

SERVING – OVERWHELMING OR A JOY?

For the five years I've had the privilege of serving the people of Cypress Lutheran Parish, Swift Current, Saskatchewan, I've also been honoured to be a member of the Swift Current Kiwanis Club. The motto for Kiwanis International is "Serving the children of the World." What does it mean to serve? Why do we volunteer? What is our motivation to serve?

Serving can be overwhelming!

Read the account of Mary and Martha from Luke 10:38-42.

- 1) Why can serving be overwhelming?
- 2) How do we cope when we're overwhelmed, when we're serving or by life in general?
- 3) What kind of attitude leads to being overwhelmed? Why do we do this? What can we do about this?
- 4) Why was Martha overwhelmed? Where was her focus? What was the result?
- 5) Verse 40 is interesting: "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." Giving Jesus heck! Discuss.
- 6) In verse 42, Jesus emphasizes His point by saying, "Martha, Martha." It seems to me this could be the equivalent of your mom using your middle name to emphasize her point. You just know nothing good is going to come of this. Although Jesus calls her out, it is for her own good. We see this very clearly in the very different responses each woman gives at the death of Lazarus (John 11:17-44). What is being emphasized?

Serving can be a joy!

- 1) Why wasn't Mary overwhelmed? (v.39) What was her posture? What does her posture tell us? How does this image speak louder than words?
- 2) In verse 42 there is "one thing" necessary. What is it? (Don't look to #3 yet)
- 3) I told you not to look! The hospitality was important but the "one thing" that is necessary is the Word of God. Why is this necessary? Why is this indispensable?
- 4) Why does this give us joy? Since it does, how do

we share this in our everyday lives?

- 5) Discuss how the Word of God abides forever. For what purpose does the Word of God abide forever?

Final thoughts!

Our Kiwanis Club sells apples every fall as a fundraiser for our projects throughout the year. Just as in the church, sometimes we wonder if the message or our efforts make a difference. Mt. Calvary in Swift Current is one of the host venues of the music festival every year. The Kiwanis Club provides a few major awards each year. A couple of years ago I overheard a young boy at the church during the music festival look and point at me and tell his mom "the priest" (I was wearing my collar) sells apples! I remembered seeing him when I was serving a shift at a local mall the previous October; this was in April. Naturally, she realized I am a Kiwanian. She came to talk to me and said she didn't realize a priest (if you're counting, that's twice I was referred to as a priest and no, I didn't correct them) could also be involved in a service club. It was at this point she asked if priest was the correct name to use. I told her that I go by pastor. Since that time we have seen each other downtown a few times and she has always asked a question about what we believe as Lutherans.

As Christians we all have different interests and talents. There is no doubt we can feel overwhelmed, but the joy of being used by God in our everyday lives to help others is a true joy. We don't always know or realize what opportunities will come our way. A joy that we get to live and share the Gospel of Christ!

When your life as a Christian and your outside interests come together, how do you feel, react, deal with them? How can you find joy in purposefully connecting them?

Closing Hymn

"Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" (LSB #806)

*Rev. Brad Julien
Mount Calvary, Swift Current, Sask.*