

From Pastor Kleinschmidt

This month I want to look at the witness of Holy Scripture and the early church in regards to how they celebrated and received the Lord's Supper.

As with any discussion of Holy Communion we always start with what Jesus said. In Luke 22 it says, "And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'" In Matthew's Gospel it says, "Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is my body.' And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'" A couple things to note here is the commands of Jesus. He says, "Take, eat." "Take, drink." and "Do this...." It is quite obvious that this was not a meal that Jesus intended for just his disciples to celebrate once but it is intended for all future Christians to receive and give thanks for.

Next, we have early in the book of Acts a description of early Christian worship. Acts 2:42 takes place immediately after Pentecost (50 days after Easter). It says, "And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." The Pentecost Christians devoted themselves to worship. This Jesus whom they had seen risen from the dead is the one they worshiped. They worshiped by learning about Jesus and what Jesus said (apostles' teaching), being together (fellowship), receiving Holy Communion (breaking of bread), and prayers. This description of worship indicates that Communion isn't an occasional add-on but instead was one of the basic ways of worship; receiving

the crucified and risen body and blood of Jesus in Holy Communion.

A little bit later, probably in about 50-60 AD there was a manual the early Christians used to provide direction for different aspects of the church's life and teaching. It is called *The Didache*. In Chapter 14 it says, "On the Lord's Day, those of the Lord, come together, break bread, and hold the Lord's Supper, after confessing your transgressions." It seems to be assumed that on Sunday Christians would gather to receive Holy Communion for the forgiveness of their sins.

Something we can draw away from this is the centrality that the Lord's Supper played in early Christian worship. It was the way that the Lord was sustaining them. They recognized that even as Jesus had ascended up into heaven he still came to be with them and feed them with his Holy Body and Blood.

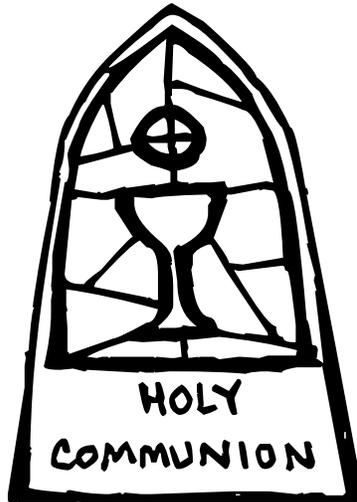
In about 150AD Justin wrote a book called *The First Apology*. He writes, "Of weekly worship of the Christians." He describes Christians gathering on Sunday for readings from Scripture, a sermon, prayers, and the reception of Holy Communion.

For those Christians in the first century after the death and resurrection of Jesus, Holy Communion was of utmost importance. In fact, it looks as if it was the high point of their gathering together to worship. Now this isn't to say that everything that was done in history is always correct, but since there is testimony in the book

of Acts to Communion when the Christians gathered for worship, then there is something here for us to learn.

Next month I will focus on the Reformation and how the Lutherans of the 16th Century reformed the practice of Holy Communion.

In the love of Christ,
-Pastor Kleinschmidt



ST. JAKOBI NEWS & EVENTS

CHURCH OFFICERS FOR 2015

President: Brad Teetzen

Vice President: Tom Anderson

Financial Secretary: Phyllis Habeck

Treasurer: *Donna Ward*

Secretary: Joanne Bublitz

Board of Elders: Brian Sperberg, Chuck Stoehr,
Don Bublitz, Tom Tuma

Board of Trustees: Dale Magee, Greg Samson,
Darwin Drake

Board of Christian Ed: Heather Pyatskowitz, Mark
Buettnner, *Jenny Murdock*

Board of Stewardship: Donna Lopez, Vicki
Waldvogel, *Nancy Marcell*

**Italicized names are newly elected*

The installation for the new church officers will
take place on January 11th during church.

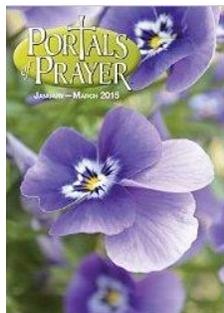
VOTER MEETING

The regular January Voter Meeting will be held on
January 25th after Church. Watch the bulletin for an
announcement of the agenda.

PORTALS OF PRAYER

The Church purchases 100 Portals of
Prayer and 5 copies that are in Large
Print. They are free for you to take.
This little daily devotional book has a
Bible reading and Psalm with a
devotion that ties to the reading.

There are also prayers in the back that are tied to
the Church Year and for each day of the week. You
can pick up your copy by the Guest Book or on the
Bulletin table. Your old Portals of Prayer can be
placed in the basket and they will be donated to
Christians who need devotional material.



