



The Sacrament of Holy Communion

What is Holy Communion?

Holy Communion is the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ given with bread and wine, instituted by Christ himself for us to eat and drink.

Where do the Scriptures say this?

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Paul say: "Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take, eat, this is my body, which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me.'

After the same manner also he took the cup after supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins; this do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

Perhaps it doesn't sound very controversial, but the first paragraph that I've quoted above was the subject of knock-down fights back in the 1500s. This was mainly for two reasons which I'll explain before trying to connect it to us nearly 500 years later.

The first controversy doesn't seem like such a big deal anymore. Back then, the priest received both the bread and the wine, the body and the blood of Jesus. The people, on the other hand, received only the bread. Notice how Luther frames communion as something "for us to eat AND drink." There was a perception that the priests were setting themselves above the people, as spiritually superior, by reserving the wine for themselves. This supposed superiority was resented by people and,

August 2018

more importantly, had no Biblical warrant, so it was changed.

Secondly, in Holy Communion is there the body and blood of Jesus or is there just bread and wine? The teaching of the Church had long been that the priest literally turned the bread and the wine into the body and blood of Jesus. The bread and the wine ceased to be bread and wine and became only the body and blood of Jesus as the priest said the Words of Institution. Since the service was said in Latin back then, this is what he said, "Hoc est corpus meum..." "This is my body..." The story goes that the people understood this to be a kind of magic trick, hence, the term "hocus pocus" that magicians use. The Roman Catholic church held strongly to this view, but different Reformers began to question it.

Some Reformers like John Calvin (the father of the Reformed, Congregational, Presbyterian and other churches, including most Evangelical churches) said that it was just nonsensical to think that the bread and wine changed into anything. Didn't they still look like bread and wine and taste like it? Instead, they taught that the bread and wine were merely symbols. This is the teaching that you will most commonly encounter in churches in America. Also, as a part of their argument, they said that Jesus couldn't TRULY be present in the bread and wine because there were loads of churches having communion at the same time. How could he be bodily present at all of them?

Luther, however, was not happy with either of these. He took the words of Jesus, "This is my body" extremely seriously, but he thought the Catholics were unnecessarily denying what was obvious to everyone, namely that the things being consumed were still bread and wine. And so Luther held to a kind of mystery. He taught that Jesus' body and blood were certainly there, since Jesus had said so, but that they were present along with the bread and wine. He was not at all happy with the idea that the bread and wine were only symbols. The reason for this is simple. His understanding of Holy Communion was that Jesus was really giving himself to us, that Jesus was really present with us. To go along with the other Reformers, in his view, would be to emphasize Christ's absence, not his presence with us. It

was this point, more than anything else, that prevented different Reformation movements from becoming united.

So what about us? Is there something important about this controversy for us? Personally, I think Luther's point is still right on. God being present with us, in Christ, is a big deal and something we want to emphasize. Otherwise, we might be tempted to think of Jesus as an historical figure who is removed from us by 2,000 years. Or as a merely spiritual figure who inhabits heaven, but is absent from earth. Not so! Christ is still with us, both in time and in place.

Also, there's something about Luther's willingness to allow for mystery that is helpful example for our scientific age. The current of our culture wants to pull everything in the direction of rationality, of evidence-based thinking. Reason is great, but our lives are much more than reason. The richness of human life exceeds reason. Body and blood AND bread and wine? That isn't reasonable. But neither is the reality that God has decided to love us and be present with us. And so we can lay reason aside in this case and take hold of a wonderful mystery.

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Emanuel-St John Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes July 12, 2018

President Michelle Talbott called the meeting to order. Present were Cindy Souder, Karen Cerra, Rhonda Johnson, Dar Lake, Pauline Lange and Pastor Ben. Pastor Ben gave devotions. Motion by Dar Lake, second by Karen Cerra to approve the agenda. Motion passed. Motion by Dar Lake, second by Karen Cerra to approve the June minutes. Motion passed. Treasurer's report was given by Rhonda Johnson. Motion by Karen Cerra, second by Dar Lake to approve the treasurer's report with a balance of \$7908.25. Motion passed. A written EPIC report was given to the council.

