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The Blessings of Weekly Communion

- Pastor Sorenson

Below, Rev. Christopher Amen (pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Pipestone, Minnesota) concludes his writing on the blessings of weekly communion. Here he appeals to church history, our confessions, and the very heart of worship.

He begins: “After all, the chief purpose of all ceremonies is to teach the people what they need to know about Christ.” (AC xxiv:3)

So often Christian worship is thought of as our service to God and what we can do for him. The beating heart of Christian worship comes in receiving the gifts of our Lord in His Word and Sacraments, as He comes to us to give us Himself for the forgiveness of sins.

Following Pentecost, we learn that the Church “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer” (Acts 2:42). From this verse, we see a brief description of the religious life of the first Christian congregation. The Greek word for “devoted” means a persistent and faithful devotion in something. The Church was not only devoted to the preaching of God’s Word “the apostle’s teaching or doctrine” but they were equally devoted to the Lord’s Supper (the breaking of bread).

At the heart of the early Christian’s fellowship with God and with one another was this treasure of Word and Sacrament. The preaching of the apostles and the reception of Christ’s body and blood went hand and hand. The early church always had sermon and supper together. The Lord’s Supper is the climax of the sermon. The two go hand in hand.

In the introduction to the Small Catechism, Luther writes, “Our preaching should...be such that of their own accord and without our command, people will desire the Sacrament and, as it were, press us pastors to administer it to them.... For Christ did not say, “Omit this” or “despise this”, but “This do, as often as you drink it,” etc. He most certainly wants it done and does not want it left undone and despised. “This do”...only emphasizes clearly the benefit, need, usefulness, and blessing connected with the Sacrament, and also the harm and danger of neglecting it.” So, the weekly opportunity to commune was central to the reforms Luther made as he sought to return to the worship practice of the Scriptures and the early church.

In answer to the Roman charge that Lutherans had abandoned the Christian faith and sacraments, Philip Melanchthon writes in the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, “In our churches Mass is celebrated every Sunday and on other festivals, when the Sacrament is offered to those who wish for it” (Apology p. XXIV).

In the Large Catechism, Luther writes something especially pertinent for us amidst the pandemic, “We must never regard the Sacrament as a harmful thing from which we should flee, but as a pure, wholesome, soothing medicine which aids and quickens us in both soul and body.”

In the face of temptations and trials that face us each week, in sickness and suffering, amid pressures and pain, facing disappointment and death in this sinful world, the risen Christ comes into our midst with pure, wholesome, soothing medicine. From the altar, He gives us food for our journey to heaven. The Sacrament of the Altar is not a footnote in an article, but the Holy Supper is the Church’s heartbeat. Along with the preached Gospel, it is what keeps the Church alive.”

I encourage you to consider these words, as well as the previous articles from Rev. Amen, to see how every Sunday communion is a great blessing for us, discuss the topic with each other, come to Bible Study where we will be learning even more about this great gift, and talk to me with any questions you may have.

WORSHIP & BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION

Worship Service Update: We are now back to having one service each Sunday at 9:00 AM. As we do so, we will continue to follow the state guidelines regarding social distancing and other safety measures. For each service, the radio transmitter will still be used and the sermon and readings will be posted on the website.

Bible Studies In-Person:

- **Sundays:** We are studying the minor prophets Sunday mornings after worship. This month we will begin studying the prophet Amos. Sunday School will also meet every week, beginning at 10:15 AM.
- **Wednesday Night Bible Study:** Wednesdays at 6:30 PM. We will conclude our study on weekly communion using the book *The Blessings of Weekly Communion* by Kenneth W. Wieting, as well as some other sources. Everyone is invited to come and bring a friend too! Next topic will be announced in the coming weeks.
- **Book of Concord Study:** Second Sunday of the month, October 10th, beginning at 5:00 PM. We will continue studying the Smalcald Articles. A pitch-in dinner will follow. Everyone is welcome to attend and invite a friend!

Online Bible Study: We will continue having a short devotional video on **Tuesdays at 2:00 PM** on the church Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch>) and is also available to view in its entirety even after the study concludes.

Sermons and Devotional Resources:

- Weekly sermons will be posted on our church website (<http://www.stpeterwaymansville.com>) on the sermon page under the “At St. Peter” tab. (Direct link to that page - http://www.stpeterwaymansville.org/?page_id=417)
- You can also find helpful resources for your home devotions on the “Devotional Resources” page under the “Resources” tab (http://www.stpeterwaymansville.org/?page_id=489). Now is a great time to begin, continue, and strengthen a home devotional pattern by yourself and with your family.
- Portals of Prayer are available in the Narthex. You can drop by and pick one up or contact Pastor or the church office to have one delivered.

