

## From Father Nik

St Augustine identified two things necessary for a sacrament. The first is the LORD's Word of promise. This is His promise to give us His grace—that love by which we come to live in Him as members of Christ's Body, and He in us. The second element, no less necessary than the Word, is a physical sign. Just as Jesus is fully God & fully human, *the Word made flesh*, sacraments combine the Word and earthy, physical things to bestow on us inward & spiritual grace through outward & visible signs.

All things in creation, inasmuch as they were created by God, are signs of His grace. Anything can potentially signify God's love for us and all creation; though, some things have been so distorted by sin that their goodness is nearly impossible to see. And some things, by virtue of their use for good and holy ends, are far better than others at representing God's love for us and awakening the response of love within us. Sacraments, however, are unique in that they alone combine Word and material sign in such a way that they participate in and give us the grace that they signify.

For medieval Christians in Europe, the proper number of sacraments became an important theological question. Everyone acknowledged Baptism & Eucharist, but beyond those two, disagreements arose as different lists of sacraments ranged from five to over twenty. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, the theologian Peter Lombard, who had a knack for systematizing the teachings of the Church, listed the traditional seven sacraments: Baptism, Confession, Holy Orders, Eucharist, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, and Marriage. His list got the Church's seal of approval. But during the Reformation of the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, Martin Luther challenged this list of seven, arguing that only Baptism & Eucharist meet the requirement of bringing together the LORD's Word of Promise with a physical sign. According to Luther, the other five rites listed by Peter Lombard are good practices that the Church should continue, but they are not sacraments. After Luther, other Reformers started to eschew some of the other five rites altogether, and some ditched the whole doctrine of sacraments. But the Catechism of the Episcopal Church (BCP 857-861) clearly takes a stand for the sacraments, naming the Dominical Sacraments—Baptism & Eucharist—as “the two great sacraments of the Gospel,” while also acknowledging the special status of the other five as “sacramental rites.”

*Nik+*

## *Flu & Pneumonia Shots*

Available this morning after worship.  
Please fill out a form found in the narthex of church.

## *Lemonade on the Lawn*

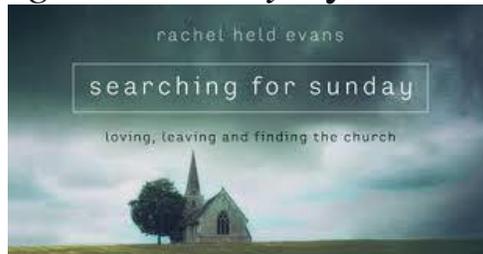
Thanks to the Aderhold family for this morning's refreshments!  
The Droppleman family will host next week's refreshments.

## **Blessing of the Animals**

At 4:30pm on October 4, we'll remember St Francis of Assisi  
by gathering to bless our furry friends and favorite critters.

## **Fall Small Groups**

This Fall, the Thursday morning Men's Group & Women's Group  
Will both read *Searching For Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans.



The book's chapters are organized according to the Seven Sacraments,  
so the Adult Sunday School will explore those sacraments in depth.

**We'd like to organize another (co-ed?) small group  
to meet on a weeknight to discuss the book.**

**If you're interested, please let Fr Nik know.**

## **Bishop Spong Discussion Group**

meets Thursday, October 1 at 10am at St. James the Less

## Christian Education

**Godly Play** Children are invited to hear the Word in a fun, learning environment in the Parish House during the first half of our Sunday morning worship; after which, they join their parents in church for Communion.

**J2A Youth Group** will meet at 5:30pm on Sunday, October 11 in the parish hall.

**The Adult Sunday School** meets Sunday mornings at 9am, in the parish hall, to explore the Sacraments.

## Small Groups

**The Women's Book Group** will discuss the first chapter of *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans, "Baptism" on Thursday, Oct 8 at 10am. Please contact Kathy for directions: [boysthree@embarqmail.com](mailto:boysthree@embarqmail.com)

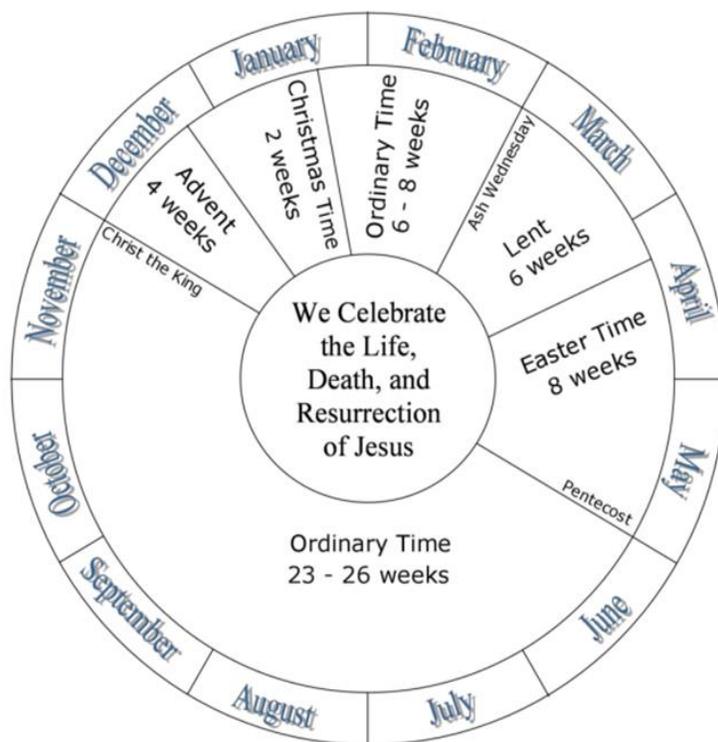
**The Men's Book Group** will meet Thursday, Oct 8 at 7:30am at Ashland Coffee & Tea to discuss the first chapter of *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans, "Baptism."

## Christian Formation

The Way of Discipleship classes for Confirmation & Reception will resume on Wednesday, October 7 at 6:30pm.

If you're interested in being Baptized or would like to become a member of this Church, please contact Fr Nik – [KNicholasForti@gmail.com](mailto:KNicholasForti@gmail.com)

# The Liturgical Year



## Nik's Calendar

Friday, Sept 25 – Young Rectors Group in Culpeper, 10am-noon  
Monday, Sept 28 – Coffee with The Rev Dr Ed Bushong, 10:30-12:30  
Thursday, October 1 – Lunch with parishioner, noon  
Tuesday, Oct 6 – Clergy Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30am  
Wednesday, Oct 7 – Clericus, 1-2pm  
Friday, Oct 9 – Jackson-Farmer Wedding Rehearsal, 2pm  
Saturday, Oct 10 – Jackson-Farmer Wedding & Reception, 2-7pm

## Looking Ahead

Thursday, Oct 1 – Spong Discussion Group at SJtL, 10-11:30am  
Sunday, Oct 4 – St Francis Day Blessing of the Animals, 4:30pm  
Wednesday, Oct 7 – Confirmation/Reception Class, 6:30pm  
– Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm  
Thursday, Oct 8 – Men's Book Group at Ashland Coffee & Tea, 7:30-8:30am  
– Women's Book Group, 10am-noon

**Office hours:** Jacquie Alleva, our parish secretary, works Tuesday & Wednesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. If you would like to submit an announcement, please do so by noon on Thursday.