

RESURRECTION NEWS



NOVEMBER 2019



Pastor's Letter

November, 2019

The Church's Practice Regarding Communion Fellowship - Closed Communion

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The New Testament church's understanding of what the Lord's Supper is, has formed its practice of how it administers this Sacrament. Already in the 1st century A.D. as the church grew at an extremely rapid pace, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism was the gateway to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The unbaptized were welcome to attend the 'Service of the Word,' but were escorted out of the sanctuary before the 'Service of the Supper' began and led to a place for instruction in the faith.

Based solely on God's Word, the church has always insisted on instruction in the faith and the confession of unity in doctrine among those who commune together. (*See 1 Corinthians 10:14-18*)

Early in the church's life, significant doctrinal differences developed to the point that true unity in faith was deeply strained if not broken. (*See Romans 16:17-18; Galatians 1:6-9; 1 John 2:1-6*). In response, the church established four practices for the purpose of maintaining doctrinal unity and fellowship among those who communed together in the Lord's Supper.

First, based on the Scriptures, pastoral examination was required before one's first communion. Paul writes to the Corinthians, *"This is how one should regard us (pastors), as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries (sacraments) of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy."* (*1 Corinthians 4:1-2*) It has always been the pastor's responsibility to administer the Sacraments faithfully, according to God's Word.

Second, for those who were traveling or relocating and who desired to worship at a church away from home, "Letters of Fellowship" or "Letters of Peace" were required before they could receive the Sacrament. *"No stranger is to be received without a letter of Peace."* (*Synod of Antioch - 341 A.D.*) *"No person, clerical or lay, may commune in another congregation without a letter from his bishop."* (*Council of Carthage - 348 A.D.*)

Third, in 451 A.D. the Nicene Creed was officially adopted as the standard of 'right doctrine' of the Christian faith. It was added to the liturgy by 455 A.D. It was purposefully placed before the Prayers and Communion which is where it is placed to this day. Those who would communion at the altar of a church that professed the Nicene faith had to be able to make that same confession of faith before the Service of the Supper commenced. If they could not, the Lord's Supper was closed to them.

Fourth, the Bishops of various churches established 'communion fellowship' with other churches based on the acceptance of the Nicene Creed. All of this church history shows us that the practice of 'Closed Communion' is nothing new.

Over time, many more doctrinal differences have arisen, even among those churches and Christians that confess the Nicene Creed. To the extent that these differences strain and sever sincere fellowship within the body of Christ, some churches 'close' communion even to other Christians. Many churches choose to interpret 'unity in faith' much more broadly than others insisting only on baptism. Some ignore the 'fellowship' aspect of the Lord's Supper altogether, maintaining that it is purely a

'personal' matter, and open the Sacrament all with minimal or no concern for Baptism, repentance, faith and self-examination or unity of confession of faith.

To be sure, equally unfaithful to the Scriptures is any practice that discourages repentant, confessing Christians from receiving the gifts of Christ or implies that only a select few Lutheran Christians are worthy and well-prepared to commune, as if reception is a reward for doctrinal purity or denominational affiliation. As has been said, a heavy load of responsibility for faithful stewardship of the mysteries rests on the shoulders of the pastor. But members of the congregation can be very helpful by informing friends and guests of other denominations who worship with us of our practice.

Our "Communion Statement" in the *worship* bulletin reflects the rationale and our commitment to this practice as a member congregation to the LC-MS. *"This morning, we joyfully celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We believe that we receive Christ's body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. As we celebrate this sacrament, we also give public confession to our unity in the Christian faith. We therefore invite all communicant members of any congregation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod to commune. Guests are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. If you would like to receive this sacrament here but are not a member, please speak with the pastor."*

I would be glad to speak with any who would like to understand this practice more fully.
Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

Notes from your Deaconess

November, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

As you no doubt have noticed, music weaves through our worship services every time we gather. We sing to God, to each other, to our pastor, and he likewise sings to and with us, and to God. Some might wish for less complicated and shorter hymns than we often sing, but as the introduction to our Lutheran Service Book (LSB) notes, "Within the Lutheran tradition, the wedding of the Word of God to melody was modeled by the reformer himself," who "urged the Church to use it wisely as a vehicle for proclaiming the Gospel." Since we generally sing the Evening Prayer service on the last Sunday before Advent, I thought I would point out some specific things about two hymns located in that section of LSB.

