jesus sacrifice his own life in order to save us, how much more we called upon to sacrifice the little things for the glory of God?

I'm not just talking about material things here either. Donating our money to charity is

wonderful, but is it not a little bit of a sacrifice to say hello to grumpy neighbor knowing that you will not get much of a greeting in return? It's the little things with great love that Jesus seems to care about the most, like the poor woman who only put two coins into the treasury, even though that was all she had. I reminded of a story of Mother Teresa that demonstrates the as

Mother Teresa would go around Calcutta begging for something for the poor and sick. One day as she was begging, she asked the man to give a child a cup of cold water. The man refused and spat in Mother Teresa's face. She calmly replied, "that's for me, now what about the child?" Mother Teresa, a simple Indian nun. face rejection and humiliation so willingly because she knew how much she was loved.

Jesus's heart aches for our own. It doesn't matter how broken or bruised it might be from life's mistakes. It's the place I feel called to but I don't know where to turn. Do not be afraid to encounter his love. Jesus wants nothing but the best for us, and that starts by uniting our hearts to his.

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Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

- 1) Be of assistance 5) Spherical hairdos
- 10) Price tag info 14) Type of rug
- 15) Not even a mouse
- 16) "Do ___ others ...'
- 17) Treat rudely, in slang 18) Circle, as planets
- 19) Abel's assassin
- 20) Fool 23) Cook, as chestnuts
- 24) Large blood vessel 25) Protect from floods
- 28) Joan of art
- 30) Clean, as a pipe

- 31) "Mac" attachment
- 33) Informal relative 36) Fool
- 43) Lens covers

40) Hog home

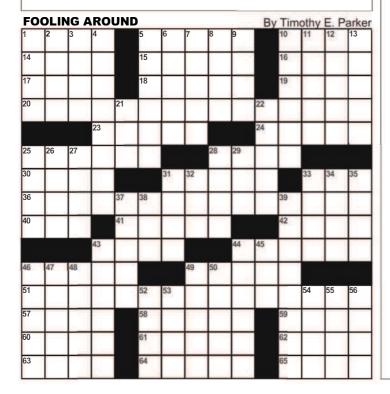
41) Can't tolerate

44) Baltimore's Yards

42) Kunis of Hollywood

- 46) Like immature fruit
- 49) Insect after metamorphosis
- 51) Fool 57) Masculine
- 58) Drift from a script 59) Inventor's inspiration
- 60) "Don't delay" 61) Animal catcher
- 62) Farm soil
- 63) Butterfly hazards

- 64) Big Top performer
- 65) Airborne fish-eaters



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- 1) Pilgrimage, for some
- 2) Lake, city or canal 3) "Make do" amount
- 4) Deli offering
- 5) Polar jacket
- 6) McHenry and Dix 7) "Lost in Space" figure
- 8) "Don't count ___ !"
 9) MacFarlane of TV and film
- 10) Bird in a clock
- 11) Kind of personality 12) Limited work assignment
- 13) Island kingdom near Fiji
- 21) Long time, geologically 22) Acquires through work
- 25) Flubs one 26) Pork, for one
- 27) New arrival
- 28) Hardness-measuring scale
- 29) "Bill me later" note 31) Carpenter, army and fire
- 32) Highway, for short
- 33) "You ___ a mouthful!" 34) Global speck
- 35) "The Man" Musial 37) Abu ____, UAE
- 38) "The Raven" author's initials 39) Not going anywhere
- 43) Heebie-jeebies 44) Curve upward in the middle 45) Pack on the years
- 46) Pitcher in a suit? 47) Come to an end
- 48) Acclaim
- 49) Certain faith 50) Silk fabric with a wavy pattern
- 52) Humongous in area
- 53) Krabappel on "The Simpsons" 54) Bad smell
- 55) Head of a college 56) Thanksgiving side dish



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