

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S

October 2021

From the Pastor....

The Sacrament of the Altar: Who receives this sacrament worthily? (part II)

Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins."

But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words "for you" require all hearts to believe.

With Luther's closing words here, we see as we began to examine in last month's article that receiving the Lord's Supper must not be assumed to be a blessing for everyone. Paul's warning and explanation in **I Corinthians 11** reminded us last month that a careful examination of Jesus' institution of this sacrament and also of one's own sin is required for all who would properly participate in this gift. Along with Ignatius's description of Holy Communion as the "medicine of immortality," we can see a number of helpful points as we come to the end of the catechism.

As we consider this type of language, we do well to look also at this portion of Wisconsin's state law regarding prescription drugs and devices: "...No person may dispense any prescribed drug or device except upon the prescription order of a practitioner." When He instituted His gift of the Lord's Supper, He made things quite clear. He *"...took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.'* And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, saying, *'Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins'" (Matthew 26:26-28).*

As Lutherans, we confess by faith that in this sacrament our Lord renews the baptismal promise delivered to us by God's grace through water and the Word, and that by eating and drinking the bread and wine—that is, Jesus' true body and blood—we receive with certainty the forgiveness He offers. The old saying is true, "actions speak louder than words," and when we go forward to participate in Holy Communion, we are confessing faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior, in His Word with which He instituted this sacrament as it points us to His completed and perfect sacrifice, in our own need for forgiveness as we bear the fruits of repentance worked in our lives through the Holy Spirit, and in the teachings of the church where we hold membership. Not every Christian can

agree with this confession, and as we reviewed last month, that means not every Christian would be blessed by taking the Lord's Supper against Christ's own prescription and institution. This is what is behind the Biblical practice of "closed communion," which is found in a majority of Christian churches throughout history and the present.

For reference, here is a short listing of the different views of Holy Communion with respect to what it is, what it does, and how it is properly understood according to a number of denominations:

Eastern Orthodox: "A believer under the forms of bread and wine, partakes of the very Body and Blood of Christ, to everlasting salvation."

Reformed: "The Lord's Supper is a sacrament, wherein...[Christ's] death is showed forth, and the worthy receives are, not after a corporal and carnal manner, but by faith, made partakers of His body and blood."

Anabaptist: "We also confess and observe the breaking of bread, or Supper, as the Lord Jesus Christ before His suffering instituted it with bread and wine, and observed and ate with His apostles, commanding them to observe it in remembrance of Him."

Roman Catholic: "Through consecration of the bread and wine there comes about a conversion of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of the body of Christ our Lord, and of the whole substance of the wine into the substance of His blood."

Baptist: "We believe in...the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the Church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ."

Wesleyan: "The body of Christ is given, taken, and eaten in the Supper only after a heavenly and spiritual manner."

Liberal Church Bodies: Liberal Christians, strongly influenced by rationalism, usually don't believe in miracles. Therefore, they don't believe Christ gives His body and blood for the forgiveness of sins in the Lord's Supper.

(taken from [The Lutheran Difference](#), pp.412-413)

ASSOCIATE PASTOR CALL UPDATE

Last Sunday (9/26) St. John's voted to extend a call to Rev. Joshua DeYoung to serve as our associate pastor. He will be visiting this week and everyone is invited and encouraged to come meet him on Thursday night (10/7) at 7:00 pm. Coffee and kringle will be served. Please join us and start to get to know Pastor DeYoung and also be available to answer questions he will have for the congregation. Also, please keep him and his family in your prayers as he deliberates the call.

VISITING OUR SHUT-INS

Consider this Purpose: ***"We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."***
Ephesians 2:10

God has a job for you. By any chance do you have a desire to join the volunteers who visit our shut-ins? Do you realize it is work God offers for us to do? Do you pray about it? Or, when you read these notices, do you say to yourself, "I could drop a card in the mail to someone!" Or, "I could make a phone call to that person because they knew my mom (or dad, or aunt.) Or, "I remember seeing him/her just a few weeks ago, or was it months?"

God's desire for us is to partner with Him in service to others while sharing His plan of salvation and His love. Pray His guidance in this particular endeavor, for the sake of those in our church family who can no longer be with us regularly. The list continues to grow. Please consider being a part of the caring team that that makes a phone call; drops a card in the mail; asks to visit someone; or even just prays for someone. If you would like to serve in another way, then do that. But if you see by God's direction that you can take particular course, check our monthly newsletter or with Kimberly in the office for the list of names that are our Shut-Ins. Pray for His will to be done through you. Please call or email me with any questions you may have on how to proceed.

