



Mt. Calvary Messenger

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A Little Note from Pastor's Study

Fellowship at the Altar (1 of 5)

What do we mean when we say “fellowship at the altar?” Quite simply, that the sacrament of the altar – communion – is the most visible public confession of our faith. It is an expression of unity and agreement in Christian faith with other Christians, as together we gather to receive the precious gifts given in the Lord's Supper. We refer to the practice of limiting participation in communion only to those who share common faith and confession as “closed Communion.” Those admitted to the Lord's Supper are those who have been taught what scripture teaches about the Lord's Supper and have been examined to determine that they understand it and personally embrace these teachings as their own.

An Act of Love

Closed communion has been the common practice of the Christian Church since our Lord instituted the sacrament. Today, however, amid the multitude of denominations and the vast populations of unchurched people groups, it is often unfamiliar and may seem strange, even rude, to many who are not aware of this practice. Closed communion is how the church remains faithful to Holy Scripture, being responsible with what she has been given, which includes protecting the unprepared from eating and drinking judgment upon himself. Consider St. Paul's words of admonition:

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. Whoever, therefore, eats the bread and drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” (1 Corinthians 11:26-29)

Common Sense

Closed Communion is an act of common sense. It can be compared to a number of situations in life where guidance and instruction are needed prior to engaging in that which is potentially dangerous. This is why we need to be trained before we hop behind the wheel of a car. Your license is verification that you have been instructed and examined by someone with knowledge regarding the safe operation of motor vehicles and the rules of the road. Or, consider the consultation required before receiving a new medicine from the pharmacist. Instruction and understanding are necessary before you receive your medicine, even though your doctor prescribed it for your health and well-being. If you don't know how to take it or if you misuse it, the medicine could do you serious harm! Jesus, the great physician, prescribed your medicine – Communion – He distributes it to you through his church, by means of his servants – pastors – who are to make sure those who receive it take it to their great blessing and not their detriment.

Divisions

Truth be told, closed Communion is often a point of tension in the modern church. The church is fractured into many denominations, which means there are a variety of different teachings out there. Among these differences, we find confessions that are at odds with one another. It's for this reason that closed communion is not merely a Christian/non-Christian matter, but also considers the division among those who bear Christ's name. It's ultimately a matter of fellowship. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul addressed Christian divisions with respect to communion when he delivered pastoral instruction to those in Corinth who were abusing the Lord's Supper:

“But in the following instructions I do not commend you, because when you come together it's not for the better, but for the worse. For, in the first place, when you come together as a church, I hear that there are divisions among you. And I believe it in part, for there must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized. When you come together, it is not the Lord's Supper that you eat. For in eating, each one goes ahead with his own meal.” (1 Corinthians 11:17-21)

Shared Faith

Community is not about everyone doing what is right in his own eyes (Deuteronomy 12:8). It isn't rightly called a personal, between-me-and-Jesus moment. It's a communal, between-me-and-Jesus-and-the-people-with-me-and-Jesus-and-the-whole-host-of-heaven moment. As we read above, it's about partaking with one another in unity of genuine confession (1 Corinthians 11:33). In 1 Corinthians 10, Jesus's Apostle, St. Paul, explains that Communion unites those who share the same faith and therefore together receive the elements:

“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.” (1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

Everyone who communes together is part of one body, united. In other words, when we partake of communion, we are in communion.

Old Testament Fellowship

What Paul says next guides our understanding of Communion and why the sacrament is closed to those who don't share the same confession of faith. The apostle points us to the Old Testament when he says, *“Consider the people of Israel: Are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar?”* (1 Corinthians 10:18). To partake of Israel's sacrifices was to worship Israel's God. It was to participate in what their God had told them to do in the place where he told them to do it (Deuteronomy 12:18; 14:22-27). Likewise, to participate and Pagan sacrifices means one is worshipping the Pagan gods. What is Paul's point? To commune at an altar is to be in communion with that altar's god and therefore in communion with those who worship that god.

“Therefore, my beloved, flee from idolatry. I speak as to sensible people; Judge for yourselves what I say. The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Consider the people of Israel: are not those who eat the sacrifices participants in the altar? What do I imply then? That food offered to idols is anything or that an idol is anything? No, I imply that what Pagan sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be to participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. Shall we provoke the Lord to jealousy? Are we stronger than he?” (1 Corinthians 10:14-22)

Closed Communion has always been the church's way. In the earliest days in the first few centuries of Christianity, The catechumens were not even allowed to remain with in the room during the Eucharist. These converts, primarily adults, were excluded from the communion liturgy during their three years of catechesis. After which, they were joyfully welcomed to the altar on the evening of the Easter vigil. In the Easter vigil, these catechumens were baptized, confirmed in the Christian faith, and admitted to the altar for the first time. We hear this echoed in the words of Hebrews 13:10: *“we have an altar from which those who serve the tent according to the Old Testament rituals have no right to eat.”*

Saying “No, Not Yet” Is a Loving Act

The apostle Paul was pastoring the members of the Corinthian congregation (and us) when he said, *“You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons.”* (1 Corinthians 10:21) At first glance, Saying someone cannot do something appears to be unloving and unkind. But we know better than that. Often the first word children learn is “no.” Why? Because their parents love them and say no when their little ones are getting into something that will cause them harm. To say no is loving. Saying that someone who is under your care cannot do something that will hurt them, is to love them. In fact, our Father in heaven set the precedent for this when after Adam and Eve fell into sin, He removed them from the garden of Eden so that they wouldn't eat at the tree of life and live forever in sin. He said no to them because he loved them.