Lord’s Supper: If you would like to receive the Lord’s Supper during this time, please contact Pastor Sorenson via call, text, or email. His phone number is 812-371-1151 and his email is pastoresorenson@gmail.com. He would be happy to meet you at the church for this purpose or to bring it to your home, making sure at all times to take the necessary safety precautions.

May these resources assist you as you continue to hear the Word of God and cry out to Him in prayer.

150th ANNIVERSARY FOLLOW-UP

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 150th anniversary celebration on July 11th a success! It was a wonderful day to give thanks to God for all of His grace and mercy toward us while enjoying fellowship with one another. To God alone be the glory!

Cookbook: The 150th Anniversary Cookbooks are here! They are available for \$20 each. Proceeds will benefit the 150th anniversary celebration events and the general fund. Grab one for yourself, your family, and your friends! They also make great birthday and Christmas gifts!

Cat’s Meow: Cat’s Meow cutouts of the church to celebrate the 150th anniversary are available for \$20 each. You can pick one up on Sunday mornings or during the week.

Confirmation Photos: Group Confirmation pictures with names are missing for the following years: 1948-1951 and 1992-present. The church would like to have a copy to include in the church history. See Barb or email a copy to You can email a copy to bjtminor@yahoo.com. You can also give a hardcopy to Barb or put one in her church mailbox. Please include the names and year of confirmation.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Library: The Book of the Month will be available in the Parish Hall library for you to look through and read. You may take the book home to read as well, but we ask that you please do not hold onto it for too long so other people can enjoy it as well. The October Book of the Month is *Kitty, My Rib: The Heartwarming Story of a Woman of Courage and Devotion* by E. Jane Mall. Here is an excerpt from the book: “Katherine, growing up in the convent, was an obedient nun and never caused any sort of trouble or disturbance among the sisters. However, she finally realized that not their beloved church but a few of the power-grasping people of the church were bringing dishonor and corruption to the holy institution, and it made her long for freedom. When the nuns hear of the monk Martin Luther and of what he was doing to free the church of the poison that had seeped into it, they saw a ray of hope. Quickly they smuggled letters to their relatives begging them for release from what they felt had become corrupt.”

Missing Book: The book *A Little Book on Joy: The Secret of Living a Good News Life in a Bad News World* by Matthew C. Harrison has been missing from the library for several months. If you have this book, please return it to the library or let Pastor know. Thank you!

Quarterly Voters’ Meeting: We will have our quarterly voters’ meeting on October 24th following the worship service.

Board Positions: At our October voters’ meeting, we will elect new board members for the positions of General Fund Treasurer and Christian Education. If you would be willing to serve in either of these roles, please let a current board member know.

Weekly Communion Resources: There are some free resources on the topic of weekly communion in the narthex of the church. If you would like to learn more about this topic, feel free to pick up a book or the articles any time.

From Matt Riley: This past year we have been supporting seminarian Matt Riley. It is a wonderful thing for us to support a future pastor in Christ’s Church! Each month he has been sending us a letter, which is posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Be sure to check it out and keep Matt and his family in your prayers.

Usher & Communion Sign-Up Sheets: We are in need of volunteers for both of these roles. The 2021 sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. We are always looking for additional people interested in filling these roles. Please feel free to sign up even if you have never before helped in these ways. Someone will be happy to show you the ropes. *(At this time, communion assistance will be clean up only. Pastor will continue to set up communion so that there is only one contact prior to communion distribution.)*

Altar Flowers: If you would like to sponsor altar flowers, there is a sign-up sheet in the hallway between Pastor’s office and the church office. The cost to sponsor the flowers is \$20, and the payment can be put in the offering plate or in the mail rack outside the church office door. The flowers are yours for the taking after the worship service. Please contact Sue Anne Lee at (812) 717-0167 if you have any questions.

YOUTH GROUP & YOUTH CLASSES

Youth Group: The youth group will help with the Fish Fry on October 17th. We will also meet on Sunday, October 24th, for our youth night. We will have a meal, time to study God’s Word, and a fun activity. Feel free to bring a friend! If you would like to be added to the text group to receive youth group notifications, please let Pastor know.

