

## ***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***

<b>Worship</b>	115	<b>ABC:</b>	23		
		<b><u>LW</u></b>	<b><u>YTD</u></b>	<b><u>YTD Goal</u></b>	
<b>Church Offerings</b>		\$4,633	\$260,517.33	\$284,506.04	
<b>St. John LES Tuition</b>		\$2,500	\$41,000	\$70,000	
<b>Synod / Missions</b>		\$200	\$15,311.49	\$18,000	
<b>Fox Valley Luth. HS</b>		\$170	\$9,908	\$10,000	

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

<b>Today (2<sup>nd</sup>)</b>	9:00 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Friendship Evangelism)
<b>Mon (3<sup>rd</sup>)</b>	6:30 pm	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	7:30 pm	Board of Elders Meeting
<b>Wed (5<sup>th</sup>)</b>	6:45 am	Breakfast & Bible Study (The Augsburg Confession)
<b>Fri (7<sup>th</sup>)</b>	4:30 pm	Tailgating / Fellowship at Fox Cities Stadium
	7:00 pm	St. John Night at the Timber Rattlers
<b>Sun (9<sup>th</sup>)</b>	9:00 am	Worship
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Friendship Evangelism)
	TBD	Vacation Bible Camp Staff Meeting
<b>Mon (10<sup>th</sup>) – Fri (14<sup>th</sup>)</b>		Vacation Bible Camp (9a-3p)
<b>Mon (10<sup>th</sup>)</b>	6:30 pm	Worship
	7:30 pm	Church Council Meeting

## ***News & Notes***

### **Timber Rattlers Game – This Friday (7<sup>th</sup>)**

You're still welcome to purchase tickets on your own and attend the pre-game fellowship. Arrive anytime after 4:30 pm and look for the white tent somewhere to the right after entering the parking lot. Bring your own drinks and chairs.

### **WELS Night at Miller Park – Aug 10<sup>th</sup>**

Please sign up for group rate tickets by next Sunday at the latest. Three seating choices are available. Also, let Karen Geiger know ASAP if you'd like to order \$4 moisture wicking t-shirts.

### **Apple Valley Food Pantry**

This month's donations are due by next Sunday. See last week's bulletin for needed items.

### **VBS Help Still Needed!!!**

Please see the signup sheet(s) in the entryway.

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