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Newsletter of St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church (LC-MS)

The Frequent and Faithful Reception of the Lord's Supper

St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)

www.stpetersindy.org

2525 E 11th Street
Indianapolis IN 46201
317.638.7245

Rev. Seth A Mierow, M.Div, STM, Pastor
pmierow@gmail.com
Cell phone: 317.730.6769

Rev. Douglas D Irmer, Pastor Emeritus
pastorirmer@gmail.com
cell phone: 317.457.5391

Annette Saetre - Church Secretary
saetre.annette@att.net
cell phone: 317.603.6445



The Lord's Supper is not so much an "it" or a "thing" as it is a "Who." In the Eucharist we encounter Christ Himself. *What is the Sacrament of the Altar?* *Answer: It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.* Christ's own Words of Institution make this quite plain. Is means is. His Body, born of Mary, nailed to the Cross in the bread. His Blood, stained the wood, spilled from His wounds, in the wine. It is a mystery. Unfathomable and yet delightful. What do Christians do with mysteries (cf. 1 Cor 4:1; Rm 11:25; Eph 3; 5:32)? We receive them, believe them, teach them, and

confess them! The "Who" of Holy Communion moves us to adoration and prayer: "O Lord we praise Thee, bless Thee, and adore Thee, in thanksgiving bow before Thee" (*LSB 617:1*).

Why does Jesus give us this gift and tell us to *do this often in remembrance of Me*? Precisely for the thing we need most: the forgiveness of sins! The salvation He **accomplished** in His Body and His Blood on the Cross for the sins of the whole world is **offered** now in His Body and His Blood on the Altar for the forgiveness of your sins. The Sacrifice was made only once by His death (Heb 10:11-14, 18), but in the Sacrament the living Lord comes to you every time with the same Body and Blood for the forgiveness of your sins. And "where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation." His own life comes to you wrapped in forgiveness.

And that salvation *is* communion with the Father through the Son in the Holy Spirit. This is what you were made for. This is what you fell from. This is what Christ came to restore. This is what His Spirit delights to deliver to you in the eating and drinking of bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things? Before the catechism answer, consider what terrible, but great, thing eating did in Genesis 3: sin and death came into the world through food going into human mouths! Is it so strange, then, that deliverance from sin and death should also come through eating and drinking?

Of course it is not just eating and drinking, but the Word of Christ: *Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.* Adam and Eve divorced eating from the Word of God and the result was death and sin. In the Holy Supper, Jesus reunites eating and drinking with the Word of God and the result is that whoever believes has exactly what God's Word says: forgiveness of sins! "And where there is forgiveness of sins, there is life and salvation."

Portals of Prayers

October - December Portals of Prayers are available around the church.

2020 Flower Chart

The 2020-21 flower chart is located in the Narthex near the front door. Flowers may be purchased for \$15/arrangement, 2 arrangements/Sunday.

Church Council

President: Dave Kroger
klkroger@hotmail.com
 cell 317.691.9475

Vice President: Lee Amstutz
lee.amstutz.337@gmail.com
 cell 219.577.6774

Head Elder: Phil Deuser
phildeuser@gmail.com
 cell 317.603.9140

Financial Secretary: Hannah Marquardt
 414.517.6298

Secretary: Tammy Gilbert
tgilbert84@aol.com
 317.847.3915

Assistant Treasurer: Becky Johnson
rebecca.l.johnson6510@gmail.com
 317.437.0973

Property Administrator: Matt Lee
matt.the.lutheran@gmail.com
 317.506.4711

Neighborhood Outreach: Susan Smith
attorneysusan@aol.com
 317.314.8283

Board of Elders

Phil Deuser - Head Elder

Dave Kroger

Matt Frick

John Mierow

Mark Saetre

Chuck Wendel

Fellowship Committee

Pam Mierow

Donna Wendel

Cynthia Kroger

Annette Saetre

When Christians believe this word of promise - that your sins are forgiven, life is bestowed and salvation is shared - no one and nothing ought to keep you from running to church and begging your Pastor for the Eucharist. "Here He offers to us the entire treasure that He has brought for us from heaven. With the greatest kindness He invites us to receive it . . . It is surely a sin and a shame that He so cordially and faithfully summons and encourages us to receive our highest and greatest good, yet we act so distantly toward it. We permit so long a time to pass without partaking of the Sacrament that we grow quite cold and hardened, so that we have no longing or love for it. We must never think of the Sacrament as something harmful from which we had better flee, but as a pure, wholesome, comforting remedy that grants salvation and comfort. It will cure you and give you life in both soul and body. For where the soul has recovered, the body also is relieved. Why, then, do we act as if the Sacrament were a poison, the eating of which would bring death?" (LC VI:66-68).

