

WEEKLY DEVOTION – Tuesday, June 29, 2021
Pastor Bruce Kischnick, Grace Lutheran Church, New Albany, IN

Milk Toast

READING: Hebrews 5:11-14 – “We have much to say about this, but it is hard to explain because you are slow to learn. In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God’s word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”

At the moment I was writing this devotion I had the most delightful smell wafting up to my study from the kitchen! I had a crockpot simmering with Polish sausage and sauerkraut in it. Oh, my! Did that smell good! It was making my mouth water as I was writing. Do you like sauerkraut? I’m guessing some of you decidedly do not. And, to that I say, “That’s too bad! You don’t know what’s good!” My German heritage is well-served when sauerkraut is on the menu. Reminds me of Mom’s kitchen and home.

Another concoction that Mom sometimes served up was not one of my favorite things, and that was milk toast. In our household whenever someone got an upset stomach or ran a fever or had a stuffed-up nose, the remedy and the cure was deemed to be milk toast. Mom would make some toast from homemade or store-bought white bread, she’d butter it, and then pour warm milk over it in a bowl. This would be what sustained you during your illness, or it would be your introduction back into the world of three-squares-a-day humanity after you had barfed up every other offering for two or three days!

I haven’t eaten milk toast in many a year. I’m more likely to try chicken noodle soup or some Ramen noodles when my tummy has been upset. And, I certainly would not make milk toast the main course of any of my normal, everyday meals! Milk toast is for kids, sick kids, tiny little upset stomachs, not for a full-grown man! I eat meat! I eat solid food! I’m all grown up!

The writer to the Hebrews (who sounds an awful lot like St. Paul in this lesson) is chiding the Jewish believers to whom he is writing for not being ready to graduate to deeper theology in regards to Christ. He says they’re still on a milk toast diet for little kids when by now they should be digging into the solid stuff. He says that by this time they ought to be teachers themselves, but he can tell by their words and their deeds that they still need to be taught the “elementary truths” again. He’s a little frustrated by their hardheadedness. It was not easy for Jewish Christians to give up the sacrificial system, their adherence to the Temple, or their doubts about the Savior. Having been taught the basics, they are not yet ready to go deeper. They need again to be taken to the Old Testament prophecies and shown how Jesus fulfilled each one. They need to hear his words, review his actions, and listen to the eye-witnesses who saw these things and Jesus in his Resurrection. They need milk toast!

How about you? Are you eating “solid food”? Is it chops and steak and cooked greens, or is it milk toast for breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack? Daily reading of the Word, devotions like this or like “Portals of Prayer” are all good, solid eats. Worship on Sunday brings you some solid helpings. And, a Bible class can help you to “grow up into Christ” and take you deeper into the marvels and connections we find from Genesis straight through to Revelation. If you’re new to Jesus, then theirs lots of good stuff coming your way. If you’re a “veteran of the Cross”, then feast on “the depths of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!” (That is Paul in Romans 11.)

I wish I could share some good sauerkraut with each of you! It’s a dish rich in vitamin C and lots and lots of fiber. I’m sure it’s good for what ails you! On the other hand there’s milk toast – soft, mild, inoffensive, and

weak. I know which one I prefer. I hope you will look to move up into the solid food of the Word. It might not take you all the way to sauerkraut, but it should at least take you to the Polish sausage! God bless your studies and increase your knowledge of his Kingdom and his promises. Amen.

PRAYER:

ANNOUNCEMENT(S):

- 1) VBS concludes tomorrow night (Wednesday) about 7:30. Send your power tool operators (men and women) to help us take down and clean up all the stuff we used during the week.
- 2) Remember to mark your calendars for Pastor Woods' 25th Anniversary of Ordination celebration on Sunday, August 22, in the late service and the dinner to follow.