



From Pastor's Desk Why Weekly Communion?

By Rev. Jason M. Braaten

This Advent will mark two years that Immanuel has been offering the Lord's Supper every week for those who have desired it. Despite the benefit that this has been for our congregation and how well it has been received, there may yet be some lingering doubt as to the history and benefit of this practice. The following questions and answers are meant to help address some common thoughts.

Question: But many may yet be asking: Should we even want to have the Lord's Supper every Sunday?

Answer: Since the beginning of the New Testament Church, Christians have never viewed the Lord's Supper as an optional extra or something less significant than the other means of grace (Sermon, Absolution, and Holy

Baptism). The Supper is the center of our Lord's New Covenant, where we receive His life-giving mercy. And since we always need our Lord's forgiveness and strength, we always need the Lord's Supper in the same way that we need preaching and absolution.

Question: What do the Scriptures say on this?

Answer: When Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper, He gave the command, "Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me" (1 Corinthians 11:25). Jesus connects the Lord's Supper to His remembrance, that is, the Gospel's proclamation. And if we're supposed to remember Jesus every week when we gather as His people, then having the Lord's Supper is simply an obvious conclusion toward that end.

Acts 2:42 tells us the first Christians “devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” For the first Christians, being spiritually fed in the Lord’s Supper was as much a part of their lives as being physically fed in their everyday meals.

That being said, the Bible does not “command” us to celebrate the Lord’s Supper every week. Neither does Scripture specifically command preaching to be in every service. But Christ did tell His Church (through the Apostles) to celebrate the Lord’s Supper (Luke 22:14–19) as He did to preach the Gospel (Luke 24:47). The natural conclusion is to receive the Lord’s Supper every week, just as we hear the preached Word and receive the other gifts of God.

Question: What do the Lutheran Confessions have to say on this since that’s supposed to guide us as a Lutheran congregation?

Answer: Our Apology [Defense] of the Augsburg Confession reads: “We do not abolish the Mass [the Divine Service with the Lord’s Supper], but religiously keep and defend it. Masses are celebrated among us every Lord’s Day and on the other festivals” (Apology XXIV, paragraph 1). Thus, from our Lord’s institution, Apostolic practice, and our Lutheran confession we can conclude that the norm for the Lutheran Church is to celebrate the Lord’s Supper at least once a week.

Question: I wasn’t born yesterday. This has never been the practice of any congregation to which I have belonged.

Answer: The history behind infrequent reception of the Lord’s Supper has many origins. In America, as our country expanded, congregations would have the Lord’s Supper only when they could get a pastor, according to the Lutheran understanding of Scripture and our Confessions. Yet, as pastors became readily available, the movement toward a more frequent reception of the Sacrament was gradually taught and practiced.

Also, we are only a couple-of-hundred years past the beginning of a movement called “Pietism,” which downplayed the Sacraments’ importance and called attention to subjective “feelings.” These two reasons (plus some others) have made the infrequent reception of the Lord’s Supper as normal for many of us.

Question: Does our Synod have anything to say on this?

Answer: The 1995 Convention of the LCMS passed the following resolution, which other conventions have reaffirmed:

WHEREAS, the opportunity to receive the Lord’s Supper each Lord’s Day was a reality cherished by Luther and set forth clearly with high esteem by our Lutheran Confessions (Article XXIV of the Augsburg Confession and of the Apology); and

WHEREAS, our synod’s 1983 CTCR document on the Lord’s Supper (p.28) and our Synod’s 1986 [1991] translation of Luther’s Catechism both remind us that the Scriptures place the Lord’s Supper at the center of worship (Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20,23), and not as an appendage or an occasional extra; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in convention encourages its pastors and congregations to study the scriptural, confessional, and historical witness to every Sunday communion with a view toward recovering the opportunity for receiving the Lord’s Supper each Lord’s Day.

Question: But having the Lord’s Supper makes the service longer.

