

Bread for the Journey: Feeding on the Bread of Life

As I was contemplating what to write for this column entitled “Bread for the Journey,” I could not help but



Rt. Rev. Bill McClure

think of Jesus’ “I am the Bread of Life” and “I am the Bread from Heaven” sayings from chapter six

of John’s gospel.

We are currently at the place in the Revised Common Lectionary’s three-year cycle in which we have the Bread of Life and Bread of Heaven sayings in gospel readings for four Sundays in a row. In these passages, Jesus reminds his listeners that he is the source of spiritual nourishment and the importance of striving to be one with him in order to be one with God. When we draw upon the truth of his Word

and follow the example of his life, we are fed with the Bread of Heaven that is Life.

A hymn by Helen Howarth Lemmel comes to mind:

*O soul, are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness you see?
There’s light for a look at the Savior,
And life more abundant and free.*

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,
In the light of his glory and grace.*

It seems that, just as we take a step beyond the pandemic restrictions, we experience more spikes in cases and variants of disease. We indeed find ourselves weary and troubled as we

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AS YOU WERE: *This photo, with Father Bill and Deacon Dan in masks, was taken at Easter. After a brief reprieve, Covid and its new variant have sent clergy and some in the congregation back to masking and taking special precautions.*

Feeding on the Bread of Life

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struggle to see the light in the darkness. The things of earth are all too often blinders that hinder our perception of Jesus' enduring presence.

I recently came across these words from Thomas Aquinas (1224 -1274):

“A certain participation of Happiness can be had in this life, but perfect and true Happiness cannot be had in this life. For since happiness is a perfect and sufficient good, it excludes every evil, and fulfills every desire. But in this life every evil cannot be excluded. For this present life is subject to many unavoidable evils: to ignorance on the part of the intellect, to disordered affection on the part of the appetite, and to many penalties on the part of the body.

Imperfect happiness that can be had in this life can be acquired by man by his natural powers but man's perfect happiness consists in the vision of [God], the Divine Essence Man is made happy by God alone, if we speak of perfect Happiness.”

We would do well to nourish ourselves with the Bread of Heaven that is Life; that “the things of earth may grow strangely dim, in the light of his glory and grace.”

I add this, from W. Paul Jones:

“Hope is the simple trust that God has not forgotten the recipe for manna.”

– FATHER BILL



LEARNING THROUGH PLAY: On Sundays, Maddie and Max Wilson learn about the Bible through play.

Something for children

When Covid-19 hit in 2020 and scrambled plans for Messy Church, Camp Chick, and Worship Center activities, Bronwyn Woolman was beside herself.

“We have to have something for children,” she said. “They’re the future of the church!” She wasn’t alone in that viewpoint, but others were more concerned about the potential for spreading disease in a parish full of vulnerable senior citizens. This summer Bronwyn took it upon herself to start a ‘Worship Center Kids’ program in the parish hall lower level on Sundays during the 10:30 worship, sharing teaching duties with Tina Wilson. Bronwyn says it’s going well.

“I had about 10 Sundays to fill, so I decided to cover the 10 Commandments, with activities and games to enhance learning,” Bronwyn says. “We need this for kids, and we need more than this.”



Profiling parishioner

Lotte Rosenberg

When Lotte Rosenberg first stepped into Trinity Church in 1956, she was new to Alpena, new to Michigan, new to America.

It must have been daunting for the quiet, demure 19-year-old German girl who knew only the soldier she'd met and married in Germany, Wayne Tanner, and his family. Alpena was a far cry from her hometown of Munich, and although she had a Lutheran background Lotte hadn't much access to formal religion, so that was new to her, too. The Tanners all went to Trinity Episcopal and Lotte simply went along, joining St. Lucy's Women's Group and helping behind the scenes in whatever time managing a household with three growing children would allow.

She found she liked it there. Trinity offered a sense of community, a welcoming spirit that must have felt so good to someone so young and far from home. "I enjoyed it," Lotte says. "It felt natural. It's a friendly church and I liked the people. I like it even more now that I'm older."

