



July 31, 2020

Give Thanks

There is something profoundly Eucharistic about the way our fellowship has been broken in the presence of Covid-19. In holding ourselves apart from one another, we have taken the Body of Christ who gathers at Saint Andrew and have broken it as the presider tears the bread at the altar and at distribution. What was once whole, has now been pieced out.

That is how food works. I cooked a beautiful chicken for my family. Stuffed and roasted, it was like a little taste of Thanksgiving. Were we to just admire the meal's Norman-Rockwell-esque-ness, the savor of the flavor would be forever lost to us. Our bodies would wither away were the food at the table remain intact, uncarved, unbroken for us to be nourished by.

There was *eucharist*, which is Greek for giving thanks, in that meal. Lillian said it right away, "this is just like Thanksgiving." And the table grace we said that evening was a savory thanksgiving for the gift of God's bounteous earth that was placed on our table and broken for our life.

We were also keenly aware of who was not with us. I have not celebrated Thanksgiving for years with my family, but my wife's family was always there. We

would put the leaves in the table and grab whatever chairs we could find in the house, even sticking the kids in another room if necessary. As we carved and served our roasted chicken, the size of the bird matched the size of the gathering. Smaller. Empty.

While we long to gather and lament the space between us, this has always been the purpose of gathering in the first place. We have been called out by the Holy Spirit and formed into the body of Christ. We have been called out of the walls of the building where the church gathers to share what we have received there. A profound message of hope, grace, and love.

Just as the elements of bread and wine are distributed with the intent that they transform us by receiving not just a piece of Christ, but the full divinity of Christ. So, too, we are now being actively distributed into the world. We have a profound awareness of the distance between one another. We have a clear understanding about how our actions can bring and sustain life for each other. We know that our faith active in love is a beacon that can bring to people the nourishment that they need for the road ahead.

And we know, that just as in the story of the disciples walking to Emmaus, Jesus meets us on the road and is known to us in the breaking of the bread. A meal shared with thanksgiving, wherever we are. Even at a mini-Thanksgiving, chicken dinner.

Pr. Justin

When the Live Stream Stops



**If the streaming of
the worship service
freezes or stops...**

- 1. Wait a minute it may resume.**
- 2. Do the comments mention an interruption?**
- 3. Scroll down. Has a new live stream started?
Click on it to resume the service!**

SALC Fall Faith Formation Programs to Begin

tRIBe (to Remember I Belong)

Sunday school reimagined! Starting in September small-group learning opportunities will be offered for families and members of all ages! SALC will provide the curriculum and resources for everyone to succeed to grow in their faith outside of the traditional classroom setting. Groups of around 10 people (adults and kids) will meet weekly to engage in a 12-week independently run program that covers the life of Jesus. For more information and to register: <https://www.salc-wausau.org/learning/sunday-school/> **Register online by August 31.**

Confirmation Classes

7th and 8th Grade confirmation classes will meet on Wednesday evenings this fall in person. Students will only meet within their small groups; there will be no large group sessions at this time. A parent meeting via Zoom will take place on **Tuesday, August 18 at 6:30 pm** - meeting details coming soon! Register online at: <https://www.salc-wausau.org/learning/confirmation/>

A mailing has gone out this week to families of 3 year olds through 8th grade with all the details. If your family did not receive the mailing or if you have any questions regarding the programs, please call the church office at 715-842-3333 or email Jenna at: jenna@salc-wausau.org.

Supply Drive to Benefit Aspirus Family House

Saint Andrew is organizing a supply drive in support of the Aspirus Family House as part of the VBS lesson on Service. The Family House is looking to stock up on their basic necessities such as: paper goods, cleaning supplies, and prepackaged snacks.

View their full wish list here:

<https://www.aspirus.org/Uploads/Public/Documents/Foundation/Family-House-Wish-List.pdf>

Donations can be placed in the plastic bin outside the north (Chapel) entrance labeled "Family House Donations" starting **Sunday, August 2**. Donations will be accepted through **Saturday, August 15**.

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