

The Biblical Practice of Close Communion

Through the apostle Paul, God speaks of his desire for all of us to reach perfect unity (Ephesians 4:12,13). We members of St. John Congregation certainly share his desire. We seek to express that unity – with our current members, with those who desire membership, and also with Christians around the world.

Scripture speaks of two different types of unity. First, Christ has reconciled every single one of us to God through his perfect life and death on our behalf. Even now, God considers us saints and heirs of heaven, clothed with Christ's righteousness. You might think of this as a "vertical" unity – purely between the individual and his or her God. Through Christ, peace with God has been restored. Then, there's also an outward and public unity – a "horizontal" unity – as fellow saints worship side-by-side. The celebration of Holy Communion is guided by both types.

For communion to be celebrated in a beneficial way, those attending will come united with their God and also with their fellow-communicants. The former is established by repentance – a sorrow over sin and a trust in God's forgiveness – that he himself produces. It's a matter of the heart. The latter is established by the outward confession of what each of us believes. It's a matter of the mouth.

We do not presume to look into the heart, for only God is able to do that. We do, however, seek to establish outward unity by studying God's Word together so that we share a common confession. Our congregation offers a Bible study course that's designed for just that purpose.

And so, out of love for God and his Word, we kindly ask that all visitors speak with the pastor about how we can establish that outward unity prior to your attending Holy Communion here at St. John. We desire to make that goal a priority, so that you may receive the Sacrament as soon as possible.

May God bless your hearing of the Word today as he reminds you of his full and free forgiveness in Christ!



The **FESTIVAL** *of the* **RESURRECTION** *of our* **LORD**

April 16, 2017

9:00 am

Welcome!

We extend a very warm and friendly welcome to all who've joined us for worship today. We pray that the God of grace, who sent his Son to save you and who proved his love for you by raising him from the dead, will fill your heart with joy in knowing that your salvation has been made sure through Jesus. May God bless your worship!

If you're a guest with us this morning, please sign the Friendship Register in your row, checking any applicable boxes. If you need assistance of any kind, don't hesitate to ask one of the ushers. If you'd like to learn more about St. John congregation or the Bible's teachings, please speak with Pastor Mike Gehl. And if you don't already have a church-home, feel free to return and worship with us again at your earliest convenience.

Our restrooms are located downstairs (through the entryway). Activity bags to help keep children occupied are on a hanger in the entryway. We love having your children sit with you during the service, but if you feel that your infant or toddler is getting a little too fussy, you may briefly step out of the sanctuary until they're ready to come back in.

Today's order of service is displayed on the screen and printed out in the worship folder (with music notes) for your convenience. Hymns are found in the red book in front of you.

St. John also operates an all-day preschool and a full-day kindergarten through eighth grade Lutheran Elementary School. We're a member of the Fox Valley Lutheran High School federation. If you are interested in hearing more about these opportunities for Christian education, please speak with Pastor Gehl or Principal Tim Raddatz.

At Your Service Today:

9:00 am

Greeters: Janet Wierschke
Lois Baumgartener
Tammy Olp Aura Lee Gehl

Ushers: Eric Olp
Elliot Olp
William Olp
Carl Uitenbroek
Randy Kluess

PowerPoint: Lou Ann Beard

Altar Guild: Lou Beard, Mary Fritsch, Aura Lee Gehl

Mission and Purpose

St. John Lutheran Church exists as part of the Holy Christian Church on earth. We engage in the continuing development of disciples of Jesus Christ by **GATHERING** for worship, education, and fellowship in order to **GROW** in faith and knowledge of our Lord and Savior. By God's **GRACE** we **GO** to proclaim Christ and his Word with our lips and lives. We realize that it's only through the **GOSPEL** in Word and Sacraments that one can be equipped for discipleship and bringing **GLORY** to God.

And sing to God right thank - ful -
And ev - er grew more strong and
An emp - ty form a - lone re -
That death is swal - lowed up by

ly Loud songs of al - le - lu -
bold And held us as its cap -
mains; Its sting is lost for - ev -
death. Its sting is lost for - ev -

ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
tive. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
er. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
er. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree—
So strong his love—to save us.
See, his blood now marks our door;
Faith points to it; death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

6 So let us keep the festival
To which the Lord invites us;
Christ is himself the joy of all,
The sun that warms and lights us.
Now his grace to us imparts
Eternal sunshine to our hearts;
The night of sin is ended.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

7 Then let us feast this Easter Day
On Christ, the bread of heaven;
The Word of grace has purged away
The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed;
He is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Hymn of the Day..... *“Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands”* (CWS 720)



