

SOUPER BOWL



So take a look at this picture. How was that perfect heart-shaped Valentine formed in my soup?" you may be asking. What fancy culinary tool did I use? Nothing that you don't already have, my friends: prayerful focus and God-wink.

I haven't made enough soups this winter, but one night recently, I pulled out of my freezer the pulp of the bronze pumpkin that had decorated my porch step 'til Thanksgiving. Baked and blended with broth, curry, and coconut milk it has a wonderfully smooth texture and aroma.

My husband who always eats faster than me had finished dinner and moved to the computer. I lingered and with my eyes drifting upwards, pensively took another spoon of soup as I pondered Feb 7 and 14th services for both the Presbyterian and the Lutheran church. I pictured red heart valentines on a tree or on the narthex table for people to pick

up, and send to shut-ins and how much they would enjoy that. When I looked down to take another spoonful there it was, a perfect heart arisen from the depths of my bowl.

I couldn't take another bite. I couldn't disturb it. I did take several pictures and even as I write this, it is still there like a valentine 'stigmata' in the soup. A stigmata is something in Catholic terminologies that broadly indicates a sign (usually on the flesh of a person rather than the flesh of a pumpkin) that God is present and speaking. At times it is one of the characteristics that leads one to be deemed a saint.

In the Reformed faith we're all saints. God's affirmations may appear to us in delightful and surprising ways. I love these God-winks! Think what you may about what a heart appearing in my soup bowl means; for me it was the playful Holy Spirit tuning in and speaking out; another reminder of the nurturing love of God.

At West Kish we're missing our traditional Super Bowl Sunday soup take-out due to Covid. So, if you're making soup for your own super bowl Sunday, set aside a bowl or two to take to people sheltered-in and make their day a souper Sunday too.

Blessings abound.

Pastor Ela