“Then the Lord God said, ‘behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil period now, lest he reached out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—’ Therefore the Lord God sent him out from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man, and the east of the garden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.” (Genesis 3:22-24)

One might say that out of love for Adam and Eve, and all of their descendants, God established the practice of closed communion to ensure a blessed reception of the fruit of the tree of life. Our first parents had listened to the Devil's word and not God's Word. What is it that Paul said? We *“cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons”* (1 Corinthians 10:21).

Christ's Tree of Life

God denied mankind access to Eden's tree of life for the same reason He sent His Son to die upon the cross in our place: because He loves us. Access to the tree of life was opened up to all repentant sinners who believe in Jesus Christ. The cross is the tree of life from which we take and eat and live forever. Communion is the distribution system Christ implemented to give us the fruit of his tree.

Acts 2:1 – “**When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place.**”

Notice that Pentecost is actually an Old Testament festival. It happens around the time when the wheat and oats are ready to be brought in. In the New Testament, this becomes a picture and foreshadowing of the great harvest of humankind that God means to bring in through the preaching of His Word. God gives the seed, and God brings about the harvest through the work of His Church.

Isaiah 6:3 – “**And one called to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!’**” Three times the angels cry out: “Holy, Holy, Holy!” It is an indication of the three-ness in God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is the Name we are baptized into. We have been made a part of God’s family. And

so we are now called to live lives that are in harmony with our new family. We are to be godly and live in God’s image. As God is loving, kind, and generous, so are we called to be.

Luke 16:19 – “**There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day.**” This is often called the story of “The Rich Man and Lazarus.” But it should really be called the story of “The Two Rich Men and Lazarus.” The other rich man in this story is Abraham. Obviously, these two men used the gift of riches that God gave them in very different ways. The life and decisions of Abraham flowed from faith; the rich man’s life and choices flowed from disbelief and self-centeredness. So Abraham was kind and generous, reflecting his trust in a kind and generous God. And the rich man? Well,

you saw what happened to him and what god he served.

Proverbs 9:9 – “**Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.**” We need the Lord’s instruction and wisdom. We just don’t know enough on our own. It seems foolish to the world that Christians drop their hard-earned money into the collection plate every week. They just don’t see a benefit to the preaching of the Word, the administration of the Sacraments, the sending of missionaries, or the educating of children in the faith. But from the Lord’s instruction and Wisdom, we know better. Giving teaches us generosity. The work of the Church is the salvation of mankind, and we are blessed to be called to participate in it in this way.

PICNIC REPORT

Mt. Calvary’s 2022 annual picnic and auction was a record-breaking success! The Picnic Committee cannot thank the members and friends of Mt. Calvary enough for all your help and contributions. This year was so much fun, especially because we had more than enough of everything - workers, cookies, cakes, auction items, etc. This truly felt like a congregational effort! And that shows in the final results.

- The raffle tickets sold out. With additional donations, the total profit on the raffle was \$10,450.
- The bake sale earned \$897.
- The cake walk raked in \$894.
- The live auction made \$25,160 and the silent auction earned \$734. (Preschool results will be reported later.)
- The profit on the meal was \$3,805 plus a \$3,300 donation towards the cost of the chickens.
- Some monies are still coming in. However, the total profit made by this year’s picnic was right at \$40,000.

Again, the Picnic Committee says **thank you, thank you, thank you** for making our picnic a big success, for bringing your friends and family, and for your participation!

* OUR *
AMAZING
 Volunteers

Fellowship at the Altar (2 of 5) Stewards of the Mysteries

Pastors are given responsibility by Christ, through the call of his Church, to be managers, or stewards, of Holy Communion. For this reason, 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 calls pastors “servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.” Accordingly, “it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” the Lord’s Supper is among the mysteries that pastors manage. Pastors are required to be faithful as they administer the fruit of Christ’s tree of life to repentance centers who are prepared to receive it and withhold it from those who are unrepentant and unprepared. This means more than we often think. It’s not simply about not commuting people outside of the fellowship, but it is also about ministering to those under the pastors care. When a member of the congregation is living in unrepentant sin, the pastor may ultimately have to withhold communion from that person until he or she repents. In the book of acts, pastors find instructions from Paul:

“Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the Church of God, which He obtained with His own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come among you, not sparing the flock; And from your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert.” (Acts 20:28-31)

The faithful layperson will take to heart the other side of such instruction as he hears the words of Hebrews 13:17: *“obey your leaders and submit to them, for their keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.”*

Fierce Wolves and Antichrists

The fierce wolves Paul mentions are troublemakers who cause divisions among the children of God. Closed Communion assists the Christian, helping him understand whether or not a particular congregation teaches what Christ teaches. Closed Communion is a practice that simply acknowledges the reality that there is a right way of believing and a wrong way. There is true teaching and false teaching, right understanding and wrong understanding. Closed Communion guards against those differences it acknowledges the sad reality that false teachers have created divisions among God’s people.

