

St. Paul's Epistle— *September 2023*



Quarterly Voters Meeting—July 30, 2023

Chairman Tim Anderson called the meeting to order. The opening prayer was given by Pastor Quast.

The Minutes, Treasurer's and Financial Secretary's reports were reviewed and approved.

Briefs: 1) Thank you to all the lawn care crews. 2) There were several leaks in the church roof from this summer's storms. 3) There will be a strategy meeting held October 28th in Blackduck to discuss pastor shortages. 4) Shingling on the church roof should begin after August 15th. 5) There was discussion on how to handle excess rain. George Aitchison will obtain more information on the subject. 6) Thanks was extended for everyone on their generous donations toward the roof project. 7) Sunday School teachers meeting will be held Sunday, August 27 at 8:15 a.m. 8) We have a new insurance carrier for the church. There will be a savings acquired by changing insurers. 9) The LWML Fall Rally will be held at St. Paul's on October 12, 2023.

Membership changes were printed. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by ~ Sally Batdorf, Secretary

At the 2022 MN North Convention, we approved resolution 4-1, "To Confess the doctrine of Closed Communion and encourage its practice." The MN North Board of Directors desires to fulfill this resolution through a few monthly newsletter articles written by our Regional Vice Presidents. We commend these articles for the edification of our beloved MN North District churches, schools, and workers. To Him be all the Glory! ~ Rev. Brady Finnern, District President

Dear Friends in Christ,

Last month, I presented you with these two statements, arguing that the second statement is true, while the first is false.

Closed communion is an unloving practice that hinders the Church's outreach.
Closed communion is a loving practice that proclaims the Gospel.

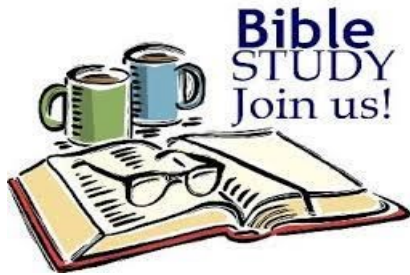
I may have convinced you that closed communion is loving in last month's article, but how could closed communion be considered proclaiming the Gospel? Isn't it exactly the opposite? Isn't it a bold scolding of the law when you tell someone he cannot commune?

No, closed communion is a confession of the Gospel because it is a confession of Christ. Christ's risen Body and Blood are present under the bread and wine. The same Body and Blood born of Mary, that walked the earth, that hung on the cross, rose from the dead, and sits enthroned at the right hand of God – that same Body and Blood of our Savior is in, with, and under the bread and wine. The Body and Blood is powerful to save but when taken apart from faith brings judgment. We practice closed communion because we believe the Lord's Supper is the Gospel. Many churches who practice open communion don't believe the Lord's Supper is or does anything. It is simply a reminder of Christ's death with His Body and Blood symbolized by the bread and wine.

If you read the historic writings of Martin Luther and Martin Chemnitz, they will teach you of the inseparable link between the person of Christ, fully God and fully man in one person, and the Lord's Supper, His real bodily presence under the bread and wine. Not surprisingly those who deny Christ's Body and Blood in the Supper also hold to false beliefs about the person of Christ. If you want to read more about this look at Luther's *"That These Words of Christ 'This is My Body,' etc., Still Stand Firm Against the Fanatics"* (1527, found in the American Edition of Luther's Works, vol. 37)

The Lord's Supper delivers Christ's Body and Blood to us Christians for the forgiveness of sins. As Luther taught us, with the forgiveness of sins comes life and salvation. It should not surprise us that so great a gift is accompanied by great responsibility and also great conflict. The Devil has his arrows aimed against this precious gift. May God grant us faithfulness to His Word because with faithful teaching and practice, we demonstrate true love for all people by preaching the Good News of Jesus' death for sinners.

In Christ,
Rev. Bruce Timm,
Third Vice President, MN North District LCMS



Monday, September 18th, at 10 a.m., Pastor Quast will be starting a new **Bible Study**. The topic will be how to read and understand the Bible. All are welcome!

Lawn Care—September 2023

August 27– September 2: Gary Buffington, George Aitchison and John Hopkins

September 3-9: Tim Anderson, Josh Koenig and Harry Batdorf

September 10– 16: Jed, Brenyn, Jordan and Dave Swenson

September 17– 23: Richard, Ryan, Ralph and Joe Christie

September 24– 30: Tony, Brett and Adam Lucek, Ralph Johnson

Sunday School

Sunday School is starting up for fall on Sunday, September 17th at 10 a.m. ! All kids ages 4 thru 6th grade are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings for lessons, crafts, science experiments, games and snacks. Looking forward to seeing many smiling faces!



September Birthdays

Happy Birthday to these members celebrating in September!

2nd: Wren Swenson

15th: Dolores Boquist

3rd: Karen Hedtke

16th: Rick Leerssen

6th: John Hopkins

20th: Linda Bacon

8th: Whitney Wright

21st: Garrett Koenig

10th: Dan Andrade

13th: Cortney Christie





We were greatly blessed by the visitation of **Rev. Nicholas, Rev. Celestino and Rev. Dr. Bernie and Ellie Lutz** on Tuesday, August 22. Those in attendance heard of the challenges and blessings of the growing Lutheran Church of South Sudan. Both Pastor's Nicholas and Celestino are attending the LCMS Seminary in St. Louis, MO.

We have been given an opportunity to help with the "English As A Second Language" project. Pastor Lutz would like to raise \$40,000 to fund the program which teaches all students at the Concordia Seminary in Yambio, South Sudan the English language, which is required. The money will be used to buy whiteboards for all the students.

If you would like to donate to this cause, please make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church, and include on the memo line: ESL 2024. We will be collecting offerings for this mission until Christmas.

What a tremendous joy and blessing for us to be able to support such mission and ministry!



