

From *Pastor Bob*



After months of thinking about it, meditating on it, praying about it, I think I've come up with a plan for safely doing Communion in a time of pandemic.

We all know the importance of Communion because we have felt its influence on our bodies and in our lives. We need Christ's presence in our lives and believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated wine and bread of Holy Communion. Besides, Christ gave us two commands: "Do this [Communion] in remembrance of me" and "Go, therefore and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

My suggestion for restoring Communion to our worship is this: during the week, I will don a mask and gloves and will individually wrap wafers in plastic wrap and then put them in an envelope or some other container. These I will put in the envelope holders on the backs of the pews at the spots where members are permitted to sit.

Prior to my reading of the Words of Institution ("In the night in which he was betrayed..."), each member who wishes to commune will remove their wafer from the envelope and raise it with two hands toward me so that I can consecrate all the wafers at once. I will then say, "The body of Christ given for you," and the whole congregation can consume their wafers.

The question might well be asked, "Is it permissible to take either the bread or the wine instead of our usual practice of consuming both?" The ELCA guidelines are in a book entitled "The Use of the Means of Grace (1997)." They say this, "For pressing reasons of health, individuals may commune under one element... Their pastor may assure them that the crucified and risen Christ is fully present for them in, with, and under this one element."

This is, of course, a temporary response to a crisis. I'm envisioning that we would commune in this way once a month and for special occasions.

God's blessings,
Pastor Bob

Martin *Luther*



In Part Five of his *Small Catechism*, Martin Luther teaches us about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Luther repeats some of the same concepts he taught in Part Four on the Sacrament of Baptism. He asks of each, 'what benefits do we receive,' and in both he replies, 'the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.' He asks of each sacrament: how can mere water, or, how can mere bread and wine do such great things; and in both sections he replies that it is not the water, bread or wine alone that does such great things, but the Word of God connected to that earthly element and our faith in that Word of God.

In Holy Communion that promise of forgiveness, life, and salvation is repeated again and again throughout the person's life. But why, if we have already received an eternal promise, do we have to go and receive that same promise over and over again? Well, Luther would say, *you are thinking too much*. Is it so hard just to do as you are told? If God had told you to go on a pilgrimage to the other side of the world, crawling on your hands and knees all the way, you would have to try and do

that, if doing so was the only way you could gain eternal life. But what God commands here is simple and easy. While you are at church remembering the Sabbath Day anyway, at the announced time, get up out of your seat, walk to the front, and get a little wafer of bread, and a little sip of wine, and the Bible says, you will receive the forgiveness of sins, nourishment for your soul, and the gift of eternal life. God makes it so easy, says Luther—yet some people want to argue the point. Yes, you receive everything in Baptism, but also yes, Jesus commands that you eat the bread and drink the wine, his own body and blood, he says, in remembrance of his suffering and death for you. To say 'no' is to disobey a direct command of Jesus Christ who said, "Do this as often as you eat, or drink, of this, in remembrance of me."

Luther speaks to those who may stay away from communion because they feel they are unfit. For this problem, he has a great deal of compassion, and simply points to the fact that all who come to communion come precisely because they are unfit and unworthy, and it is Christ who receives us and welcomes us and forgives us, and thereby makes us worthy. So, come as you are, it is the Lord Himself who has invited you.

—*EmailMeditations*

Committees

Endowment



The Endowment Committee would like to recognize our recipient from the Scholarship Selection Committee. Morgan Kirk received the distribution from the DeMoss Scholarship Fund. Morgan is attending Ohio Dominican University and is majoring in Biopsychology and is

hoping to continue in graduate studies to become a speech pathologist. She would like to work in a children's hospital to help make a positive impact on children's lives. We wish Morgan our best in pursuit of higher education and are pleased to be able to help with her financial needs.

