



## *Pastor Hanke's Blog*

### *September 2, 2018*

#### What's Going In and What's Coming Out?

Bible Reference: Mark 7:14-23

It has taken me six years to nail down some rhythms in the church that I feel work smoothly. For example, in the fall we take time to do sermon series', but now I have learned to work with the natural breaks of Reformation and All Saints Day, important historic church traditions, rather than against them. But what about Labor Day? Starting a new series on Labor doesn't make sense since we will have many gone, so do I just fill up the Sunday with whatever? Not at all. I apply what I learned from another pastor as he spoke about the rhythm of a church. He said, "Never have an off Sunday." Thus, just because it is Labor Day and people will be on vacation, don't bring less than your best.

I want you to know this is not a Sunday to skip. This weekend one of our new families will have their daughter baptized during the service. When I first came to Mt. Calvary, baptisms were a rare thing. Now we've had six already this year! This is awesome! The Lord is blessing us with new people to be a part of the family of God. Even more special about this weekend's baptism, Madeline will be baptized by her grandpa. Yes, this new little member of Mt. Calvary has a grandpa who is a pastor, and he is going to make the trip here to baptize her. I cannot express what a special moment this will be. I have experienced something similar as a father baptizing my own kids, but as a grandpa, you are watching the faith you spoke into your kids come to fruition. It will be a beautiful, wonderful moment!

Speaking of baptism, it is fitting that our reading this week is about what defiles a person—is it what goes into him or her, or what comes out? In our lesson, the debate was over a very legalistic view of what is clean to eat and what is unclean. People were shunning those who ate unclean things, but Jesus was very clear that it is not what goes into the person, but what comes out of him that defiles him. Really, it is a lesson on sin. We are all born into sin, and therefore it comes out of our hearts. Baptism is the moment when God cleanses our heart and puts the Holy Spirit in us. This is why infant baptism is so important to our church body; babies, like all people, will sin. They need the best gift we could ever give them—Jesus and His forgiveness! Don't miss this weekend as we bring Madeline into God's family and talk about baptism.

*God's Peace,*

*Pastor Will*