

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 6-7, 2021



This is the final green Sunday of Epiphany-tide before the white of Transfiguration. The Gospel from Mark 1—the account of Jesus healing Peter’s mother-in-law, then of more healing and release of the sick and demon-possessed, and, finally, of His preaching “throughout all Galilee”—fits well with the Isaiah text: Jesus is God in the flesh, who is both able and willing to do for us, whom He loves, whatever we need. Jesus dwelled among us and is among us still. By His Word, light and life break in on those who sit at His feet in the Divine Service. Identifying who, precisely, Jesus of Nazareth is was a critical endeavor for those who interacted with Him two thousand years ago. This is an ongoing element of Christianity. Jesus continues to reveal Himself. For the most part, the Son of God laid aside His divine prerogatives. During the season of Epiphany, we focus on those demonstrations of divine authority that lead us to identify Jesus aright. Christmas tells us that “God became man.” Epiphany tells us that this man is God. To be sure, the whole life of Christ is an epiphany, a revelation of God’s glory. During this season, we hone our gaze on what lies beneath our Lord’s miracles. What we find there is His divinity. We recognize that the same Lord works in our midst, and we rejoice to greet our present King.

St. John’s Lutheran Church and School

12809 State Route 736 Marysville, OH 43040

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School Website: www.sjsmarysville.org

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Rev. Jack D. Heino, Sr. Pastor 937-240-3002

Mr. Rich Rausch, Principal 937-240-3003

Equipping the family of God to joyfully and boldly make disciples of Christ as we

KNOW Jesus and one another, **GROW** to be more like Him and

SOW His love in Word and deed.



Weekend Worship Services

Dale Scheiderer – Organist

“Able and Willing” - Isaiah 40:21-31

Is there anything God isn't powerful enough to do? Well, of course, we know God is omnipotent, almighty, so we know the answer is no. Well, maybe you knew God is able, but your real question was whether He was willing to work on your behalf. And there is the rub. The promise is ours: “They who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength . . . they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint,” here, hidden in the midst of weakness and exile, but finally there in our homeland with Him forever.

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Make a note on your worship folder that you can read & remember EVERY DAY in the coming week to bring you back to the place where you began to worship today.

WELCOME

A LITTLE LITURGY LESSON: Luke 4:17-21 (ESV)

Old Testament Reading

¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” ²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

RINGING OF THE BELLS

As the Bell rings at the beginning of worship – take time to silently pray for the Holy Spirit to fill you as God TRULY arrives in His Word and Sacrament among us.

OPENING HYMN

“Fight the Good Fight”

LSB 664 sts. 1-2

1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your
2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; Lift up your
strength, and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and
eyes, and seek His face. Life with its way be -
it shall be Your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
fore us lies; Christ is the path, and Christ the prize.

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INVOCATION

Take a moment when you first wake up to begin your day with the invocation and remember the grace of your baptism. End each day this week as soon as you go to bed in the same way.

CONFESSION

1 Corinthians 9:24–25

Each day confess your “sin-fullness” before God and ask Him for His forgiveness and the Holy Spirit to use you and yours to His glory.

P: O God, You have come to call us to repentance and faith, to salvation and life. We come before You to confess and repent of our sins.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the times we have tried to keep our faith a private concern, failing to be all things to all people for the sake of Your kingdom, instead seeking Your blessings only for ourselves.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the times we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves and have neglected prayer and concern for the community in need around us and for people throughout the world.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the many faults and failings that are known only to You.

C: Lord, have mercy.

ABSOLUTION

Think of ways you can each day this week creatively show forth (Epiphany) your sense of rejoicing that your “sin-fullness” has been cleansed.

P: We hear today in God’s Word, “Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.” As we run to our Savior in repentance and rely on Him to receive the crown of life He alone has earned, and upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

INTROIT

Psalm 13:3–5; antiphon: v. 6

If you wear a cross or have a cross hanging in your home, perhaps each day remember that cross is Not simple piece of jewelry nor a decoration on the wall but the focus and final authority in your daily life.

I will sing | to the LORD,*

because he has dealt bountifully | with me.

Consider and answer me, O | LORD my God;*

light up my eyes, lest I sleep the | sleep of death,

lest my enemy say, “I have prevailed | over him,”*

lest my foes rejoice because I am | shaken.

But I have trusted in your | steadfast love;*

my heart shall rejoice in your sal- | vation.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I will sing | to the LORD,*

because he has dealt bountifully | with me.