Hymn #882, "**O Christ, Who Art the Light and Day,**" really can be considered a prayer before bedtime. Even if you can't sing the tune on your own, the words would be great to read at that time of day. The original Latin text came from some time in the sixth century, and the tune from a type of chant called Sarum plainsong around the ninth century. Have you ever looked at the bottom of the page of each hymn? All kinds of information has been included about the hymn text and tune. At the very bottom on the right side you find a list of Biblical texts in italics that relate to this hymn's words. With this hymn, the references from John's gospel contain Jesus' statements that he is the light of the world, and the 1 Thessalonians verse reminds us that we are children of light. Located above these references, the name of the tune, "Conditor alme siderum," which is Latin for "Creator of the Stars," connects it to the text with which it was first used (and which we sometimes sing during Advent season, #351). Under the tune name the letters LM are a code for the length of the lines in syllables. In the index on pages 1007-1012 we find that LM means Long Meter, or eight syllable lines four times.

At the bottom of each hymn on the left side you'll find the origins of the text, who wrote it if known and when, sometimes a translator and when they did so, along with the tune's origin and its composer. Other information regarding the copyrights and settings appears down in that corner.

Paul Gerhardt wrote the text for **"Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow"** (#880) in the sixteen hundreds. It seems more a poem of encouragement and reminder of God's care for us through the night than an evening prayer. Gerhardt wrote many Lutheran hymns and lived in Wittenberg. This hymn has a tune reused from a different song as well, since its composer, Heinrich Isaac, lived about a century before Gerhardt, and the German tune name translates: "O world I have to let you..." This hymn text incorporates ideas from verses in the Psalms about God's guarding and caring for us, as well as from the song of Zechariah (John the Baptist's father) about how Christ gives light to those in darkness.

Through much of the month of November, the daily readings of our lectionary continue through the gospel of Matthew. We'll also read from the prophet Jeremiah. He called the people around him to repentance, and spoke of the coming Messiah, the righteous branch, and how God would make an everlasting covenant with his people. As we approach the season of Advent we will move to some readings in Revelation and from the prophet Daniel. I'll plan to hold women's Bible studies on November 9 and 23. We meet from about 8:30am until around 10am downstairs for fellowship, study, and to share prayer concerns. We're currently spending time in the letter to the Hebrews.

Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! Psalm 47:6
Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS - Saturday, November 2nd

Remember to turn your clock BACK an hour before going to bed on Saturday night.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 3RD - WE REMEMBER YOUR SAINTS, DEAR LORD.



God's gracious love in Jesus Christ ignites the thankful acclamations of the saints in every time and place. In gratitude saints remember God's countless blessings in every generation. It is God who has blessed us with faith. It is God who sustains and nurtures the lives of the saints through Word and Sacrament. It is God who continually affords grace and mercy to the saints in every age. Those who have died in the faith live forever in the perpetual, unchanging Light of Christ. The congregation is invited to bring cut flowers to lay at the altar in memory of friends and loved ones who have gone before in the Christian faith. Flowers will also be available in the Narthex.

MEN'S BREAKFAST MEETING - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH

Come join us for a great breakfast, fellowship and in-depth exploration of the faith. We will be continuing our study of C.S. Lewis', "Mere Christianity." We'll dig deep into Book II - chapters 3 and 4: **"Free Will and the Shocking Alternative."** Copies of the book will be available at the breakfast or ahead of time.

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR - November 24th

The “Last Sunday of the Church Year” is a time to focus on “the end” – the end of “this age” and the anticipation of the “age to come.” This year, we will once again use the service of “**Evening Prayer.**” Though this is a setting for ‘evening’ worship, the theme of fading light and approaching darkness marks the theme of the “Last Sunday” well.

REVIEW OF RECENT ACTIVITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF A NEW PROJECTS.