“I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. For your own obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil period the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you..” (Romans 16:17-20)

Unpleasant Situations

Given the many divisions in the church today, it is easy to see how the practice of closed communion can create some unpleasant situations. as Christians, we are called to confess our faith to those in our lives. This ought often to result in inviting our friends and family to church, where they can receive God’s grace through his word and sacraments.

“But what if we invite them and they’re offended because they aren’t able to participate in the Lord supper right away? What if they don’t understand? What if they try to partake of the sacrament and are denied?”

These are all honest questions.

they recognize the strain that false teaching puts on our relationships. The answer to these questions is never to go against what scripture teaches. So, we continue to behave as the church always has. *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”* (Acts 2:42) Closed Communion is part of the apostles teaching and the fellowship – the breaking of the bread that unites us together and divides us from those who don’t believe as we do.

What Did Jesus Say?

Sometimes we forget what Jesus said about his coming into the flesh. We can be quick to think He’s only about uniting everybody together, that He is simply here to gather, gather, gather, welcoming anybody and everybody around Him regardless of what they believe it is true, He does want to gather all to Himself, *“not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance,”* (2 Peter 3:9) but there are those who deny His teaching. Therefore Jesus says:

“Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. 4 from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.” (Luke 12:51-53)

We practice closed Communion because in Communion we confess that the true, actual body and blood of Jesus Christ are genuinely, physically present under the consecrated bread and wine. We say that what He said when He instituted His Supper, that the bread is His body and the wine is His blood, and that His real body and real blood present in the sacrament are given for the forgiveness of the recipient’s sins (according to: Matthew, Mark, Luke, & St. Paul). Division comes when someone, even our own loved ones, cannot say, “amen” (truly, truly, yes, yes) to Jesus’s words and confess with us what Jesus taught. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Therefore believes, teaches, confesses, and pledges all its adherence to believe, teach, and confess the fact that in Holy Communion, the true body and blood of Christ are physically present, distributed, and received by every person who receives them. Jesus’s body and blood are not there by way of “symbolism” or in some “spiritual” sense, or in a way that only the soul ascends to heaven, and there feast on Christ. No, the scriptures teach that the body and blood of Christ are actually present, by the institution of Christ, under the bread and wine, for us Christians to eat and drink.

A Hard Saying

John’s Gospel doesn’t include Jesus’s Words of Institution. But in chapter 6, the evangelist does provide us with a bit of understanding regarding believing what Jesus taught. Namely, that He didn’t teach easy things. He said some things that, because of sin, cause people to keep their distance from Him. What John says helps us understand that not all who listen to what Jesus says will want to continue walking with Him.

“Truly, truly I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life and I will raise him up on the last day. For My flesh is true food and My blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him as the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on Me, he will also live because of Me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.” ... when many of His disciples heard it, they said, “This is a hard saying: who can listen to it? But Jesus, knowing in Himself that the disciples were grumbling about this, said to them, do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; The flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” ... After this many of His disciples turned back and no longer walked with Him.” (John 6:53-58, 60-64, 66)

For Your Information



Thank you for your continued support of the AMEN Pantry with shelf-stable food items (cereals, pasta/rice, canned veggies and fruits/soups, canned and dried beans, canned meats, etc). Additionally, our clients greatly appreciate the fresh vegetables we are able to distribute at this time from area Spring gardens! **All donors, donations and volunteers are a blessing!!**

Mt. Calvary volunteers are next assigned to work at the Pantry on **Tuesday, July 5, 10:30-Noon.** (The Pantry will be closed Monday, July 4.)

For information, contact Stell (878-966-2319) or Beverly (979-250-1718).



HAPPY SCRAPPERS – QUILTING FOR LUTHERAN RELIEF

THE HAPPY SCRAPPERS are resuming their quilting activities beginning Monday, June 6th at 9:30 AM in the Blue Fellowship House at 859 North Franklin Street. Feel free to use the handicapped entrance located at the back of the House which provides easy access for your convenience, safety and parking space located nearby. Social distancing can be practiced and face masks are optional. Attendees may bring a refreshment to share during the noontime lunch.

Everyone interested in just checking out the Blue Fellowship House or joining in the activities of the Happy Scrappers is invited. No sewing or quilting skills are required – only an interest in helping and participating in Christian service and fellowship. There are various stages in making a quilt and with many helping hands, the process will move faster. Several volunteers are now working on quilting projects at home so let us know if you may be interested in this activity.

