



## LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH AND SCHOOL

(Grades K-8)

CLC - Church of the Lutheran Confession  
134 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Fond du Lac, WI 54935  
(920) 922-7421

9:00 am Summer Service

Pastor Dave Naumann  
Teacher Amy Osborne

Principal Dave Bernthal  
Teacher Anita Meyer

Fdllutheran.com

9<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

AUGUST 2, 2009

**Preparation for Worship:** Read Psalm 85 front of hymnal p. 140  
The Hymns: 648, 491, 315, 644  
Prayer: *Lord God, heavenly Father, We beseech Thee, graciously abide among us with Thy blessing, and keep us from covetousness and the cares of this life, that we may seek first Thy kingdom and Thy righteousness, and in all things needful for body and soul, experience Thine ever-present help; through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, Amen.*

### The Order of our Communion Service

#### Bells – Opening Prayer

First Hymn 648

#### THE INVOCATION

*We invoke ("call upon") the name of the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
(Hymnal, page 5)*

**PASTOR:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

**CONGR: (sing)** *Amen.*

#### THE SALUTATION *(Greeting)*

**PASTOR:** The Lord be with you.

**CONGR: (sing)** *And with thy spirit.*

#### THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

*The main thoughts for the day are "collected" together in this prayer.*

**PASTOR** Let us pray...

**CONGR: (sing)** *Amen.*

#### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

*God speaks to us.*

##### The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. 7 And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the

ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. 8 Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one."

**PASTOR:** This ends our Old Testament Reading.  
Blessed are they that hear the Word of God  
and keep it. Hallelujah!

**CONGR: (sing)** *Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

### **ANTHEM BY THE VBS CHILDREN**

"Praise Him, Praise Him"

1. Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children;  
God is Love, God is Love  
Praise Him, praise Him, all ye little children;  
God is Love, God is Love
2. Love Him, love Him
3. Thank Him, thank Him

### **THE NEW TESTAMENT READING AND VBS LESSON 5:**

Acts 1:9-11 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

### **ANTHEM BY THE VBS CHILDREN**

"God Loves Me Dearly"

*God loves me dearly, grants me salvation  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

*Refrain: Therefore I'll say again; God loves me dearly  
God loves me dearly, loves even me.*

*I was in bondage, sin, death and darkness,  
God's love was working to make me free. (Refrain)*

*He sent forth Jesus, that true Redeemer,*

*He sent forth Jesus, and set me free. (Refrain)*

*Jesus my Savior, Himself did offer.*

*Jesus my Savior, paid all I owed. (Refrain)*

### **THE NICENE CREED**

*We boldly confess what we believe. (Hymnal, page 22)*

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 Ghost 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 sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe 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.

### **The Installation of our Teacher Elect: Miss Anita Meyer**

#### **The Hymn 491**

1. Send, O Lord, Thy Holy Spirit  
On Thy servant now, we pray;  
Let her prove a faithful shepherd  
To Thy little lambs alway.  
Thy pure teaching to proclaim,  
To extol Thy holy Name,  
And to feed Thy lambs, dear Savior,  
Make her aim and sole endeavor.

2. Thou, O Lord, Thyself hast called her  
For Thy precious lambs to care;  
But to prosper in her calling,

She the Spirit's gifts must share.  
Grant her wisdom from above,  
Fill her heart with holy love;  
In all weakness be Thou near her,  
In her prayers, Good Shepherd, hear her.  
3. Help, Lord Jesus, help her nourish  
Our dear children with Thy Word  
That in constant love they serve Thee  
Till in heav'n their song is heard.  
Boundless blessings, Lord, bestow  
On her faithful toil below  
Till by grace to her is given  
Her reward, the crown of heaven.