Answer: Here, we are dealing with the holy things of God. What God wants to give us and what we spiritually need, even if we don’t always “feel” it, should be more valuable to us than having to “endure” a longer service. Besides, it is offered for those who desire it. As members in the Body of Christ, we can surely endure a service that is at most twenty minutes longer for their sake, bearing one another’s burdens in Christian love (Galatians 6:2).

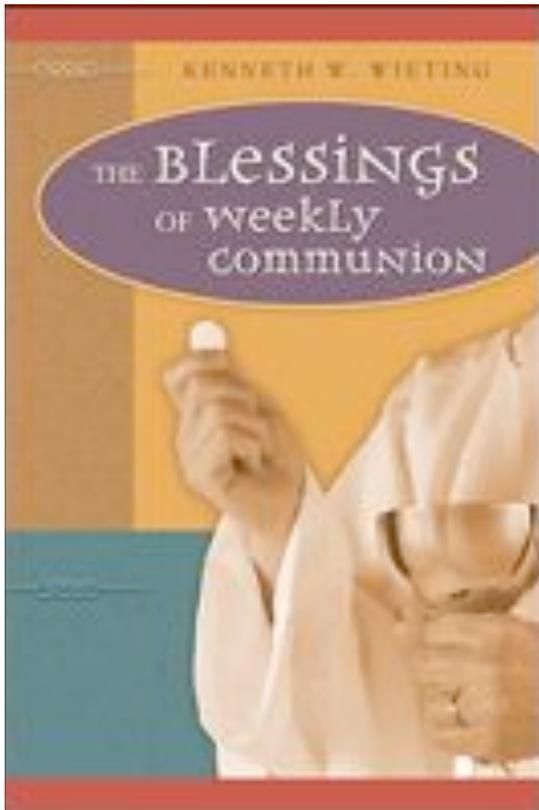
Question: But it seems so “Roman Catholic.”

Answer: The Roman Catholic Church has many practices and beliefs that are correct. They believe in the Trinity. They baptize babies. They recognize Jesus as fully God and Man. Here, the Roman Catholic Church still happens to preserve the historic and proper practice. Here, we should be praising them for being right (and also Lutheran in practice!).

Question: But won't having the Lord's Supper that often make it less special?

Answer: The Lord's Supper is special because it is our Lord's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. That makes it valuable no matter how someone “feels.” The issue is not with the value of the Lord's Supper but our need to learn to value it properly.

It is my hope that these questions and answers will edify your understanding of the Lord's Supper and its practice in the Lutheran church.



**The Book of the Month
The Blessings of
Weekly Communion**

Great spiritual blessings come to Christians who partake of the Lord's Supper on the Lord's Day. They receive a “visible Word” which gives to them the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Their faith is strengthened. Their inner man is renewed for a life of good works. They are formed in the image of Christ.

In the Apostolic church, communion was celebrated every Sunday. During the period of the Reformation, the Lutheran churches practiced

weekly communion. The influence of Protestantism in the United States has suppressed this practice.

Each chapter includes discussion questions to help readers reflect and apply the material to their personal and corporate worship.

The book will help restore this worthy and biblical tradition to our congregations.

From the President A Sacred Vocation

By Rev. Matthew C. Harrison

I recently had the opportunity to visit the Lutheran Church of Australia. (I studied in Adelaide on exchange in 1987, and I've enjoyed the friendships of many Australian Lutherans ever since.) Dr. Andrew Pfeiffer, head of the school and with a Ph.D. in missiology, invited me into his office at the seminary. He pointed to a shelf full of books, and in his delightful Australian manner and accent, said, "See all those books? Those are all the mission gimmicks and programs that were supposed to save the Lutheran Church of Australia. None of them worked. Not a one."

Andrew's been teaching his seminary students something very simple but profoundly important: Pastors are to teach the Lutheran view of vocation for laity. Each of us has a divine calling, a vocation. In fact, that vocation is multifaceted. Our vocations place us in contexts where we serve God through our neighbors.

