

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!

Last Week's Stewardship of the Means of Grace and the Means for His Work

Worship 72

ABC: --

	<u>LW</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Goal</u>
Church Offerings	\$3,387.10	\$251,492.33	\$273,563.50
St. John LES Tuition	\$0	\$38,500	\$67,307.50
Synod / Missions	\$57	\$14,983.49	\$17,307.50
Fox Valley Luth. HS	\$380	\$9,567	\$9,615.50

The Week+ Ahead as We Live in God's Grace

Today (18th)	9:00 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:15 am	NO BIBLE CLASS TODAY
Mon (19th)	6:30 pm	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	7:30 pm	Voters Meeting (2017-18 Ministry Plan adopted)
Wed (21st)	6:45 am	Breakfast & Bible Study (Augsburg Confession)
Sun (25th)	9:00 am	Worship (installation of officers; WELS Connection)
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Friendship Evangelism)
Mon (26th)	6:30 pm	Worship (installation of officers; WELS Connection)

News & Notes

Important Voters Meeting

All voting members should make plans to attend **tomorrow night's meeting at 7:30 pm.** (All congregational members are invited to come and stay informed on our ministry.) The 2017-18 ministry plan (budget) will be discussed and adopted. This is your opportunity to provide input and ask any questions you may have.

Installation of Officers

...will take place in both services next weekend (Sunday and Monday). All **continuing and new** members of the council, elders, and board of education will be installed. Please make plans to attend one of the services.

Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!

Check the narthex tables for more info and any ticket ordering instructions...

June 24th – School Shed Work Day, lunch provided, items donated by Drexel Lumber

Jul 7th – St. John Night at The Timber Rattlers

Jul 10th-14th – Vacation Bible Camp

Aug 10th – WELS Night at Miller Park

Sep 17th – Fall Festival Potluck

2017 Vacation Bible Camp

...will be here before you know it! It's July 10th – 14th. Check out the bulletin insert and find pre-registration forms in the narthex.

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