Louise Borgardt
louiseborgardt@gmail.com; 262-886-4941

The three most common views among Christian denominations today are that of a "memorial meal," which places the Lord's Supper into the realm of symbolism or limits it to a "spiritual" presence of Christ; that of "transubstantiation" which claims that there is no longer bread and wine but only Christ's body and blood at the altar as a result of His Word and also the ability of the priest to bring change to the elements as a result of his ordination; and that of the "real presence" of Christ as He offers us His true body and blood in, with, and under the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. As Lutherans, we recognize the problems that come with those first two views and the amount of importance it puts on the sinful human beings involved. Instead, we lean on Jesus' own Word and testimony, and while we cannot fully explain or comprehend this divine mystery, we take it on faith and say "amen" as we eat and drink His body and blood.

Though it is a popular notion that sharing the Lord's Supper is a sharing of love, we see through God's Word that communing at any congregation is not a right to be assumed or demanded but instead a privilege based on preparation. At St. John's the tradition is to commune our 8th Grade students and new members after they have gone through the Rite of Confirmation, by which they have publicly confessed that what is taught and believed here is what they themselves believe as well. Part of the promises made in that rite include the promise to live according to God's Word, and when that is not taking place, the pastor is to address the matter and perhaps call for a temporary break in a participation of the Lord's Supper until the fruits of repentance are visible.

God's blessings as you continue to study His Word, Luther's *Small Catechism*, and the very faith He gives us by His grace. There is no better place to be for any sinful person than in the Word each day and in the Lord's house as He gathers us in the Divine Service around these gifts and truths every Sunday!

In Christ,

Pastor Gilbert

OFFICIAL ACTS

Funerals:

Roger Gotch 9-4-2021

Judy Jurgens 9-10-2021

Joyce Barber 9-21-2021

Baptism:

Olivia Ann Terselic 8-14-2021

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Sunday, October 31, we celebrate the Reformation with our Reformation Festival Service which begins at 3:00 p.m.

Throughout this special service, a Mass Choir will provide special music. I have invited LCMS churches in our Circuit to join us for this festival service. I am inviting anyone from our congregation who likes to sing and would like to be part of this service to join us for rehearsal. The Mass Choir will gather and rehearse October 31, 2021 beginning at 2:00 p.m. in the balcony.

We also look forward to hearing trumpets and handbells providing music throughout the service. Consider joining us for this special service.

LWML FALL RALLY

All ladies are invited to come to the LWML Fall Rally on Saturday, October 9 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 4340 Six Mile Road, Racine. Fellowship begins at 8:30 with the program to follow from 9-11:30am.

Ingathering items that will be collected are: toppings for ice cream sundaes (no nuts), fun size candy bars (no nuts), bags of individually wrapped candy – regular and sugar free, pudding snack cups in a variety of flavors – regular and sugar free, jello cups in a variety of flavors – regular and sugar free.

There is a box at the back of the church for these ingathering items. These items will go to Wisconsin veterans and the Wisconsin Veterans Home in Union Grove.

If you have any questions, please contact Eunice Matter at (262) 633-0798, or (414) 418-0798. Thank you!

LWML SUNDAY

On October 10th, Lutheran Women's Missionary League has invited Joe Boway to speak to us during the Bible study/coffee hour about his mission in Liberia. Because of Joe's relentless determination that "every child should have a Christian education," he helped develop 14 Lutheran schools in the villages of Liberia with an attendance of 5,600 pupils. A special door offering will be taken. Please consider a generous offering towards this mission project. Thank you most kindly!

ALTAR GUILD MEETING

The St. John's Altar Guild will meet on Thursday, October 21st at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be served. This meeting is for all current and new members. If you have any questions, please contact Kimberly in the church office at chapman@stjohnsracine.org; (262) 637-7011 or Curt Adel at (262) 681-1114.

CRAFT SALE TO BENEFIT FAMILIES IN NEED FUND

The craft sale is back! Please plan to join us on Sunday November 14th in between services and after late service. All money raised will go directly to the Families in Need fund – our crafters do not receive any money for their materials or time.

Please come and check out the wonderful selection of cards, German Stars, floral arrangements, dill pickle baskets and unique handmade gifts. If you would like to join us by donating some of your own handmade craft items, please call Judy Schweitzer 637-1986 or Jean Adel 886-1645 by November 1st so we can plan table space.

We look forward to seeing you again! **Cash or Check Only.** Come and take some wonderful treasures home!

DINING OUT NIGHT AT NOODLES & CO

St. John's PTL invites you to their next Dining Out Night at Noodles and Co., 5720 Washington Avenue from 4-8pm on Tuesday, October 12th. Please present the voucher attached to the electronic copy of this newsletter or mention St. John's when you place your order. You can also use the code GIVING25, if placing an online order. Vouchers are also available in the back of the church. Thank you for participating in this tasty fundraiser!