Old Business: None

President's Report: Michelle reported that the National Youth Gathering was awesome.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Ben reported that the Lantz's attended the Western Iowa Synod as representatives from our church. The Okoboji 200 bike riders stopped at the church and received refreshments. The riders were very appreciative of the food and drinks. Church of Damascus Road will be holding their Annual Meeting on November 11th at our church. More details will be given later.

Worship and Music Committee: Dar Lake present. The AED training was held.

Parish Education: None

Outreach Committee: Karen Cerra present. There was a good turnout for the bike riders stopping through. The 135th Birthday celebration with cake and ice cream was attended by about 60 people.

Property and Management Committee: None.

Stewardship and Finance Committee: None

WELCA: No report.

New Business: Rhonda Johnson and Candace Booth are setting up a schedule for a deep cleaning of the church. There are old VCR tapes in the library that are not being used. Council decided to put the tapes out for anyone who might be interested in taking them. Motion by Dar Lake second by Karen Cerra to adjourn. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.



CHURCH FAMILY READY FOR DEEP CLEANING

It is time to embark on deep cleaning, sorting, and disposing of unused items in our church building. If everyone pitches in and helps, it won't take long and even may be fun to work together to do the much needed job.

People were randomly assigned to areas according to age or ability. People may change jobs with other people and recruit others. There is a master list of assignments in the lobby and each person will receive a sheet of his/her assignment. If more help is needed, there is a list of local members or friends who may be able to help. Contact them. It will be necessary to sign out on the master sheets as each task is completed. People may bring their favorite cleaning supplies or use what is available by the dining room water fountain. There will be a place to list repairs that are needed. A group effort is planned for Aug 24-26 but may be done earlier. It is hoped that everything will be completed by Aug 27 so the floors can be done last. It is important to be good stewards of our beautiful place of worship. If there are questions, please contact the chairman of your area, the property committee, Rhonda Johnson, or Candace Booth

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1) Adlynn Riedell
- 2) Ryan Adams
- 3) Everett Hinrichs
- 4) Shiloh Meyer
- 6) Brock Meyer, Bob Purdie, Dean Rix
- 7) Brandon Gibson, Cheryl Haden, Sally Musselman
- 8) **Ellis Byriel**, Darwin Lake, Ayden Toms
- 9) Allyson Williams
- 10) Brooks Andersen
- 11) Jamie Williams
- 12) Zachary Vreeland
- 13) Ronald Haden
- 14) Megan Grodahl, Alexis Schuur
- 15) Lily Bartels, Teresa Lanning, Colby Leer
- 16) Gloria Kral, **Darwin Matter**
- 17) Sara Carlson
- 18) Jeffrey Schulte, Faith Worley
- 19) Shawn Rix, Jesse Scharn
- 20) Brielle Campbell, Tonya Evans
- 21) Diana Diersen, **Marge Everts**, Kenneth Meyer
- 23) LeRoy Hameister
- 24) Jossa Hauptert, Julie Wheelock
- 25) Brian Haffner
- 26) Angela Edmondson, Kevin Johnson, Susie Scharn
- 27) Cory Diersen, Dwayne Newman, Heide Scharn
- 28) Tanner Campbell, Kyle Kral
- 29) Gary Ross
- 31) Sophie Twyman, **Gracia Willis**



Happy Birthday!



AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- Aug 4, 1988 Daryl & Jane Glasnapp
Aug 5, 1972 Dennis & Candace Booth
Aug 5, 1961 John H. & Marge Everts
Aug 5, 1963 Stephen & Betty Kral
Aug 9, 1975 Jim & Jan Frederick
Aug 9, 1959 James & Gracia Willis
Aug 10, 1996 Arlin & Debbie Purdie
Aug 12, 1978 Randy & Linn Scharn
Aug 15, 2015 Grant & Megan Grodahl
Aug 18, 2012 Tony & Lacy Diersen
Aug 18, 2012 William & Myra Horton
Aug 19, 2006 Kevin & Laura Hejtmanek
Aug 23, 1975 Dennis & Peggy Dettmann
Aug 25, 2012 Dylan & Jennifer Wagener



Women of the ELCA

The Dorcas Cluster's Fall Retreat will be held Wednesday, September 12th at the Twin Lakes Christian Center.

