



ST. PAUL LUTHERAN

MINISTRIES

CHURCH • SCHOOL • CHILDCARE

302 N. Morrison St. Appleton, WI 54911

January 2020

Holy Communion

Part 4: Closed Communion

"So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.²⁹ For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves." (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

Communion is not for everyone. Simply put, there are some people who should not take Communion.

This isn't a difficult concept to grasp, but it can be a difficult concept to swallow. We live in a world where people imagine they can have whatever they want, whenever they want it. We have rights. We have entitlements.

The idea that we might have to refuse Communion to someone makes us look bad in the eyes of others. We might look snobbish or elitist. People suppose that we think we're better than them. Our church can come across as being exclusive and holier-than-thou.

Well, nobody ever said that following the Bible would be popular!

The practice of reserving Holy Communion only for those who are prepared to receive it is called *closed communion*. It has been the practice of the Christian church going back to the days of Jesus and the apostles. Regardless of its popularity today, it is a practice deeply rooted in Scripture.

Communion is powerful. It is no mere snack. When we commune, we receive the holy body and blood of Christ in, with and under the bread and the wine. We'd better understand what we're doing when we commune, for the same sacrament that is power to forgive is also powerful to bring God's frightful judgment upon the unworthy communicant. Communion is serious business!

The impenitent should not commune. A person who refuses to acknowledge and repent of his sin is separated from Christ and enslaved by Satan. "Unless you repent, you too will all perish," (Luke 13:3) warned Jesus.

Those who are uninstructed and don't know what the Lord's Supper is must be kept from Communion. "For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you," (1 Corinthians 11:23) the Apostle Paul wrote. In the early church new adult Christians were baptized with only limited instruction, but they were admitted to Communion only after a period of extensive instruction.

Those who cannot examine themselves are not to receive Communion. Preparation for the sacrament calls for self-examination, as the apostle instructs us. If a Christian is unable to reflect upon his sins and anticipate the sacrament of God's grace, he should not commune. Included in this group are infants and small children, along with people whose mental faculties are diminished or have deteriorated to the point where they are unable to grasp the significance of Communion.

Those who persist in false teaching are not to commune. Scripture tells us we are to stay away from false teachers and not join with those who influenced them. If a person wrongly comes to Communion who doesn't believe it's the true body of Christ, he will still receive the body of Christ at our communion table – only to his judgment. A person who approaches our altar with false beliefs is outwardly proclaiming that he believes as we do, but in his heart he believes differently. This is hypocrisy.

Communion is a celebration of our oneness in faith. "Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all share the one loaf." (1 Corinthians 10:17) We stand before the Lord's altar to commune together. We receive the Lord's forgiveness and strength together, as members of one body. We cherish our connection with Christ, and the perfect unity in Spirit with one another.

When you commune at the altar, it's more than a one-on-one with God. Think of those who commune with you, and cherish your unity in Christ.

Pastor Kenneth Frey

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Worship Schedule

Sunday services: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Monday evenings: 6:00 p.m.

Our 8am Sunday services are on facebook live and can also be heard on WNAM 1280 AM.

1/3, 1/4	Epiphany – The gift for all people
1/10, 1/11	Epiphany 1: The Baptism of our Lord – Who is this man? Our perfect substitute
1/17, 1/18	Epiphany 2 – Who is this man? Jesus calls for us
1/24, 1/25	Epiphany 3 – Who is this man? Jesus sends us to serve
1/31, 2/1	Epiphany 4 – Who is this man? Jesus has power and authority

Official Acts

Forever with the Lord:

Mildred Selig departed this life on November 25th, 2020 at the age of 95 years, 2 months, and 15 days.

Baptisms:

Damion Jon Ziglinski, son of Amy Ziglinski
Mia Elizabeth Gaffney, daughter of Matt & Kelsey Gaffney
Hadley Sue Hopfensperger, daughter of Erik & Barbara Hopfensperger

Release:

Angela Flores

Financials through Nov. 30th, 2020

	Nov.	July – Nov.
Income	\$ 292,219	\$ 916,882
Expense	\$ 164,480	\$ 857,257
Behind / Ahead	\$ +127,737	\$ +59,625

All bills are paid; all obligations are met.

School News

Mission Statement:

Using God's Word as our guide, St. Paul Lutheran School will raise up future generations of Christians in our community by assisting parents in the Christian teaching of their children and by striving for excellence in all areas of instruction.

Mr. Schulz 4th Grade Call: Mr. Schulz has accepted the permanent 4th grade call to teach at St. Paul Lutheran School. What a blessing it is that Mr. Schulz will continue his ministry among us at our school!