Luther was a master of the Bible's teaching on vocation and wrote eloquently and very simply about the high callings of everyday life, like that of mother, father, sister, brother, grandparent, worker, butcher, baker or farmer. He rightly pointed out that the calling of mother is every bit as holy and divinely pleasing as that of pastor! "Whatsoever you have done to the least of these, you've done to Me" applies to diapers. (And Luther, by the way, expected fathers to change them too!) Forgiven in Christ, Christians are freed to serve those around them according to the station in life they occupy.

Dr. Pfeiffer teaches that, in the context of our vocations and especially as we interact with relatives, friends and neighbors, we share Christ

and His Gospel of free forgiveness while inviting folks to church. Pfeiffer is teaching his students the importance of conducting regular membership classes and encouraging and training his people to invite others. It's simple but vital for the salvation of souls and the mission of the Church.



The Church needs clergy and laity in the mission field as called professionals. But just as profound is the vocation each of us has where we are to speak Christ and invite people to church. Each of us is a saint, a spiritual priest, who offers sacrifices of prayer ("Pray the Lord of the harvest send workers."), praise and thanksgiving. Each of us can and must support the Church's work of global mission and sending missionaries, a sacrifice of praise (2 Cor. 9:615). Each of us in our relationships has a sacred vocation, however humbly, to speak of Christ to our loved ones and neighbors and speak forgiveness in His name!

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Facts and Figures; Dates and Times

Greeters List

1 Sep	Joan Vukelich (West) Laverl Byers (East)
8 Sep	Ruth Sims (West) Tim & Teri Pollock (East)
15 Sep	Donna Campbell (West) Harold & Irene Wattjes (East)
22 Sep	Jim Dyer (West) Joan Vukelich (East)
29 Sep	Laverl Byers (West) Ruth Sims (East)
6 Oct	Tim & Teri Pollock (West) Donna Campbell (East)
13 Oct	Harold & Irene Wattjes (West) Jim Dyer (East)
20 Oct	Joan Vukelich (West) Laverl Byers (East)
27 Oct	Ruth Sims (West) Tim & Teri Pollock (East)

Coffee Committee

Sep	Ann Carroll
Oct	Janet Stumeier

Funeral Committee

Sep	Joan Rahn
Oct	Ruth Bretz & Janice Arthur

Altar Committee

1 Sep	Sherrie Hoel
8 Sep	Dolores Ford
15 Sep	Dolores Ford

22 Sep	Dolores Ford
29 Sep	Janet Stumeier
6 Oct	Janet Stumeier
13 Oct	Janet Stumeier
20 Oct	Donna Campbell
27 Oct	Donna Campbell

Elder On Duty – Communion

1 Sep	Jack Appleby
8 Sep	Jack Appleby
15 Sep	Josh Whitson
22 Sep	Josh Whitson
29 Sep	Josh Whitson
6 Oct	Steve Hilgendorf
13 Oct	Stevve Hilgendorf
20 Oct	Jack Appleby
27 Oct	Jack Appleby

Altar Flowers

1 Sep	Greg Nau
8 Sep	OPEN
15 Sep	Marlena Henley
22 Sep	OPEN
29 Sep	OPEN
6 Oct	Ronald W. & Judy M. Legg
13 Oct	Geof & Sue Danielson
20 Oct	Janice & Wayne Arthur
27 Oct	Joan Rahn

ATTENDANCE				OFFERINGS		
Date	Saturday	Sunday	Special	General	Missions	Building
8/4	20	86	0	\$3,328.00	\$20.00	\$0.00
8/11	23	80	0	\$2,888.25	\$0.00	\$0.00
8/18	19	74	0	\$1,785.50	\$0.00	\$20.00
8/25	15	80	0	\$2,264.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
Subtotal	77	320	0	\$10,266.25	\$20.00	\$20.00
Total	397			\$10,266.25	\$20.00	\$20.00

