

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 100 **ABC:** 24

	<u>Aug 13</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Goal</u>
Church Offerings	\$3,308.53	\$44,946.85	\$58,541.14

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

Today (20th)	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Galatians)
	11:00 am	Sunday School Teacher / Planning Meeting
Mon (21st)	9:00 am	School Cleaning Day (until 3pm)
	6:30 pm	Worship w/ Holy Communion
Tue (22nd)	9:00 am	School Cleaning Day (until 1pm)
	7:00 pm	Long-Range Planning Meeting
Wed (23rd)	4:30 pm	St. John School Registration / Orientation (until 7:30)
Thu (24th)	4:30 pm	St. John School Registration / Orientation (until 7:30)
Sun (27th)	9:00 am	Worship (WELS Connection)
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Galatians)
Mon (28th)	6:30 pm	Worship (WELS Connection)

News & Notes

Any Apple Valley Food Pantry Donations

...need to be here sometime **TODAY**. Especially needed: crackers, cookies, boxed & canned potatoes, jam, canned pasta, canned meats (ham / tuna / salmon), chunky soup, cereal.

St. John School Registration / Orientation

Make plans to stop by the school on either this **Wednesday (23rd)** or **Thursday (24th)** to register, sign forms, get info, and meet teachers.

We encourage all our members to drop in to see the exciting things happening at THEIR school!

Ruth Berens' New Address

Bayshore Nursing Home – 3150 Gershwin Dr.,
Green Bay, WI, 54311

WELS Mission to the Children Collection

This year's collection for *Mission to the Children* from NE Wisconsin's congregations, LWMS groups, and individuals is for new children's undergarments (t-shirts, underwear, and socks). Items must be **NEW** and **IN STORE PACKAGING** in order to transport them across the border. The mission serves many children in northern Mexico with services, Bible classes, food coupons, and humanitarian items. Several vehicles (last year it required 10!!!) will take the items to Tucson in mid-October, so please have your donations in the narthex boxes **no later than Oct 1st**. If you have questions, contact Glenn or Lois Erdmann at 920.213.3204 or glennlois2317@yahoo.com.

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