Just in case you missed the May Picnic Live Auction, three beautiful hand quilted quilts were displayed and sold for generous amounts. Supplies for these quilts were received from the estate of a deceased Mt. Calvary member and transformed into several small quilts for fund raising projects. In addition, Thrivent Action Team debit cards (\$250.00 each) have been secured for the purchase of quilt batting, twin size bed sheets for quilt backings and completion of unfinished quilting projects. If anyone is interested in supporting the Happy Scrappers with a Thrivent Action \$250 debit card, you can contact Jeanette Huelsebusch @ 968-3829 for information.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS AND GENEROSITY

THE MARY MARTHA GUILD MINUTE



JUNE MEETING
Monday, June 6th

Welcome
Devotion
Pantry Item
Mite Prayer

BUSINESSS MEETING
Project/Activity

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

Multipurpose Room
Fellowship Time—5:30 PM
Business Meeting—6:00 PM
Janice Teinert
Janice Teinert
Canned Beans
Joan Miertschin

Report on Spring Rally, April 24, Grace Lutheran
TX District 42nd Biennial Conv., Houston, June 16-18
Cheer cards for shut-ins/nursing home residents
Church cleaning support
(8) Amy Lochte

(5) Brenda Fischer; (6) Margie Buscha; (9) Janice Teinert;

(14) Faye Winkler; (19) Shery Dunk; (27) Dolores Votaw

Everyone is invited to attend Guild Meetings in the Multi-purpose Room at 5:30 PM on the first Monday of the month. All volunteers and support of our projects are greatly appreciated. Contact our Member Development Committee - Karen Fitch 979-561-6190, or any Guild member, or feel free to call the church office at 968-3938 for more information.

Fellowship at the Altar (3 of 5)

We Are To Serve Neighbor, Not Self

The desire to remove that which divides often comes from an understandable desire to remove the point of tension that can occur when a Sunday morning visitor, who is not part of the fellowship of faith, is excluded from the distribution of the Lord's Supper. We want to take away that which is offensive. We are motivated by the interest of the person not included in the sacrament, but also, and perhaps more so, we're motivated by self interest. We want to avoid confrontation and make things pleasant and more comfortable for ourselves. If it was a man-made custom that was causing offense and division, it would be commendable, and even necessary, to remove the obstacle in question (Romans 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 9:12b), but we're talking about celebrating communion in accordance with holy scripture.

"I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive." (Romans 16:17-18)

"Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ." (1 Corinthians 9:12b)

We're talking about Jesus and the distribution of His body and blood. What does scripture say about Him? It says He is offensive. The stumbling block of Jesus incarnation, crucifixion, and bodily resurrection is the very thing the Church is bringing to the world. We do so, in no uncertain terms, when we practice closed Communion.

"For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." (1 Corinthians 11:26)

"For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek after wisdom, but we preach Christ and him crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to the Gentiles." (1 Corinthians 1:22-23)

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." (Romans 9:33)

"As you come to Him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house. ... For it stands in scripture: "Behold I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone, and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word." (1 Peter 2:4-5a, 6-8)

A Stumbling Block

Some think the practice of closed Communion is a stumbling block to the church's mission to "make disciples of all nations" through baptism and instruction in Christ crucified for the forgiveness of sins, "teaching them to observe all that He has commanded us." (Matthew 28:19-20) it certainly can be. There is no doubt about it. The easy path is the one that is wide open, where anybody and everybody can come to the altar – to Jesus – regardless of whether or not their beliefs are in accord with what His Word says. Jesus teaches that the easy way is not where we find life. The easy way is not where He has promised to be present.

"enter by the narrow gate. for the gate is wide and the weight is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." (Matthew 7:13-14)

A church that practices closed Communion confesses the truth that Christ is the narrow gate, a message that can be hard to proclaim in an everybody-gets-to-participate culture. No one can shy away from the truth that closed Communion can be offensive. However, while we recognize that closed Communion is a stumbling block, it is wrong to think we should remove it.

Why Not Remove the Stumbling Block?

Communion is part of what the Lord has commanded His Church to observe in His word, and we are to observe it the way that He instituted it. It is after all, His last will and testament and therefore cannot be annulled or altered.

"To give a human example, brothers: even with a man-made covenant, no one annuls it or adds to it once it has been ratified." (Galatians 3:15)

"In the same way also He took the cup, after supper, saying, this cup is the new covenant [testament] in my blood." (1 Corinthians 11:25)

"Therefore [Christ] is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised internal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. For where a will is involved, the death of one who made it must be established. For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not enforced as long as the one who made it is alive, therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ... Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins ." (Hebrews 9:15-18, 22)

That is to say, it is not our place to disobey God's Word and change what our Lord has given us in His last will and testament.