SALUTATION

As you meet people throughout the coming week, pause for a moment and consider the greeting and the motivation of your heart and feelings towards the person you greet. What message do you want to send to the community around you today with your greetings?

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

PRAYER OF THE DAY

1) Address 2) basis for the petition 3) the petition 4) reason for the petition 5) conclusion of praise to God. Use these 5 parts of prayer for your table grace, morning or evening prayer each day this week.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Isaiah 40:21–31*

The Israelites complained out of their seen circumstances, but the Lord can see all in His great power and mighty strength. He is everlasting, never growing weary, and renews the strength of the weak.

²¹Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in; ²³who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. ²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. ²⁵To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One. ²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name, by the greatness of his might, and because he is strong in power not one is missing. ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: *1 Corinthians 9:16–27*

The apostle Paul compared the Christian life to a runner in a race winning a prize. Life in the Lord is not temporary- it's everlasting. So we must win as many to the Lord and keep our eyes on the heavenly reward of eternity with Jesus.

¹⁶If I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! ¹⁷For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. ¹⁹For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them. ²⁰To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. ²¹To those outside the law I became as one outside the law

(not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. ²²To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. ²³I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings. ²⁴Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. ²⁵Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. ²⁶So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL: *Mark 1:29–39*

From the start of His ministry, Jesus ushered in the kingdom of God by casting out opposing demons, unclean spirits, and bringing healing to those who were ill like Simon's mother-in-law.

Jesus helped up the feverish woman and immediately her fever left her and she began serving the men with the new strength the Lord imparted to her.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁹Immediately [Jesus] left the synagogue and entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law lay ill with a fever, and immediately they told him about her. ³¹And he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening at sundown they brought to him all who were sick or oppressed by demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴And he healed many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons. And he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. ³⁶And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, ³⁷and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." ³⁸And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." ³⁹And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON MESSAGE: "Able and Willing" - Isaiah 40:21–31

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life + of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERINGS OF OUR TIME, TALENTS & TREASURES

“Lord, we are yours. This represents our heart, our attitude, our spirit, and our willingness to recognize and submit to you as our Lord.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

WORDS OF OUR LORD

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

BENEDICTION

Based on 1 Corinthians 9

P: As the Lord healed the mother-in-law of Peter, so He heals the wounds of our hearts.

C: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

P: As Jesus sent away the evil spirits, so He gives us His Spirit of faith and love.

C: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

P: As He preached the Gospel to all of Galilee, so He brings His life to us.

C: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

P: In all we do for the sake of the Gospel, that we may share in its blessings.

C: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“Fight the Good Fight”

LSB 664 sts. 3-4

3 Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; His bound - less
4 Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He chang - es
mer - cy will pro - vide. Trust, and en - dur - ing
not who holds you dear; On - ly be - lieve, and
faith shall prove Christ is your life and Christ your love.
you will see That Christ is all e - ter - nal - ly.

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NOTES AND NEWS

Church Sanctuary Worship Service Guidelines

Special guidelines will be followed to help assure the safety of everyone attending church, but we know the coronavirus is still active among us. We know that God desires us all to be together in worship again, but we are also sure He wants us to use good judgement in protecting our health.

- We encourage elderly, at-risk, and symptomatic people to continue worshipping from home (the “live streaming” service on Face Book continues).
“At risk” conditions include: 65 years or older, chronic lung disease, moderate/severe asthma, serious heart conditions, compromised immune systems, severe obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis and liver disease.
- **Wearing face masks inside the church/sanctuary is REQUIRED.** If you don’t have one, masks are available throughout the church, along with hand sanitizing stations. Pastor will wear a mask, except when preaching God’s Word.
- Services will be held at 6:00 pm on Saturdays, and 9:00 am & 11:00 am on Sundays. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to each service and secured during the services.
- To comply with 6’ social distancing guidelines, seating will be limited to every third pew (2 pews in between). Family groups and individuals will be separated by 6’ in each pew. Services will be limited to approximately 75 attendees. Overflow will be asked to listen to the service on FM 92.1 in their cars.
- Ushers and Elders will assist with entry and dismissal to maintain social distancing. Do not sit in the taped off pews and follow the Ushers/Elders directions. We will be seating front to back upon entry and dismissing from back to front.
- Ushers (wearing gloves & masks) will hand out bulletins with the service liturgy and hymns (please take these home; they can’t be reused). Hymnals, Bibles and attendance books have been removed from the pews.
- Offerings are collected at the sanctuary doorways while exiting the service. Exit the church promptly upon dismissal as the sanctuary, hallways, restrooms **MUST** be sanitized before the next service. Please socialize outside the church.