### **THE SERMON**

Romans 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Theme: "THE HOLY SPIRIT IS YOUR HELPER"

- I. With your weaknesses
- II. With your heart

### **THE OFFERTORY**

*In this prayer we OFFER God our hearts, asking Him for that best of all gifts, the Holy Spirit.*

(Hymnal, pages 12-13) (sing)

***Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.***

### **THE OFFERING OF THANKFUL HEARTS**

*In tangible evidence of our gratitude, we offer the Lord the gift of our money, remembering that He has first given to us that we might have to give to Him.*

## **THE GENERAL PRAYER**

(Pastor)

### **THE CONFESSION OF SINS**

*We come before our Holy God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

**PASTOR:** Having now heard the Word of God, I invite the congregation to kneel or stand and make confession of your sins.  
(kneelers are available under the pews on the right side of church)

**ALL:** O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

**PASTOR:** If this is your sincere confession, then answer by saying "yes."

**CONGR: Yes.**

**PASTOR:** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called servant of God's 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 Ghost. Amen.

Arise now in peace. Let us continue our Communion service.

### **THE PREFACE/ PROPER PREFACE**

*Now we approach the second high point of the liturgy, the Sacrament, in which the Lord comes to bless us with His very body and blood. We move toward the Sacrament with prayers of thanksgiving and songs of adoration. (Hymnal p. 24-25)*

**PASTOR:** The Lord be with you.

**CONGR: (sing)** ***And with thy spirit.***

**PASTOR:** Lift up your hearts.

**CONGR: (sing)** ***We lift them up unto the Lord.***

**PASTOR:** Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

**CONGR: (sing)** ***It is meet and right so to do.***

**PASTOR:** It is truly meet, right, and spiritually beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

### **THE SANCTUS**

*Latin: "Holy." We join our voices to the angels who sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy" round about His throne and we welcome Him with the Palm Sunday multitude who sang, "Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the Highest!" (Hymnal, page 26)*

**CONG: (sing) Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;  
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory;  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest.  
Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He  
that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the Highest.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**PASTOR:** 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;

**CONG: (sing) For Thine is the Kingdom and the power, and the glory forever and ever, Amen.**

### **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

(Pastor)

*The words spoken by Jesus the night He instituted the Lord's Supper by which our Lord assured to His Church the real presence of His sacramental body and blood for all time*

**PASTOR:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same 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. Do this in remembrance of Me."

After the same manner also, He took the cup, when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Take, drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**CONGR: (sing) Amen.**

### **THE AGNUS DEI**

*Latin: "Lamb of God." As we approach the Table of Forgiveness, we want to think only of that Lamb of God who was sacrificed for us on Calvary's cross. (Hymnal, page 28)*

**CONGR: (sing)**

***O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.  
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.***

### **THE DISTRIBUTION**

Those who are members here at Luther Memorial or are members of a sister church in the CLC and have announced their intention to partake of the Lord's Supper may now come forward to receive the Sacrament at the direction of the ushers.

***A special note to our visitors: The Bible tells us to be "perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (1 Corinthians 1:10). Holy Communion is therefore both a communing with God and a public statement that those communing together***

*believe the same thing. For this reason we ask that anyone who has not established this unity through membership in a CLC congregation first schedule a meeting with the pastor before communing. We hold this position in loving obedience to the Word of God, not in judgment of anyone's Christian faith, sincerity, or standing before God.*

**Hymn(s) sung during the Distribution: 315**

### **THE NUNC DIMITTIS**

*Latin: "Now Dismiss." Simeon's words after seeing the Christ Child. (Luke 2:29-32)*

(Hymnal, page 29)

**CONGR: (sing)** *Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word, For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation: which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

**PASTOR:** Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

**CONGR: (sing)** *And His mercy endureth forever.*

**PASTOR:** (Prayer)

**CONGR: (sing)** *Amen.*

## **THE BENEDICTION**

*The blessing given by God for His people (Numbers 6:24-26).*

**PASTOR:** 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.

**CONGR: (sing)** *Amen. Amen. Amen.*

## **The Closing Hymn (standing) 644**

*\*\*\* Silent Prayer \*\*\**

*Verbal Announcements - Ushers dismiss by row*

# **A n n o u n c e m e n t s**

*"If the LORD wills, we will do this or that." James 4:15*

**WELCOME!** to all our guests and visitors this morning, especially all our Vacation Bible School Students. It has been a privilege serving you and your children with the message of our Lord's Gospel. We hope you will consider our school for the Christian education we offer for your elementary age children. Please bring your whole family and join us in our regular Sunday summer worship at 9:00 a.m. In the Fall Sunday School and Bible Class are at 9:00 am, worship is at 10:00.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FAMILY CAMP-OUT** This past Friday and Saturday the Lord blessed us with an enrollment of 35 young

people, and also a good number of adults, who all learned well in daily lessons, crafts, and music the theme: I BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST MY LORD". We thank all those who were involved with teaching and assisting in this VBS family camp-out event.