Lotte raised her family at Trinity, even as Trinity became a second kind of "family" for her, a connection that lasted through a divorce and a move to Jefferson, MO, where Lotte worked as a cook in the prison system. For five years she helped feed 3,500 people daily in a medium-security facility and for another five years cooked for 750 in a maximum-security penal institution. It was hard work, but Lotte had a servant's heart.



She married Joseph Rosenberg and when Lotte returned to Alpena and her Trinity family in 1992, he joined her in the pew on Sundays until his death in 1999.

With her family grown – Lotte has two sons, Jim and Mike Tanner, and a daughter, Lisa Sample, all of Alpena, plus seven grown grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren – Lotte has time now to pursue her own passions, not surprisingly still in service to others. She made baked goodies for church bake sales in years past and has knitted and crocheted hundreds of caps, socks, prayer shawls and afghans for the needy and for the annual outreach to children, Operation Christmas Child.

Still quiet, still demure, with a sweet smile and an air of warmth and gratitude, Lotte sits at home during the pandemic, using her painful, aging hands to knit for the needy and live not just for herself, but for others.

"I said, 'God, as long as I can knit I will keep on.'"

HOW do we choose parishioners for our profile? Completely at random. Eventually we hope to get around to every member of the family!



SUNDAYS:
Bronwyn Woolman and Tina Wilson help youngsters learn about the 10 Commandments (and enjoy snacks) during Summer Sunday Worship Center.

Vestry mapping out maintenance projects

The need to maintain the beautiful (and old) edifice of Trinity Church is one thing even a pandemic can't stop.

Among the projects facing the vestry this year:

1) A troublesome 20-plus-year-old Gordon Foods dishwasher in the church kitchen that must be repaired or replaced;

2) A stone wall between the rectory and the back of the church that was knocked over and must be rebuilt;

3) Cracks opening in the basement of the rectory;

4) Bent and torn siding on the corners of the rectory garage that must be repaired or replaced;

5) A complete electrical assessment of the church that may indicate extensive rewiring work.

Finding craftspeople to do the work is proving difficult. Know a mason? Call Sonya Titus at 354-6031.

St. Paul's supports Sunday Supper



A GIFT FOR THE NEEDY: *The people of Alpena's St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church have long been supporters of the community-wide Sunday Supper program at Trinity, helping cook and serve food to the hungry. This summer, they added to their generous assistance with a \$500 gift, presented here by the Rev. John Shipman to Sunday Supper coordinator Ellen Eagan. Thank you, people of St. Paul's!*

TECW committee seeking to adapt funeral luncheons

A strong church family is often a pillar of support when a church member dies.

Besides services, music, and words of comfort, a post-funeral luncheon has become an important and expected ministry yet it, like so many traditions, has been upended by the pandemic.

Hazel Farnum, along

with Lynn Farrier, Audrey Heath, Maggie Lamb, and Marge Lakin, are developing a new plan for funeral luncheons that can meet the need, coincide with our parishioners' ability to provide, and keep in line with safety protocols.

The committee meets Tuesday, Aug. 24, to further debate the particulars.

"We may have to go with catered luncheons that are served, rather than a buffet," Hazel says, noting that means having servers, carefully spacing seating, and making other accommodations.

Ladies of the church may be asked to provide desserts as they have in the past but those, like the

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In the pandemic, Trinity Church proves adaptable

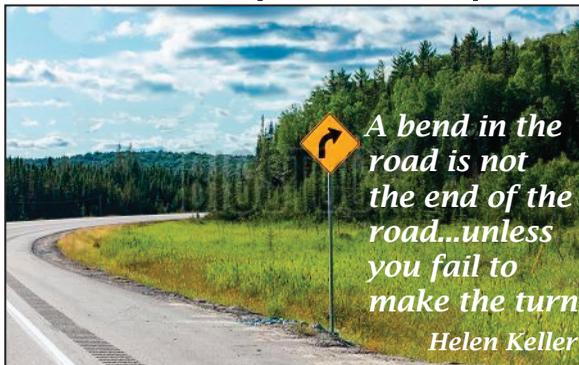
When the Covid-19 pandemic invaded the bounds of our physical safety in 2020, it also invaded our culture, our relationships, our perspectives.