The Missionary Outreach account within Endowment has a very important purpose of providing financial support for Christian projects, education, and services to those beyond the physical confines of our church. So far this year, we have helped Redeemer Lutheran Toledo with \$5000 to help replace their steam boiler system. Their entire heat system was not operational this past winter and they received all equipment at wholesale prices with labor donated. After the above project, the fund still has \$5,149.11 to be distributed this year. If you know of a deserving project that meets the above criteria, please present to a standing committee to have the request presented to the Endowment Committee. Our committee meets the second Wednesday of the month. We hope to see deserving projects presented for requests as soon as possible.



Social Ministry

GOOD NEWS GARDEN UPDATE!

Cucumbers, zucchini, and tomatoes, OH MY! The Good News Garden is up and growing with not only vegetables, but also beautiful annuals, perennials, and sunflowers (2 kinds running north-south and east-west). There are zinnias, cosmos, bachelor buttons, and asters! Now that we are back in person to church, you might like to take a turn around the garden some Sunday morning. You will see something of beauty in every corner....can't wait for the hibiscus to bloom. With the return of our "community" Community Dinner up in the air, most all of our vegetables will be given away (see related article...Grab and Go Community Dinners). So get ready for fresh produce!

GRAB AND GO COMMUNITY DINNERS.... HOW'S THAT WORK?

Most of you know we are doing the Community Dinner on the 1st Sunday of each month by "grab and go." What a neat idea! But we are back in "flood mode," a reference to the 2007 flood that took out our kitchen (and 3 other churches) for 6 months. And although you might think a sack lunch would be less expensive to provide, it is not. We have been stimulating the Findlay economy by using some local providers, but our funds have fallen from \$3,400 to \$2,781.58 in 3 months...not a huge drop off, but meat for last month's burritos had been purchased prior to Covid, and the tortillas were donated by the Toledo office of LSS. Many have asked, "How can I help if I can't bake a cake or bring a jello salad?" A small donation will be a blessing in the upcoming months. And pray that we can return to Fellowship Hall after the first of the year!

2020 VISION for Stewardship



Getting some guidance in understanding personal stewardship:

I AM A STEWARD!

If I were to ask, "Who are you?", you might answer: I am male (or female), I am an adult (or a child or a student), I am American, I am human, I am single (or married), I am a lawyer or a teacher or a stay-at-home mom. I have recently heard a few people proudly announce, "I am binary" (or non-binary) [better look that one up!]. And, oh yes, I am sure most of you would include "I am a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ" or "I am a Lutheran, born and bred" (that last part is important!).

I wonder how many of you might include "I am a steward," in your list of "I am's"? As part of the stewardship committee we spend a lot of time teaching about the meaning, purpose and practice of stewardship. Maybe we should spend more time teaching and discussing what it means *to be a steward*? "Stewardship" sounds like a doctrine, a concept happily discussed and debated by theologians and stewardship committees. Stewardship feels like something that is done to me or something I am asked to do myself. But talk of being a steward feels so personal. Not something I do, but something I am. It's about part of my identity.

Is my stewardship an expression of who I am or is it seen rather as one of those high falootin' ideas way above me that really has little to do with my life? Think how things might change if I thought of myself as a man, a husband, a father, an American ... *and a steward!* And think how my attitude towards my giving, my generosity and my whole spiritual life would be altered if being a steward was part of my self-awareness as a Christian!

What are we doing to help our children (and youth) grow with this self-awareness? How could we help them grow up knowing that stewardship is not what adults do but being a steward is who they are? "So, how do we raise up stewards? I suspect it begins with the youngest ones among us. We seem to keep money out of the hands of our children for as long as we can. Nathan Dungan thinks we should be putting money into the hands of our children around the same age we give them books. I agree. To raise up stewards, let's start putting money in the hands of children and start teaching them how to use it creatively for the sake of a better world." [Jonathan Davis]



God calls us to be stewards through our baptism. In baptism we are claimed as God's children and receive God's grace. As stewards, we live out our callings as children of God by sharing God's grace with the world. How might we share God's grace in our everyday lives? We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

For us as the ELCA, this faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom and the courage to wonder, discover and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world. God comes down to us through the gospel. God so loved the world that God gave us Jesus. The gospel story is alive in us and written on our hearts. We are stewards of God's good news. How might we share God's story with our neighbors through our actions and words?