The Joy of Fellowship at the Lord's Table

Closed Communion provides the opportunity for the Church to enjoy the blessing of genuine fellowship in the Lord's Supper, rejoicing in the real, physical presence of Jesus Christ under the bread and wine of His supper, and then enjoying communion with one another in the confession of the Christian faith. This is not simply "generally speaking" in a "go along to get along" way, but in a true unity that unites all whom Christ has called, unity that transcends all other human relationships, and human conditions. In Christ, in His supper, we have the visible expression of the truth that we are all together one body in Christ Jesus.

Fellowship at the Altar (4 of 5)

C. F. W. Walther on Admission to the Lord's Supper

"Something on the Custom of Also Inviting People to Participate in the Celebration of the Holy Supper Who Have Not Gone to Confession" an essay from volume 4, number 21 of *Der Lutheraner* by C. F. W. Walther (1st & 3rd President of the LCMS, founder of Concordia Seminary, founder and first president of Concordia Theological Seminary, and founder of *Der Lutheraner* [The Lutheran Witness])

The following is saying of Chrysostom precedes the essay as an epigram: "*I would sooner lose my body and life than allow the body of the Lord to be given to someone unworthily, and I would sooner have my bloodshed than sanction giving his most holy blood to an unworthy person.*" (Homily 83 on Matthew)

Through it [the Holy Supper] a person is not to be brought to repentance and grace in the first place, but strengthened in them; through it a person is not to obtain grace and become a Christian in the first place, but the grace obtained through the word is to be sealed in him and he is to be kept, preserved, and nurtured in Christianity; through this meal a person is not awakened to life through God in the first place, but is to be nourished and refreshed when he is already spiritually alive. Therefore, whoever wants to receive the holy supper in a worthy manner and for his salvation must already have come to repentance and faith beforehand; He must already have received grace and become a true Christian beforehand, must already beforehand have been awakened to life through God and been born again.* therefore, only someone who has already become a child of God through the washing of rebirth – that is, through Holy Baptism – should receive the Holy Supper, just as in the Old Testament only he was allowed to partake of the paschal lamb who had already been received into the divine covenant of grace through the sacrament of circumcision.

To partake of the Holy Supper is not a good thing per se. Instead, it depends on how 1 partakes of it. It does not work by virtue of *ex opera operato* (simply being done!) It is not like medicine that one need only ingest for it to work; It is rather a treasure trove whose riches can be taken, gathered, and retained only by the hand of faith. Whoever does not have faith certainly also receives the real and whole Sacrament – that is, he receives not just bread and wine but actually and truly receives in with and under these elements the body and blood of Jesus Christ in his mouth as a precious pledge of grace and forgiveness. however, he goes away devoid of any of the blessing for salvation of his soul which lies in it. For how can a pledge, however precious and valuable it may be, help a person, and how can it serve to assure him of a matter, if he does not believe that it is such a precious and valuable pledge? – Yet whoever partakes of the Holy Supper without the correct faith and thus unworthily will not only not receive the grace which lies in it but he'll also find in it instead of grace, wrath; instead of life, death; instead of blessing, curse. He becomes, as Saint Paul writes, "*guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ... He eats and drinks judgment on himself by not discerning the body of the Lord.*" (1 Corinthians 11:27, 29) Terrifying is the sin one commits, and dreadful the ruin he brings down upon himself, if he partakes unworthily in the Lord' Supper; And those who say, "but we should be glad that people are still coming to the Holy Supper," Thereby reveal the sad condition of their knowledge of this Holy Sacrament.

Another unique characteristic of the Holy Supper – and that of the Holy Sacraments in general – is that it belongs to the hallmarks, the banners of the Church, and seals of doctrine and faith (Romans 4:11; 1 Corinthians 10:21; Exodus 12:48). The Church in which one participates in the Holy Supper is the Church and doctrine that one confesses. There can be no deeper brotherly fellowship than that in which one meets with those in whose fellowship one receives the Holy Supper. "*For,*" the holy apostle says, "*as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes,*" (1 Corinthians 11:26) and "*because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.*" (1 Corinthians 10:17) So there is a great difference between listening along to a sermon in a different church fellowship one time and participating in the celebration of the Holy Supper there. One can certainly listen along to the preaching there on occasion perhaps get to know the doctrine of that group – without thereby participating in a heterodox worship service. By contrast, Holy Communion is an act of confession; If one communes in a different church, one actually joins it, acts as a witness for its teaching, and declares its members to be one's brothers and sisters in the faith. ...

Preachers who do not themselves believe that the body and blood of the son of God are present in the Holy Supper and are received by all participants, preachers who believe the Holy Supper is a mere memorial meal, a mere ceremony, such as the Reformed, Methodist, [Pentecostal, Baptist, Non-denominational,] and most United-Evangelical – it is entirely natural for them to do this. But When those who want to be Lutheran preachers and are persuaded of the truth of the Lutheran doctrine of the holy supper act in this way, it is inexcusable.

First, such preachers are acting against the command of God: "*do not... take part in the sins of others.*" (1 Timothy 5:22) For whoever can prevent a sin, yet not only fails to prevent it But actually promotes it, makes himself a participant in it....