These guidelines are based on current Federal, State and County Health requirements and the recommendations of the LCMS to provide for your well-being. Although, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of Covid-19 or other infectious agents, the ultimate responsibility for preventative measures belongs to whomever comes to join us at St. Johns’. Thank you for your patience and understanding during these challenging time.

Additional Worship Service Information: (all 3 services are traditional worship services)

- By Radio - You can join our 9:00 a.m. service by tuning to WQTT1270 AM and 96.7 FM.
- Join us in the parking lot by tuning your car radio to 92.1 FM at any of our sanctuary services.
- Join us on Facebook at 11:00 a.m. for our “live streaming” service, or after on Sundays at:
<https://www.facebook.com/jack.heino>

Sacrament of the Holy Communion: We are offering the Sacrament of the Holy Communion on the first and third weekends of each month. **This will be given in the Marie Pfarr Room** as you leave and only individual cups will be offered. If you wish not to receive the Sacrament, you may exit out the front doors or wait in line and exit from the Marie Pfarr Room. Please follow social distancing and hand sanitizer is available. **If you choose to attend worship from the parking lot instead of the sanctuary,** as soon as the church has emptied, you will be invited to come in and receive communion at that time, or to avoid leaving your vehicle you can drive under the portico (Marie Pfarr Room side), stop and roll down your window to receive communion.

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S!

Welcome to St. John's. Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We pray that you will encounter Christ, the Living Word, and in a new way experience His mercy and grace today. If you are a guest or visitor we hope we have the chance to say hello. If you would like to know more about our ministry, please call the church office at 937-644-5549.

The Lutheran Hour is on the radio Sunday mornings at **7:00am on WLW (700 AM)**. Log on to www.lhm.org for more information and channels. Jim Vandre, LHM Ambassador.

St. John's Radio Program airs Sunday mornings at **8:30am** on local channel **WQTT (1270 AM & 98.7 FM)**.

Altar Flowers: Altar flowers are given as a celebration of 30 years of marriage by **Lorene and Phil Eley** who were married on February 9th, 1991. *"So now faith hope and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."*

1 Corinthians 13:13

THE LORD'S WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S FEBRUARY 7-14, 2021

We continue to review events based on the Covid-19 health protocol.

TODAY	9:00 am	Sanctuary Worship Service/Communion
02/07	10:00 am	Adult & Young Adult Bible Study/ Youth & Children Sunday School
	10:00 am	Youth Catechism Class/Classrooms
	10:00 am	2020 Youth Confirmation Meeting/Gym
	11:00 am	Sanctuary Worship Service/Communion & "Live Streaming"
MONDAY	7:00 pm	Stewardship Committee Meeting/Heritage House
	8:00 pm	Adult Open Gym Volleyball
TUESDAY	11:30 am	Ladies Aid Quilting
	7:00 pm	Board of Administration Meeting/Heritage House
WEDNESDAY	6:00 pm	LYF Zoom Gathering
THURSDAY	12:00 pm	Ladies Aid Quilting
FRIDAY		No School: Teacher In-Service
	6:00 pm	SJS Boys BBall Home vs. Tree of Life
SATURDAY	7:30 am	Ladies Morning Bible Study/Heritage House
	6:00 pm	Sanctuary Worship Service
SUNDAY	9:00 am	Sanctuary Worship Service
02/14	10:00 am	Adult & Young Adult Bible Study/ Youth & Children Sunday School
	10:00 am	Youth Catechism Class/Classrooms
	11:00 am	Sanctuary Worship Service & "Live Streaming"

ALL AGES SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:00 - 11:00 am

3 Years-Kindergarten—Church Basement

3 Years-Kindergarten—Zoom: **Email Colleen Foster** at colleenearl11@yahoo.com for link and password

1st-6th Grades—Teacher Nichol Nicol's School Classroom

7th & 8th Grade Youth Catechism Class—Mrs. Bowsher & Mrs. Monroe's Classrooms

High School Youth "Cornerstone Discipleship"—Youth House

Women's Bible Study—School Loft

Adult Bible Study—School Cafeteria: **Topic—The Book of Genesis: Through this nine session study, you will deepen your understanding of God's plan of salvation through Jesus.**

If you have questions, please contact Sunday School Superintendent, Lisa Arnold at 937-205-1802 or arnoldlisa50@yahoo.com

Congregational Tithes Third Quarter Mission

Opportunities of Fiscal Year 2020-21



Ohio District LCMS - 50%, Hearts for Jesus - 10%, Youth Mission Outreach - 10%, L.A.M.P. - 10%, Kingdom Investments International - 10%, Food for the Poor - 10%

Weekly Church Attendance

6:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. Sunday
1/30 & 1/31: 74

Mobile Version of Online Giving: St. John's offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give by credit or debit card anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader! You may also go to stjohnsmarysville.org and click on the "Electronic Giving" button and follow the easy directions.