- *Stewards of God's Love*

"Tell those rich in this world's goods to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money; which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage— to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life." -1 Timothy 6: 17-19

The Message Eugene Peterson



Library News

Well, my friends, 2020 continues to be a year we will not forget. Paul and I were devastated by the death of our friend and live-in, Phil Tuttle on June 13, 2020. To think that six weeks ago all was good: he was healthy and greeting me in the morning with "Good morning, Beautiful."

And then the infection set in at his knee. Admitted to the hospital, he was alone because of COVID-19 restrictions on visitors. Two surgeries later and our permission finally given to stay with him, he was already traumatized by the alone time. I do know that our new normal has been drastically changed by his death.

We power on.

Now obviously, COVID-19 affected our Phil directly. My question that floats in space with no answer is how much has the pandemic affected the rest of us directly AND indirectly. Are we angrier, less patient, confused, suspicious of people and sources of information? Are we unnecessarily avoiding others and things? Are we mentally at the beginnings of depression? Are we not dealing with loneliness? And how will our children process the worry they see in their parents and other adults? I hate the thought of children wearing masks as well. Only time will tell.

So, while we are on the subject of health, let's talk about four foods that will make you feel younger. You are never too old to start eating right and taking care of your body. The easiest place to start is with the foods you eat. Try to incorporate these into your diet to reduce inflammation and feel younger.

1. Apples – They do keep the doctor away. Plus, they can help keep your digestive system going strong.

2. Ginger – For aches and pains, ginger is packed with powerful antioxidants to help fight inflammation and calm muscles.

3. Cherry juice – It is best to sleep on our side during our golden years. If you are having trouble falling asleep and staying asleep, opt for cherry juice in the evening as it contains melatonin.

4. Spinach – Full of magnesium, spinach can help maintain nerve function and regulate blood sugar.

To further a healthier you,

- exercise daily - as little as 30 minutes a day is good for your entire body.
- Laugh often – laughter stimulates your muscles, lungs, and heart. It is a great stress reliever and whole-body health comes with less stress.

- Forgive others – physical well-being starts with emotional well-being. Forgive everyone including yourself.

God bless. Stay healthy. Keep reading.

Kathy Brooks

(kathleenbrooks15@gmail.com)

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**Our Christian Sympathies to
Paul and Kathy Brooks
and Brook West.**

Phillip was so special and
certainly a ray of sunshine
for those who knew him.



You Are Needed

Food Cart Requests



**Laundry Detergent
Tooth brushes/paste,
Condiments, any
packaged food items**

All donations benefit LSS
The cart is in the coat room.



*Instead of going afar on a Mission Trip,
churches and community members will
gather volunteers to do yard work, painting,
and make house repairs in one day.*

**The 2020 Backyard Mission Trip is
August 1st.**

For more information, please contact
Nick Thomas at: nthomas@thermatru.com.

**SIGN UP
TODAY!**



A BIG THANK YOU for all the donations to the LSS Food Cart these past few months. It was overwhelming to see such an enormous amount of items during this even more time of need. Many people will be served because of your generosity. Jesus teaches us that greatness comes from serving - giving of yourself to help God and others. Service keeps us aware of other's needs. — Sue DeMoss



Dear heavenly Father

bless me with the strength
and determination
to always put my faith in You
regardless of the situation
I find myself in.



Church News



Well...Almost perfect!!!!
We had 51 Sundays in 2019
(one cancelation due to snow)

Congratulations to....

8:15 Service

Richard Ruehle
50 Sundays

Tom & Linda Mitchell
49 Sundays

10:45 Service

Mary Lou McCann
50 Sundays
Phil Bash

48 Sundays

Note: Keep filling out the
yellow "Footprints"



Blessing
of the
Backpacks!



