

Devotional #6

Breaking Bread with Sinners and Saints



Review "Give Us Today our Daily Bread" from Luther's Small Catechism

What then does "daily bread" mean?

Everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as: food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

Listen to Scripture - Read Romans 12: 9 - 13

The apostle Paul wrote that being the body of Christ calls us to love genuinely and to extend hospitality.

"Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good, love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers."

Watch the Video "Breaking Bread with Sinners and Saints" (8 minutes)

(As the video ends, allow a few moments for silent reflection)

Reflect together (Feel free to do all the questions or pick and choose 1 or 2 questions to answer)

Share briefly any images, words, memories, and/or emotions the video evoked.

What does the name "House for All Sinners and Saints" convey to you?

According to Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber, House for All Sinners and Saints is a faith community where folks turned off by the cultural barriers of "church" feel welcome.

What might some of those barriers be?

Have you ever been turned off by or turned away from "church"?

If you're back, what brought you back?

House for All Sinners and Saints attracts people who are interested in "producing not just consuming." People are engaged, Pastor Bolz-Weber says, because "I'm giving (leadership) away."

What are some examples of that in the video?

There are risks involved -- how does risk-taking happen in your congregation?

What risks have you taken personally to grow deeper in faith?

JP spoke of House for All as a place where "you don't have to bracket any part of yourself." Megan said she was nervous about returning to church after many years away, but found at House for All that "I can really be myself." Tim said the appearance of the pastor is "unorthodox" but her message is "very sound, very Lutheran."

In what ways is their experience of church a form of God's "daily bread"?

How is your ministry feeding others? Who is missing from your "table"?

What aspects of the ministry of House for All would be transforming for you?

How does this ministry challenge your understanding of church, and of being "Lutheran"?

Prayer

O God, you call us to love one another with mutual affection and to outdo one another in showing honor. Open us to the newness you offer each day. Renew our minds that we might daily discern your will for our lives and for our life together. Thank you for your promise to be with us on the journey. Amen.

*(To "complete the circle," remember to close your meeting with **The Lord's Prayer.**)*

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To learn more about House for All Sinners and Saints, please visit their website: www.houseforall.org