

September 2024

Sundays

Worship Service 9:30am

Sunday School & Bible Class 10:30am

Mondays

Spanish Class 4pm

Tuesdays

Celebrate Recovery
meetings 5-8pm

Wednesdays

Woman's Bible study 5pm
Confirmation class 5pm

1st & 3rd Saturday

Men's Bible study
September 7th & 21st at 9am

BIRTHDAYS

Harry Beard 9/16

Mike Austin 9/23

Bill Rose 9/23

Garrett Greesley 9/17

ANNIVERSERIES

Travis & Stephanie Jones 9/12

MEETINGS

9/4 Lutheranns 3:30

9/7 Trustees 9am

9/9 Education 6pm

Finance 6:30

Tech & Com 7pm

South Bend Cubs Outing

Sunday

September 1st 7pm

Office Closed

Labor Day

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 404 Jefferson Street, Rochester, Indiana 46975

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What God says about Communion/Lord's Supper

John6:52–56ESV

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”⁵³ So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. ⁵⁵ **For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.** ⁵⁶ **Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.** ⁵⁷ As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever.”

1Corinthians11:23-32ESV

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “**This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.**”²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “**This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.**”²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ **Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.** ²⁸ **Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.** ²⁹ **For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.** ³⁰ That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. ³¹ **But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged.** ³² **But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.**

Matthew26:28ESV

²⁸ **for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.**

Most people think that the Lord's Supper is sharing a meal with our Lord Jesus. After you have read “What God says about communion,” I hope you now believe you are having a meal of our Lord Jesus who gave His Body and Blood to be food of forgiveness and remembrance of how and why Jesus Christ gave up His Body and Blood for us.

Our Lord Jesus Christ did not die on the cross to just give us food and drink. Christ gave Himself up to suffering and dying on the cross to forgive all of our sins. And this, Christ did out of the love of our God who brings salvation to all whom He calls. Though God calls all to be His adopted children, only those who listen to the Holy Spirit and believe will inherit eternal life. One also has to realize that eternal life is also eternal relationship with our benevolent and loving God.

The question that most people have is, “Why cannot everybody take communion?” First realize that one does not need communion to be saved and have eternal life and relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. There are serious qualifications in God's word before one can take the Lord's Supper. Again Read “What God says about communion.”

These qualifications are why we (LCMS) have Catechism for our youth, new members who do not know Christ, and new members who come from different denominations. Not all denominations correctly teach the seriousness of taking the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior.

Without the proper knowledge and teaching of the Lord's Supper we would be allowing people to take it to their judgement. This is not in our hearts to see one be judged. This also brings judgement upon the pastor serving the Lord's Supper.

James 3:1 ESV Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that **we who teach will be judged with greater strictness.**³

This is not about us or you, but rather about what our God wants for all believers.

John 3:17 ESV ¹⁷ **For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.**

Pastor's Page

Matthew 16:25–28 ²⁵For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.

I would say of most Christians and Jews that their first priority is to themselves. The second priority is their family. And our last priority is God our Father in heaven. It is not that we try to put God last, but it is the way we live. In fact, it is the way we are taught to live within our society. It is in most cultures to put God last.

Maybe this is why many are falling away from the churches and temples. God is an afterthought many times and sometimes we might even forget that God is in the room with us. Immanuel, God with us. Yet we speak about Him as if He resided in another room with closed doors, or maybe God resides in the Box we think we created for Him. Although most do not realize they made a Box to imprison God. Gratefully God does not fit in any of our Boxes.

So, what it means to lose one's life is to stop living the way of the world. Stop thinking you're in control. Stop trying to put God in a Box and trying to hide God in your closet. This does not mean that you must sell everything, get rid of everything, or give away everything. It means that we need to be re-raised, reprogramed, and to re-learn to live our lives for God. After all, we are the ones in a box. God is limitless we are limited.

We see in God's word that His justice is different than mankind's justice. If you take insult to the word mankind, then you clearly live for the world and look to take insult to anything you can wrap your ears around. Sorry, mankind wants somebody to take the blame, someone to be punished, somebody to pay for all that was done to them. And yes, for those who take offence at using the word mankind, womenkind are

just as bad at the blame game and all the rest.

God's justice is different to mankind's justice. God gave us someone to take the blame, and someone to take the punishment. God gave somebody to pay for all that was done against God, against one another, and even against ourselves. So, God says...

Romans 12:9–21 ¹⁷*Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.* ¹⁸*If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.* ¹⁹*Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.”*

God did not come to get even; God gave us mercy instead. We, that is the world, look for every opportunity to seek revenge and then we fool ourselves into calling it justice. What does revenge accomplish, other than it is another sin committed, it is another sin to be forgiven?

