



Community for Local Ecumenism

Stories on the Ecumenical Journey

Waiting for service at a café?

Do you wait for service at a café?

It would be rare, wouldn't it? At a restaurant - perhaps. But that's where cafés are different.

Talking about **services** at cafés, or what we call at Saddleworth **'Café Church'**, we don't have to wait for church services in Willi's Café – they happen once a month: 'an interactive, informal worship over a meal'.

We have been holding 'Café Church' for over a year now but we were holding them in the church's hall on the edge of town. Then someone came up with the brilliant (and obvious) idea, why not hold them in the local café which is on the main street - in the middle of the town.

So the last 2 have been held there. They are aimed at people who wouldn't venture into a church building.



So what am I waiting for?

Everything I do in ministry, I see as ecumenical. Yes, people from other churches have come along (and participated - remember it's interactive) and

a lot more have said they would come. However to be a truly ecumenical services, don't we need the team that organizes them to be from different churches and don't we need them to be talking about OUR Café Church?

So I am waiting for **services to be ecumenical**. And sometimes waiting gets little hard when you have a vision in mind. Yet isn't waiting the theme of the season of Advent which we about to enter?

What keeps me going is the support that I am getting from those who too have the vision of a Café Church, especially 'Willi' himself who professes to be 'not religious'. Yet he religiously opens up his café for us - on a Sunday evening after hours and puts on a very reasonably priced 'set menu' for us. And he is the one who reminds me "It take time, Pastor Leon. It takes time!"

Praise God for the little miracles. (Perhaps they not on *Higher Ground* cf. Max Lucado's novel released last year, put it). Thank God for the forbearance to wait- waiting for (an ecumenical) service at Willi's Café. My prayer is "Lord, please give me patience as I wait for you to 'serve us' ecumenically.

*Pastor Leon Rosenberg, Carlsruhe-Saddleworth Lutheran Parish
Member of SACC Community for Local Ecumenism*

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