Innovating: God on Tap

**What would Jesus brew?**

Upper Dublin Lutheran Church’s God on Tap is just one of the ways SEPA congregations are taking faith conversations out into the taprooms and coffee shops of their neighborhood. Supporting innovative ministries in congregations is one goal of the Synod’s Forward Together in Faith campaign. (link to article)

**Article**

**What would Jesus brew?**

***Pub conversations engage non-churchgoers***

Upper Dublin Lutheran Church is just one of the SEPA congregations taking “table talk” in the style of Martin Luther outside the church walls.

God on Tap (<http://GodOnTap.net>) is “an umbrella” encompassing theology pubs, coffee shop conversations, “Beer and Hymns” events, says Pastor Keith Anderson. “God on Tap is really about being present and connected in our local community.”

At first “it almost sounded like a gimmick,” says long time member Jack Freeston. “But the dialogue has been very meaningful, especially when we get people we don’t normally hear from.”

One of those new voices belongs to Deanna Daugherty. After negative church experiences and a time away, God on Tap provided a place “Where I could talk in a safe place and have engaging conversation without having to go back to church.”

At a previous church Daugherty had to fit into the expectations of the community. “It was nice to just be able to be myself” at God on Tap, she said.

“We approach God on Tap as an expert-free zone,” Anderson says. “People are experts in their own lives – they know what they are experiencing and feeling – and we need the help of others to make meaning and sense” out of experience.

Daugherty finds the group so fulfilling that she has tracked down other congregations in the area with theology discussions. “While I go to church once a month, I’m in a God on Tap three times a month.”

Supporting innovative ministries in congregations is one goal of SEPA’s Forward Together in Faith campaign. Your gifts will help congregations do mission in their neighborhoods.