With such an admonition, encouragement and great promise, "those who are true Christians and value the Sacrament as precious and holy will drive and move themselves to go to [the Communion table]" (LC VI:43). Yet we do not go unprepared. "Who receives this sacrament worthily?" Don't skip past fasting and bodily preparation too quickly. Jesus presumes that Christians will fast (Mt 6:16-18), just as He presumes that Christians pray (Mt 6:5-15) and Christians practice charity (Mt 6:2-4). Fasting helps condition the body and the mind. *Man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that comes from the mouth of the Lord* (Dt 8:3). Consider even when that Word is joined to bread!

Worthiness comes not in these things, though. "That person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" Faith approaches Jesus in His Supper and receives from Him His Body and Blood, given and shed, for the forgiveness of *your* sins. Rather than thoughtlessly getting in line out of habit, consider an contemplate what is being offered and why and how very much you need what is so graciously given.

To that end, Luther prepared simple questions for use by those who intend to go to the Sacrament. The Christian Questions with Their Answers in your Small Catechism are not merely for singular use before First Communion or Confirmation. They ought to be used regularly. Read them aloud. Use them in your household. In addition there are numerous prayers for use before, during, and after the reception of Holy Communion. *LSB 628 Your Table I Approach* is an excellent prayer before the Lord's Supper. Other communion hymns can be used, too (*LSB 617-43*). Additional prayers are in the front cover the pew edition of the *LSB*. In closing, I offer two prayers that I was taught and I teach the catechumens:

Before receiving our Lord's Body:

"Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof, but only speak the Word and Your servant shall be healed. Amen."

This one is obviously adapted from the confession of the centurion in Matthew 8.

Before receiving our Lord's Blood:

"What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will take the Cup of Salvation and will call on the Name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the Lord's House. Amen."

This one is taken from Psalm 116:13 and Psalm 18:3.

It is my joy and privilege, dear Christians, to welcome you to the Table of the Lord.

Your unworthy servant,

Pr Mierow

St Michael and All Angels

125th Anniversary

St Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church will, by God's grace, celebrate 125 years of proclaiming Christ and Him crucified on April 19, 2021. If you are willing to serve on a committee to organize and plan a celebration for this milestone anniversary please talk with Phil Deuser.

Tuck pointing Project

project complete!

Catechesis

Children's Catechesis gathers on **Wednesdays at 6p** in the Undercroft (Church Basement). The main goal of catechesis is the creation and sustaining of faith in Christ and how that faith is expressed in the Christian life of love toward the neighbor. This year we are spending time in the common narratives of the Old Testament.

Adult Catechesis/New Members meets on **Sundays at 2p** in the Conference Room. Christians are disciples of Jesus, that is, catechumens for life. Adults and children sit at Jesus' feet in the congregation and at home, continuously learning from His Word. It is from His Word that we learn to believe that we are sinners, learn to repent, to confess, learn to trust in Him for the forgiveness of sins, call upon Him in prayer, learn to confess the faith before the world, to confess our sins to one another, learn to forgive one another as Christ has forgiven us. If you need a refresher in the Small Catechism, come join your new brothers and sisters in Christ for this essential Christian learning.

Choir



Sing to the Lord and bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day

(Ps 96:2) **Choir rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 6:00 p.m.** Enter through the red doors and join us in the nave. We are currently preparing for Reformation Day. If any more are interested, please talk to Lee Amstutz.

Audrey Elaine Wiese, 88, of Indianapolis, passed away on Tuesday, August 25, 2020. She was born on August 16, 1932 in Indianapolis to the late Osa Charles and Margaret (Tonkin) Hapner.

Audrey was a devoted homemaker, loving wife and mother. For many years, she and her husband, George, were members of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church. Survivors include her children, David Martin (Debra), Deborah McAllister (William), Kathryn Frazer (Samuel), Phillip Watz (Robin), Jo Ann Johnson (Haven), George Wiese III (Jerlin) and Robert Wiese (Carrie); sister, Bonnie Huber; twelve grandchildren and many great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, George Wiese, Jr.; and brother, Charles Hapner.

Funeral Services were held Saturday August 29, 2020 Audrey was laid to rest at Concordia Cemetery.