

A Great Day in the Kingdom – July 17,2020

As it is now my third week as pastor of Aledo Methodist Church, memories abound in recollection of the past adventurous and wonderful years in ministry. Christie and I have shared together. Accompanying those memories are some very funny stories. One memory we still laugh about came to mind, this very week.

I will not share which parsonage or church this specific memory occurred, but you'll get the idea. Christie and I arrived in this town to meet the SPR committee and simply familiarize ourselves with the area. When I inquired as to where the parsonage was located, one member quickly spoke up with, "You don't need to see the parsonage, right now." Of course, having spent a great deal of time in parsonages growing up, I was able after limited directions to find and locate the parsonage. The front door was ajar, with a garden hose protruding from it. The Church was working diligently to clean and repair that house and by the time we arrived, the hose had been removed and the parsonage was clean and ready for us. In addition, they had left for us a meal. The note read, "Enjoy your lunch! Welcome! The pie will be here soon!" Have you ever experienced small-town cuisine? They use real butter, lard, bacon and assorted other arterial adhesive. It's wonderful. The word "Pie" evokes wonder in itself. That statement was the most important sentence in our welcome letter.

The pie soon arrived. Christie and I shared a great conversation with person delivering this wonder underneath aluminum foil. Then, she shared something with us about the pie that I needed to confirm with my Wife, after the sweet lady left. I thought I had heard her explain that instead of pie filling, she had used an entire jar of mayonnaise with some lemon juice for the filling. We opened the lid. Yes, she had done exactly that...

We stared at the mayonnaise pie for a bit and I made a decision. Now first, let me preface this by saying we had not been married all that long. I told Christie, who by the way cannot stand mayo, much less a pie filling composed of 99 percent of it, that we had an obligation to speak the truth and at least eat a bite. Well, we took the bite and I can say that of all the church deserts I have eaten, it was one of them.

Exodus 16:35, shares how manna had sustained the Israelites for forty years. That pie, although unique was manna. It was made with Agape Love. It was welcoming and wonderful. I so appreciate your wonderful words of welcome. They are manna that sustains and Blesses the Robbins family.

I pray your week is Blessed, as You have Blessed ours!

May The Lord Bless And Keep You All!

Pastor Joel

(Matthew 28!!!)