On top of this, in so doing a preacher commits a particularly grave sin by being an unfaithful, careless, and unscrupulous *seelsorger* (caretaker of souls.) The Word of the Lord in the prophet Ezekiel 3:17-18, applies to every preacher: "*Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the House of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from My mouth, you shall give them a warning from Me. If I say to the wicked, 'you shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.*" The Word Of the Lord spoken to Peter also applies to every preacher: "*I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*" (Matthew 16:19) The Word applies to every preacher: "*Make an effort to present yourself to God as an upright and blameless worker who rightly divides the word of truth... and corrects the rebellious. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the scenario of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.*" (2 Timothy 2:15, 25-26) It says about all righteous preachers: "*They are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account.*" (Hebrews 13:17)

A preacher does the opposite of all that these passages expect of him as the *seelsorger* if he admits everyone to the holy supper without examination he should proclaim to the godless, "you must die," but by admitting him to the table of grace he says to him, "you shall live." He should bind the unrepentant, yet he loses them. He should correct the rebellious so that they come to repentance, yet he proclaims them righteous, so that they become even more recalcitrant. He should guard their souls, yet he turns out to be a "silent dog who, as Isaiah 56:10 states, "*cannot rebuke, [who is] lazy, lies down, and loves to sleep.*" He should help souls out of sin and damnation, yet he bolsters them in their impenitence and only plunges them ever deeper into sin, God's wrath, death, hell, and damnation. Alas, it is certain that, know how matter how fervent a preacher might otherwise be, if he does not to the best of his ability protect souls from unworthily receiving the most Holy Sacrament, even this one thing will make him blameworthy and will bring down on him severe judgment as a hireling, as a faithful *seelsorger*, even as one who corrupts souls.

Fellowship at the Altar (5 of 5)

The Communion Statement of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

Today, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion, in which our Lord Jesus Christ gives His true body and blood under the bread and wine for us Christians to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins. The Sacrament also brings condemnation upon those who take it in unbelief. Finally, the Lord's Supper serves as a confession of the unity of altar and pulpit in faith, doctrine, and practice for those who receive it together.

If you are an instructed and confirmed member in good standing of Mt. Calvary, another congregation of the LCMS, or of another congregation of the global Lutheran community in altar and pulpit fellowship with the LCMS, we welcome you to commune with us today. However, if this is not the case, we ask that you refrain from communing today. If you have questions, please speak to Pastor Kaspar after church. He would be happy to meet with you to talk about the blessings of church membership and arrange for you to be a part of our instruction leading toward reception of Holy Communion at Mt. Calvary. (See also: John 6:52-58; Rom. 16:17; 1 Cor. 10:17, 20-21; 11:26-28; Eph. 4:1-4; 1 Tim 4:8)

[The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever." (John 6:52-58)

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. (Rom. 16:17)

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. ... No, I imply that what pagans sacrifice they offer to demons and not to God. I do not want you to be participants with demons. You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. (1 Cor. 10:17, 20-21)

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. (1 Cor. 11:26-28)

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call.

(Eph. 4:1-4)

For while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come. (1 Tim 4:8)]

The Verbal Exhortation Prior to the Service of the Sacrament

"Jesus says in the 6th chapter of John that unless a person eat my body and drink my blood, he has no life in him, but he who eats my body and drinks my blood has eternal life. The scriptures however also warn us though St. Paul that those who receive unworthily, not perceiving the true, bodily presence of Christ, and receiving it in faith, receive the Eucharist to their condemnation. Therefore, as we celebrate the Lord's Supper today, we ask that only those who have been instructed and confirmed in the doctrine of the LCMS, or our sister synods throughout the world, come forward to receive. It is not our will to exclude anyone, but out of our fervent desire to be faithful to the teaching of Jesus in the scriptures, and out of sincere Christian brotherly love and concern for you.

Those who are not yet instructed in the faith are welcome to come to altar of the Lord for a Baptismal blessing. If you're not a child, please indicate your desire by crossing your hands over your chest"

All Members of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
You are cordially invited to

The service of Ordination into the Holy Ministry
and
Installation as Pastor
for
Gary Lewis Johnson

Sunday, July 24, 2022 at 3:00 PM
Zion Lutheran Church
103 Keuper Ave., Schulenburg, TX 78956

Dinner Following:
Please RSVP not later than July 11, 2022
To: 979-743-3842
(If not answered, please leave a message)
Or by email to
zionburg@yahoo.com

For clergy wishing to Process, the color of the day is red.



Installation

2022 Summer Youth Camps FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Summer camps are back! We are excited to offer a variety of camps for youth this summer. Ages are for grades NEXT school year.

June 1 - Frog Dissection - Grade 6 to 8 - \$15

June 6-8 - Volleyball - Grade 3 to 8 - \$15

June 13-15 - Basketball - Grades K to 8 - \$15

June 20-22 - STEM Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$ 30

~~June 27-29 - Art Camp - Grades K to 6 - \$30 FULL!~~

Aug 1-2 - Archery - Grade 4 to 8 - \$15

Please visit our website or Facebook page for more information! Don't wait --- Sign up today!! Space is limited!

