



Epistle



S T . J O H N L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

Holy Communion in Lutheran Perception and Practice

When our ancestors ventured across the Atlantic by sail, they came from a place of conflict between Pietists and Rationalists. Some define piety as an emotion, a “spiritual feeling” of being holy and set apart from the world. This is actually Pietism. Others rightly see piety as more akin to reverence; as the authors of *Gottesdienst: The Journal of Lutheran Liturgy* quote from the Anglican Breviary, “Reverence is not primarily a matter of feeling pious, but rather of taking pains.” To our prideful flesh, it is a pain to pray, read scripture, and go to church. Praise God for giving our parents and other authorities’ Christian faith that led them to work hard, discipline, and teach us to humble our flesh and do those things for the eternal good of our bodies and souls.

Rationalists on the other hand make reason the master of faith. Our own fallen minds lead us away from faith in God according to His Word. However, Christians glory in the mysteries of the faith. These mysteries are not subject to our reason or understanding. We believe in Christ, Who is the Word, because of who He is, not because He makes sense to us. His peace is beyond all understanding.

Christ instituted one of the greatest mysteries in His Supper. This mystery is very complex because Jesus instituted it by using His own body. The mystery is the **sacramental union**, but it also relates to the **mystical union**. Since the second person of the Trinity is the Son of God as well as the Son of Man, Christ embodies the **personal union** of God and man: the creator and the creature. When Christ instituted the Sacrament of the Altar, He declared that the bread and wine are His body and blood. This is the **sacramental union**. Finally, after Jesus ascended into heaven and His disciples began to practice Holy Communion, St. Paul wrote about the **mystical union** in Ephesians 1 and 5. The mystical union unifies the sinless with the sinful, Christ with His Church. As the head of His church militant, Christ reigns as the King of grace.

Although some are unable to travel to church regularly, others who are able despise God and His gifts by not praising Him, thanking Him, and partaking of His Supper together with those who make up His **mystical** body. Historical authors, such as Mark Noll of Notre Dame University, explain how worldly influences such as Pietism and Rationalism have led many away from faith in God’s clear Word. Kenneth Wieting writes thus in his sixth chapter of his book, *The Blessings of Weekly Communion*:

Protestant Americans were suspicious of the churchly and the sacramental. Jesus was spiritualized in ways that were in the control of one's own thoughts and emotions. As Mark Noll says: "American Evangelicals never doubted that Christianity was the truth. They never doubted that Christian principles should illuminate every part of life. What they did do...was make most questions of truth into questions of practicality. What message would be most effective? What do people most want to hear?"

Most Protestant congregations celebrated Communion no more than four times a year, a practice that had become so common it was considered normal. In the final decades of the nineteenth century and the opening decades of the twentieth century, many LCMS congregations adopted the practice of quarterly Communion. Frontier conditions were sometimes a factor. The pietistic and rationalistic influences at work in Europe and the United States were a factor. But another influence that discouraged the recovery of weekly Communion was the emphasis of American Protestantism and its strong anti-Roman Catholic sentiment. (Wieting 1999, 179-180)

Although Roman Catholics as well as Protestants do not believe in the **sacramental union**, we can still respect the fact and thank God that they remember their Lord’s sacrifice for the forgiveness of their sins, just as Lutherans do. We also rejoice in the fact that that the Holy Spirit works through God’s Word to create faith in all who read it. May He bless you through Christ’s Supper that your appetite may be ready for His eternal feast.

**O U R 2 0 1 7 - 2 0 1 8 Y E A R - T O - D A T E
F I N A N C I A L S T A T U S**

Cash Flow from 7/31/2017 to 6/25/18

Year-to-date Income \$1,004,391.76
 Year-to-date Expense \$1,700,775.85
 Difference (Income - Expense) (\$696,384.09)

Average 2018 Attendance per Week 243

Money owed on Line of Credit

Beginning Balance 7/31/17 \$214,603.08
 Paid on Debt year-to-date (\$610,069.95)
 Borrowed year-to-date \$477,540.00
 LOC Renewal Fee \$80.00
 Current Balance as of 6/25/18 \$82,153.43
 Mortgage on 1328 Oak St. \$59,785.03

St. John Fall Registration is Set

St. John Lutheran School will hold their registration for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year on August 2nd and 3rd, 2018. Parents of all students who have not previously registered should register their children at this time. Registration will be held in the school office and the schedule will be:

Thursday, August 2 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the school office
 Friday, August 3 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. in the school office

The registration fee for kindergarten will be \$155.00 and Grades 1-8 will be \$165 per child. The \$165 fee includes the Buzz Book planner fee. Parents are asked to pay registration fees and one month's tuition.

