

## Pastor' Weekly Church Epistle

### Thursday, July 29, 2021

Hello Church!

Are you looking forward to Sunday? I am. Not that it is a special Sunday, we have no featured ministry or special music; it is just the first Sunday of August and time for our monthly communion services. It is a mundane opportunity to worship, and I am looking forward to it. I hope you are as well.

This morning I listened to author/YouTuber, Jennifer L. Scott, and heard a new to me definition of “mundane” as “of this earthly world rather than a heavenly or spiritual one.” (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7H4-yTndu8>) Ms. Scott encourages her listeners to delight in the mundane work of homemaking because our daily tasks sustain the family we cherish most. As I was already considering John 6: 22-40 as our Gospel reading for this coming Communion Sunday, what came to my mind was a realization that our communion ritual is mundane. Communion is made of the most ordinary food of our world and reminds us that God sent Jesus to be our Christ, to show us how to live our mundane lives with love and grace.

In this week's Gospel reading, Jesus corrects a popular but incorrect memory of the Jewish people. They had come to believe Moses provided their ancestors with manna in the wilderness. Jesus pointed them back to the fact that while Moses was their leader God provided their ancestors with manna. Jesus wrapped up his lesson by saying to the people, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” (John 6:35, New Revised Standard Version)

Bread is mundane. We all eat it. Some of us eat homemade whole grain bread, while others prefer *Wonder Bread*. Some of us need to look for gluten-free options, others of us wonder why. But no matter which bread is our personal favorite, all bread is mundane.

Bread fills us up, but only for a short time. Some restaurants take advantage of this quality of bread by serving bread as you wait for your order because bread is not only mundane, but it is also not costly to make. Using bread to cut the edge on your appetite makes your meal much more costly to prepare entrée a more satisfying dining experience. If you eat the bread, you are content with a smaller portion.

I believe that when Jesus compared himself to the manna God provided in the wilderness, he was saying to us that just as we eat bread daily, we also need Jesus daily. Just as we are hungry for bread often, we can be hungry for Jesus often.

As the Bread of Life, Jesus makes our other blessings even more satisfying. This coming month, Kathy will be changing our outdoor sign to read, “THANK YOU GOD FOR ENOUGH,” a drive by quote from a favorite, mind-altering table grace. “Thank you, God, for enough and some to share. Amen.” When I first learned this table grace from Rev. Jane Folmer-Zeekoff, our three children still lived with us and latched on to it with a zeal they have each carried

into adulthood. As I have taught this table grace at Wednesday night church suppers, others who adopted it in their home have shared how this little prayer has changed their relationship with stuff. Suddenly they have enough.

The Bread of Life is enough, not only for our own needs but in giving us something important to share with our neighbors. Our Pre-Campaign Evaluation from the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation raised our shared longing to reach out to our neighbors. Together we all live in a suburban culture so materially blessed that there is a whole industry around storing and tossing the abundance of stuff we have gathered. But with Jesus as our Bread of Life, we have enough and some to share.

Bread is an important part of having enough to eat. It gives us energy for our day, and as part of a balanced diets makes both vegetables and meats more satisfying. Bread also leaves us hungry daily. Jesus is our Bread of Life. He gives us motivation to love God and love our neighbors. Time with him as part of a balanced schedule which makes both our work and our rest more satisfying. Time in prayer with Jesus satisfies us daily and creates a longing for more when our hunger returns again.

Sunday we will share communion in the sanctuary and during our Zoom on-line service. Our staff knows you are hungry because our communion kits are going home. We hope you are looking forward to sharing communion with us, a mundane meal which reminds us Jesus is our Bread of Life.

Grace always,

Rev. Dawn

PS: Note from Kathy: Looking to link up to worship online Sunday mornings on YouTube? Click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCI30pjnWCONEvDZQUgKGZOOQ>