Meet our Team:

Mrs. Chelsea Beck --- Chelsea has been teaching art for nearly ten years. She taught children's classes and art camps for the Art Center of Corpus Christi and the Corpus Christi Early Childhood Development Center. Chelsea also taught beginner painting classes for adults at a local business and had her own business where she brought art classes to events and parties, and local businesses. She displayed her own work in galleries and at local businesses and helped local businesses connect with other local artists. Chelsea firmly believes that art is for everyone and loves to help her students gain the skills and confidence they need to help bring their creativity to life. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Concordia University Texas in 2009

Miss Kristin Becker --- Kristin is the Mathematics, Science, and Technology teacher at Faith Lutheran High School. She received a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with a concentration in Mathematics and a Lutheran Teacher's Diploma from Concordia University Texas in 2012.

Mr. Jonathan Kueck --- Jonathan has been privileged to coach a variety of sports throughout his 17 year career, including basketball, volleyball, soccer, cross country, archery, track, and baseball. He is the current archery and boys basketball coach at FLHS. He received a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education from Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska in 2003.

Mrs. Nikki Kueck --- Nikki has been coaching volleyball for over a decade, with a coaching record of 163-116-12, primarily at the high school level. Most recently at Calvary Lutheran High School in Missouri, she spent 7 years witnessing program growth from 7 athletes to over 20, from 4 win seasons to 28 win seasons. She also has experience in softball, basketball, archery, cross country and track. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education from Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska in 2008, while also playing defensive specialist for the Lady Bulldogs NAIA volleyball program.

Cost for all Camps Include:

- All camp activities, supplies equipment, and instruction - Camp T-shirt - Refreshments

Call: 979-242-2889 Email: kueckn@flhstx.org

Register for *Vocatio*, June 25-July 2!

For high school students considering a church work career

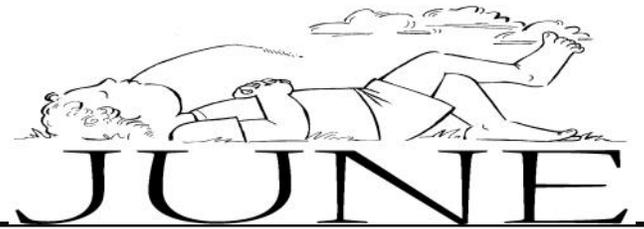
Vocatio is a free, faith-filled and fun opportunity for high school students entering grades ninth through 12th to explore God's calling and direction for them. During this weeklong retreat, students will be encouraged in their faith and calling for their lives through many Seminary experiences including worship and devotions, sessions with professors, and some fun and recreation! The deadline to register is May 27. Interested participants can [learn more](#) and sign up below. For more information, email admit@csf.edu or call 800-822-9545.

Christ Academy: High School

June 19-July 2, 2022

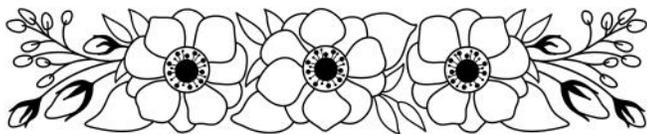
ctsfw.edu/ctsfw-events/christ-academy

Christ Academy's tradition of combining learning, worship, and fun provides an incredible two-week experience for high schoolers, especially for those considering a future in church work. Applications for [Timothy School](#) (for men) and [Phoebe School](#) (for women) will be accepted until June 1. Visit the links above for more info or call [800.481.2155](tel:800.481.2155)



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Gus Herbrich Luis Sanchez Calvin Zahradnik	2	3 Larry & Peggy Schulte (44)	4 Leslie Grimes
5 Daniel & Brenda Fischer (40) Gary Johnson Pat Michael	6 Gabby Hollek	7	8 Amy Lochte	9 Donnie & Katrina Bretting (15) Sherri Coufal Lily Pietsch Lee & Janice Teinert (49)	10 James Herbrich Gracie Stephens	11
12 Frank & Leah Wolf (29)	13 Ava Almanza Kaylee Hensley Aleisha McCoy Susannah Mikulin Richard & Krystal Synatschk (13)	14 Faye Winkler	15 Daniel & Teresa Boening (37) Lummus & Agnes Hannes(59)	16 Quirt & Aleisha McCoy (21)	17	18 Gladys Ahlschlager Arthur Becker
19 Richard Synatschk	20 Mia Davis	21	22	23 Becky Krenek Shane&Kim Pietsch (15)	24	25 Willie & Terri Ahlschlager(34) Gary Diers Frances Hentschel
26 Philip & Becky Weikel (23)	27 Ron & Shirley Behrens (13) Charles & Dolores Votaw (58) Hannah Wilson	28	29 Charles & Sylvia Hebert (31) Glenda Midgett Martha Pietsch	30 Randy Albers John Bartek,Jr. Barry Buscha		



Remembering

We grieve with the family and friends of Wayne Allen Koopmann who passed away April 12th.