LWMS

2021 LWMS Meeting Dates are Scheduled!

The following is a tentative list of 2021 LWMS meetings:

March 18th @ 6:30pm in the church basement

April 17th @ 9am at Mt. Calvary, Menasha – Spring Circuit Rally

May 20th @ 6:30pm in the church basement

June 24th – 27th International Convention in Cincinnati, OH

Sept. 16th @ 6:30pm in the church basement

October Rally, TBD

Nov. 18th @ 6:30pm in the church basement

2021 WELS Mission Journeys: The LWMS messages this year tell about WELS Mission Journeys. Each month the articles will report about a different group of men, women and young people who traveled to various home mission fields in the United States or to world missions in other countries. Pastors, teachers, or lay people from the missions served by the Mission Team, explain how the work done in their area was a blessing to their congregation and to their community. Perhaps one of these stories will inspire you to make a Mission Journey!

A message from Pastor Ryan Heiman of Grace Lutheran Church of Sahuarita, Arizona:

We have some of the best weather in Arizona during the winter months when it is cold almost everywhere else in the country. That is why we often see students flocking here on winter or spring break. Students from Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) and St. Croix Lutheran High School (SCLHS) spent their breaks helping our mission in Sahuarita through the Mission Journeys program. The members of Grace Church offered lodging, food, and mission work for anyone willing to come to Arizona in the winter.

The students from both schools worked for about a week sharing news about our mission's building project, a new child learning center, and gospel ministry in the community. They knocked on doors, invited neighbors to church, and surveyed the community to see how we could serve, all while enjoying the beautiful weather. This partnership allowed our small mission congregation to knock on almost 6,000 doors in town. It led a family to joining our church, numerous visitors, and 60 students pre-registering for our soon-to-be-opening child learning

center. The partnership we formed through Mission Journeys has been ministry changing for our congregation in Sahuarita as well as faith and service encouraging for students from WLC and SCLHS.

I have been serving as missionary at Grace Lutheran Church in Sahuarita since 2016. While I was going to school at Luther Preparatory School, Martin Luther College, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, I was blessed to go on multiple mission trips. This inspired my desire to become a missionary. Accepting the call to Grace Lutheran Church has allowed me to serve the Lord full time as a missionary. When I arrived in Sahuarita, we did community surveys, which helped us formulate a mission strategy to build a new church and child learning center to spread the gospel.

Mission Journeys has been a wonderful blessing to share the news about our congregation's upcoming plans. Our growing mission congregation currently has many retired WELS members from the Midwest. The Mission Journeys students brought a big energy boost to go door to door on behalf of our congregation. We have been able to share the exciting mission work being done in Sahuarita beyond our members. It really is a joy to work together doing mission work with young people in our synod from other parts of the country.

*Pastor Ryan Heiman,
Grace Lutheran Church, Sahuarita, AZ*

ECC Christmas Gifting

Women's Ministry and our ECC would like to say thank you to everyone who gave an item from our gift list. It is very much appreciated. We wish everyone a blessed New Year.

Sunshine Cookies – Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped with our Sunshine Cookie distribution. Thank you to the bakers, the plate preparers and those who helped with delivery. Your help is truly appreciated. Have a Blessed Christmas!

ECC Update

The 3k class has had a busy school year so far! We have established new routines and friendships as well as learned about fall, community helpers, healthy foods, hibernation and so much more!

We have had several visitors this fall in the 3k class. One of our visitors was from the Appleton Police Department; Sergeant Edwards. He taught us all about safety and who to call in case of an emergency. We are so thankful for everything he does to help keep our community safe! In November, we had a visit from Mr. Shane from the YMCA and he taught us all about turkeys. He explained the different parts of the turkey and showed

us their feathers and claws. We also got to dance and move like a turkey as well as make a turkey craft.

This year the 3k gets to attend chapel with the school twice a month and also spend time in God's Word with our pastors during devotion time. This is a great way for us to learn about our Savior from our pastors and with our grade school friends! We have also gotten to sing virtually this year in church as well as participate in The Veteran's Day Program. We have also been working on our Christmas Eve songs as we are part of the Children's Christmas Service once again. It is a blessing to be able to spread the good news of our Savior's birth with others!

*God's Blessings,
Ms. Sabrina-3k Teacher*

**St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church and
School Project Wish List**

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|----|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Push Bars for Door | \$2,500 |
| 2. | ECC Playgrounds | \$10,000+ |
| 3. | School Classroom/STEM/Media Center | ?? |
| 4. | ECC Basement | ?? |
| 5. | Classroom Doors | \$29,000 |

Any donations (large or small) given toward these items is greatly appreciated. Some of these items/projects have been purchased/completed and we are looking for members to help in covering any part of the costs involved.

For a closer look at these items as well as giving options, including 'Easy Tithe', please follow this link: [Wish List Giving](#). As always, THANK YOU for your support.