DEVOTIONS IN THE NEW YEAR

Do you want to start the New Year out right by
becoming more regular in your devotions and
reading of the Bible? A resource you may try is
Around the Word. These daily devotions are
emailed out once a week. They contain a Psalm,
Verse, Prayer, and Hymn for the week as well as
the order of devotion from the Small Catechism.
Download the most recent copy at
www.whatdoesthismean.org/devotions and you
can also sign up for a weekly email.

ALTAR FLOWERS

If you would like to sign up to provide flowers for
the Altar, you can do so on the bulletin board in the
hallway at church. The flowers should be here
before church on Saturday evening. You can
provide them in memory of someone, in honor of
someone or some event, or just because. Thanks
for beautifying church in this way!

THANK YOU

There are numerous Thank You cards on the
bulletin board from schools that received
donations of hats and mittens. Take a minute to
read them.

THANK YOU

We received many gifts, cards, and trays of
Christmas cookies and we would like to thank
everyone for your kindness to us this Christmas
season. –Pastor, Noël, Joseph, Nolan, & Adam

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Upcoming lessons at Sunday School:

1/4/14	Abraham and Isaac
1/11/14	Isaac and Rebekah
1/18/14	Jacob and Esau
1/25/14	No Class



FUNERAL – ANN OPPERMAN

Ann Opperman passed away on December 13th and
her funeral was December 20th. We give thanks to
God that He called her to faith and blessed her in
her earthly life and that she now rests from her
labors. Thank you to those who helped serve or
prepared food for the funeral dinner.

UPCOMING READINGS AT CHURCH

January 4th:	1 King 3:4-15 Ephesians 1:3-14 Luke 2:40-52
January 11th:	Genesis 1:1-5 Romans 6:1-11 Mark 1:4-11
January 18th:	1 Samuel 3:1-10 Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51
January 25th:	Jonah 3:1-5, 10 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20

VOICES OF PRAISE - CHOIR

The first practice of the New Year will be Monday, January 5, at 6:15. Anyone who was considering singing with us, please contact Joanne Bublitz at 715-526-5315 and plan to join us.

Many thanks to the members of the Voices of Praise for all of the beautiful music they provided over the Christmas Season. We thank you for the time you spend in practice and all of the beautiful sounds and words which lead us to the wonderful celebration of our Savior's birth. We appreciate and thank all of you!

LIBRARY NEWS

PLANTING SEEDS PLANTING SEEDS



"A troubled teenager flees life from her abusive mother, setting out on a journey to find her father, whom she's never known. Based on a true story, 'Gimme Shelter' tells the extraordinary and courageous story of one girl's fight against the odds to find hope, redemption, and a family to call her own."

This is a new movie located in the church library. ★★★★★



TALK RADIO FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

You can listen to teachings on subjects like: The Christmas Hymn "Where Shepherds Lately Knelt," Galatians 4:4-6: In the Fullness of Time, Bach's Christmas Oratorio, The Promises of God and more.

Issues, Etc. is a radio talk show produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. You can listen at your convenience at www.issuesetc.org.

Issues, Etc.



Christ-Centered Cross-Focused Talk Radio

RIDDLE ME THIS

Answers to 'What Christmas hymns do these refer to?'

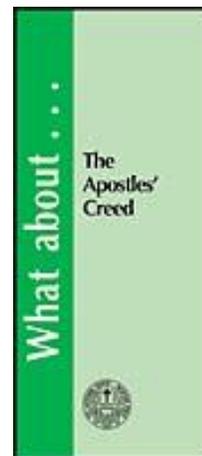
1. *Silent Night*
2. *Noel*
3. *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*
4. *Joy to the World*
5. *Away in a Manger*

6. *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*
7. *Little Town of Bethlehem*
8. *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
9. *Deck the Halls*
10. *The Twelve Days of Christmas*
11. *Do You Hear What I Hear?*
12. *Jingle Bells*

WHAT ABOUT...

Each month we'll be highlighting a tract that can be picked up in the narthex. There is a series that was written by the former President of the LCMS, Rev. A. L. Barry. They cover a multitude of topics. This month we look at **The Apostles' Creed**.

The Church uses three creeds that were written long ago: The Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds. This tract shortly explains who the Triune God is and why we even use creeds at all. It gives a wealth of resources and information! They are free for the taking by the guest book.



LETTER FROM SEMINARIAN ALEX LANGE

Christmas greetings!

You'll be happy to know that I finished my fall quarter and passed all my classes. Also, I completed the interviews and paper work required for receiving a call in the spring. It won't be long now!

Rachel and I had a wonderful Thanksgiving with her brother and sister. I preached at Immanuel Lutheran Church, one of my dad's previous congregations, and I got to visit with my childhood friends. Rachel and I enjoyed a lot of quiet time together and caught our breath from the hectic fall. Now, winter classes have begun and I am back in the hustle and bustle of academia.

