



Table Talk

September 2018

Something to Chew On:

“Something to Chew On” is getting a little bolder, a littler meatier, and a little more flavorful! This year, “Something to Chew On” will feature thought-provoking pieces which invite discussion and challenge timeless preconceptions about what it means to be church in the world.

Dear Theophilus,

So, you want to grow your church? Congratulations! You have taken your first step on this amazing journey of transformation.

If you want a quick fix divert the next busload of immigrants to your front door. It helps if they speak your language and are already Lutheran. Given our current Lutheran immigrant shortage, I suggest you start advertising in Sweden or Norway. You could also start having lots of babies! Just think, if each person in your congregation had one baby you would double your membership in about nine months.

If this plan seems too ambitious, try an attraction-based strategy. Gut your sanctuary and add stadium seating with a stage. Replace scary Halloween music with the latest hits on Christian radio. Install a café. Hire a young, hip pastor with ink sleeves. Consult a professional in advertising, and make every event more exciting than the last. Remember, push the bounds of fashion or people will lose interest.

But perhaps you don't have the energy or the budget to seduce the general public with your charms. You could always use high pressure tactics. Go door to door with pamphlets about Jesus. If they try to shut you out, stick your foot in the door. The pain is temporary, but the gain is eternal. Consider calling out the sins of passersby on a busy street corner. You could also take a more subtle approach and systematically dismantle your friends' beliefs with proofs from the Bible.

Maybe you're the kind of person who would be more comfortable with the meek and mild approach. Consider a strategy that relies on friendship and social service. Create a culture of dependency where you give free goods to those in need. Don't talk about the Savior. Be the Savior! Wait to close the deal until they walk through your doors. Then ambush them with a new member's class, a set of offering envelopes, and a role on the church council! Who could say no to that?

If these four time-honored strategies for growing a church do not fit you, simply go where the people are and be a Christian. After all, the only person you can control is you. Express your love of God through worship, study, and a life of reconciliation. Be honest about your faults, and trust God in all things. Healthy growth does not happen through proselytizing which depends on what humans do. Healthy growth comes through evangelizing which proclaims what God has done.

Yours in Christian Love and Service,

Evan Gelista

Upcoming Events

Thursdays in September beginning 09/13

Bibles and Beer
6:00pm Fellowship Hall

Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm Choir Room

Saturday, 09/08

St. Tim's Coffeehouse
7:00pm Sanctuary

Sunday, 09/09

God's Work Our Hands
10:30am Sanctuary

Installation of J. R. Green
10:30am Sanctuary

Sunday, 09/16

*Oil Blessing/
Bishop Miller/Birthday Sunday*
10:30am Sanctuary

Sunday, 09/23

Church Council
6:30pm Choir Room

Sunday, 09/23

Youth Club Kick-Off
4:00pm @ Pastor's House

Friday, 09/28

Sack Lunch Ministry
9:45am Fellowship Hall

ST. TIM'S COFFEEHOUSE

Sanctuary

Saturday, September 8 at 7:00pm

The new season of the St. Tim's Coffeehouse begins September 8th with veteran folk artist and friend of St. Tim's, Byron Bowers. Come join us for the new season.

WELCOME J. R. GREEN

Sanctuary

Sunday, September 9 at 10:30am

Join us as we welcome J. R. into the ministry we share and install him as our administrative assistant/communications director.

J.R. Green hails from the great city of Memphis, TN. He is a graduate of North Park Theological Seminary and now attends Garrett Seminary in Evanston, IL. When not sitting behind the office desk, he enjoys a good book, a good game night, and a good film.

OIL BLESSING & BISHOP MILLER

Sanctuary

Sunday, September 16 at 10:30am

Our new monthly healing services will begin in October. Bishop Miller will proclaim God's Word for us and bless the oil we will use in our services in this special celebration of healing. Come and know the goodness of God!

BIBLES AND BEER

Fellowship Hall

Thursdays at 6:00pm

Did you know that Martin Luther regularly gathered with his students over a mug of brew to talk Bible? Now you can, too! Enjoy a pint and explore God's plan for the world in the book of Revelation starting Thursday, September 13.

YOUTH CLUB KICK-OFF

Cookout, Yard Games, Bonfire

Sunday, September 23 at 4:00pm

It's a new year and a new start for the Youth Club! Bring a friend to Pr. Daniel's and Amanda's house for a cookout, yard games, and a bonfire. Youth Club is open to middle school and high school age youth.

SACK LUNCH MINISTRY

Meet in Fellowship Hall

Friday, September 28 at 9:45am

Let Janice Skillen know if you can help make and take lunch to our friends in need. St. Tim's volunteers provided 75 people with food assistance and distributed 80 lunches in August!

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

Sanctuary

Sunday, September 9 at 10:30am

Kick-Off the fall with the ELCA's national day of service! God's Work Our Hands Sunday is a special day to embody God's love through service to our neighbors. Wear your yellow shirts to worship! Stay tuned for more information on our service project for this year.