A late registration fee of \$10 will be assessed for the registration of students after this date. Registration is considered to be the completing and returning all of the necessary forms.

St. John Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarships, athletic and other school-administered programs.

For further information, please call the school office (826-4345).

V A C A T I O N B I B L E S C H O O L

It's not too late to sign up for St. John Vacation Bible School! Stop by the church office to register soon.

Vacation Bible School will be held July 11-13 from 6-8:30 p.m. in the school. A *Mighty Fortress* will again be the VBS theme. Students will learn New Testament stories and learn how they can be disciples in their everyday lives. There will be rotations of cooking activities, games, crafts and music. A short closing devotion will end each evening. Students in grades 4-6 will take part in a service project.

All students finishing Pre3 through grade 6 are invited to attend this FREE event. Pre-registration is appreciated to help leaders plan, but walk-ins will be welcome each evening. Please call the church office 826-3545 to register or for more information.

The students will sing some VBS songs at the 5:00 p.m. worship service on Saturday, July 14. A reception will follow with a light meal and more attendance prizes. The congregation, guests, students and parents are encouraged to attend this Victory Celebration!



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

**“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery”
(Gal. 5:1).**

We celebrate this month because of the freedoms and liberties our country has afforded us. We are right to do this. We should be thankful for these liberties: the freedom to gather together to worship and to live out what we believe in our daily lives.

But freedom and liberty in our age has devolved. It has become a freedom from duty instead of a freedom for it. Indeed, freedom and liberty in our age has turned into licentiousness: a license to do what we want, when we want.

This license is a submission, again, to a yoke of slavery. For freedom as license to do what we desire when we desire it means we are slaves to our desires, slaves to our passions.

Christ died to set us free from our sinful desires. In Holy Baptism, our Old Adam is drowned and put to death along with all sin and evil desires so that a new man may arise and live before God in righteousness and purity.

In Christ, we are a new creation. We are set free from the passions of the flesh so that we are free to do our duty and bear fruits of the Spirit.

Our duty is what God calls us to do as members of a family, society, and the church.

God calls us to believe in His Word and gladly hear and learn it. He calls us to pray for all people. He calls us to live in faith toward Him and in fervent love for our neighbor. He calls us to put the gifts He gives to us in His service. God calls parents to provide for their children and raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord. And God calls children to honor their parents and provide and care for them when they are no longer able to do so themselves.

God calls the government to punish those who do evil and to reward those who do good. He calls citizens to pay their taxes and honor the governing officials as God’s servants. He calls pastors to preach and teach the Gospel as well as repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And He calls hearers to support those who teach them with every good thing.

Christ died to set us free from the works of our selfish flesh, giving us the freedom and liberty to do our duty. Stand firm, then, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Taken from lcms.org/stewardship

RUMMAGE SALE AND BAKE SALE

The church's rummage, coffeecake, and bake sale will be held on Friday, August 10 from 1:00 p.m. till 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, August 11 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Donations for the rummage sale may be brought to the Parish Hall August 7-9 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. We will be asking for baked goods for the sale. A lot of help is needed setting up for the sale, pricing items and also bagging up everything after the sale. Please make note of this on your calendar to help. Any questions call Shirley Roth 826-3366 or Edna Neislein 826-3367.

ACOLYTES



Sat June 30 5:00 pm Gavin Schroeder
 Sun July 1 7:45 am Max Blechle
 10:00 am Nick Collins
 Sat July 7 5:00 pm Emily Mehrer
 Sun July 8 7:45 am Landon Honbostel
 10:00 am Trentin Eggemeyer
 Sat July 14 5:00 pm Jordan Buskohl
 Sun July 15 7:45 am Gaberial Steele
 10:00 am Zoey Frazer
 Sat July 21 5:00 pm Cole Johnson
 Sun July 22 7:45 am Matt James
 10:00 am Hanna Kaempfe
 Sat July 28 5:00 pm Jasmine Merideth
 Sun July 29 7:45 am Alex Maes
 10:00 am Camyrn Luthy

