



Message from Pastor Tim

February 2012: *Bread for the Journey*

If you look through Scripture, particularly the New Testament, you will see certain themes that keep repeating themselves over and over again. One of those themes revolves around the word "bread". That word is used almost 60 times in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, with almost 1/3 of those references from within John alone. Why is this word so important?

Perhaps it's because bread was such a common item in the time of Jesus, common and important. Think about some of those stories that contain "bread" in them. The devil tempting Jesus in the wilderness by challenging him to turn stones into bread. The feeding of the 5, 000 which all started with a young boy sharing his loaves and fish. Jesus including "bread" in his prayer that he gave to us. Jesus instruction to his disciples, "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic". And of course, the use of bread during the Last Supper. Bread is a common example of life that is woven throughout the whole of scripture.

And so it is with our lives as well. We are very much in tune with smells and how they combine together with taste to create wonderful memories in our lives. Can you imagine never smelling the aroma of fresh baked bread? That memory is locked in with the places and times that are very special in our lives.

During this coming Lenten season we will be coming together on a weekly basis to talk about "bread". Under the theme, "Bread for the Journey", we will explore how scripture talks about bread and how God's love and grace is as necessary and close to us as the bread that each of us have in our kitchens.

And as we talk about "Bread for the Journey" during Lent, we will also be helping to make bread possible for those who are lacking daily bread in their lives. All the offerings from the midweek Lenten services will go towards World Hunger. As we learn more about God's love, which is the "rich food we feast upon", we will also be showing God's love to the world as we go about sharing the gift of bread with those who don't have enough.

Listed below are the themes we will be focusing on during this coming season of Lent. All midweek services will be held at 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. There will be a light supper planned for the five Wednesdays following Ash Wednesday.

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| <i>February 22nd</i> | <i>Ash Wednesday</i> | <i>Bread for the Journey</i> |
| <i>February 29th</i> | <i>Lent 1</i> | <i>Welcome Bread</i> |
| <i>March 7th</i> | <i>Lent 2</i> | <i>Unleavened Bread</i> |
| <i>March 14th</i> | <i>Lent 3</i> | <i>Daily Bread</i> |
| <i>March 21st</i> | <i>Lent 4</i> | <i>More than Bread</i> |
| <i>March 28th</i> | <i>Lent 5</i> | <i>Abundant Bread</i> |

Come and join us as we explore the "Bread of Life" that God gives to us daily.

Peace,

Pastor Tim

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