

# LIFELINES



of

## LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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### Why did Jesus give us the sacrament of Holy Communion?

Our Wednesday morning Bible class has recently taken a detour from studying the book of Revelation. Revelation is a fascinating read, but it is also very bewildering. So, after slogging through this complicated text, verse by verse, week after week, we have decided to step away for a time and get into some more practical matters and basic teachings of Christianity.

One of those topics is Holy Communion. In getting ready for class, I looked through a very practical little devotional book called, "Preparing to Receive Holy Communion," by the late Rev. Paul T. McCain. This book, published by CPH in 2018, is still available and in print. It might be something you or a loved one would enjoy. One of the questions raised in the book is: Why did Christ institute the Sacrament? Great question! And one we should be able to answer.

Everything we teach about the supper Christ gave to the Church must stem from His words spoken when instituting it. Of course, you know them well:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke

*Take,  
eat;  
this is  
My  
body,  
which  
is  
given  
for  
you.*

and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way 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 for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

As Jesus explains, this sacred meal is His true body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine, given for us for the forgiveness of sins. We receive these things (body, blood, bread, wine) remembering Jesus who died for our sins and in doing so established a New Covenant with God. Each time we commune we are "bodied and bloodied" and in Him, we are forgiven and we remember His great saving act on the cross. His victory won on Calvary that establishes a New Testament (promise / covenant) with the Father is communicated or given to us.

In light of this, an answer to the question, "Why did Jesus institute the sacrament?" would be: Jesus gave us this because He wanted to instill in each individual

Christian, a certainty that His forgiveness over sin and death is theirs and He wanted to establish an ongoing memorial of His great work of salvation. He wants His Church to stay centered on this great event and so, in a mysterious and profound way, He gives us Himself to ensure that we know we are His.

But there is even more we can say.

St. Paul explains about the Lord's Supper: "As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim (or, show forth) the Lord's death until He comes." (1st Corinthians 11:26) This means that each time we receive Holy Communion, we declare that we are forgiven on account of Jesus' death for us and we show forth our hope that our Savior will come again and take us to be with Him where He is. (John 14:3) Why did Jesus institute the sacrament? So His Church would continue to proclaim the Gospel hope until He returns.

In his Large Catechism, Martin Luther also gives a great summary of the benefits of Holy Communion which could also explain why Jesus instituted it:

"Those who feel their weakness, who are anxious to be rid of it and desire help, should regard and use the sacrament as a precious antidote against the poison in their systems. For here in the sacrament you are to receive from Christ's lips the forgiveness of sins, which contains and brings with it God's grace and Spirit with all his gifts, protection, defense, and power against death, the devil, and every trouble." LC V:70

Simply put, Jesus gave us the sacrament because He wanted to bless us.

See you in Bible Class,

PrS



*In him we have redemption through  
his blood, the forgiveness of  
our trespasses ...*

*Ephesians 1:7, ESV*

# Come, One and All

*Mark 14:22-24 - And as they were eating, He took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to them, and said, "Take; this is My body." And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks He gave it to them, and they all drank of it. And He said to them, "This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many."*

A few Sundays ago, it was my turn to help with the distribution at the Lord's Supper. In our little church the communicants stand in a circle around the altar. We also use a loaf of bread, and we literally break off the bread as we give it to those who commune. So that is what I was doing, breaking bread off a loaf and giving it to the communicants with the words, "The body of Christ for you."

There they stood—boys and girls, men and women, the young and the old. The boys and girls looked so little standing there among the grown-ups. They were solemn as they accepted the bread. I remember thinking—does he know about the miracle happening here? Does she realize what this sacred moment is all about? And the man with the hands of a mechanic—is this more than a symbolic ritual to him? And then there was the little, stooped lady whose hands trembled a bit when she took the bread. How many times had this Sacrament comforted her in her life?

I'm glad that the benefits of the Sacrament come to people without my judgment of their worthiness or, for that matter, their judgment of mine. If that were the case, it's likely that none of us would step up to take Communion and partake of this divine blessing given to us through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Isn't it great? Shouldn't we celebrate so great an event—when our Lord accepts us as we are and gives us His forgiveness and life and salvation? No wonder we say we "celebrate" the Lord's Supper! It is indeed something to celebrate—and savor—as we go on about our week mindful of all that God has done for us.

But if our Lord accepts us as we are, it seems to me that we can do no less than accept each other as we are, too. That means blemishes and all, worthy or not—wives accepting their husbands, parents accepting children, the elderly accepting the young, the wealthy accepting the poor. For all of us stand before the Lord—unworthy and unacceptable, except for the grace, mercy, and forgiveness of God the Father because of what Jesus did for us on the cross.