This year's theme is "Women Being Joyful, Patient & Faithful". The Bible Verse is Romans 12:12. Pastor Jennifer Henry from Bethany Lutheran Church in Spencer will be leading the bible study and communion service. Guest speaker will be Ashley Vaala from the Lotus Community Project. She will tell about the women's homeless shelter which she is working on getting started in Fort Dodge and share some of her personal story of her struggle with drugs and homelessness.

Items for the in-kind offering for the shelter are:

Personal items: shampoo, conditioner gel (including African American hair care), bar soaps, deodorant, sanitary napkins and tampons, nail clippers, razors, ponytail holders, toothbrushes, toothpaste, baby bath products, diapers, women and children size socks and underwear.

Household: pillows, twin size sheet sets, shower bags or caddies, gas cards, gift cards or cash donations.

Unit treasurers are remind to send a love offering which will be divided ½ to WISWO and the other ½ to go to the Lotus Project.

ELCA National Youth Gathering

Thank you, Emanuel St. John, for all of your support in making this year's attendance of the ELCA's National Youth Gathering possible. What an amazing time filled with worship, service, prayer and being in the presence of so many youth who know that Jesus Loves them and that through Christ we can do all things. The sight and sound of young people excited to be on this journey of faith was amazing. "This Changes Everything."

SaraJo Talbott, Anna McChesney, Heidi Hammen, Sam Musselman, Michelle Talbott, Stacy Talbott and Pastor Ben attended the Youth Gathering from our area.



August 2018, Back to School Month

School is right around the corner! But imagine being a child or teen with an emotional or behavioral disorder. This time of year can be extremely stressful. They are afraid they won't be able to concentrate or fit in at their school. They worry about adjusting to a new classroom routine or making new friends.

Did you know Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) partners with schools across the state to provide mental health services? Our therapists work one-on-one with children while our Behavioral Health Intervention Services team collaborates with families in their own homes to help them develop skills like anger management and healthy decision-making. LSI also provides 24-hour mental health care at the Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers in Waverly and Ames to empower Iowa's most vulnerable children and teens.

We thank you for your support of LSI's mission as we respond together to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service! We know there are more Iowa children in need of this critical care. If you would like to

learn more about how you can give a gift to support these crucial services, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at 563-676-2065 or Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at www.LSIowa.org and www.facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

A Loving Bond for Landon

Seven years ago, Ashley was eager to welcome her first child, Landon. While Landon was a perfectly behaved newborn, Ashley began feeling overwhelmed when his behavior changed as he grew.

Landon stopped napping. He began throwing tantrums and lashed out when Ashley tried to help him. Ashley was desperate for a relationship with her toddler, but Landon always pushed her away. She turned to LSI's Behavioral Health Intervention Services.

Peggy, Landon's LSI worker, began visiting their home to help Landon develop the coping skills he needed to control his anger and guide him back to being the happy child he once was.

Peggy and Landon began taking walks together, visiting the library, and playing games. When the family moved to a new home, Peggy made sure Landon was comfortable in his room and encouraged him to use it as a safe space when he needed to be alone.

Peggy and Landon have been working together for years and Landon, now 7, knows he has a support system to turn to on the rough days.

"We would truly be lost without Peggy," Ashley says.

"Now Landon gives hugs, lets me know when he's angry and – the biggest gift of all – I occasionally hear, 'I love you, Mom'."



**NEW ADDRESSES
FOR COLLEGIANS**

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS & PARENTS:

Now might be a good time to let us know addresses/plans of your student BEFORE the last minute rush of leaving for college of your son or daughter. A simple note dropped off at the church office or an email to palange1945@gmail.com will work. This will help us, your local congregation, as well as Lutheran Campus Ministries keep in contact with the young people as they venture out into new horizons and experiences.