Like it or not, it altered many of the ways we go about our daily lives, including the way we worship and minister to others.

Churches have faced the challenges differently, making modifications under pressure and on the fly. Here at Trinity, we continue to respond to the needs of our community while following requirements of the Eastern Episcopal Diocese to make health and safety a priority. As the situation changes, we do, too.

To get a fuller picture, here are just some of the ways Trinity Church has adapted:

SUNDAY WORSHIP: Twice in 2020, in spring and fall, Trinity closed its doors, and when it reopened it admitted only as many parishioners as could be accommodated in every-other-pew socially-distanced seating. Everyone was masked. Now, masks and social distancing are recommended but not required and all can be accommodated. We've also gone electronic, livestreaming our ser-



vices through youtube.

COMMUNION: To limit close contact and stirring the air, the Eucharist is distributed by the priest in the pews and only in one kind (the wafer).

OFFERING: No passing the plate; drop baskets are at the doors. Many parishioners mail in their pledges.

MUSIC: The prelude and postlude are pre-recorded. Organist/pianist Deb McClure accompanies the 10:30 service and cantor Sid Urbanowicz has recently resumed her duties, but because Covid spreads through aerosol droplets, neither the choir nor flautist Mary Ann Hubbard perform.

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS: Since buffet-style meals are not recommended, ladies of the church are finding new ways to provide this important service.

COFFEE HOUR: It's back, but not in its former buffet-style. Servers pour coffee and parishioners pick up plates of food.

MESSY CHURCH: It's on hiatus as organizers adapt programs to minimize student contact.

MEETINGS: Bible Study, Prayer Group and Vestry continue; those not present may join via zoom. TECW resumed in August.

SUNDAY SUPPER: It continues but all foods are packaged "to go" (that's an extra expense) and picked up at the door.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Crowd-pleasing events like concerts, the Victorian Tea, Chocolate Extravaganza and church picnic are on hiatus until large groups of people can be brought together indoors in relative safety.

ADMINISTRATION: Through much of the pandemic administrative assistant Peggy Tomaszewski worked from home. She now maintains her regular office hours.

As we head into the fall, the public health situation remains, as they say, "fluid." We people of Trinity will adapt.

HISTORY OF THE VICTORIAN TEA:

Part VIII: A sparkling silver 25th Anniversary!

Series by Kathryn Kunze

Never, even in the founding planners' wildest dreams, did any foresee a 25th Anniversary Victorian Tea!

As Cynthia Taylor said recently,

“Originally we were just thinking of a one-time effort, to see how it went and how much work it would be. We were just looking for a way to make money for the women’s treasury.”

But the Tea continued and grew, a story told in preceding chapters. When it came close to folding in 2006, Thelma Stevens recruited Kathryn Kunze as co-chair and Kathryn promised TECW (Trinity Episcopal Churchwomen) she would see the Tea through to its 25th Anniversary. Now, here it was.



Any 25th Anniversary celebration brings to mind silver and white. A beautiful photo from a Victorian magazine was the inspiration for the buffet table and after that, ideas came easily.

Sharon Paltelky and Kathryn both agreed that ALL Trinity’s silver would be used and/or displayed for the event. They envisioned a buffet table with tall silver vases filled with white flowers running its the length, and were running into obstacles finding (and being able to afford!) the exact right pieces. Doreen Thomas

of Classic Designs right here in Alpena became the Fairy Godmother who, with a touch of her magic wand, brought the imagined buffet table to breathtaking reality.