**THE PRAYER:** Heavenly Father, thank You for inviting us to Your table that we may commune with You. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

From *The Lutheran Layman*, May 1979 issue, "The Body of Christ for You," by Jon Suel

## Reflection Questions:

1. Have you ever helped distribute the bread and wine for Communion?
2. What are the major benefits to a person taking Communion?
3. Is going to Communion something we should do regularly? If so, why?

*This devotion is from Lutheran Hour Ministries May 28, 2021.*



## Teen Times

There is a certain gift that God blesses our congregation with and I am so thankful that he does. The IMPACT Youth Ministry has had many young people involved in either Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts. These teens have organized several projects over the years to achieve certain ranks in their Scout program, and they have considerably improved the appearance and functionality of our facilities both inside and out. Some of the projects include landscape around the office building, additional trees planted on the church property, a new canopy over the north entrance to the narthex, a repainted and refurbished church nursery, and the installation of outdoor athletic equipment. There is another project in the works for this summer under the direction of Jonah Carter, a junior at McKinney Boyd High School, and a member of BSA Troop 496. He will organize the repair of existing picnic tables, and the construction of two new ones for the church's pavilion. I am sure you noticed the Bluebonnets that adorned our property this past spring and the amount of visitors it attracted to our church grounds. Garrett Hacker spear-headed this effort nearly two years ago and it appears that it will be a major community attraction to Lord of Life for the foreseeable future. We hope to develop some type of strategy for outreach to the guests that it entices. The gift from God that I referred to earlier is the willingness and dedication these young people have to serve our Lord and Savior in this capacity, and involving their friends and colleagues from their Scouting programs to complete the projects.

Another important event for our youth ministry happens this month; the Higher Things Youth Conference. Last year the conference was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but this year it is back in full swing. We will have 13 youth and adults travel with the youth group from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fairview to campus of Concordia University Texas in Austin for 4 days of worship, Bible study, fellowship, and fun. It will be the smallest of the four conferences that Higher Things is conducting this year with only 250 participants, but I am excited for our group to return after nearly 2 years since our last trip. It is always very uplifting to see so many youth with a distinctly Lutheran identity come together in one place.

As always, I thank our Heavenly Father for our congregation, our youth, their parents, and the opportunity to serve everyone through God's grace and guidance.

Until next time,  
Scott Peters



## Lord of Life Small Groups

### EMPTY NESTERS' CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Mike and Sandra Paradise at (972) 424-2951 or [itsparadise.inplano@verizon.net](mailto:itsparadise.inplano@verizon.net)
- † Usually meet one Sat. a month at 2:30 PM

### EPIC PARENTING

- † For 30ish couples with kids
- † For info contact Ben Scarth [BenjaminScarth@yahoo.com](mailto:BenjaminScarth@yahoo.com)
- † Usually meet one Sunday a month in the afternoon or evening

### FRUITS OF THE VINE CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Scott Peters at 972-898-3351 cell or [speters@planolutheran.com](mailto:speters@planolutheran.com)
- † Usually meet one Sun. a month at 5:30 PM

### GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

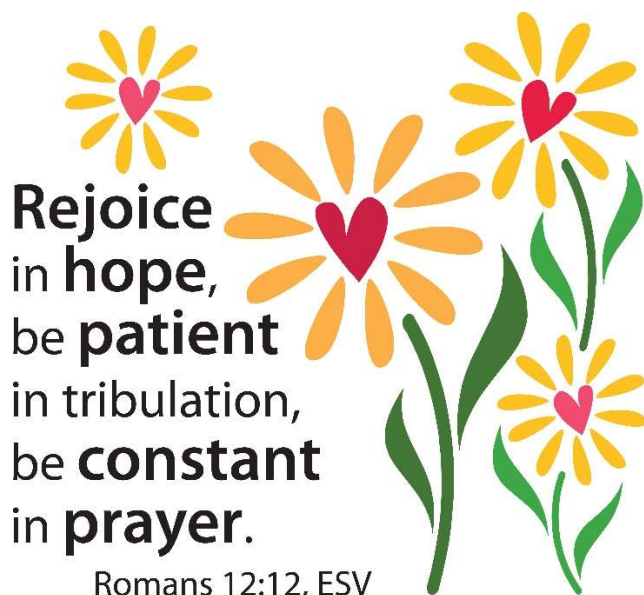
- † For info contact Chris Oltmann at (972) 727-6330 or Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Usually meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of each month at 6:30 PM for Bible study

### MIXED BLESSINGS

- † For info contact Fred and Ruth Bernhardt at (972) 398-0771
- † Will meet Sat. 7/10 at 6:30 PM

### TWENTY SOMETHINGS

- † For couples and singles in their twenties
- † For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at [PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com](mailto:PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com)
- † The group is currently in transition, but has usually met on Sundays after late service