Sunday School Teachers: If you would like to volunteer to help teach or be a substitute teacher, please speak to Kevin Schultz or Pastor.

EVENTS

Game Night: Game Night will be on Friday, October 1st beginning at 6:00 PM. We will be having an Italian night for dinner. Feel free to bring a dish to share, your favorite games, or a deck of cards. Mark your calendars and invite your friends and family to come along as well!

Fish Fry Meeting: We will have a Fish Fry planning on Thursday, September 30th at 6:00 PM. We will be finalizing all the details for the Fish Fry at this meeting, including getting supplies, volunteers, set-up, schedule, etc. Please prayerfully consider coming to this meeting to help make the Fish Fry a success!

Fish Fry: The Fish Fry is scheduled for Sunday, October 17th from 4:00-7:00 PM. It will be a drive-thru like last year. The menu will include fish sandwiches, hot dogs, chips, pie, and drinks. A freewill donation will be collected. Flyers are available outside of the church office if you are interested in spreading the word around town.

Trunk or Treat: We will have a Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 31st from 4:00-5:30 PM. All trick-or-treaters are welcome to go car trunk to car trunk gathering treats. If you would like to participate by handing out treats, come to the church parking lot shortly before 4:00 PM. Feel free to dress up and/or decorate your trunk any way you would like. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to reach out to our community, so spread the word and invite people to come out and have fun!

College Outreach and Care: We have begun a new college outreach and care program for our college students. If you are attending college (or know a member who is attending college), please let Pastor Sorenson know so he can add you to the list. Be on the lookout for more details in the months to come.

LCMS COMMUNITY NEWS & EVENTS

White Creek Golf Outing: St. John's White Creek Youth Group will be hosting a Golf Outing Scramble on October 30th 2021 to raise money for the youth to attend the National Lutheran Youth Gathering next summer in Texas. Golf Outing will be held at Shadowood in Seymour. Entry cost is \$75 per player and includes Golf, lunch, and 2 mulligans per player. Registration will start at 11:30am with lunch at 12 and Golf starting at 1:00. If interested please email Jason Hill at jasonhill2005@aol.com and he can email a registration form or call 812-350-2161 for any questions or to sign up over the phone. Please come out to support the youth and enjoy a fun day of golf.

Trinity Lutheran High School Substitutes Needed: Trinity Lutheran High School is looking for candidates who are interested in serving as a substitute teacher. Applicants should have a high school diploma. Teaching experience is valuable but not required. Applicants can submit their name and resume to info@trinitycougars.org or cdarlage@trinitycougars.org.

Open House: Trinity Lutheran High School is hosting a Development Open House on Tuesday October 5th at 10:00 AM. This event will include a tour of the school building, if desired a small tour of the outdoor facilities, and a presentation in the gymnasium. Our presentation will be a short overview of our ministry at Trinity Lutheran High School, how you can support our ministry and include a question and answer session. If you are interested please RSVP to Ryan Cremeans at: rcremeans@trinitycougars.org or call the school at 812-524-8547. You are still welcome if you do not RSVP and we will meet in the school commons beginning at 9:45 AM.

Lakeview Opening: Lakeview Ministries is in search of their next Director of Operations to join the incredible team already in place. They are seeking a strong leader to supervise the staff at Camp Lakeview and Lakeview Villages and lead all aspects of the summer camp and retreat season programming. This is a year-round, full-time position with competitive salary and full benefits. To view the job description and submit a resume, visit www.lakeview.camp/work.

FROM THE OFFICE

Contact Information:

As the situation around us continues to change daily, we would like to be able to contact everyone in a quick and timely manner. If you could please contact Camden or Pastor to update your contact information, especially phone number and email, that would help us tremendously and be greatly appreciated. Keep an eye on the church Facebook page for the most up-to-date information. Thank you!

New Secretary:

Greetings Everyone!!!

Hope that everyone is doing well!!! Especially during the times that we are in. This year has brought many difficulties, however, has also brought many enjoyments. I know that my life is full of excitement and change! As many of you probably already know, Amy has stepped down as Church Secretary to take on a Full-time Position Job at Columbus East. With that being said, I have taken on her role for the time being.

Please bear with me as we are making this transition, I still hold a Full-Time position myself, but I intend to make it work!! I want to do and be the best that I can for our church, just as Amy and Margie have done. I would like to take the time to thank both of them for their hard work during the past years.

