



Table Talk

January 2018

Something to Chew On:

"I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Mark 1:8

My son, Ethan, celebrated his first Christmas this year. We sang Christmas carols to him, we hung his stocking by the fire, and we were up late Christmas Eve baking cookies for Santa on his behalf. At Christmas dinner a relative asked us why we went to all the trouble of baking cookies for a Christmas he will not remember. It's true, he will not remember what was done for him this Christmas Eve. But his lack of memory does not undo the gift that was given.

We will baptize Ethan on Sunday, January 7 even though he will be too young to remember it. John proclaims that all who are baptized by Jesus will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. This Spirit, God's Spirit, hovered over the waters at the beginning of all things. This Spirit gave skills and abilities to artisans, craftsman, and warriors of old. This Spirit spoke wisdom through kings and prophets. This Spirit revealed Jesus as God's Beloved Son in the Jordan river. Because Jesus joined us in a sinner's baptism, this Spirit is given to us uniting us with Father and Son in the bond of love. We cannot undo the gift that has been given to us in baptism.

Many of our peers would not understand why we are doing this. Some will think we are forcing religion on Ethan instead of letting him choose his own spiritual path. Others will think his baptism is useless, because he will not remember it. But I wonder what parent withholds vaccines from an infant until she can choose her own path to health and wellness? What infant does not benefit from eating a full meal before he can use a fork? Forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and intimacy with God are not choices we make. They are part of the very fabric of our lives.

When sins are retained, relationships end, and we become isolated from one another. When sins are forgiven, relationships are renewed, and we are drawn into deeper intimacy with one another. God forgives our sins in baptism, eternally renewing our lives and calling us beloved. Even if we do not remember our own baptisms, we come to know ourselves through God's love because we were baptized.

Amanda and I took pictures of the cookies, milk, and note we prepared for Santa on Ethan's behalf. Even though he will not remember this Christmas, he will hear the stories and see the pictures for years to come. The same will be true of his baptism. Through the stories he will come to know himself as one beloved by God and by us.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, 1/07

Baptismal Luncheon for Ethan Richard
11:45am Fellowship Hall

Youth Club

TIME CHANGE & RESCHEDULE

Monday, 1/15

Open Hands Open Hearts Consultation
6:00pm Choir Room

Tuesday, 1/16

Staff & Council Long Range Planning
6:30pm Fellowship Hall

Saturday, 1/20

Family Fun Night
6:30pm Fellowship Hall

Sunday, 1/22

Birthday Sunday
10:30am Sanctuary

Youth Club

6:30pm Youth Room

Friday, 1/26

Sack Lunch Ministry
9:45am Fellowship Hall

Sunday, 1/28

Annual Meeting
11:30am Sanctuary

Sunday, 2/4

Souper Bowl of Caring!
10:30am Sanctuary

Saturday, 2/10

Joe Jencks at St. Tim's Coffeeshouse

Wednesday, 2/14

Ash Wednesday
Services at Noon and 7:00pm

BAPTISMAL LUNCHEON

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 7, 11:45am

Celebrate the baptism of Ethan Richard with Pastor Daniel and Amanda after worship! Food will be provided.

OPEN HANDS OPEN HEARTS CONSULTATION

Choir Room

Monday, January 15, 6:00pm

Several members of the council are meeting with stewardship consultant Mark Vincent. Mark will help us better understand our own stewardship practices. He will also help us develop a plan to better align our practices with our mission.

STAFF/COUNCIL

LONG RANGE PLANNING

Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, January 16, 6:30pm

Council and staff meet to talk about church priorities for 2018. We'll continue to better align our practices with our mission.

SAVE THE DATE! JOE JENCKS COMING TO ST. TIM'S COFFEEHOUSE FEB. 10TH

"A Joe Jencks concert is definitely not a visit to the inner world of some guy with a guitar who wants you to sit still and listen politely. It's an occasion for singing, a contagious rising up of voices, an act of joy and defiance! Classical training meets roots-groove with acoustic soul." View more info:

<https://www.facebook.com/sttims.coffeehouse/>



YOUTH CLUB

Youth Room

Please note that Youth Club will now meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

Sunday, January 7

Contact Pastor Daniel about rescheduling.

Sunday, January 22, 6:30pm

Make new friends, play games, eat snacks & talk about life!

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 20, 6:30pm

We need volunteers to host Family Fun Nights in 2018! Please sign up during coffee hour or contact the main office with your interest!

BIRTHDAY SUNDAY

Sanctuary

Sunday, January 21, 10:30am

Come celebrate the birthdays of family members and friends that have birthdays in January!

SACK LUNCH MINISTRY

Meet in Fellowship Hall

Friday, January 26, 9:45am

Let Janice Skillen know if you can help make and take lunch to our friends in need. St. Tim's volunteers fed 671 of our neighbors in 2017!



Our Sanctuary decked out in poinsettias & holiday decorations before the Christmas Eve services

ANNUAL MEETING

Sanctuary

Sunday, January 28, 11:30am

Vote to restore the salary of cantor Paul Rupprecht, and learn about the progress of our mission redevelopment.