

From the Pastor's Desk,

Worship Matters

Worship matters to God. Worship matters to you. Often, we allow personal distractions to get in the way. Sometimes we go to church, but we don't worship. We sing songs, we listen to sermons, we pray: all of these things are elements of worship, but they are not worship in and of themselves. It's the gathering of believers to practice our beliefs and celebration of Him. Worship involves more than we realize.

While worshipping God changes us for the better, the primary aim of our worship is not self-improvement. "For to You is due all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto ages of ages." While God doesn't need our worship in order to be complete, our worship is still a duty—something that we owe to God. But it is a duty that we can perform cheerfully, knowing that, in doing so, we are participating briefly in the life of heaven.

But worship doesn't end there. Isaiah's says....

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" (v. 8)

Genuine worship always leads to an outward look—a personal response or action—a desire to be obedient to whatever God calls you to do. Worship isn't just singing songs and getting a good feeling in your heart. Genuine worship is seeing God for who He really is—His power, His greatness, His holiness, His sovereignty, His love, and His compassion—and then giving Him what He's worth—the best of your time, your talents, your thoughts, your words, and your deeds. True worship is seeing afresh the tremendous worth of God and, in response, giving Him the best of everything you have.

At Synod Assembly, we realized I have been serving as your designated pastor for a year. I have met with church council, visited folks in the hospitals and nursing homes, buried the dead, instructed 1st Holy Communion classes, etc. It is my responsibility to provide for the congregations' spiritual needs and do what I can as requested and time allows. Those activities have allowed me limited access to the congregation as a whole. I am delighted to be able to say circumstances this summer will allow me to lead worship for you.

Worship lies at the very heart of who we are as people of faith. I look forward to being able to worship and grow in faith with you. It is my heartfelt desire for you to make time in the midst of our busy summer activities to join me and fellow members of St. Johns as we praise God and contemplate who God is, what God does and how we might serve Him in the world today.

Yours in Christ, 

Pastor Michele Kaufman