FLOWER CHART OPENINGS

Don't forget that we have a Flower Chart on the bulletin board in the narthex hallway. You can sign up to provide flowers for a special occasion or simply to the glory of God.

Call the church office if you would like more information!

Help for Ukraine – ‘The List Changes Daily’ – The LCMS Office of International Mission is currently working with five partner churches to help refugees from this conflict. First, to support the people of Ukraine, please pray for them. If you desire to contribute to their needs, please visit the web site <https://reporter.lcms.org/> for recently updated ways to donate.

Faith Lutheran High School of Central Texas — Home of the FALCONS!

Thank You!

Thank you for all the prayers and support you have offered on behalf of FLHS. It's hard to believe another school year is complete. We ask that you continue to remember us in your prayers and gifts, as we make preparations for next year and the years following. God continues to bless our ministry and YOU do as well. Thank you!

New Student Registration

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is underway. We already have new students enrolled and would love to welcome you into our Falcon family as well. Call us at (979) 242-2889 to schedule a shadow day or visit our website at www.flhstx.org for registration information.

Save the Date!

FLHS's annual Oktoberfest will be Saturday, October 22. **New this year will be - The Battle of the Brew** - a home brew competition. Returning will be our traditional German meal, domino tournament, cornhole tournament, music, kids games, and lots of fun!

First Annual Church Music Beautification Conference

On April 30, 2023 Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool hosted the 1st annual small scale Church Music Beautification Conference of Texas District circuits 22 & 23. The conference focused upon small, simple ways for congregations with limited means and limited personnel to add to the musical beauty of Sunday morning worship. Presenters for the 1st conference were: Rev. Bernard Schey (Trinity, Old Dime Box), Rev. Jason M. Kaspar (Mt. Calvary, La Grange), and Mrs. Ruth Meyer (St. James, Lexington & Holy Trinity, Fedor) This year's presentations included: What Your Congregation Doesn't Know; Playing Well Together; Ensembles: Starting Small and Simple. The conference also included the introduction of a new Easter hymn with text by Rev. Bror M. Erickson (Zion, Farmington, NM), tune and setting by Rev. Jason M. Kaspar. There were 19 attendees for this inaugural conference. And, the conference enjoyed some added beatification for closing Responsive Prayer & The Litany by Mt. Calvary's bell choir and chancel choir. In subsequent years, we intend to expand an invitation more broadly through the district and bring a featured presenter.

Texas Wendish Heritage Society Scholarship Program. The Texas Wendish Heritage Society (TWHS) appreciates support given to our scholarship program. All Texas Wendish Heritage Scholarship funds are received through fundraising projects and donations. The TWHS scholarship program is available to students of Wendish descent and encourages students to learn more about their Wendish heritage. Applicants must be enrolled in an accredited college, university or trade school for Fall 2022 semester. 2022-2023 scholarship applications will be available beginning April 19th online at texaswendish.org and on the Texas Wendish Facebook Page. The entire process is online and must be submitted digitally by the deadline; 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 15th, 2022. For more information contact the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum at 979-366-2441 or museum@texaswendish.net. In 2021, a total of \$15,000 was awarded in scholarships to thirteen students. **Thanks for your support!**

MEN'S CLUB PIT STOP

May 2, 2022
OPENING
DEVOTION
ROLL CALL
TREASURER REPORT
NEW BUSINESS

6:05 PM
Pastor Kaspar, Genesis Luke 7
3 Officers, 12 Club members ; 15 total present
Randy Albers, \$17,815.22 account balance

Mark Wilson brought up a project being proposed by the local Leo Club (part of the Lion's Club) by his daughter. The project would involve one of our church members, Becky Bohot and her family. The project would include helping with the clean up and fix up of the Bohot property to allow outdoor access by the family. The details have yet to be finalized but the general consent of those present was to do what we can to help with this worthwhile project.

NEXT MEETING Monday, June 6, 2022, at 6:00 PM at the BBQ Pavilion

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church & Preschool

800 N. Franklin St.
La Grange, Texas 78945

Change Service
Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.
STANDARD PERMIT #50
LA GRANGE TX

“Committed to Reaching Out With The Love Of Jesus”

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church

2022 APPLICATION FOR LOMT CAMBERSHIP

Camperhips are available for weeklong Day Camp programs.

Application for a campership must be received by **May 31, 2021**.
When applying for an LOMT campership, please allow at least
2 – 3 weeks for processing and a reply.

Please return completed application to:

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
800 N. Franklin St
La Grange, TX 78945
1-979-968-3938 fax 1-979-968-2918
Email : secretary@mtcalvary-lcms.org

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Telephone: Day _____ Evening _____

Email: _____

Name(s) and age(s) of child(ren) for whom campership is request-
ed and name and date of session desired:

Name _____ Age _____ Week _____
Date _____

Name _____ Age _____ Week _____
Date _____