However, in a short few weeks we will have our Christmas break. We are looking forward to going back to Oregon to visit my parents, grandparents, and siblings. While visiting my family, I will preach at Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Sunday after Christmas.

I hope that your Christmas is also full of family, friends, joy, and peace. I hope that you remember the gift God has given to you—Jesus, the immortal Son of God, who became a mortal son of man, so that all mortal sons of men might become immortal sons of God.

In Christ, Alex and Rachel

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

1 - Jordan Opperman
4 - Tony Szucs
4 - Marjorie McGahan
4 - Arvin Bahr
5 - Riley Tuma
5 - Elmer Ackermann
5 - Samantha Tonn
6 - Colton Peters
6 - Tony Bisterfeldt
7 - Stephanie Hoffman
8 - Lori (Steve) Buettner
8 - Doug Gast
9 - William Grab
9 - Kaci Wendorff
11 - Heidi Teetzen
11 - Geraldine Gueths
13 - Randy Opperman
15 - Adam Kleinschmidt
16 - Jayden West
16 - Phyllis Habeck
17 - Isaiah McDowell
17 - Emily Jo Hanke
18 - Layla Sperberg
18 - Joyce Hogan
21 - Gage Skalitzky
22 - Shawn Stueck
22 - Debbie Schroeder
24 - Kelsie Buettner
24 - Jamie Popp
26 - Bill Teetzen
26 - Khloe Wendorff
27 - Marsha Opperman
27 - Benjamin Sperberg
30 - Donna Ward
31 - Miranda Montoure
31 - Kaitlin Phillips-Grassl

Contact the Church Office if you find anything in need of correction to the Birthdays and Anniversaries.

A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, our times are in Your hands. Look with favor on name as he/she celebrates his/her birthday. Grant that he/she may continue to grow in wisdom and grace. Strengthen his/her trust in Your goodness and bless him/her with Your abiding love all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

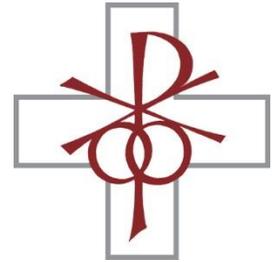


JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

10, 1954 - Charles & Shirley Glock
24, 2004 - Jeremy & Melanie Buenning
28, 2006 - Chad & Lori Wendorff
29, 1984 - Carl & Martha Gebert

AN ANNIVERSARY OF MARRIAGE PRAYER

O Lord Jesus, Your mercies are new every morning. We thank You for another year of married life together for name and name. Open their hearts always to receive more of Your love that their love for each other may never grow weary but deepen and grow through every joy and sorrow shared; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On Sunday, December 21st the Children presented *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!* Thank you to the children, the teachers, the Board of Education, and the director, Mark Buettner. The Christmas message was a pleasure to hear from the lips of little children.



JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Elders: Sat: Chuck Stoehr Sun: Brian Sperberg Spec: Don Bublitz	Altar Guild: Tracie Popp Carol Magee Laura Prodel			1 New Year's Day	2	3 6:30 Service Acolyte: Taylor Johnson
4 9:00 Service(HC) 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Jacob Nevins	5 6:15 Choir Practice 7:00 Altar Guild	6 Epiphany	7 1:00 Ladies Bible Study 3:30 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	8 1:00 Bible Study 7:00 Elders	9	10 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:30 Service(HC) Acolyte: Hunter Hawkinson
11 Installation of Church Officers 9:00 Service 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Alex Owen	12 6:15 Choir Practice 7:00 Council Meeting	13	14 3:30 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	15 1:00 Bible Study	16 7:00 Catechism Lock-in	17 6:30 Service Acolyte: Alec Raddant
18 9:00 Service(HC) 10:30 Ed. Hour Acolyte: Tristan Szucs	19 6:15 Choir Practice	20	21 3:30 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	22 1:00 Bible Study	23	24 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Payten Thompson
25 9:00 Service Voter Meeting after service Acolyte: Gabriella Wendorff	26 6:15 Choir Practice	27	28 3:30 Catechism 6:30 Bible Study	29 1:00 Bible Study	30	31 6:30 Service (HC) Acolyte: Kloie Boyles

Listen to WTCH 960AM for weather cancellations or check www.stjakobi.org or www.facebook.com/lcmsjakobi.

St. Jakobi Lutheran Church

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www.stjakobi.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

“We Preach Christ Crucified”



Church Services:

Saturday at 6:30pm and Sunday at 9:00am

Bible Study:

Wednesday at 6:30pm, Thursday at 1:00pm, and Sunday at 10:30am.

Sunday School:

Sunday at 10:30am