- The LWML had a successful Quilting Day on October 30th. A group of women met to sew and assemble quilts that will be blessed and given to the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter. Seed money for fabric was provided by Thrivent Action teams.
- In October, we collected mittens, coloring books and crayons for the Maine Children’s Home – Christmas program.
- In November we will partner with the whole congregation in support of the Confirmation Class’ “500 for 500 Thanksgiving Challenge.”
- December 7th is the annual Christmas Craft Fair from 9:00am. – 2:00pm. Pull out your best cookie and baked goods recipes and whatever ‘white elephants’ you would like to contribute. All proceeds will go to support local, national and international mission projects.
- The LWML is tackling a new project as well. We will be mailing goody packages to our college students once or twice a year. The cost of shipping each package will be between \$15 - \$20. Currently we have four college students. Your support of this project with a contribution towards the shipping costs would be greatly appreciated. Make check to “LWML.” Note: ‘student packages.’

ANNUAL VOTERS MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH -

Please plan to be present for this important annual meeting of the congregation after worship. Agenda items include various Board and Committee reports, budget recommendation, election of Church Council officers. There will be a presentation from the ‘strategic planning’ committee and discussion on its recommendations. All communicant members of the congregation who have not yet done so, will be asked to sign the Constitution and By-Laws before the voting meeting begins. A free pizza party will precede the meeting.



Monthly Worship

November 3, 2019

**All Saint's Day
(November 1)**

Psalm: 149

First Reading: Revelation 7: (2-8) 9-17

Epistle: 1 John 3:1-3

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

November 10, 2019

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 148

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-15

Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8, 13-17

Holy Gospel: Luke 20:27-40

November 17, 2019

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 98

First Reading: Malachi 4:1-6

Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 3:91-5) 6-13

Gospel: Luke 21: 5-28(29-36)

November 24, 2019

Last Sunday of the Church Year

Psalm: 46

First Reading: Malachi 3:13-18

Epistle: Colossians 1:13-20

Holy Gospel: Luke 23:27-43

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who were the only Jericho residents to survive the defeat of the city?

A) no one, God commanded every single living thing to die B) all women and girls who had never borne a child C) the king and his top aides (D) Rahab and her family under her roof

2. Why was the book of Lamentations written?

A) Jeremiah mourned the fall of Zion and it's people becoming slaves B) David mourned the death of his best friend Jonathan C) Lot mourned for his wife who was turned into a pillar of salt D) the apostles mourned the death of Jesus, the Son of God

3. In the crowd of over 5,000 people, who found the boy with the fish and bread lunch?

A) a prostitute Jesus just forgave of her sins B) Andrew, the apostle to Jesus C) a soldier who had come to test Jesus D) a Pharisee

4. How did Judas betray Jesus?

A) hug B) kiss (C) bow D) smile

5. Who did god appoint as the very first high priest in Jewish history?

A) Moses B) Aaron C) Eli D) Samuel

6. What is so important about the Word of God?

A) the Word was what prophets used to confront the kings B) the Word was an interesting work of fiction mixed with facts C) the Word was to be used as a supplement to moral teachings D) the Word was God and with god since before the beginning of time



11/1 Mia Fitzpatrick
 11/6 Avis Grant
 Gail Maestas
 11/13 Fernando Gouvea
 11/16 Hayley Farr
 11/22 Eleanor Keefe
 11/23 Peter Doran
 David Leigh
 11/29 Rick Drageland



Happy Anniversary

11/7 David & Kay Gideon
 11/18 Peter & Evelyn Gaug
 11/23 Dan & Beck Keefe



BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

11/?? Krista Carlson
 Sarah Kohl



ANNIVERSARIES

11/14 Sharon Conover
 Mike Hein

FOR A FEW CHUCKLES!

-----A minister is driving home one night when a police officer stops him for speeding. The officer smells alcohol on his breath, sees an empty wine bottle on the floor and asks, "Sir, have you been drinking?" The minister replies, "Just water." The officer asks, "Then why do I smell wine?" The minister looks at the bottle and exclaims, "Good Lord! He's done it again!"

-----as Stuart tidied up the kitchen after dinner, he realized the broom had been left outside on the porch. "Cindy, go out back and get the broom, please," Cindy was scared and reminded her dad she was afraid of the dark. "Don't worry, Cindy, Jesus is out there to watch over you."

Cindy went over to the back door, opened it a crack, and whispered "Jesus, could you please hand me the broom?"

-----The minister performed a beautiful wedding ceremony and had been asked to give a speech at the reception also. The father of the bride went over to the minister and asked, "Would you like to begin your speech now, or should we let everyone enjoy themselves a little while longer?"