If you need to get a hold of me, please feel free to message\call me anytime. Like I said before, I do have a Full-Time Job so if I don't answer, I will get back with you! I wish everyone the best of luck and can't wait to see what God's plans are not only for myself, but also for the church.

God's Blessings!

Camden Jeffries

Church Secretary

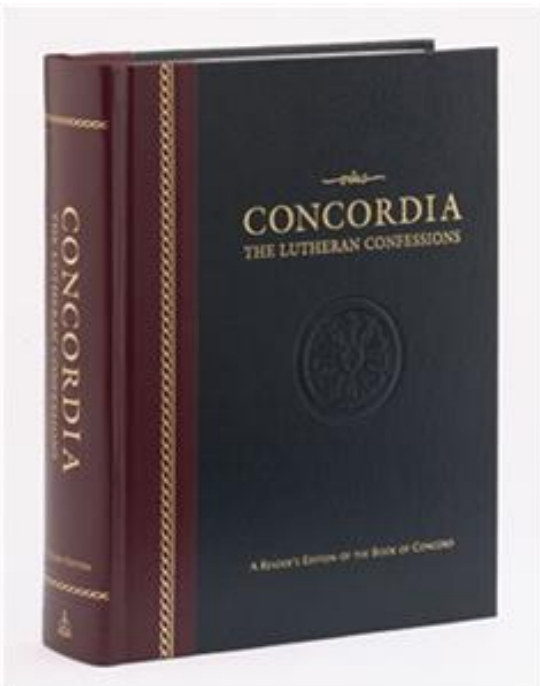
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On the web: www.stpeterwaymansville.com • Facebook: www.facebook.com/StPeterEvangelicalLutheranChurch



Book of Concord Corner

Concerning the Lord's Supper: "Here (Christ) offers us the entire treasure that He has brought for us from heaven. With the greatest kindness He invites us to receive it also in other places, like when He says in St. Matthew 11:28, 'Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.' It is surely a sin and a shame that He so cordially and faithfully summons and encourages us to receive our highest and greatest good, yet we act so distantly toward it. We permit so long a time to pass without partaking of the Sacrament that we grow quite cold and hardened, so that we have no longing or love for it. We must never think of the Sacrament as something harmful from which we had better flee, but as a pure, wholesome, comforting remedy that grants salvation and comfort. It will cure you and give you life both in soul and body. For where the soul has recovered, the body also is relieved. Why, then, do we act as if the Sacrament were a poison, the eating of which would bring death?" – *Large Catechism, V, 66-68.*

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
11750 W. 930 S. – Waymansville

Drive-Thru Fish Fry

Menu:
Fish Sandwiches
Hot Dogs
Chips
Pie (Apple, cherry, & pumpkin)
Drinks

** Freewill donation*



Sunday, October 17, 2021

4:00-7:00 PM

All Hallows' Eve Trunk or Treat



Sunday, October, 31st
4:00-5:30 PM

All trick-or-treaters of any age
are welcome to attend!

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church
11750 W 930 S - Waymansville

St. Peter Lutheran Church Calendar

October 2021

Ushers: Curt Acton & Robert Stiles

Communion Clean-up: No sign-ups

Acolytes:

October 3 – Anslee Hawkins

October 10 – Max Hoene

October 17 – Laurie Schultz

October 24 – Jonah Sciano

October 31 – Joe Acree

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Upcoming Dates: 11/7: All Saints' Day (observed)					1 6:00 PM – Game Night	2
3 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis	4	5 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	6 6:30 PM – Bible Study	7 10:00 AM – Elders' meeting	8	9
10 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00 PM – Book of Concord Study	11	12 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	13 6:30 PM – Bible Study	14 7:00 PM – Board Meeting	15	16
17 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 4:00-7:00 PM – Fish Fry (Drive-thru)	18 <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e0f0ff; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Pastor at District Pastor Conference </div>	19	20 6:30 PM – Bible Study	21	22	23
24 9:00 AM – Worship Service 10:15 AM – Voters' Meeting & Sunday School (Pastor's Bible Study as time allows) 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 5:00-7:00 PM – Youth Group Night	25	26 2:00 PM – Online Devotion	27 6:30 PM – Bible Study	28	29	30
31 (Reformation Day) 9:00 AM – Divine Service (Communion) 10:15 AM – Pastor's Bible Study & Sunday School 11:30 AM – Youth Catechesis 4:00-5:30 PM – Trunk or Treat						