September 2013 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Bible Study 2:30 PM Nourishing Home Service Catechism (Revelation Day)</p>	<p>2</p> <p>LABOR DAY/CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED Neil Oliver Faydon Dumbaulum Kathlyn Dumbaulum Lauren Bratton</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Halley Ely Gang & Dennis Campbell</p>	<p>4</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 PM Elders Meeting</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Ellen Hottelinger</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Richard Terlier Alexis Nava Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>7</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion SUNDAY SCHOOL/ALLI DAY 10:30 AM Bible Class 11:15 AM Hannah Bart's Baby Shower 11:30 AM Catechism Cynthia Oye James Oyer Children's Sermon Day</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 7:00 PM Men's Club Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 11:00 AM Circuit Pastor's Conference Roger Long Blake Stables</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 7:00 PM Organ Committee Meeting Lucas Stevens</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Dwayne & Laura Young/Chairs Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>14</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Trey Rubin</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 11:30 AM Catechism Catechism (Revelation Day)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 8:00 PM Board of Education Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins Elizabeth Anderson Leonard Remz Marilyn Mervens</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Brighton Exercise Kathlyn Clair</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 11:30 AM Catechism Matt Snyder</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting Gary & Becky Kappert</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>25</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 11:30 AM T.A.R.A. Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins 8:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:30 PM Ladies Aid</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Tim Hual Jason & Nicole Wenzel Trev & Chelsey Rubin Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>28</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion Willa Long</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion 10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study 7:00 PM Youth Group 11:30 AM Catechism</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Margan Rubin CO: Pastor's Fall</p>					

October 2013 Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6</p> <p>8:00 Morning Mission/Lit. W. M.</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion</p> <p>10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study</p> <p>11:30 AM Catechism</p> <p>Henry Rahn Howard W. Long</p> <p>Catechism (Recreation Day)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>8:00 PM Elders Meeting</p>	<p>1</p> <p>OSD Pastors Fall Conference/Lunch 8.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Greg Munson Spencer Eidersole</p>	<p>3</p> <p>1:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Brittany Arthur</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion</p> <p>Carolyn Dyer Shanna Probst</p>
<p>13</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion</p> <p>11:15 AM Church Council</p> <p>10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study</p> <p>11:30 AM Catechism</p> <p>Deborah Rothbeck</p> <p>Children's Service Day</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Erin Pangborn</p> <p>Pastor at Conference 8-8</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Archie Cull Josh & Annem Wilson</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p>	<p>17</p> <p>1:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>Geoff & Sue Davidson</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Alana Poe</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion</p> <p>Edin Parthasar</p>
<p>20</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion</p> <p>10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study</p> <p>11:30 AM Catechism</p> <p>Catechism (Recreation Day)</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:00 PM Board of Education Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Voters</p> <p>Karen Rantz</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>Mary Elton Burnett</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>11:30 AM T.A.R.A. Meeting</p>	<p>24</p> <p>1:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>Daniel & Sheila Slovins</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Cathy Rahn Hannah Erb</p> <p>Pastor's Day Off</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:30 PM Divine Service/Communion</p>
<p>27</p> <p>9:00 AM Divine Service/Communion</p> <p>10:30 AM Sunday School & Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 PM Youth Group</p> <p>11:30 AM Catechism</p> <p>Trent Fonder</p>	<p>28</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>Stacy Probst</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>Chloe Alexander Marcia Green</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Elizabeth Brower 7:30 AM Matins</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:30 AM Matins</p> <p>8:00 AM Staff Meeting</p> <p>1:30 PM Ladies AM</p> <p>Abby Martin Daria Gardner Ruth Bretz</p>		

In This Issue . . .

From the Pastor	1
Facts & Figures	5
Calendars	6



Immanuel's stained glass window in the Narthex.

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