Bible Quiz Answers

1. D (Joshua 6:21-23)
2. A (Lamentations 1:1-4)
3. B (John 6:8-9)
4. B (Matthew 26:47-49)
5. B (Exodus 28:3)
6. D (John 1:1)

November Stewardship

	<u>November 3</u>	<u>November 10</u>	<u>November 17</u>	<u>November 24</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Emily Lynn Carlson	Evan Farr	Andrew Farr	Mia Fitzpatrick
<u>Comm. Assistant</u>	Mike Hein	Brian Watson	Steve Farr	Brad Fitzpatrick
<u>Ushers</u>	Chris Batson & Dan Keefe	Wayne Pelletier & John Ayotte	Tom Huesers & Brad Fitzpatrick	Moe Cote & Mike Hein
<u>Greeters</u>	Brian & Andrea Watson	Dorothy McAllister & Avis Grant	Fred & Amy Ouellette	Rick & Joan Drageland
<u>Altar Care</u>	Krista Carlson	Kitty Carlson	Andrea Watson	Lee Anne Larsen
<u>Flowers</u>	Avis Grant	Avis Grant	Jim & Darryll Zahner	Jim & Darryll Zahner
<u>Fellowship</u>	Rev, Robert & Vary Fischer/ Steve Love	Kitty Carlson	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Rev, Ted & Dottie Evertsen

The Daily Lectionary

A guide to help you be in the Word daily

11/1	Deuteronomy 34:1-12 / Matthew 21:1-22
11/2	Jeremiah 1:1-19 / Matthew 21:23-46
11/3	Jeremiah 3:6-4:2 / Matthew 22:1-22
11/4	Jeremiah 5:1-19 / Matthew 22:23-46
11/5	Jeremiah 7:1-29 / Matthew 23:1-12
11/6	Jeremiah 8:18-9:12 / Matthew 23:13-39
11/7	Jeremiah 11:1-23 / Matthew 24:1-28
11/8	Jeremiah 20:1-18 / Matthew 24:29-51
11/9	Jeremiah 22:1-23 / Matthew 25:1-13
11/10	Jeremiah 23:1-20 / Matthew 25:14-30
11/11	Jeremiah 23:21-40 / Matthew 25:31-46
11/12	Jeremiah 25:1-18 / Matthew 26:1-19
11/13	Jeremiah 26:1-19 / Matthew 26:20-35
11/14	Jeremiah 29:1-19 / Matthew 26:36-56
11/15	Jeremiah 30:1-24 / Matthew 26:57-75
11/16	Jeremiah 31:1-17, 23-34 / Matthew 27:1-10
11/17	Jeremiah 33:1-22 / Matthew 27:11-32
11/18	Jeremiah 37:1-21 / Matthew 27:33-56
11/19	Jeremiah 38:1-28 / Matthew 27:57-66
11/20	Daniel 1:1-21 / Matthew 28:1-20
11/21	Daniel 2:1-23 / Revelation 18:1-24
11/22	Daniel 2:24-49 / Revelation 19:1-21
11/23	Daniel 3:1-30 / Revelation 20:1-15
11/24	Daniel 4:1-37 / Revelation 21:1-8
11/25	Daniel 5:1-30 / Revelation 21:9-27
11/26	Daniel 6:1-28 / Revelation 22:1-21
11/27	Isaiah 1:1-28 / 1 Peter 1:1-12
11/28	Isaiah 2:1-22 / 1 Peter 1:13-25
11/29	Isaiah 5:1-25 / 1 Peter 2:1-12
11/30	Isaiah 6:1-7:9 / 1 Peter 2:13-25

(Daily lectionary readings taken from LSB #299-304)

Some helpful habits for home devotions:

- *Do one reading in the morning and the other in the evening.*
- *Keep a journal or make a mental note of one thought that you would like to remember from this reading.*
- *Read and discuss the daily reading with a family member or friend.*
- *Choose one verse to commit to memory, reciting it through the day.*
- *Speak to God in prayer about something from the reading that impressed or confused you in this reading.*
- *If you miss a day or two (or three) and fall behind, don't worry and don't quit! Either set aside some time to catch up or skip those readings and move on.*
- *If you're using another reading schedule or guide, stick with it. The important thing is to be in the Word daily.*