## **TODAY! ALL ARE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC**

Lord willing we will begin at 11:00 am here on the church grounds. In case of inclement weather, we'll just have a big picnic downstairs. As usual, the church provides the burgers and brats, drinks, ice cream, and condiments. The congregation has been asked to bring side dishes (fruit, veggies, salad, dessert) to pass. We're planning games for the children, and softball for the whole family. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs and your softball gloves and bats!

## **LM EAGLES YOUTH GROUP CAMPOUT AUGUST 2-4, 2009**

After today's church picnic the LM Eagles will head to Indian Trails Campground in Pardeeville, WI for three days of camping. We plan to have Bible Study, crafts, swimming (indoor and a beautiful swimming lake) and lots of fun.

**WEDDINGS** There are two weddings this week: Friday August 7, 3:00 pm, the Luke Scheberl and Jenny Kesterson wedding, officiated by Pastors Terrel Kesterson and Dave Naumann. Saturday August 8, the Chris Dumpke and fiancée Nicole wedding officiated by Pastor Jim Albrecht. May the LORD bless these unions with His divine grace.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SUN-TUE** LM Eagles Youth Group Camping at Pardeeville, WI

**TUE** Lutheran Home service cancelled.

**FRI** 3:00 pm. Wedding of Luke Scheberl and Jenny Kesterson

**SAT** Wedding of Chris Dumpke and Nicole

**TV CHURCH** – Today's Service replayed on Cable TV Channel 19  
Tuesday at noon and Wednesday at 4:00 pm.

**NEW CHURCH CAMERA** The Voters decided to purchase a new automated camera to make the taping of our service easier and of better quality for broadcast on TV. The cost is around \$1,800. If you would like to help pay for this project, please use your M&I envelope or designate your offering "church camera."

**LM YARD SIGNS** Please consider placing a lawn-sign for Luther Memorial in your yard to help promote God's Word taught here in our church and school. Paid for by the church, the signs are free to individuals. Sign up at the bulletin board.

**MISSION HELPER TRIP – 2009** The 12 CLC Mission Helper volunteers are in London today on their return trip home. Here's the latest message from our own Jackie Schwersinske: "This has been a real adventure this week. We have a devotion everyday before we begin our day so we know that the Lord is directing every step. As we walk thru the day I see the Lord at work. Us girls sat in on one of the teaching session one of the days where all these young Pastors are so eager to be taught. As Pastor was teaching I could feel the Lord's presence very strongly...I know He is here. I look for Him daily and see Him at work every where we preach and teach. I thank the Lord for giving me strength to teach His word. The children are wonderful to teach. They welcome us where ever we go in Jesus name. The Mission Helpers are covering a lot of places being split up into teams. The days consist of a lot of traveling but it is definitely worth it. His words will definitely not come back void. Seeing our Indian brothers and sisters is awesome. I would never trade this experience. The pastors of the BELC are so with the Lord they talk enough English so that we can talk quite freely. They make sure we have plenty of bottled water and food and their wives seem eager to cook for us. They give us very large portions more than we can eat. Well it is time for me to get ready for Pastor Ohlmann to return to pick us up to teach. Keep us in your prayers, they are definitely being heard and are in action. Your Christian Sister Jackie"

The online travel journal of the trip: [www.2009mhtindia.blogspot.com](http://www.2009mhtindia.blogspot.com). We thank the Lord for prospering the work of these mission helpers in His kingdom, and we ask Him to bring them all safely home.

**50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY** Luther Memorial Church will be celebrating it's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in March of 2010. The formal organization of the congregation took place on March 20, 1960. In our last Voters' Meeting, the "LM Sign Fund" was designated as our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary fund and the congregation is encouraged to give their thank offerings to the LORD for 50 years of His grace through this fund. Volunteers are needed to help arrange and organize our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary festivities. Please speak with the Pastor if you'd like to help.