Weekly Worship Bible Readings

For those of you who would like to study the Word ahead of the next weekends worship services, we are listing here in the N&N the Bible readings that Pastor Jack will be using.

February 13-14, 2021

Old Testament Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12

Epistle Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18; 4:1-6

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

NOTES & NEWS ITEMS



2021 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR DATES

Available dates for altar flowers in February through May are as follows:

February 28

April 25

March 21

May 2

April 18

There are also many dates available for altar flowers throughout the remaining months. Please call Charlotte Blumenschein at (937) 644-4111 to reserve any special dates for flowers in church. Chancel flowers are available almost every weekend.

The Flower Committee thanks you for your continued support.

Edmund Schafer Outreach

Some of you may remember long-time teacher and organist here at St. John's, **Edmund Schafer**. Recently, I was made aware that he had a health issue in early November which sent him to the hospital for a couple of weeks. He spent three weeks in rehab and has since decided it best to remain in assisted living in Wisconsin. His recovery is to the point where he is ready to receive letters, cards and phone calls. I'm sure he would appreciate hearing from his St. John's family. Respectfully, Amy Nicol-Wagner

His contact information is:

Edmund Schafer
Luther Manor Unit L220
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin 53225
(414) 464-9934

LYF Zoom Devotions and Games

Wednesday, 2/10: Zoom Devotions and Games: Join us at 6pm on Zoom for some fun and fellowship, including our devotional series *Fire and Faithfulness*. You can find us at the following link:

<https://zoom.us/j/94367146534>



The Winter 2020 Edition of the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly is available on the lwml.org website under the News & Events tab and then by clicking Lutheran Woman's Quarterly. This edition of the quarterly does have the information and registration forms for the convention which at this time is still on.

The Spring 2021 ODE is available on the lwmlohio.org website under resources The ODE.

The LWML Ohio District is helping host the 2021 National LWML convention in Lexington, KY June 24th-27th, 2021. Please consider volunteering to help at the convention. If you volunteer for at least 8 hours you will have a discounted registration. I have already signed up to be an usher at the convention. The newsletters for the convention are on the lwmlohio.org website. If you have any questions, please reach out to Stephanie Petee 614-588-4187 via phone or text.



CONFIDENTIAL!

That's what Stephen Ministry is. Everything a person tells his or her Stephen Minister is kept in strict confidence. People are often afraid that if they tell someone what is troubling them, word will get around and others will look down on them. But a Stephen Minister keeps everything a care receiver shares confidential, and through the sharing God works miracles of healing and peace. If you would like more information on our Stephen Ministry, contact Doug Doellinger at 937-644-0576 or Linda Kosakowski at 614-506-6179.

Weekly Schedule - Please submit articles and announcements to

Regina Bullerman, Church Secretary, by calling directly at 937-240-3004, dropping them in the black lockbox outside the office doors, mailing or emailing them to rbullerman@sjsmarysville.org, by

NO LATER THAN TUESDAY, AT NOON. Thank you.

Soar on Wings God has Made for You

Golden Eagles

Share Love This Valentine's Day!

My most vivid childhood memory of Valentine's Day is celebrating the holiday with my classmates in elementary school. I loved decorating my shoebox with heart cutouts made from red construction paper, white paper doilies, glitter, and little pieces of ribbon my Mom would coax into curls with her scissors. Dad always cut the slot in the lid with his pocket knife, so my classmates could drop in their cards. The rule was that you had to bring a card for each student, so no one's feelings would be hurt.

It was always a treat when Mom would take my sister and I to the dime store to shop for our cards. We loved going to Kresges, and would pour over the piles of packaged Valentine's Day greetings until we found the perfect ones! They varied from the frilliest hearts and flowers to comic strip characters like Looney Tunes or Little Lulu, and came in small cellophane covered packages of 24. Since there were always at least 30 in our classes, my Mom would then have the challenge of having us find an extra package we both could agree on which we could split between us. Purchasing an extra package for each of us was far too wasteful and out of the question.