1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong
 2 No son of man could con - quer
 3 Christ Je - sus, God's own Son, came
 4 It was a strange and dread - ful



bands For our of - fens - es giv -
 death, Such ru - in sin had wrought
 down, His peo - ple to de - liv -
 strife When life and death con - tend -



en; But now at God's right hand he
 us. No in - no - cence was found on
 er; De - stroy - ing sin, he took the
 ed. The vic - to - ry re - mained with



stands And brings us life from heav -
 earth, And there - fore death had brought
 crown From death's pale brow for - ev -
 life; The reign of death was end -



en. There - fore let us joy - ful be
 us In - to bond - age from of old
 er. Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns;
 ed. Ho - ly Scrip - ture plain - ly says

Service Theme for the Resurrection of Our Lord – Easter Day: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Sinners should fear God. Sinners ought to die for their wickedness. The grave should be the place of ultimate defeat for mankind. Yet on this day, the Second Adam did all that the first had left undone. Bearing our guilt and suffering our verdict, the Son of Man died, but three days later he rose in glory. As a result, fear is gone, mankind is redeemed, and Christ calls us his own brothers. Jesus came from death to life, and through baptism he brings us with him.

Divine Service I

Opening and Confession of Sins

Hymn..... *“Like the Golden Sun Ascending”* (CW 147:1-3)

Opening Verses

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Brothers and sisters in Christ: On this joyous morning, we celebrate that our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life. We join with all of God's people in recalling and celebrating his victory over death, and our deliverance from the bondage of sin and darkness to everlasting light.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

Eternal Lord of Life, through your Son you have given your people the brightness of your light. Kindle in our hearts and minds the holy desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness.

Amen.

The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Hymn..... *“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”* (CW 157)

Confession and Absolution

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son [✠] and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

Prayer and Praise

Glory to God (Gloria in Excelsis)

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry! Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,". The score includes a common time signature 'C' and a second ending marked with a '2'.

More News and Notes

A Huge Thank-You

...to Bernie Vickman for coordinating this year's Easter breakfast once again! Thanks to all those who provided and prepared food items.

Summer Camps

Pamphlets and posters for both Camp Phillip and Camp Bird are available in the entryway.

More FVL News & Events

Register NOW for FVL's 2017 summer camps! Offerings include sports camps and other options including STEM and art. Click on the "2017 Summer Camp" link at fvlhs.org.

FVL's International Program has many new applications for 2017-18. Warm and welcoming host families are needed. Students pay for their own expenses, and a \$6,000 stipend is provided to offset costs. Please contact Laura Gucinski (lgucinski@fvlhs.org or 560-5186) for more info.

FVL's Future Freshman Night is April 24th at 7:00 pm. This hour-long event focuses on how incoming students can make the most of high school. It's designed for all registered 8th graders and their parents, as well as those still undecided. No registration required.

FVL's annual Electronics Recycling event will be April 28-29. Bring your outdated electronics to FVL. Some costs may apply. Check fvlhs.org for details.

Two \$500 Ladies Guild Memorial Scholarships will be awarded to new FVL freshmen or incoming upperclassmen who demonstrate financial need and a love of Christian education. Deadline is May 6th. Details at fvlhs.org.

FVL needs coaches for girls' tennis and JV1 volleyball next fall. Interested? Contact activities director Shawn Hill (shill@fvlhs.org).

Bible Study Suggestions

Sheets are available in the entryway for you to check books of the Bible or topics that you'd like to learn more about. Just put them in Pastor's church mailbox.

Apple Valley Food Pantry

The April collection date is Sunday, April 23rd. This is the kick-off of the Spring Food Drive. Please use the provided Festival Food paper bags with the flyer stapled to it.

Items needed include: dish & laundry soaps; paper toweling; pancake mix & syrup; cereal; all canned meats such as tuna & chicken; canned fruit; boxed & canned potatoes; rice; hamburger helper; chunky soup; all crackers; and baby products such as diapers and wipes.

Thank you for your continued support of the pantry.

Summer Ushers & Greeters

Please check the sheet in the entryway to make sure everything looks okay. Add your name if you wish, or delete it if you're unable to serve in this way during the summer. Thanks!

Upcoming Door Offering

A special door offering will be gathered next Sunday in support of a Valley-wide picnic in June to be hosted by WELS congregations. Please support this event if you're so inclined.

Every-Member Meetings

All members are asked to sign up to attend one of the scheduled meetings here at the church over the next few weeks. Various budget-related items, including implementing a unified budget, need to be discussed.

News & Notes

Quarterly Meeting

All voting members of the congregation are encouraged to attend tomorrow night's meeting. In addition to the usual reports and ministry updates, elections of officers and councilmen will be held. Here are the current positions and nominees...

Church President:

Recording Secretary: Bart Reschke; Don Zittlow

Elders (2): Tom Kussow; Dale Laabs; Perry Schisel

Board of Ed (2): Andrew DeMerritt; Troy Schisel; Carl Uitenbroek

LWMS Rally

The Spring rally will be held this Saturday, at Martin Luther in Neenah. Anyone looking to carpool – or for any other info – should speak with Lou Beard.

