

“Altar-native Music!”

“Rock of Ages” Meets “Aged Rock & Roll”

Robert Baker the Independent News

Musicians in the “Three Fish and a Loaf” band truly believe in their music and their message.



as a spiritual existence.

That’s also why they adopted the name “Three Fish and a Loaf” as a religious connotation to Jesus miraculously feeding the multitudes with a few fish and a single load of bread.

Pastor Dave “The Loaf” Price of Mokena United Methodist Church is the lead singer as well as a guitarist and piano player. He wants to bring that gospel message to his congregation in a variety of forms to intrigue every age group.

“Pop music has a certain spirituality to it that reaches out to us,” he theorized.

The theory also holds water for the “Fish” in the band including keyboardist Vic Lubieniecki (a sales rep who has played with some name bands), guitarist Ken Bodell (an accountant) and drummer Mark Salehar (an auditor and church organist).

They also believe the “rock and roll” generation has something to offer the “rock of ages” church atmosphere.



session at the LaPorte Road church.

Although rock and roll from the altar is quite a departure from the traditional church days of organ music only, Price points out that nowhere in the Bible is the “organ” decreed as the official musical instrument of Christianity.

“Most churches have a piano or organ,” guitarist Bodell observed. “Our kind of music is a real experience for them! And, it’s a way for us to connect to people and become approachable so that we can bring our message to them.”

“It brings people in, too!” added Lubieniecki. “If you don’t get them in, you can’t minister to them.”

It’s fish, fun and ministry!”

Pastor Dave Price

And, as for understanding that “double meaning” to lyrics, try on an easy one first with The Monkees’ “I’m a Believer” or the Doobie Brothers’ “Jesus Is Just Alright with Me.”

Now, change a vowel in the last word of the Beatles’ tune, “Here Comes the Sun,” and you’ve got a religious message worth heeding, too.

Go a little further by stretching your creative imagination to a new level for the Kansas song, “Dust in the Wind.:

**“Don’t hang on, nothing last forever but the earth and sky;
It slips away; and all your money won’t another minute buy.
Dust in the wind, all we are is dust in the wind.”**

Do you see where the band’s message is trying to go?

If not, then how about Beatles fans who might re-discover direction in life with songs like Paul McCartney’s “Maybe I’m Amazed;”

**“Maybe I’m amazed at the way you’re with me all the time,
Maybe I’m afraid of the way I leave you.**

“Maybe I’m amazed at the way you help me sing my song.

You right me when I’m wrong.

Maybe I’m amazed at the way I really need you.”

Get the musical drift?

Then , you might also wonder about how to interpret the Beatles mega hit, “Let It Be:”

“And when the broken hearted people,

Living in the world agree,

There will be an answer, let it be.

For though they may be parted,

There is still a chance that they will see,

There will be an answer, let it be.”

However, if the message still isn’t registering as to what “Three Fish & a Loaf” want to get across, maybe some lyrics from Santana’s “Evil Ways” will do the trick:

”You’ve got to change your evil ways....baby,

Before I stop loving you.

You’ve got to change.....baby,

And every word that I say, it’s true.

You’ve got me running and hiding,

All over town...

You’ve got me sneaking and peeping,

And running you down.

This can’t go on,

Lord knows you got to change.”

With the Mokena United Methodist Church nestled next to the new Mokena Park District recreation center and in a town that feeds that growing Lincoln-Way High School system, Price believes the church can prosper by also bringing its religious message to young people through popular music.

“We’re offering a way for a church to get into music and a powerful message,” he said of the band’s willingness to play other church venues. “it’s fish, fun and ministry.”

“We were given a gift,” concluded Mark Salehar. “To not use it would be a waste. We want to reach people. But it will never be what I get out of it that’s important. It’s what I give to others.”