

February 2025 Newsletter

Sundays

Worship Service 9:30 am
Sunday School/ Bible study 10:30
am

Mondays

Spanish Class 4pm

Tuesdays

Celebrate Recovery meetings 5-8pm

Wednesdays

Confirmation class 5pm
Woman's Bible study 5pm

1st & 3rd Saturday

Men's Bible study

2nd Monday

Bible study at Hickory Creek
10:30 am

Meetings

2/3 Elders 6pm
2/5 Lutherans 3:30pm
2/10 Hickory Creek Bible study 10:30am
Education 6pm
Finance 6:30pm
Tech & Comm 7pm

BIRTHDAYS

George Tabbert 2/9
Carole Foreman 2/18
Colton Lowry 2/23
Travis Jones 2/23
David Zoppe 2/23



February 16th

*Bring a friend to church day
And our bowling day. Church
pays for pizza, bowling lane &
shoe rentals.*

*Dairy Queen night
Thursday Feb 13th
4-close*

St. John's Lutheran Church 404 Jefferson St. Rochester, IN 46975

574-223-6898** Pastor Curtis May**574-835-8355

FACEBOOK:www.facebook.com/stjohnschurchlcms

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Why we practice closed communion.

What God says about Communion/Lord's Supper

John 6:52–56 ESV

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."

1 Corinthians 11:23-32 ESV

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.**

Matthew 26:28 ESV

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 teach correctly 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.***

Pastor's Page

Luke 6:27–38 ²⁷[Jesus said:] “But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you”.

There are people in our lives that we love but don't like. We pray for those people who we don't like and those who don't like us. We should also pray for those who persecute us any chance they get. There will always be enemies. Therefore, I say you will have enemies just don't be an enemy. We should always strive to be Jesus like especially towards our enemies. How we treat our enemies may change their heart and they may become our friends.

You cannot say I am not your friend, though you can say you are not my friend. I am your friend even though you might not be my friend. Whether I am a friend or not is not your choice but mine. Likewise, you decide who you will be friends with. Jesus asks us, or commands us, to love one another. He does not put stipulations on which people to love, except, Jesus tells us to even love our enemies.

Our lot in life is not to hate, but to love one another and this is repeated by our Lord in the first and second great command, (Mark 12:30-31). God wants us to stop our hate and prejudice and start to love one another, including our enemies. God is not asking us to become a doormat; rather that we might be a force to change lives by planting the seeds of our Lord's heart, which is full of love for all.

God is not the God of just the righteous, but the God of all. The world does not know God and therefore does not know God's love for them. The world also does not know how God's love works. We know God's love but might not have studied His love enough to know how God's love works as well as we should. God wants to win everyone's heart over to Him, and the proof of this is in God's great commands. (Mark 12:30,31; John 3:16,17)

Luke 6:27–38 ²⁹To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you, and from one who takes away your goods do not demand them back. ³¹And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them.

God is not trying to tell us to be a doormat and let everyone walk all over us. God is actually telling us not to seek revenge. Do not go out and try to demand or get back anything by force or violence, but turn all things over to those who have the authority, including God, to handle everything that is criminal, evil, or corrupt. We should always and, with every godly way, live a peaceable life.

God gives us the “Golden rule – Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” I guess it depends on which translation you use as to how it is written. So rather than being offensive or defensive, be at peace with anything you need to deal with. God is on the side of those who put their faith in His will.

We should always measure our actions by God’s will. That of course means you need to study God’s word each and every day. And after reading and studying God’s word, then we need to practice what we learn. This is why a group bible study is better than trying to interpret God’s word on your own.

Luke 6:27–38 ³²“If you love those who love you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³And if you do good to those who do good to you, what benefit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴And if you lend to those from whom you expect to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to get back the same amount.

Luke 6:27–38 ³⁵But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil. ³⁶Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.

We all want God to be merciful to us because we know our sins. God's law shows us our sin. With this in mind, we should also be merciful to those we think do not deserve God's mercy and grace. If God looked at our sins how many of us would measure up to God's law in every manor of life? In everything, stop and look at your own life before you withhold mercy to others. No one is perfect and we all need a merciful Savior. Jesus is merciful to those who are merciful to others. Forgive and you will be forgiven. (Matthew 6:14)

Luke 6:27–38 ³⁷“Judge not, and you will not be judged; condemn not, and you will not be condemned; forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

You were judged to be pardoned from the Cross of Jesus Christ. We were pardoned during the suffering of our Lord and Savior. When Christ could have and probably should have cursed us to hell, He chose instead to forgive us. On our behalf, Jesus asked for mercy to be given us.

How great is the perfect love of our God to us? How wonderful is the love that comes from the one we persecuted? How awesome is it that our resurrected Lord and Savior paved the way that we to who are sinners will be resurrected into a new sinless body, on a new sinless world, in a God inspired heaven. Amen.

FORGET
CUPID
Jesus
LOVES ME

Dairy Queen

Sponsor night

St. John Lutheran church

will get a percentage of the total sales

from 4pm until close



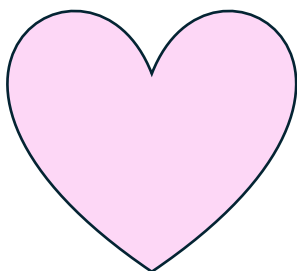
How sweet it is to be loved by God!

Thursday February 13th



1420 E 9th St

Rochester, IN 46975



Looking forward to Spring

March 5th is Ash Wednesday. Lenten dinners will begin on March 12th at 6pm followed by lent services at 7pm.

March 9th Daylight Savings begins. Spring your clocks forward an hour.

Fundraiser ideas: We would like to hear about any fundraiser ideas that you might have. We will not be having a shoe drive or be involved in the Apple dumping sale this year. Let Pastor or Sharri know of any ideas.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
						1 Men's biblestudy 9am
2 C-Worship 9:30 Sun school 10:30	3 Spanish 4pm Elders 6pm	4 CR 5-8pm	5 Lutheranns 3:30pm Confirmation class 5pm Women's Bible study 5pm	6	7	8
9 Worship 9:30 Sun school 10:30	10 Hickory Creek 10:30am Spanish 4pm Educ 6pm Finance 6:30 Tech&Com7pm	11 CR 5-8pm	12 Confirmation class 5pm Women's Bible study 5pm	13 Dairy Queen night 4-9pm	14 	15 Men's biblestudy 9am
16 C-Worship 9:30 Sun school 10:30 Prayer Walk/vigil Bowling 12-2	17 Spanish 4pm	18 CR 5-8pm	19 Confirmation class 5pm Women's Bible study 5pm	20	21	22
23 Worship 9:30 Sun school 10:30 Sacrificial Sunday	24 Spanish 4pm	25 CR 5-8pm	26 Confirmation class 5pm Women's Bible study 5pm	27	28	C-Communion +Sacrificial Sun- Extra giving opportunity