



St Timothy's
Lutheran
Church

"Sharing the Bread of Life"

Table Talk

March 2019

Something to Chew On:

Gathering as Church

As a pastor I spend a lot of time in a churchy building doing churchy things. When I leave the house in the morning I say, "Bye, I'm heading over to church." When I wake up on Sunday mornings I say, "It's time to get ready for church." When I leave for sack lunch and realize halfway through the drive that I can't open the building, I turn around to get my church keys. After my son was born I realized that how I talk about church matters. Is it a building I go to? Is it an activity I do? Is it a performance I watch? What will I unwittingly teach my son about his relationship to the church through what I say?

How we talk about church matters. Whether we are aware of it or not, our beliefs about the church are communicated in the things we say. For many of us church is a physical building with an address that sits on a finite lot in our community or in someone else's community. For many of us church is an hour-long event we attend a couple times a month to find something useful that will help us get through another two weeks. When we talk about church in this way it becomes an empty, expensive structure. It becomes one more activity we need to fit into our overbooked schedules.

As I've wrestled with this, I've started to change the way I talk about going to church. When I leave the house I now say, "Bye, I'm going to the church office." On Sunday mornings when I wake up I now say, "It's time to gather as church." When I leave for sack lunch and realize halfway through my drive that I can't open the building...ok, I still turn around to get my church keys. It's a work in progress.

Church is who we are. It's not some place we go. It's not something we do. It's a community made up of people just like you and me, sinners of God's own redeeming. In his explanation of the third article of the Apostle's Creed in the Small Catechism, Martin Luther reminds us that the Holy Spirit "calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian Church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins – mine and those of all believers."

Gathering as church is not about getting something, and it's not an obligation. Gathering as church is about living in community with Jesus Christ in our midst. Wherever this happens sins are forgiven and the church is gathered.

So, the next time you are in the car driving to 9000 Kildare, or the next time you are getting ready on Sunday morning, or the next time you forget your keys to the door, remember that church is not a place we go or a thing we do. Church is an identity. Church is who we are.

March Calendar

- 03** Worship, 10:30am
- 06** Ash Wednesday 7:00PM
- 07** Bibles and Beer 6:00PM
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00PM
- 09** St. Tim's Coffeehouse with John Lee Stanley,
6:30PM Doors open, 7:00pm
Concert begins
- 10** Daylight's Savings Time Begins!!
Worship, 10:30AM
- 14** Bibles and Beer, 6:00PM
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00PM
- 17** Worship/Birthday Sunday
10:30AM
- 19** Council Meeting, 7:00PM
- 21** Bibles and Beer, 6:00PM
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00PM
- 22** Sack Lunch Friday, 9:45AM
- 24** Worship, 10:30AM
- 28** Bibles and Beer, 6:00PM
Choir Rehearsal, 7:00PM
- 31** Worship, 10:30PM

ST. TIM'S COFFEEHOUSE

Sanctuary

Saturday, March 9th at 7:00pm

The 3rd season of the St. Tim's Coffeehouse returns March 9th with James Lee Stanley. A true renaissance man, James Lee was born into a musical family and already performing and recording for LeGrand Records at fourteen. His songs, coupled with his outrageous repartee, make for an evening of hilarity and tenderness. Doors open at 6:30pm and the music starts at 7pm. Tickets are \$20 at the door or can be purchased online at brownpapertickets.com



ASH WEDNESDAY

Sanctuary

March 6th at 7:00PM

Next Wednesday, March 6th, at 7:00pm, we enter the season of Lent with a 30 minute prayer service. Please join us that evening as we prepare our hearts for a time of contemplation. Lent allows us to spend time in quietness as we prepare for Easter. We hope you will join us as we begin this year's Lenten journey.



SACK LUNCH FRIDAY

Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 22 starting at 9:45am

Join us as we serve our North Shore Community. Lunch packing begins at 9:45am and we go to community house at First Congregational Church at 11:00am. Come out and see the work God is doing in our own community.



Bibles and Beer

Fellowship Hall

Thursdays in March at 6:00pm

Join us as we continue our Bibles and Beer series. This season we are studying the book of Esther. Come out as we discuss two incredible books of the Bible as we look forward to Easter. So, come out for a good brew and good conversation.



Photo by mnm.all on Unsplash

Midweek Lenten Services

Sanctuary

Thursdays in March from 6:45pm to 7:00pm

Join us for a short, midweek Lenten service every Thursday between 6:45pm and 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. This time of centering will include a hymn, a reading, and prayer