ELEGANT FARMER PIE SALE

St. John's PTL will once again be selling Elegant Farmer Pies! Please consider buying a pie or two! They will be great for the holidays! The sale starts on October 15th. Order forms can be picked up at the back of the church or are included with the electronic copy of this newsletter. Order forms along with payment (Checks made out to St. John's Lutheran PTL) are due by Friday, October 29th. These can be turned in or mailed to the church or school office. Pick up will be held on Wednesday, November 17 from 3:30-4:15pm. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Amanda Kotowski at 414-423-7279 or akotowski@wi.rr.com. Thank you in advance for your support of St. John's PTL.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL – JOB OPPORTUNITY

St. John's Lutheran School is looking for an afternoon teacher's aide for Mrs. Witek's kindergarten class and also an after school extended care supervisor. To inquire further or to request an employment application, please contact Mr. Kevin Charpentier (Email: charpentierkm@gmail.com or Phone: 262-633-2758) or Kimberly Chapman (chapman@stjohnsracine.org or 262-637-7011)

AMAZON SMILE

St. John's just received a \$91.60 donation from AmazonSmile. Please consider supporting St. John's Lutheran Church through the AmazonSmile Foundation. AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support St. John's every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile smile.amazon.com, you need to select St. John's to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. Search for St Johns Lutheran Church – Racine, WI. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to St John's.

OUR HARMONY CLUB GENTLY USED SHOE FUNDRAISER

OHC is collecting gently used shoes as a fundraiser for their social day program for seniors with age related challenges. They have until the 3rd week of October to finish their collection. Their goal is to fill 100 bags with 25 pairs of shoes per bag. They currently have 53 bags filled with 1,325 shoes!

What happens to the shoes?

A shoe drive fundraiser goes beyond raising money for our cause and community. After your shoes are picked up, they are sent to developing countries to create job opportunities.

If you have gently used shoes that you would be willing to donate, please bring them to St. John's and place them in the "shoe boxes" located in the round table room next to the church and school offices.

Our Harmony thanks you in advance for any shoes that you are able to donate!

For I know the
Plans
I have for you,
declares the *Lord*
Plans to *Prosper* you
and not to harm you
Plans to give you
Hope and a Future
-Jeremiah 29:11

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1-Oct	Patricia Bertermann	17-Oct	Nancy Preuss
1-Oct	Kathy Hagemann	17-Oct	Judy Sokolowski
1-Oct	Camryn Mang	18-Oct	Claire Holewinski
2-Oct	Lana Dresen	19-Oct	Tracy Wasik
2-Oct	Timothy Jaeck	20-Oct	David Donaldson
3-Oct	Brynn Beier	20-Oct	Eli Gasau
3-Oct	Eva Chaudoir	20-Oct	Mimi Hynek
4-Oct	Aaron Douglas	21-Oct	Kristin Chiappetta
5-Oct	Carol Day	22-Oct	Carl Seils
5-Oct	Lillian Rairie	23-Oct	Alice Peterson
5-Oct	James Riegelman	23-Oct	Lucia Peterson
5-Oct	Alex Van Schyndel	23-Oct	Barbara Polack
6-Oct	Samantha Andersen	23-Oct	Pamela Sorenson
6-Oct	Joyce Anderson	24-Oct	Alisha Burger
6-Oct	Kraig Moffatt	24-Oct	Peggy Busarow
7-Oct	Kristina Beier	24-Oct	Rebekah Gilbert
7-Oct	Tracy Naegeli	24-Oct	Andrew Rosenberg
7-Oct	Joanne Ruble	25-Oct	Gregory Clausen
11-Oct	Joelle Griner	25-Oct	Emily Polack
11-Oct	Kaitlyn Haigh	25-Oct	Ericka Topel
11-Oct	Griffin Radtke	26-Oct	Patricia Clemons
11-Oct	Evelyn Schneider	26-Oct	Amanda Patzke
12-Oct	Jennifer Kellner	27-Oct	Emily French
13-Oct	Christopher Geary	28-Oct	Christopher Davis
15-Oct	Noah Fisa	29-Oct	Evelyn Olley
16-Oct	Merle Barta	30-Oct	Jane Culotta
16-Oct	Heather Hamler	30-Oct	Abigail Grant
16-Oct	Megan Sollman	30-Oct	Debora Riegelman
16-Oct	Analisa Trevino	31-Oct	Colin Dahms
17-Oct	Marilyn Davis	31-Oct	Brianna Davis
17-Oct	Shirley Filicetti		



We apologize if we have forgotten anyone.
Please contact the church office at 637-7011 to correct.
Thank You!

NEW VANCO MOBILE GIVING APP

St. John's is pleased to announce that we have an upgraded mobile app! Vanco, our eGiving provider, has launched an updated mobile app called Vanco Mobile Faith.

