



Why don't we call the church "Bethlehem"?

Sometimes the kids have the greatest insights.

This question came at the end of the Sunday School Christmas program. Come to Bethlehem and See! was the name of the program. I wrapped up the program by telling everyone that "Bethlehem" is a word that means "House of Bread." Then I asked the question "What will we see when we come to Bethlehem - the House of Bread?"

Most folks were probably expecting an answer like, "The Baby Jesus" or "Immanuel" or "God." But I told everyone that they would find what a person would expect to find at a place called "The House of Bread." They would find bread! Then I went on to tell about the time Jesus referred to Himself as "The Bread of Life."

Jesus used that term to remind us that - like bread fills us up - He truly is the one thing that fills up the emptiness in everyone's life. He is the only thing that truly satisfies our hunger for God... because He IS God. He alone has all the "nutrients" we need like, Love, Hope, Peace, Forgiveness, Power for Life, Wisdom, etc...

So, it was after that explanation that one of the students asked me the question listed above. He then went on to clarify: "Since Jesus is the Bread of Life and we can always find Him here at church, why don't call this place "Bethlehem?"

A great insight! There was no other way for me to respond but with, "That's a great idea!" Of course, we already have Living Word as our official name, so maybe we could just use "Bethlehem" as a nickname. Kind of like the baby in the manger was given the official name of "Jesus" (which means "The LORD saves), but he also had Bread of Life as a 'nickname.'

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net