The Chairs were quite insistent that every-



IN SILVER AND WHITE: Hostesses Sue Linke (left) and Norma Hanna (right) sparkle at the 25th Anniversary Tea!

thing be silver and white – even the food! That didn’t really happen...but it did come close. Susan Barrett, the creator of delectable delicacies, did all the fresh strawberries in white and silver!

Months ahead of The Tea a few Trinity churchwomen, including Cynthia Taylor, searched out white and silver dishes at garage sales, thrift stores, etc. and by the date of the Tea we had amassed 130 white or silver luncheon plates, cups, and saucers.

It was fantastic!

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Tea Part VIII:

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Encouraged to dress in white and silver, women complied and the array of beautiful gowns was never better. Our hostesses Michelle Cornish, Priscilla Fournier, Norma Hanna and Sue Linke were pictures out of a Godey's Fashion Book. Butlers Garry Griggs, Lew Kunze, Bob Lakin and Dan Maxwell were appropriately garbed in black and white, as were the maids.



Kathryn's gown story is noteworthy and a bit humorous, in retrospect. She had ordered her dress online from Recollections, an online-only Michigan company based in Hawks. One must order months ahead; each order is sewn individually. The photo online looked white, but when the gown arrived just four days before The Tea, it was definitely cream-colored. In tears and frustration, Kathryn could not reconcile appearing in a cream dress when she had insisted everything else be white, white, white!

That evening, after searching her closet and shopping where she could, Kathryn emailed Recollections explaining the dilemma, never dreaming there could be a happy ending. The next morning the shop called, acknowledging their error, and offering to redo the dress in two days! They were true to their word, but the new white skirt was too long and the night before the Tea left Kathryn hemming into the wee hours of the morning.

Enid Frederick, always "Mistress of The Tea," created her scrumptious sandwich loaves decorated in white and silver. The round tables, covered in white cloths with white square doilies in the center topped by square mirrors, held sil-

ver teapots filled with fresh white miniature carnations, white spray roses, baby breath and pussy willows. Silver creamers, sugar bowls and small mercury glass bowls filled with white yogurt-covered raisins completed the elegant look. The napkins were white and each guest received the traditional white oval sugar cookie decorated by Melissa Fournier, this year in silver.



DELECTABLE! Susan Barrett's white- and silver-dipped strawberries. Yes, please!

The walls of All Saints Hall were decorated with silver-framed mirrors and silver- or white-framed pictures and paintings. One "anniversary" wall held 25 silver-framed photos, each representing a past year of The Tea. (Lew Kunze, who did the painting, depleted the town of silver spray paint!)



News of this special 25th celebration Victorian Tea must have been sent out on the wind, as our guests topped 233! That's a number never reached before or after. It was a stunning, ethereal, breathtaking Tea and as Cynthia summed it up: "...the Tea was taken to heights we never imagined."

The Tea, Trinity Episcopal's signature community event, draws hundreds to the church each year and represents the hard work of dozens of parishioners over more than three decades. Next up in the series by Kathryn Kunze: Years 2014-15.

Funeral Luncheons

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meal, may have to be placed on individual plates and served.

“We have to look at menu choices, possible caterers, and cost for families who cannot afford to cover it,” Hazel says, “and we have to decide soon. A Celebration of Life luncheon is scheduled Sept. 18.”

Flowers for the altar

Wish to honor loved ones or mark a special event with flowers on the altar at Trinity? Please call Sonya Titus at (989) 354-6031 to reserve a spot on the calendar!



*It's
only
human*

One day in the South Pacific, a navy ship captain saw smoke coming from a hut on an uncharted island. Upon arriving at the shore he and his crew were met by a shipwreck survivor. He said, “I’m so glad you’re here! I’ve been alone on this island for more than five years!”

The captain replied, “If you’re all alone on the island why do I see three huts?”

The survivor said, “Oh. We’ll, I live in one, and go to church in another.”

“What about the third hut?” the captain asked.

“That’s where I USED to go to church.”



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