

A Note About This Month's "Newsletter"

We wanted to get back on track with a monthly Newsletter, but when trying to put it together we found we really had nothing to put in it this month other than the "Pastor's Article" and the listing of Birthdays, Baptisms, Anniversary's and "Those Who Serve" . . . We didn't receive any articles for publication or copies of minutes of meetings, so rather than spend postage mailing this little bit out we decided that this month we will only be having a short electronic version with all the important date listings. Summer is often quite slow anyway, but hopefully we'll have more to share with you for a July Newsletter.

Closed Communion: A Primer

People are often confused by our communion policy. Why are some allowed to come, while others are not? What about my aunt, my uncle, the cousin who is visiting from out of town, or my dear relative who hasn't been in this building for years and years, but who was in fact Confirmed in this very Church? And what if they believe that the Communion is the very body and blood of Christ – and if they know Jesus as their Lord and Savior?

Well, first, let me say that as Confessional Lutherans we believe wholeheartedly that the Supper is not to be taken lightly. Were we, say Methodists, it wouldn't really matter all that much because they generally don't share our reverence for this Meal. But as Bible believing, Confessional Lutherans, we believe this Meal is the very body and blood of Christ, and that what we are dealing with is some powerful medicine, indeed. In a manner of speaking, every time we take Communion, we are meeting our Lord Christ in a most intimate way, even unto judgment. So, think of the Last Day. Christ will return in triumph. Is that good? Well, yes, but it won't be so wonderful for those who not prepared to meet him. But the Supper, you see, is really no different. It is a mini-judgment day, in which we take Christ's very body and very blood into ourselves, in which we as Christians receive our Savior unto everlasting life. But, the soul unprepared or unbelieving should not be rushed into such a meeting, as it will do them more harm than good.

But what if we made a long check-list? Do you believe in the divinity of Christ? The Trinity? Baptismal Regeneration? The True Body and Blood of Christ? Salvation by Grace through Faith apart from works? The truth of the Scriptures? And so on? And say that person passed a test? Would that then be enough? Well, then we might ask, "What Church do you attend?" And if the person says Methodist or some other Church body not in Altar Fellowship with us, the question would be, why do you attend a Church that denies the body and blood of Christ in the Supper? I thought you said really believed in it. And if they are members of the ELCA, then we might ask, "Why do you attend a Church that denies such basic teachings as the precious value of life in the womb, and the goodness of the God who created us male and female?" If you say it doesn't matter to you what Church you attend, then you are saying that nothing we teach really matters, and that Christ's words don't really matter.

So it is, that when you join a Church body, what you are doing is making a public confession. When you go to the Communion rail, you are confessing for all the world: "What is taught here, I believe. I am indeed in Communion with this Church and in this body." For indeed, our Lord says, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of Herod. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. False doctrine is not like an extra digit on the hand, or a missing toe, but it's a toxin that can harm the entire body.

When you join a Church, you are confessing that such things matter. When you claim your right to dine here and there, regardless of what is publicly taught, you are simply playing the role of the wicked and adulterous generation. But even more, and I think this gets to the deeper issue, open Communion exposes a lack of confidence in the Word we preach, and the great things we have to offer. It's a sign of a faith not confident, like a girl who thinks she has to do such and such to attract a man. What we are, instead, is the bride of Christ, and, in that bride of Christ we have the goods – and should act like it. Instead of conforming to the world, in hopes that the world will like us more, we ought to assert our identity as the Church whom Christ loves.

And, of course, though we practice closed Communion, the invitation is always open. Come to our Church. Hear what we believe, teach and confess. And if you find it to be true, then by all means, the feast is prepared. And you are always most welcome to confess with us and become members in this Communion.

Birthdays

Carolyn Paterson 6/3
Sam Goodroad 6/3
Alec Walworth 6/3
Riley Lisec 6/3
Lilly Wornson 6/4
Samuel Wornson 6/4
Alexandria Fairhurst 6/4
Jim Wornson 6/6
Carson Schmidt 6/8
Mark Fairhurst 6/11
Brenda Vogliardo 6/12
Emily Wiley 6/14
Larry Goodroad 6/15
Carol Diaz 6/17
Kelly Schmidt 6/17
Amy Martinez 6/17
Melvin Altis 6/18
Karen Hargrave 6/22
Bobbie Suter 6/22
Allyson Abend 6/22
Pat Feldkamp 6/23
Sandy Walworth 6/23
Samantha Slawson 6/26
Jackson Oulman 6/26
Kimberly Murphy 6/27
June Ramer 6/27
Jim Hargrave 6/30
Carl Wilson 7/2
Andy Fairhurst 7/4
Mary Wornson 7/5
Dawn Riley 7/6

Baptisms

Ginger Cuba 6/1
Char Henke 6/3
Ardyth Stone 6/6
Brock Stout 6/13
Jamie Luppés 6/19
Adyline Christensen 6/22
Lilly Wornson 6/27
Samuel Wornson 6/27
Mark Fairhurst 6/28
Bob Howard 7/1
Jackson Oulman 7/3
Jensen Mayes 7/5
Alexandria Fairhurst 7/8
Oakley Taylor 7/9
Carson Schmidt 7/10

Anniversaries

Andy & Michelle Fairhurst 6/7/2008
Bob & Marlo Howard 6/12/1964
Jim & Kris Wornson 6/13/1998
Larry & Kari Goodroad 6/14/1980
Derek & Rebekah Chapman 6/17/2017
Tom & Marlyse Goodroad 6/25/2016
Fred & Sandy Walworth 6/27/1981
John & Jamie Luppés 7/1/2006
Curt & Gwen Mayes 7/2/1989
Terry & Mary Ellett 7/4/1997

Elders

Larry Goodroad
Dallas Hoffman
Bill Moore
Vic Edwards
Ken Meier

Acolytes

June 3 – Bruce Cantwell
June 10 – Ethan Carmack
June 17 – Joe Goodroad
June 24 – Colton Harris
July 1 – Conner Jackson
July 8 – Simon Korondi
July 15 – Andrew Swain
July 22 – Sam Wornson
July 29 – Jacob Wornson

Ushers

June 3 – Keith Wornson, Darrin Abend
June 10 & 17 – Tony Alshouse, Harry Akiyama
June 24 & July 1 – John Barth, Allen Bozarth
July 8 & 15 – Wes Carmack, Tim Brammeier
July 22 & 29 – John Diaz, Derek Chapman

Greeters

June 3 – Andy & Michelle Fairhurst
June 10 – Mark & Donna Fairhurst
June 17 – Dan & Emily Goodroad
June 24 – Larry & Kari Goodroad
July 1 – Tom & Marlyse Goodroad
July 8 – Jim & Karen Hargrave
July 15 – Allen & Bonnie Harris
July 22 – Curt & Char Henke
July 29 – Dallas & Dee Hoffman

Altar Guild

June 3 – Mary Ellett, Pat Owens
June 10 – Kari Goodroad, Deanna Korondi
June 27 – Leslie Young, Dee Hoffman
June 24 – Phyllis Clemens, Sharon McCubbin