I have heard people truly forgive occasionally, but not as many times as is needed. It is so hard for people to understand that forgiveness is part of the healing process for the one “forgiving.” In other words, you do not have to continue to hold a grudge and suffer the consequences of holding onto a grudge.

We need to put God first and realize nobody is getting away with anything. This does not mean that there should be no retribution through consequences. But it does mean that we should not sit and stew over the sins of others as we too deserve the consequences for our own sins. It's called grace and mercy, the gospel in action, what God does for us daily.

Romans 12:9–21 ²⁰*To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.”* ²¹*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

As I have been told myself, kill them with kindness, rather than with anger or revenge. As I said before no one gets away with anything. Remember God is always in the room wherever we are. God sees everything we do as well as seeing everything someone else does.

So let God see our kindness, let our kindness be seen and felt by those who are our enemies as well as those who are friends and family. It will baffle our enemy and maybe even change their trajectory.

Ever gained a friend from one who used to be an enemy? It can happen and it has happened. God gave His son to die for us while we were His enemy (Romans 5:10) and has marked us to be His children through our Baptism.

It is the Baptism of forgiveness that marks us to receive God's mercy. It is the suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ that gives us God's grace. He has turned us, the enemy, into His beloved children and accepts us as friends (John 15:15).

Romans 12:9–21 ⁹*Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.* ¹⁰*Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.* ¹¹*Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.* ¹²*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.* ¹³*Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.*

The world no longer understands how to love as it has replaced love with forms of lust and acceptance. We should love one another rather than being like the world who thinks we should love ourselves first and hate anyone who gets in our way. The world wants us to accept one another's sin as something to be considered a good trait.

We must learn how to love genuinely and understand that loving someone does not mean condoning their sins, accepting their harmful beliefs, or letting them corrupt our children. We learn to be honest with our words, and willing to be called out for our sin. We love better when we love God first, our family second, our friends and neighbors, and then ourselves. We are all sinners who need help and help came with Jesus Christ.

Romans 12:9–21 ¹⁴*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.* ¹⁵*Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.* ¹⁶*Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be conceited.*

This is our Savior who came to us as one of us and treated all with love. Jesus was not afraid to let us know when He saw sin come from us. Jesus did not condemn us when He told us we sinned. In fact, Jesus saved people from sinning and saved a life from their sinful desire to kill this person.

Jesus Christ, our Savior, upon the cross forgave His persecutors and told the Father that these persecutors did not realize, did not know what they are doing. We are forgiven, and I hope those words hold true for many as many do not understand what they do. May the mercy and grace of our Lord baptize you to everlasting life. May all be blessed by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ's body and blood. May we all live together in eternity and community with God. Amen.

Written by Pastor Curtis A. May

Catechism classes starting



Wednesday September 18th

Anyone 6th grade and older is invited to join Pastor May on Wednesdays from 5-6pm. Learn what it means to be Lutheran, and become a member of our Missouri Synod Lutheran church.

See Pastor May for details. 574-835-8355

Trail of Courage

Sept 21st 10am - 6pm
Sept 22nd 10am - 4pm

**we will be manning the booth that
sells apple dumplings & will earn \$1000 for the church.**

Sign up today.

Spanish class

Starting Monday Sept 16th at 4pm

Want to learn Spanish? Stop in and give it a try.

SEPTEMBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 C-Worship 9:30 Sun School 10:30 Cubs game outing	2 Labor Day Office closed	3 CR 5-8pm	4 Lutherans 3:30pm Women's Bible study 5pm	5	6	7 Men's Bible study 9am
8 Worship 9:30 Sun School 10:30	9 Hickory Creek Bible study 10:30am Education 6pm Finance 6:30 Tech & Com 7pm	10 CR 5-8pm	11 Confirmation Class 5pm Women's Bible study 5pm	12	13	14
15 C-Worship 9:30 Sun School 10:30 Prayer walk/vigil	16 Spanish class 4pm	17 CR 5-8pm	18 Confirmation Class 5pm Women's Bible study 5pm	19	20	21 Men's Bible study 9am Trail of Courage 10-6pm
22 +Worship 9:30 Sun School 10:30 Trail of Courage 10-6pm	23 Spanish class 4pm	24 CR 5-8pm	25 Confirmation Class 5pm Women's Bible study 5pm	26	27	28
29 Worship 9:30 Sun School 10:30	30 Spanish class 4pm				C-Communion offered +Sacrificial Sunday- extra giving opportunity	