This new mobile app will be replacing GivePlus Mobile. Current GivePlus Mobile users will need to download the new Vanco Mobile app to access your giving account. However, your user name and password, along with any recurring giving that you have set up will have automatically transferred over to the new Vanco Mobile app. With Vanco Mobile Faith, you can send a one-time donation or set up recurring gifts.

Downloading the new Vanco Mobile is easy! Head over to the App Store or Google Play to download Vanco Mobile for free.

Be sure to download this app soon, as GivePlus Mobile will be retired as of September 30, 2021.

To give using Vanco Mobile, follow these seven easy steps:

1. Search for our church by entering St Johns Lutheran
2. Do not use any punctuation, and it is case sensitive
3. Log in using your GivePlus Mobile user name and password if you have one, otherwise create a new account
4. Select your gift amount, fund, and frequency
5. Enter your payment method
6. Choose whether you want to cover processing fees
7. Click Submit to complete your donation.

Please contact Kimberly in the church office if you have any questions about or need assistance with your existing online giving or if you need help setting up a new mobile giving account. chapman@stjohnsracine.org or (262) 637-7011.

SHUT INS

Name	Address	Phone Number
Merle Barta	5321 Douglas Avenue #304, Racine WI 53402	262-898-4000
Ann Beckett	6603 Medley Drive, Racine, WI 53406	
Betty Borgardt	Home Inspired 1201 Village Center Drive, Kenosha, WI 53144	262-859-2500
Leola Christian	5321 Douglas Avenue, Apt. 1324, Racine, WI 53402	262-886-0734
Pat Cole	6551 Mariner Drive, Unit 6, Racine, WI 53406	
Sue Erickson	5101 Wright Ave #215, Racine, WI 53406	262-260-8454
Gary & Shirley Filicetti	4710 N Main St, Racine, WI 53402	262-639-3721
Janet Fisa	McMynn Tower 110 7th St, Racine, WI 53403 Room #904	262-234-9859
Marcella Geyer	3139 Conrad Drive, Racine, WI 53404	262-634-8105
Gail Gotch	1916 Wisconsin Avenue, Apt. 352, Racine, WI 53403	262-221-6912
Mimi Hynek	5321 Douglas Avenue, Apt. 1156A, Racine, WI 53402	
Sue Monson	418 Shoreland Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Kathy Patzman	5404 Idlewood Drive, Racine, WI 53402	
Linda Puchter	1463 28th Ct, Kenosha, WI 53140	262-553-9470
Edna Roberts	5321 Douglas Avenue #1323, Racine, WI 53402	
Marlene Roepke	1201 Kingston Avenue, Racine, WI 53402	
Robert & Eileen Shebeneck	2002 N Wisconsin St, Racine, WI 53402	262-633-5919
John Smith	1636 Raintree Lane, Racine, WI 53406	262-456-0073

Life Thoughts for Lutherans – October 2021

October 3 – Pentecost XIX (Proper 22B) – This world idolizes sexuality so much it sacrifices unborn children in worship. Our Heavenly Father establishes boundaries to protect us from this slavery. He elevates us by connecting sexuality to marriage, intimacy, procreation, and family. Human bodies testify that we're born already belonging to somebody. Where the world sees selves for expressing or enjoying, we celebrate them in sharing and serving!

October 10 – Pentecost XX (Proper 23B) – “I would never choose it for myself, but I’m not comfortable telling anyone else how to act.” Our neighbors need more from us than lukewarm. The Lord God invites the same courage and compassion His salvation has shown us. “Hate evil, and love good” (Amos 5:15). Real love proclaims both the Law and the Gospel directly (Mark 10:19-21). Jesus makes us nothing less than gentle but relentless!

October 17 – Pentecost XXI (Proper 24B) – Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis can indeed make anyone feel vulnerable (Ecclesiastes 5:15). Our Incarnate Almighty knows (Hebrews 4:15), and so He arranges better solutions than intentional death. His promises have power even over problems of the body (Hebrews 4:12), and whatever losses we may suffer, He more than compensates (Mark 10:29-30). Jesus the Savior makes all things possible—even joy amid suffering (Ecclesiastes 5:18).

October 24 – Pentecost XXII (Proper 25B) – Disabilities do not deserve death, either at life’s beginning or near its end. The Lord our God loves to save us in all our brokennesses (Jeremiah 31:8-9). May we learn something even greater than comfort from our limitations—may we learn in our disabilities to cry out to Jesus and follow Him (Mark 10:48, 52), through affliction to life everlasting.

October 31 – Pentecost XXIII (Proper 26B) – The grace of God doesn’t prevail only in private. His life-giving words belong in bedrooms and on bodies (Deuteronomy 6:6-8), brought before congregations and into conversations for the sanctity of every human life. So, we do not keep these life-affirming convictions to ourselves because His blessings become even better when celebrating them with others (Deuteronomy 6:3).