

# May 2026 newsletter



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. JOHN

### **Sundays**

Worship Service 9:30am

Sunday School & Bible Class 10:30am

### **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

Prayer Walk/Vigil May 17<sup>th</sup>  
following 10:30 Bible class

**Office CLOSED May 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**In observance of Memorial day**

## Meetings

5/4/26	Elders	6pm
5/11/26	Education	6pm
	Finance	6:30pm
	Tech & Comm	7pm

## May Birthdays

Ann Coble 5/5  
Robert Sutton 5/9  
Virga Smith 5/11  
Jade Kieninger 5/13  
Stephanie Jones 5/17

Mother's Day

May 10<sup>th</sup>



**MEMORIAL DAY**

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

**St. John Lutheran Church**

**404 Jefferson St, Rochester, IN 46975**

**Rev. Curtis A. May, Pastor**

**Office: 574-223-6898 Home: 574-835-835**

**E-Mail: [stjohnlutheran@rtcol.com](mailto:stjohnlutheran@rtcol.com)**

**Web Site: [www.stjohns-churchlcms.org](http://www.stjohns-churchlcms.org)**

**Facebook: St. John's Lutheran Church LCMS**

# 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.**



## 2026 Fulton County Fair Booth Competition

**2 Timothy 4:3–5** <sup>3</sup>For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, <sup>4</sup>and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. <sup>5</sup>**As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**

I will give a hundred dollars to the group from our church, (St. John Lutheran Church, Rochester, IN) that puts together the best booth for the 2026 Fulton County Fair. Each day of the fair one group will set up and facilitate their booth. The key to each booth is that it will evangelize to show the benefits of both Jesus Christ and St. John Lutheran Church.

Each booth will be judged on:

1. Appearance
2. How well the booth portrays the Gospel
3. How well the booth portrays the coming of Christ
4. How well the booth advertises St. John's Church
  - a. People
  - b. Teaching
  - c. Outreach
  - d. Bible studies
  - e. Pastor

Also, each group will be judged on how well they present themselves and their effort in making sure their evangelism reaches out to the public around them. Remember, you are representing Jesus Christ, His way, His truth, and His life, as well as representing St. John's Lutheran Church.

God's blessings on all of you and the success of all your evangelistic booths.

Pastor Curtis May.

# May 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
<b>3</b> C-Worship 9:30 Sun school 10:30	<b>4</b> Elders 6pm	<b>5</b> CR 5-8pm	<b>6</b> Conf Class 5pm Women's Bible 5pm	7	8	9
<b>10</b> Worship 9:30 Sun school 10:30 Mother's Day	<b>11</b> Hickory Creek 10:30am Educ 6pm Finance 6:30 Tech&Com7pm	<b>12</b> CR 5-8pm	<b>13</b> Conf Class 5pm Women's Bible 5pm	14	15	16
<b>17</b> C-Worship 9:30 Sun school 10:30 Prayer walk/vigil	18	<b>19</b> CR 5-8pm	<b>20</b> Conf Class 5pm Women's Bible 5pm	21	22	23
<b>24</b> Worship 9:30 Sun school 10:30 Sacrificial Sunday	<b>25</b> Memorial day office closed  MEMORIAL DAY	<b>26</b> CR 5-8pm	<b>27</b> Conf Class 5pm Women's Bible 5pm	28	29	30
<b>31</b> Worship 9:30 Sun school 10:30						C- Communion  +Sacrificial Sun- Extra giving opportunity