## JULY



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Don Bunger
- 2 Ana Scarth
- 2 Emily Scarth
- 3 Nelda Schrank
- 5 Mike Phelan
- 7 Joe Bob Isbell
- 7 Sylvia Rippey
- 8 Emma Padgett
- 10 Brooks Smith
- 12 Donovan Cawood
- 12 Suzan Grabow
- 13 Carter Bunger
- 13 Sandy Ehrett
- 13 Ethan Hacker
- 13 Garrett Hacker
- 14 Carol Nance
- 17 Becky Padgett
- 17 Ben & Melanie Scarth (11)
- 18 Katherine Plagens
- 19 Carolyn Moudy
- 19 Emma Ziegelbein
- 19 Noah Ziegelbein
- 20 Don Padgett
- 20 Magdalena Shaltanis
- 22 Kevin Reeves
- 23 Charlie & Lynda Abbott (55)
- 24 Jonelle Peters
- 24 Matt Sims
- 26 David Armstrong
- 26 John Frinsko
- 26 Winona Parish
- 29 Phil & Candace Klein (32)
- 30 Kenneth Tabor
- 30 Charles & Dixie Hacker (27)



# prepare for worship in july

## July 4: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Ezek. 2:1-5; 2 Cor. 12:1-10; Mark 6:1-13

Hymn of the Day: "Rise! To Arms! With Prayer  
Employ You," 668

## July 11: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Amos 7:7-15; Eph. 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

Hymn of the Day: "Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid,"  
500

## July 18: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

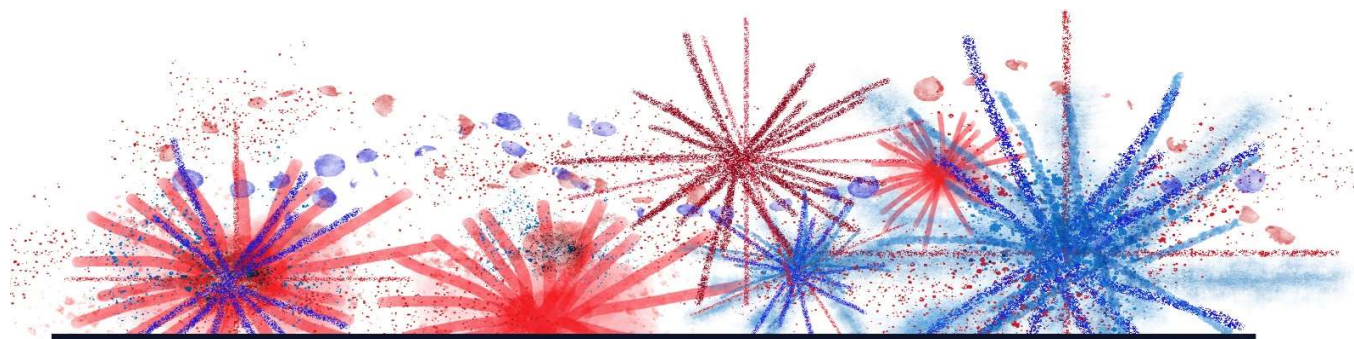
Texts: Jer. 23:1-6; Eph. 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-44

Hymn of the Day: "Evening and Morning," 726

## July 25: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Gen. 9:8-17; Eph. 3:14-21; Mark 6:45-56

Hymn of the Day: "Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of  
Old," 846



## SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

### 5 Months Ending May 2021

|                             | Y-T-D Operating<br>Funds | Y-T-D<br>Budget  | Variance         | Jan-Dec 2020<br>Budget |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Contributions</b>        |                          |                  |                  |                        |
| Regular Offerings           | \$237,567                | \$237,889        | (\$322)          | \$581,908              |
| Other                       | \$87                     | \$0              | \$87             | \$0                    |
| <b>Total Income</b>         | <b>\$237,654</b>         | <b>\$237,889</b> | <b>(\$235)</b>   | <b>\$581,908</b>       |
| <b>Expenses</b>             |                          |                  |                  |                        |
| Operating Expenses          | \$229,826                | \$230,017        | (\$191)          | \$550,845              |
| Mortgage Payment (P&I)      | \$20,060                 | \$12,900         | \$7,160          | \$30,960               |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>       | <b>\$249,886</b>         | <b>\$242,917</b> | <b>\$6,969</b>   | <b>\$581,805</b>       |
| <b>Surplus or (Deficit)</b> | <b>(\$12,231)</b>        | <b>(\$5,028)</b> | <b>(\$7,203)</b> | <b>\$103</b>           |
| <b>Other Information:</b>   |                          |                  |                  |                        |
| Operating Fund Balance      | \$101,717                |                  |                  |                        |
| Restricted Funds Balance    | \$118,138                |                  |                  |                        |
| Building Loan Balance       | \$174,633                |                  |                  |                        |