

# April 2024 Newsletter

## Meetings & Services

### Sundays

Worship Service 9:30 am

Sunday School/ Bible study 10:30 am

### Tuesdays

Celebrate Recovery meetings 5-8pm

### Wednesdays

Woman's Bible study 5pm

### 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday

Men's Bible study

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday

Bible study at Hickory Creek 9:30 am

### Meetings

4/1/23	Elders	6 pm
4/6/23	Trustees	9 am
4/3/23	Lutheranns	3:30 pm
4/8/24	Education	6pm
	Finance	6:30pm
	Tech & Comm	7pm
4/15/24	Church Council	7pm
	Voters meeting	7:30



April 4<sup>th</sup> 4-7pm

At the Fulton County Museum



**Shoe drive fundraiser**

**April 1 – May 30<sup>th</sup>**

### **Birthdays**

Glenda Bode 4/3, Jeri Kieninger 4/7,  
Violet Seiwert 4/14, Nick Brown 4/16,  
Pastor May 4/22, Jaelynn Wert-Price 4/30

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# Why we practice closed communion

## What God says about Communion/Lord's Supper

### **John 6:52-56 ESV**

<sup>52</sup> The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" <sup>53</sup> 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. <sup>54</sup> Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>55</sup> **For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.** <sup>56</sup> **Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him.** <sup>57</sup> 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. <sup>58</sup> 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**

<sup>23</sup> 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, <sup>24</sup> 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.**" <sup>25</sup> 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.**" <sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

<sup>27</sup> **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.** <sup>28</sup> **Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.** <sup>29</sup> **For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.** <sup>30</sup> That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. <sup>31</sup> **But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged.** <sup>32</sup> **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**

<sup>28</sup> **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.***

This is not about us or you, but rather about what our God wants for all believers.

**John 3:17 ESV** <sup>17</sup> **For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.**

## **Pastor's Page**

**1 Corinthians 15:1–2** <sup>1</sup>Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, <sup>2</sup>and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. The Gospel, beginning with Adam and Eve, in the midst of a garden, God created man and woman to live an eternity in a loving relationship with God. In the midst of the garden a beautiful tree with the most delicious fruit, God named the Tree of Life. Its fruit being beautiful gave life eternal to those who eat it. Also, in the midst of the garden a tree God had named the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told Adam who told Eve not to eat of this tree, and for a while they did not. Unfortunately, Adam and Eve misused their free will and made a wrong decision. The decision Adam and Eve made would introduce law, and law would introduce death. Adam and Eve in their free will, which also is now lost, chose to sin. The sin was not just that they ate of the fruit; it was foremost that they disobeyed God. In doing so, Adam and Eve became slaves to sin and therefore lost their free will. You see, with free will, you could choose to live with God, or with sin that separates us from God forever. The Gospel was the Tree of Life, now hidden and taken away from all mankind. The law says that the punishment for all sin is death and this debt has to be paid, no exceptions. Unless sin is forgiven then life ends as we know it and death abounds as we fear it. The Gospel had to be renewed.

**1 Corinthians 15:3–8** <sup>3</sup>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

Thanks be to God that He is perfect in every way. God's perfection comes in a most perfect way, in that He abounds in mercy, and grace. His mercy is to make sure we do not get the things we truly deserve, and His Grace it to make sure we receive what we truly don't deserve. And what makes God love more perfect is that He was willing to let His Only Son suffer and die to fulfill the demands of the law. AS Christ

died for our sins to conquer death, and assure our freedom from our slavery to sin. We can now breath a sigh of relief. God in His perfect love saves us through His free will and He chooses to give us an eternal life.

**1 Corinthians 15:9–11** <sup>9</sup>*For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.*

Through His death on the cross Jesus conquers death and through His resurrection He give us life. The reborn have the Holy Spirit constantly working in us, to bring God's Word to live in us.

**Revelation 22:14** <sup>14</sup>*Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates.*

We have our baptism which cleanses us and has marked us as God's children. We also have the Lord's supper to remember what Jesus Christ has done for us, and it also reminds and administers God's forgiveness. But now we have something more, The Other Tree.

**John 14:6** <sup>6</sup>*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

Christ our Savior becomes The Other Tree, the other Tree of Life, as we now can eat of the fruit, which comes from heaven in the form of the Son of God. It is called the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which brings forgiveness and eternal life and relationship with God. Amen.

## **Up Coming Events:**

**Spring Fish Fry: Thursday April 4<sup>th</sup> 4-7 pm.**

**Fulton County Museum**

**Shoe Drive: April 1<sup>st</sup> – May 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Our first shoe drive. We will be accepting gently used shoes as a fund raiser. Several drop off locations and special dates will be announced. And, as always, you can drop them off at the church.**

**Youth Day of Service: Saturday May 18<sup>th</sup> .**

**Our youth will be available to help you out with some outdoor and indoor chores, for a free will donation. This will be a fundraiser for other youth activities.**

**Dairy Queen night: Wednesday June 19<sup>th</sup> 4pm until close**

**Be sure to tell the cashier that it is for St John's.**



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> Elders 6pm	<b>2</b>  CR 5-8 pm	<b>3</b> Lutheranns 3:30 pm Women's Bible study 5pm	<b>4</b>  <b>FISH FRY 4-7PM</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Trustees 9am  Men's Bible study 9am
<b>7</b> C-Worship 9:30 Sun School 10:30	<b>8</b> Hickory Creek Bible study 9:30  <b>Education 6pm</b>  <b>Finance 6:30</b> <b>Tech &amp; Com 7pm</b>	<b>9</b>  CR 5-8 pm	<b>10</b>  Women's Bible study 5pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> *Worship 9:30 Sun School 10:30	<b>15</b> <b>Church council 7pm</b> <b>Voters meeting 7:30 pm</b>	<b>16</b>  CR 5-8 pm	<b>17</b>  Women's Bible study 5pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  Men's Bible study 9am
<b>21</b> C-Worship 9:30 Sun School 10:30 <b>Prayer Walk/Vigil</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  CR 5-8 pm	<b>24</b>  Women's Bible study 5pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> *Worship 9:30 Sun School 10:30 +Sacrificial Sunday	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> CR 5-8 pm			C- Communion offered +Sacrificial Sunday- extra giving opportunity	

