

Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
May 22, 2019

WHAT A DAY!

"May 22nd, 1982; a day that will live in infamy." No...no...no...that was December 7th, 1941. I DO NOT want to diminish the significance of that terrible event! But, on that chilly, rainy and windy day in Reedsburg, Wisconsin some 37 years ago today history was made. A gorgeous 22-year-old young woman by the name of Kay Ellen Stolte marched down the aisle of St. Peter's Lutheran Church on the arm of her father Paul. Some 33 minutes later that same gorgeous young woman, now bearing the name of Kay Ellen Albrecht, marched the opposite direction back up that same aisle now on the arm on the most blessed man on the planet; Brian Albrecht. In the interim; during the service itself, we said our vows, exchanged rings, lit the unity candle, we're prayed for, received God's blessing on our newly formed marriage, and heard a sermon given by Kay's uncle, Rev. Robert Gardner who at the time was an LCMS pastor at some remote outpost in eastern South Dakota. The local pastor allowed him the courtesy of delivering the message. I must admit; I don't remember a word of it. I can imagine what elements were in it, but on specifics I draw a blank. In the past 10 years I have come to realize that I'm not alone. In all the weddings that I have officiated (quite a few), and wedding sermons preached, I doubt that very few remember much of anything I said. This is especially the case when the wedding couple is in their early to mid-20s...like we were. Weddings are usually centered on everything else. Too often the wedding service itself is looked at as somewhat of an annoyance that has to be endured before we can get to the party. And wedding receptions today? Don't get me started on that! We attended one just this past Saturday and these events have become almost like rock concerts; overly staged, loud and somewhat obnoxious. Am I sounding like a sour old man yet? In the midst of all this hoopla though the marriage itself is still of the utmost importance, because marriage is a gift that God has given us both for our benefit, and as a model of the relationship that we have with Him in our baptism. Two are joined together and become one; an inseparable union for life. In the marriage that's the man and the woman; husband and wife. His life becomes her life, and hers becomes his. It's a reality that we will live in until death do we part. In Holy Baptism we are united to Christ Himself; our bridegroom. His perfect life becomes ours while our life of sin becomes His. He takes on our sin and dies under its weight; shouldering all our guilt and punishment for us. This union with Christ lasts for our entire life, until death, or His imminent return allows us to enter into His eternal kingdom and see Him face to face forever. So unlike marriage this unity endures for all eternity. He's always with us, loving us unconditionally and leading us through this life to the gates of heaven; our forever home with Him. Yes, the wedding day is an historic event, but the marriage is the centerpiece. I can truly say that my bride is still gorgeous, and that I am still the most blessed man on the planet... on that you other married fellows reading this may disagree.