**CLC NEWS** The Rev. Wayne Eichstadt, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN has the call to Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire, WI <> On Sunday, August 16th 2009, the membership of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Watertown, South Dakota will celebrate their 50 year anniversary. All are welcome to attend.

**SERVICE TODAY** Usher Team 3, Gordon Krause, Reuel Dins, John Herzberg, Tim Johannes, Steve Seibel. Organist Adrienne F.  
**NEXT SUNDAY** Usher Team 4, Wayne Wischneski, Alan Kottke, Chris Sabel, Ron Haensgen, Mark King, Joel Delarme. Organist Rhoda E.

**LAST WEEK FOR THE LORD** Attendance - 163  
*(This is an unofficial summary. For the official summary, speak to the Financial Secretary)*

| <b>Budgetary</b>          | <b>weekly (\$4,327 needed)</b> | <b>For the fiscal year</b> |           |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Received                  | \$3,500                        |                            | \$112,066 |
| <b>Non-budgetary</b>      |                                |                            |           |
| Maintenance & Improvement | \$55                           | balance                    | \$1,595   |
| Debt Retirement Fund      | \$25                           | balance                    | \$429     |
| LM Building Fund          | \$0                            | mortgage                   | \$27,504  |
| LM Student Aid Fund       | \$25                           |                            |           |

**Missions** (CLC fiscal year is July 1 to June 30)  
Budgetary weekly year to date  
Received \$870 \$3,245  
*(\$10 given in memory of Bertha Wendt)*

**Non-budgetary**

|                       |      |
|-----------------------|------|
| CLCI Orphanage        | \$10 |
| ILC Building Fund     | \$5  |
| Church Extension Fund | \$25 |

## Weekly Memory Verse

"Train up a child in the way he should go,  
And when he is old he will not depart from it."

Proverbs 22:6

### The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 44:6-8 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. 7 And who can proclaim as I do? Then

let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them. 8 Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one."

**PASTOR:** This ends our Old Testament Reading.  
Blessed are they that hear the Word of God  
and keep it. Hallelujah!

**CONGR: (sing)** *Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

**WE NOW INVITE THE VBS CHILDREN TO COME FORWARD**

**A selection of the VBS songs:**

I'M IN THE LORD'S ARMY  
I JUST WANT TO BE A SHEEP Baa, Baa-Baa-Baa  
I AM A C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N  
STAND UP, SIT DOWN  
JOY DOWN IN MY HEART  
ARKY, ARKY  
WHO DID SWALLOW JONAH  
FATHER ABRAHAM

**A selection of the VBS songs this past week:**

**"You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea." Micah 7:19**

Wide, wide, as the ocean, High as the heavens above;  
Deep, deep as the deepest sea is my Savior's love;

I, though so unworthy, still am a child of His care;  
For His Word teaches me that His love reaches me every where.

**"The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life." Pro. 14:27**

Deep and wide, deep and wide  
There's a fountain flowing deep and wide,  
Deep and wide, deep and wide,  
There's a fountain flowing deep and wide!

**"Your Word is a lamp to my feet..." Ps 119:105**

God said it, I believe it, tis all that faith demands.  
Though heaven and earth shall pass away  
His Word will stand. (repeat)

**"A cheerful heart is good medicine." Pro. 17:22**

Ho-ho-ho-hosanna!  
Ha-ha-ha-hallelujah!  
He-He-He-He saved me,  
I have the joy of the Lord

**I'M IN THE LORD'S ARMY**

I may never march in the infantry,  
Ride in the cavalry, shoot in the artillery,  
I may never fly o'er the enemy,  
But I'm in the Lord's army. (YES SIR!)  
I'm in the Lord's army. (YES SIR!)  
I'm in the Lord's army. (YES SIR!)  
I may never march, ride, shoot, or fly,  
But I'm in the Lord's army. (YES SIR!)

Others...

I JUST WANT TO BE A SHEEP Baa, Baa-Baa-Baa  
I AM A C-H-R-I-S-T-I-A-N  
STAND UP, SIT DOWN  
JOY DOWN IN MY HEART  
ARKY, ARKY  
WHO DID SWALLOW JONAH  
FATHER ABRAHAM

**VBS PRAYER**

O Lord God, You who are ever faithful, and have  
not failed to keep even one of Your precious promises: We

thank You for the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ Your Son, and for all the promised gifts that we have received through Him -- especially that in Him we have been granted cleansing pardon for all our sins.

