Communion from Home

Sunday March 29, 2020

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

 Staying home, not rushing from thing to thing, talking to loved ones, spending more time in prayer and in the Holy bible. Huh, the Corona virus may be opening our eyes to what God had in mind for the Sabbath day of rest. Other things that the virus has changed for me personally, is that I don’t get to see my loved ones in person, the churches feel empty without the smiling faces, questions, and fellowship over coffee or meals. The sounds of music rising up from the choir, giggles from the kids classes, and hugs after worship won’t be taken for granted again.

 But as I have had several virtual meetings with others in ministry, we realize that this is a time to learn and try new things (with lotsa grace!!). Broadcasting and live streaming services helps ease that ache of connection to the church families. A friendly reminder that the church is not a building, but a people. In some feedback from students after their tasked with a few questions from the sermon, has given me a fresh perspective of what they are seeking. God created us to be in search for connection and belonging. We are doing our best to reach out to one another in conversation and prayer, so take time to truly hear what is on one another’s heart.

Through technologies of this day and age, the Small Catechism by Martin Luther is available to be in your phone through an app! In the other connections we can make through technology is streaming worship through YouTube. As we hear a message through word and music we are not alone, we are together as one body of Christ. Now, the body and blood of Christ is shed for us whether we are taking Sacrament of Holy Communion in the sanctuary or in our homes. I am no theologian! But I do know that humans were created by God to seek connection. I’ve read Martin Luther’s Small Catechism and he gives clear explanation of what communion is to be. What I see through the broadcasting of worship and communion is the ability to hear the blessed words “given for you” and “shed for you… for the forgiveness of sin”. Those are holy humbling words.

In this time, in times before our generations, and my prayer for generations to come, is that we still seek connection with our Heavenly Father. Where do families congregate in their home? Where did Jesus gather his disciples for their last meal together? What promise of a heavenly feast do we hope to see someday? Come to the table and partake in communion. Bread (Wonder bread, corn bread, gluten-free bread, whole grain, keto-friendly) is the vessel, the words *“broken for you”* are what make it holy in the sacrament. Wine (or grape juice) is the vessel, the words *“shed for you… for the forgiveness of sin”* are what make it holy in the sacrament. So hear the words spoken for you in faith, and believe that forgiveness is for you.

Peace,

Madison Crane