



St Timothy's
Lutheran
Church

"Sharing the Bread of Life"

Table Talk

April 2019

Something to Chew On:

The Body of Christ Given For You

I will never forget the first time I assisted with communion. It was an incredible experience. I watched each person as I spoke the words of grace to them, "The body of Christ given for you." Some came forward with heads bowed reverently. Some received the bread with faces as grim as those at a funeral. Some beamed from ear to ear with a smile that radiated inner joy.

I expected my first celebration of communion as a pastor to be filled with the same sense of wonder that it was when I first assisted at the table. But it wasn't. In fact, I felt nothing. Nothing was soon replaced by overwhelming disappointment. Something had changed, and an event that once held so much meaning for me felt, well, ordinary.

We all have experiences in life where the magic is stripped away by the explainable and the mystical is replaced by the everyday. In such moments we discover that our expectations were not grounded in reality. It's the first major conflict between newlyweds, the first criticism at a new job, the first major problem with the home, the first time you wake up and realize that you don't know what to do with the rest of your life. These are moments when reality replaces fiction and faith is disappointed. They are moments when we hear words of grace with our ears or speak them with our mouths while questioning them in our hearts. We are perhaps most vulnerable when reality falls short of our expectations. It is in these moments that we are most likely to question the presence, the power, and the goodness of God.

This kind of disenchantment and questioning would have been part of the first Easter. Jesus died in such a way that few could doubt God was against him. Furthermore, his disciples had no reason to expect him to rise from the dead. They were shocked and afraid when his body turned up missing from the tomb. Even in the midst of that trauma, the risen Christ appeared. New life and new understanding sprang from the dashed hopes and dreams of the cross. This is the promise of, "The body of Christ given for you." This is the promise of the resurrection.

Communion is for the disappointed and the disenchanted. It is for the confused and the afraid. It is for all who hunger for new life. In short, it is for you and for me. Whether we receive this meal in reverence, sorrow, or joy we can be confident that it bears the seed of new life for us. We are not confident because of how we feel or what we believe as we receive the gifts. We are confident, because the Crucified is risen. In the words of the well-known Lenten hymn, "Seed that in earth is dying grows into ears of grain. Grapes that are crushed in the vessel turn into golden wine. God, through this mystery grant us faith in our deepest darkness, life in our night and death."

April Calendar

- 07** Worship, 10:30am
- 11** Bibles and Beer 6:00PM
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00PM
- 13** St. Tim's Coffeehouse with Sons
of the Never Wrong 7:00
- 14** Palm Sunday Breakfast 8:30AM
Worship, 10:30AM
- 18** Bibles and Beer, 6:00PM
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00PM
- 16** Council Meeting, 6:30PM
- 19** Good Friday Service 7:00PM
- 21** Easter Sunday/Birthday
Sunday 10:30AM
- 25** No Choir Rehearsal or
Bibles and Beer
- 26** Sack Lunch Friday, 9:45AM
- 28** Worship/Birthday Sunday,
10:30AM

ST. TIM'S COFFEEHOUSE

Sanctuary

Saturday, April 13th at 7:00pm

We are already getting ready for our next Coffeehouse concert with the Sons of the Never Wrong. One of our most popular performers from last year returns to join us again. A turbo-charged Alt-folk trio, Bruce Roper, Sue Demel, & Deborah Lader combine influences of folk, jazz, pop, and rock. Their odd ball humor, spontaneous stories, and music is wildly original. Tickets are already selling fast. We hope you will come out and see this remarkable band!



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Sanctuary

April 19th at 7:00PM

Experience the power of the cross through readings, hymns, and reflections in this Tenebrae style service. The theme for the night is "The Way of the Cross". The way is marked by six signposts which guide us through the shadow of death in preparation for resurrection to eternal life.



Easter Lily Orders

Church Office

Orders taken through April 16th.

Easter lilies are available for order for our Easter Sunday service until April 16th. Order forms can be picked up on Sundays during our 10:30am service, or requests can be made by email at stlc.officestaff@gmail.com. Lilies cost \$14.00.

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST AND

SERVICE

Sanctuary

Sunday, April 14 starting at 8:30am

Join us for our annual Palm Sunday Breakfast and Service. The Breakfast starts at 8:30am and Service is after at 10:30am.



Easter Sunday

Sanctuary

Sunday, April 21st at 6:00pm

Sunday, April 21st, join us at 10:30 as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. Lent is over and the new season of Easter is here. We would love to celebrate this wonderful day with you.



Photo by Tucker Good on Unsplash

Bibles and Beer on Break

Bibles and Beer will be taking a break after Easter. No worries, we are returning. Date to be determined.