

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: n/a

	<u>Jul 30</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Goal</u>
Church Offerings	\$4,104.69	\$35,973.32	\$40,112.55

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

Today (6th)	9:00 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Friendship Evangelism)
Mon (7th)	6:30 pm	Worship w/ Holy Communion
Tue (8th)	11:30 am	Senior Luncheon
	12:00 pm	O.W.L.S. Potluck Luncheon (Thousand Islands, Kaukauna)
	7:00 pm	Board of Elders Meeting
Sun (13th)	9:00 am	Worship
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Paul's Letter to the Galatians)
Mon (14th)	9:30 am	Pastors Circuit Meeting (at Mt. Calvary, Menasha)
	6:30 pm	Worship
	7:30 pm	Church Council Meeting

News & Notes

New Sunday Bible Study

Luther called Paul's Letter to the Galatians his "Katie von Bora." It was near and dear to him, like his own wife. Because it presented the message of "grace alone" so clearly, he loved it with all his heart. You and I will love it too, as we study it together over the next few weeks!

Reformation 500 Service

Valley congregations will join for a special service on Saturday, Oct. 28th, at 2:00 pm at the Appleton P.A.C. **FREE** tickets are required, and seating is limited to the first 2,000 people. (FYI, about half have already been claimed.) Simply go to goo.gl/aaJBAk to get some for your family.

Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors Picnic

The O.W.L.S. invites senior members of our congregation to join them on August 8th at 1000 Islands in Kaukauna for a summer picnic. The noon lunch will be potluck-style – please bring a dish to share and your own tableware and beverage. Following the meal, an EMT member of the Kaukauna FD will give two presentations (Victim of a Stroke; Home Safety Precautions).

August Apple Valley Food Pantry Collection

...is Sunday, the 20th. Needed: crackers, cookies, boxed & canned potatoes, jam, canned pasta, canned meats (ham / tuna / salmon), chunky soup, cereal. Thanks!

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: n/a

	<u>Jul 30</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>YTD Goal</u>
Church Offerings	\$4,104.69	\$35,973.32	\$40,112.55

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

Today (6th)	9:00 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Friendship Evangelism)
Mon (7th)	6:30 pm	Worship w/ Holy Communion
Tue (8th)	11:30 am	Senior Luncheon
	12:00 pm	O.W.L.S. Potluck Luncheon (Thousand Islands, Kaukauna)
	7:00 pm	Board of Elders Meeting
Sun (13th)	9:00 am	Worship
	10:15 am	Adult Bible Class (Paul's Letter to the Galatians)
Mon (14th)	9:30 am	Pastors Circuit Meeting (at Mt. Calvary, Menasha)
	6:30 pm	Worship
	7:30 pm	Church Council Meeting

News & Notes

New Sunday Bible Study

Luther called Paul's Letter to the Galatians his "Katie von Bora." It was near and dear to him, like his own wife. Because it presented the message of "grace alone" so clearly, he loved it with all his heart. You and I will love it too, as we study it together over the next few weeks!

Reformation 500 Service

Valley congregations will join for a special service on Saturday, Oct. 28th, at 2:00 pm at the Appleton P.A.C. **FREE** tickets are required, and seating is limited to the first 2,000 people. (FYI, about half have already been claimed.) Simply go to goo.gl/aaJBAk to get some for your family.

Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors Picnic

The O.W.L.S. invites senior members of our congregation to join them on August 8th at 1000 Islands in Kaukauna for a summer picnic. The noon lunch will be potluck-style – please bring a dish to share and your own tableware and beverage. Following the meal, an EMT member of the Kaukauna FD will give two presentations (Victim of a Stroke; Home Safety Precautions).

August Apple Valley Food Pantry Collection

...is Sunday, the 20th. Needed: crackers, cookies, boxed & canned potatoes, jam, canned pasta, canned meats (ham / tuna / salmon), chunky soup, cereal. Thanks!