USHER TEAMS

Sat June 30 5:00 pm Volunteer
 Sun July 1 7:45 am Dennis Kontz
 10:00 am Gary Eggemeyer
 Sat July 7 5:00 pm Volunteer
 Sun July 8 7:45 am Ron Rathert
 10:00 am Rick Casten
 Sat July 14 5:00 pm Volunteer
 Sun July 15 7:45 am Gary Duesning
 10:00 am Don Stallman
 Sat July 21 5:00 pm Volunteer
 Sun July 22 7:45 am Dennis Kontz
 10:00 am Gary Eggemeyer
 Sat July 28 5:00 pm Volunteer
 Sun July 29 7:45 am Ron Rathert
 10:00 am Rick Casten

ALTAR GUILD



July 14 & 28 Saturday Night Service Larry & Sharon Congleton, Sherry Bohnert Melvin & Edna Neislein
 July 1 & 15 Fred & Barb Fricke
 July 8 & 22 Dr. Stephen Platt, Ron & Anne Rathert, Mike & Barb Welge
 July 29 Fred & Barb Fricke, Mike & Barb Welge

WORSHIP SERVICES

Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 7:45 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.
 Sunday School and Bible Class at 9:00 a.m.
 Sunday Worship Broadcast on KSGM 980 AM
 online at ksgm980.com

GREETERS

Sat June 30 5:00 pm Shirley Hartmann
 Sun July 1 7:45 am Deb Caraway
 10:00 am Nancy Urquhart
 Sat July 7 5:00 pm
 Sun July 8 7:45 am Dorothy Gerberding
 10:00 am Marilyn Runge
 Sat July 14 5:00 pm Vicki Search
 Sun July 15 7:45 am Darlene Gentsch
 10:00 am June James
 Sat July 21 5:00 pm Tammy Crawford
 Sun July 22 7:45 am Edna Neislein
 10:00 am Diane Kelkhoff
 Sat July 28 5:00 pm Mary Webster
 Sun July 29 7:45 am Linda Sympton
 10:00 am Ardell Kruse

RADIO ANNOUNCER & TECHNICIANS

July 1 Mike Welge / Lynn Rickenberg
 July 8 Tim Lochhead / Bob Platt
 July 15 Amanda Middendorf / Tony Young
 July 22 Dallas Redeker / Charlie Bargman
 July 29 Mardell Granger / Lynn Rickenberg



WEEKEND JANITORS

June 30 / July 1 / Larry McDonough
 July 7/8 Dennis Mott
 July 14/15 / Ryan Petrowske
 July 21/22 Ron Cushman / Chris Urquhart
 July 28/29 / Gary Kelkhoff

ALUMINUM CANS



July 2-7 Gary Knop
 July 9-14 Mike Welge
 July 16-21 Brett Klindworth
 July 23-28 Fred Fricke
 July 30-Aug 4 Larry McDonough

CHURCH E-MAIL

Rev. Timothy Sims- timoteosims@hotmail.com
 Rev. Justin Massey- Justin.Massey@ctsfw.edu
 Kelly Walls— secretary@stjohnchester.com
 Tammy Crawford— nurse@stjohnchester.com

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JESUS LOVES:



July

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BIBLE TREASURE HUNT:



Bible Incomplete: Fill in the missing letters to complete the passage.

I kno_ both _ow to _e aba_ed, an_ I kno_ how t_ abou_d: eve_y whe_e and _n all _hing_ I am
i_stru_ted b_th to _e ful_ and t_ be hu_gry, b_th to _boun_ and t_ suff_r nee_. I can _o all
hing thro_gh Ch_ist w_ich s_reng_hene_h me.

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE TREASURE HUNT:

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye doubleminded. James 4:7

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CAPPERS

CAPPERS will meet on Sunday, July 8 at 1:00 p.m. to play cards and have a light meal in the Parish Hall.

NEW FACILITY

Thank you to everyone who recently contributed to the New Facility Fund. The current total is \$548,286.10. With faithful donations, St. John Lutheran School will continue to graduate future honor students, competitive athletes, student council officers, successful businessmen and women, qualified military leaders, and honest workers-all rooted with Christian principles.