Grant unto us the fullness of Your Holy Spirit in the Word, so that in fellowship with Jesus Christ we may proclaim Your truth with living power, preach the Gospel of Christ crucified in all the world, and be of service in love and mercy to the needs of people everywhere.

O Lord, we thank You for the great blessing our VBS has been this past week here at Luther Memorial Church and School. Through a study of Your holy Word the Holy Spirit has strengthened our faith to make the good confession: I believe that Jesus Christ is my LORD!" Keep our faith built up by the power of the Holy Spirit working through that Word, as we confess Your name to a sinful world. Continue to bless and protect our children, that growing up in Your Word they may live their lives to Your glory and finally, by Your guidance, attain their heavenly reward reserved for them for all eternity.

The prayers of the congregation have been requested for Don and Rhoda Eserhut who today celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary and also for Ron and Barb Haensgen who last week celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. O gracious God, who has ordained marriage for the good of mankind and has blessed it to this day, so many years ago you saw fit to join this Christian couples as husband and wife. In your goodness You have preserved their marriages to this day, You have blessed them with children and grandchildren, and given them many friends. You have kept them in sickness and in health, and provided for their livelihood. You have sustained them so they could be a help and comfort to each other these many years. Above all You have blessed them with saving faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Through the Holy Spirit You have helped them found Christian homes where You reign with love and forgiveness, a home whose foundation rests upon the blessed hope of everlasting life through faith in Jesus. Through the same Holy Spirit, continue to pour out Your blessings upon their lives together. Help them to fight the good fight of faith to

the end, that they may lay hold of eternal life to which You have called them.

The prayers of the congregation go up for all who are in trouble, want, sickness, anguish of labor, peril of death, or any other adversity, especially those who are in suffering for Your and Your truth's sake, comfort, O God, with Your Holy spirit, that they may receive and acknowledge their afflictions as Your plan of love for them that will not fail. We ask all these things in Jesus name, Amen.

Having heard the Word of God...

#### **COMMUNION TODAY IS FOR MEMBERS ONLY**

If this concept is new to you, please don't be offended, we don't claim to be the only ones going to heaven, and we're certainly not trying to judge your faith! We are simply and humbly following what the Bible teaches concerning Church Fellowship and what we in particular refer to as "Close Communion," that is; God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, you'll want to find out if our church teaches what the Bible does. The pastor would be happy to discuss this with you at your convenience.

#### **THE WITNESS OF HOLY SCRIPTURE**

1 Corinthians 11:26-30 "For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep."

1 Corinthians 1:10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and

that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

### **WHO SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED TO COME TO THE LORD'S SUPPER?**

\*\*\* If you feel your faith is weak, you need the Lord's Supper. In it Jesus gives you his body and blood which were given into death for your sins. He wants to strengthen your faith. So come, eat and drink and listen to the words your pastor says to you in the name of Jesus, your God-given faith will believe and trust the Word of your Savior.

\*\*\* When you know you've sinned and you feel unworthy. You say you aren't worthy because you aren't good enough. No one else is good enough either. But God doesn't ask whether you are good enough. He only asks, 'Are you sorry for your sins? Do you believe Jesus forgives?' He invites you to come and receive forgiveness through Christ, who shed his blood for you. He makes you sure that forgiveness is yours by giving you Jesus' body and blood to eat and to drink. You believe that, don't you?

\*\*\* But if you are refusing to give up a particular sin even though you know that God's word forbids it, you are despising God's Word. You are telling God, 'I don't care what you say. I'll do what I want.' Until you repent of your sin, God warns you against abusing this gift. To come to the Lord's Supper will only add to your sin rather than take it away.

### **THREE GOOD QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFOREHAND**

1) Am I sorry for my sins? 2) Do I believe in Jesus Christ for forgiveness? 3) Am I willing, after receiving forgiveness, to amend my sinful life?

MARTIN LUTHER: "He is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the remission of sins.'"