



“We are not baptized because we are worthy and holy, nor do we go to confession pure and without sin; on the contrary, we go as poor, miserable beings and because we are unworthy in

ourselves; excluded is only [s]he who does not desire grace and absolution or one who never thinks of amending [her] his life.” – Martin Luther *The Large Catechism*

In the Lutheran tradition, baptism is a sacrament along with the Lord’s Supper (AKA communion). According to our church doctrine, the important thing about each of these is the pairing of the word (scripture) with the elements (water, wine/juice, and bread). We believe that the work of the sacraments is entirely accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit and not our own effort. As Martin Luther wrote, “Although a rogue administers the Lord’s Supper or even takes it, it is the true Sacrament, that is Christ’s body and blood, just as when one uses it most worthily. For it is not based on human holiness, but upon the divine Word.”

I, as the presider, will strive against being a “rogue” as I expect all of you receiving the sacrament will as well. But, even on those moments when we struggle to be more saint than sinner, we can be sure to meet Christ where we are. Being community means recognizing that we are going to make mistakes. We don’t exist as a church of perfect people. We exist as a church of a perfect God.

This month, we will celebrate as five young people affirm their baptism promises. I will ask them to profess their faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church. After they have done this, I will turn to the congregation and ask you to promise to support and pray for them in their life in Christ. This ritual signifies **the beginning** of a new chapter in their faith as spiritual adults in the church. They will be able to vote on church matters, serve on council, and fully participate in church life. Their insights and experiences can inform us as a community to be a better church than we would be without them.

I have also spoken with some adults that want to learn more about the catechism or review it again after a long while. There are some that deeply desire to stand before the congregation and affirm the promises made on their behalf when they were baptized. I have purchased catechism curriculum from Augsburg that is geared

specifically to adults. If you would like to be a part of such a class, please email or call me. Learning more about the church and the sacraments will help anyone to grow in their faith practices.

As the quote from Martin Luther at the top of the page clearly articulates, the sacraments and traditions of the church serve to make us more aware of Christ's presence and work in our lives. That presence and work is 100% dependent on the worthiness of God and not ourselves (thank goodness!!). But, the more we attend to God's work, the happier and healthier we will be as individuals and as a community.

I am loving getting to know you all. I see many ways that God is at work at St. Timothy and in Wayne. I look forward to growing my own faith along with you for years to come. God Bless!

See you soon!

Pastor Kimberly

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### Pastor Kimberly's Office Hours

Monday – Thursday • 9 am – 12 Noon

Pastor Kimberly is also available by appointment, afternoons and evenings

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### Laurie's Office Hours

The church office hours remain the same

Monday – Friday • 9 am – 12 Noon