WELS United – Dinner Theater

The Ladies' Circle of Immanuel, Clayton invites you to join them on a trip to the Fireside in Fort Atkinson on Saturday, July 29 for a performance of *Church Basement Ladies*. Anyone who has helped in a church kitchen will be able to relate as these four women humorously handle a Lutefisk Dinner, a funeral, an Easter Fund Raiser, and a wedding. They stave off potential disasters, have loads of music and fun, share and debate recipes, instruct the young, and keep the pastor on a steady course. Cost of transportation, meal and performance is \$100 per person. Those interested in attending can contact Nancy Roblee at 920-810-5021. Sign up by May 14.

International Churchill Event

Fox Valley Lutheran High School is pleased to announce it has been selected as the site for a very special national event. On Saturday, May 13 from 3:00-4:15 pm, FVL will be hosting "A Visit with Randolph Spencer-Churchill & Jennie Churchill-Repard: Winston Churchill's Great-Grandchildren." They will be speaking about their illustrious forbears and their great-great grandparents Lord and Lady Randolph Churchill. Introducing them will be the Chairman of the International Churchill Society, Laurence Geller CBE. This event will be videotaped for the Wisconsin Public Broadcast system for later broadcast.

The event will be hosted in the school's auditorium. Admission is free. Tickets will be available at the door on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors open at 2:00 pm. Auditorium seating is limited to 900. Overflow seating with a video feed of the presentation will be available in the commons.

Estate Planning Workshop

FVL is hosting a seminar designed to help young families create a Christian estate plan. The date is April 19 with sessions at both 10 am & 6:30 pm. Presenters Attorney Tori Kluess and David Wendland from Edward Jones will provide valuable information regarding estate and financial planning to help protect you and your family. Without a plan, the courts and the law will dictate who will care for your children and how your assets will be distributed. To reserve your spot, RSVP to Mission Advancement Director Bob Fischer at rfisher@fvlhs.org.

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer-cy on us. You are
seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-
ceive our prayer, re-ceive our prayer.
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on
earth. For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One,
you a-lone are the Lord, you a-lone are the
Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the
Ho-ly Spir-it in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on
earth. Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God!

Blessing

Christ is risen!

He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

The light of Christ has risen in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and [✠] give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn.....“He’s Risen, He’s Risen” (CW 143)

Those Serving at Worship...

Presiding Minister Pastor Mike Gehl

Organist Deb Schaeuble

**Instrumentalists Emilie Sieker
Martina Sieker
Silvia Sieker
Ginny Uecker
Jeremy Uecker**

he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him.’ See, I have told you!”⁸They hurried away from the tomb, with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.⁹Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” They approached, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him.¹⁰Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go, tell my brothers that they should go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

Hymn of the Day..... “Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands” (CWS 720)

The hymn is printed along with the music inside the back cover of this bulletin.

Sermon Luke 24:1-8 (CSB)

Repent: Turn to Jesus for Resurrection and Life

¹ On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came to the tomb, bringing the spices they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. ³ They went in but did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men stood by them in dazzling clothes. ⁵ So the women were terrified and bowed down to the ground. “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” asked the men. ⁶ “He is not here, but he has risen! Remember how he spoke to you when he was still in Galilee, ⁷ saying, ‘It is necessary that the Son of Man be betrayed into the hands of sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day.’ ⁸ And they remembered his words.

Offering and Rite of Confirmation

Thank-Offering..... Violin: Nathanael Bunn

Rite of ConfirmationAnthony Cappelle

In the early church, it was customary that “initiates” to the Christian faith were baptized and received as members on Easter Sunday. Having reviewed the doctrines of the Christian faith, Anthony Cappelle has confessed his agreement with them and also has expressed his desire to become a member of St. John Congregation.

Choir Anthem.....“Hallelujah! Christ Is risen!”

Service of Holy Communion

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is good and right so to do.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we praise you especially for the glorious resurrection of your Son, the true Passover Lamb, who by his sacrifice took away the sins of the world and by his resurrection restored everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er,
 God of might: heav'n and earth are full of your glo -
 ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless -
 ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 na in the high - est. Ho-san - na in the high - est. (8)

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O Christ, Lamb of God (Agnus Dei)

O Christ, Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
 grant us your peace. A - men. A - men.

Distribution

Hymn..... *"Like the Golden Sun Ascending"* (CW 147:4,5)

Thanksgiving and Blessing

Closing Prayer

We thank you, Lord, that you have nourished us with your Easter sacrament. Fill s with your Spirit, the Spirit of your love, that those whom you have satisfied with one heavenly bread may be united in one holy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.