The day of the party, we boarded the bus with our fancy boxes, and proudly displayed them on our desks until the bell rang, when they were relegated to the coat closet until party time. Near the end of the day, our teacher would announce that we could retrieve our boxes, and in the next several minutes the class-room would erupt into a happy chaos, as we rushed up and down the rows of desks dropping cards into each bedazzled box! When all the cards were delivered, we returned to our desks and ripped open the envelopes, counting the cards inside.

But I remember one year when a very shy boy named Timmy, whose clothes always seemed to be two sizes too small for him, didn't bring a box. Our teacher didn't go out to recess that morning like she always did, and neither did the boy. When we took our lunch boxes to the cafeteria at noon, the two stayed in the room again. At the end of the day when we retrieved our boxes from the closet, we noticed that Timmy now had a box, and it was completely covered in white paper, the same kind that was on our painting easels. On it were hand drawn crayon hearts and arrows. As we opened our boxes, we found frilly and funny dime store cards... sadly, many exact duplicates of the ones we had so carefully chosen at Kresges. And in each box was one hand-made valentine crafted from pink and red construction paper, decorated with glitter and tiny folded white hearts. Inside it said, "Thank you for being my friend, Timmy."

Valentine's Day is a reminder of how we have been loved and who first loved us! Too often we ignore the opportunity to share Christ's love through the simplest actions. By all means, send loving greetings to those you hold dear. But remember, on Valentine's Day, if there is a void in someone's life where love should be, that emptiness is often magnified by seeing all that goes on around them, but doesn't include them. Seek out those whose family lives far away. Call your friends to tell them how much you appreciate the love your families have shared over the years. Drop a card to a friend who has been all alone during this pandemic. It takes such a small act to make someone feel remembered and valued. Let Valentine's Day serve as a reminder of God's love and the command He has given us to show love to others.

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

John 4:7-8

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

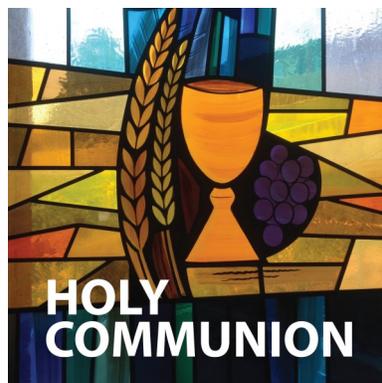
The following is a summary of what we believe and teach as Missouri Synod Lutheran Christians. Because we care for you, we ask that you carefully review the following statements:

1. I have been baptized into the name of the one true God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:16-20*
2. I have been instructed concerning the meaning of Holy Communion, understand the importance of self-examination prior to coming to the Lord's Supper and have made my confirmation of faith. *1 Corinthians 11:27-29*
3. I confess that I am a sinner in need of forgiveness. I am sorry for my sins. *1 John 1:8-9*
4. I believe that Jesus Christ, God's Son, is my Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil. *Romans 3:21-24*
5. I believe that the body and blood of Jesus Christ are really present in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and I desire to receive Christ's body and blood, given and shed for my forgiveness. *1 Corinthians 11:23-26*
6. If possible, so far as it depends on me, I seek to live peaceably with all. *Romans 12:17-19*
7. By the power of the Holy Spirit, I desire and intend to lead a more Godly and Christ-like life, trusting in God's promises and obeying His commands. *Galatians 5:22-24*

If you unreservedly agree with the seven points above, you are invited to come to the Lord's Supper. If you do not agree with one or more of the seven points, please refrain from participating in Holy Communion lest you sin against the body and blood of the Lord. If you agree with the seven points above but are not a member of St. John's, we welcome you to the Lord's Table and invite you to give prayerful consideration to joining our partnership in the Gospel. You are encouraged to speak with a pastor or elder prior to communing regarding any point(s) of disagreement and/or regarding the process of joining St. John's.

Gluten-Free Communion Wafers: A gluten-free communion wafer option is now available for those who are allergic. They are located in the brass cup in the middle of the communion plate.

Communion Wine: For those who have health related, or other issues with drinking alcohol, please take the purple individual communion cup. It contains all water with one drop of wine.



LORD THE LORD

is the everlasting God, the Creator of the
ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow
weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

ISAIAH 40:28