



# Poland Presbyterian Church

*At the Green since 1802*

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**August 16, 2015**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

John 6: 51-58

The Rev. Robbin Del Nagro

## **“The World’s Greatest Bread Chef”**

Don't you love fresh baked bread – warm from the oven? When we lived in Minnesota Peter had a bread maker that he cherished. And he had a favorite recipe for a sesame seed bread. One evening he made it and it was done just before we went to bed. We took the loaf out of the machine and after “just one piece” we had another and another, slathered in butter, until we had eaten the entire loaf! Don't ever eat a loaf of sesame seed bread before you go to bed – you will gain five pounds!! But it was oh, so good!

No matter where you travel in this world you will find some type of bread that provides the basic sustenance of human lives. In Japan bread they have rice cakes, in the Middle East pita, in Mexico tortillas, in China little puffy rice buns. Everybody has bread! Even those who are gluten free.

Mike Lindsgraff is known around this area as “The Bread Chef” and I love to go into his bread store on Western Reserve Road. I can never decide between the semolina or the pumpkin seed, the sour dough or the cranberry nut. Just looking at the bread with the crusty tops is satisfying. But there is a bread chef who is greater still.

Just before the passage we heard today from the gospel of John, Jesus was feeding the multitudes. He fed them food for their souls and food for their stomachs and everyone went away full. But when their stomachs were empty again they came looking for him. That was when he began to teach them about the meaning of the bread they had received. For twenty six verses Jesus tries to explain the meaning of incarnation – God made flesh. For twenty six verses Jesus tells them that he – God in human form – is bread – their very sustenance. Bread gives life to the flesh but Jesus gives life to the spirit. The bread that he gives is life everlasting and nothing less.

To someone who walks into the church for the first time, never having heard this claim, it would seem strange indeed and extremely bizarre, to hear people talking about eating the flesh and drinking the blood of another human being. Yet in churches across the world believers take this command very seriously. Every Lord's day you are offered an opportunity to be nourished by this meal. It is a joyful experience, a celebration, a sacred time when kairos time breaks in on kronos time. We should take advantage of this

time as often as possible.

What do I mean by kairos time and kronos time? In Greek, kairos time is God's time and kronos time is human time – the time we mark by the clocks on the wall. Paul tells us in our first lesson that we are to make the most of the time and not spend it foolishly. When we eat the flesh and drink the blood of Jesus eternity, God's time, barges in on us and disrupts the way we think about our numbered days on this earth. When we are joined together with Christ's body we are joined together with all believers everywhere in a life that never ends. A feeling sweeps over us as we sense that oneness, that communion that binds us together as a community of faith. A feeling of love encompasses us when we break bread together and celebrate the promise that we will never be parted, even in death. We would be foolish to discount this kairos time or spend it thinking about what we are having for dinner or our kid's next soccer game. Make the most of kairos time – for it is always brimming with possibilities.

This interim time is kairos time for Poland Presbyterian Church. We would be foolish again if we missed out on the possibilities that are offered during this time. There are possibilities for transformation – for becoming more than you have ever been before. There are possibilities for becoming kinder, more giving, more loving, more connected to one another. There are possibilities for doing things in new, more life giving ways, from committee meetings to worship.

Paul tells us in the passage from Ephesians that we are not to get drunk with wine, but rather be filled with the Spirit, as we sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to make melody to the Lord in our hearts. This metaphor describes what it is like when we are so inebriated by the cares of the world that we can't take the time and care to worship God in the beauty of holiness. We anesthetize ourselves to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and become the “frozen chosen” in our worship when we fail to experience kairos time. We let the kairos moment slip by us unrecognized. But it is in our worship that the energy of the bread of life takes hold – the Holy Spirit glitters and gleams among us and we break free of the wine of the world to pour out our thanksgiving and praise for the meal we have received.

Taste and see that the bread of life is good bread. Give thanks that we have been given this bread each and every day not only in this life but for eternity. Recognition of food that transcends the perishable is not on the radar of most people. But here you are, the faithful remnant. Here you are to taste again the food that nourishes the soul and strengthens the spirit. For you know that it is in Him alone that you will find your sustenance – a sustenance that never fails to satisfy. The masses may go on searching for the food that leaves them hungry again the next day. But they won't find it in movies or sports or Ted Talks or shopping malls. You, however, will never go hungry. You will never thirst for you have tasted of the heavenly food that only Jesus can provide and it was better than sesame seed bread fresh from the breadmaker. And you know that your faith in Jesus to supply that bread for you always will provide for you the strength to move forward through the changes and challenges ahead.

Through whatever lies ahead you know that Jesus will be standing there holding

out the best loaf of bread ever – it's not made with wheat or rice or corn but it's a loaf filled with love and kindness, truth and joy and mercy; a loaf filled with the ingredients that bring life to starving souls. He is the world's greatest bread chef and he is here among us today offering life again to the faithful who will receive.