For All Students

Returning to School in the Fall

August 23 at 8:30 & 10:00

We are not quite sure what this fall will
bring. So, let's start off the school year
with a blessing from God



The Prayer is:
Keep worshipping
during the summer at
8:30 and 10:00

Return to the fall schedule on
September 6th for
Worship at 8:15 & 10:45
Sunday School at 9:30

Celebrations

Birthdays

Paul DeMoss	7/3	Joseph Breen	7/18
Anthony Masterlasco	7/3	Tom Dillon	7/18
Evan Clark	7/8	Adam August	7/19
Mary Kondik	7/8	Falkyn Roth	7/19
Jerold Bosse	7/9	Diane Adler	7/20
Richard Schweitzer	7/9	Eric Timbrook	7/21
Michael August	7/10	Milton Peters	7/22
Jennifer Kamm	7/10	Diana Salisbury	7/22
Brittany Schell	7/12	Grant Welte	7/24
Ryan Schell	7/12	Abigail Ruehle	7/27
Ella Zawisza	7/12	Sue DeMoss	7/28
Adelyn Thorbahn	7/13	Nina Dukes	7/28
Kristan Napier	7/14	Matthew Meyer	7/28
Toni Poling	7/14	Marisa Sanders	7/28
James Staschiak	7/14	Rick Howard	7/29
Samuel Ried	7/15	Bethany Rice	7/29
Kenneth Otte	7/17		



Birthdays

Bart Welte	8/3	Jason Bower	8/16
Joseph Baker	8/4	Elyse Clark	8/18
Randy Buck	8/4	Emily Clark	8/18
Robin Bowman	8/6	Jonathan Ruehle	8/18
Carol Roessing	8/7	Adrienne Masterlasco	8/19
Rick Dudics	8/8	Jane Eakin	8/20
Steven Rice	8/8	Philip Maurer	8/20
SilverLyn Roth	8/8	Clyde Mitchell	8/20
Riley Biggs	8/9	Kristina Rodman	8/20
William Chubb	8/9	Corey Spoon	8/20
Ryan Maas	8/9	Robert Cochran	8/21
Kathy Brooks	8/10	Lyla Gerdeman	8/25
Vickie Poling	8/12	Fred Makrancy	8/25
Judy Routson	8/13	Laurel Beutler	8/27
Barbara Larick	8/14	Jeff Howard	8/27
Robert Beutler	8/15	L. Eileen Mains	8/28
Alec Bonnoront	8/15	Tanner Timbrook	8/29
Nancy Meek	8/15	Kenneth Wynkoop	8/30
Ethan Patrick Schell	8/15	Jim Fultz	8/31

July

Anniversaries

Jim & Kimberly Fultz	7/1/2000	20
Glen & Mary Lou McCann	7/3/1965	55
Arthur & Carolyn Wilde	7/5/1969	51
Fred & Karon Makrancy	7/7/1974	46
Gregory & Sandra Rakestraw	7/17/1971	49
Paul & Donna Brockman	7/23/1988	32
Thomas & Cynthia Fitzpatrick	7/24/1971	49
Rick & Roberta Howard	7/30/1976	44

August

Anniversaries

Diana & Jeff Salisbury	8/4/1973	47
Paul & Kathy Brooks	8/8/1992	28
Harry & Ann Fifolt	8/13/1966	54
Nick & Tonya Thorbahn	8/16/08	12
Brent & Peggy Fruchey	8/17/1985	35
Timothy & Nora Cochran	8/19/1978	42
Steven & Jodi Wilson	8/19/1978	42
Milton & Carol Peters	8/27/1960	60
Christian & Julie Dittmar	8/28/1971	49
Jerold & Bonnie Bosse	8/30/1959	61

Visit Our Website
www.1stLutheranChurch.org



Worship Assistants

SOUND ROOM

July 5-
8:30- Wayne Dukes
10:00- Alex Treece

July 12
8:30- Wayne Dukes
10:00- Jerry Bryant

July 19-
8:30- Wayne Dukes
10:00- Todd Thompson

July 26-
8:30- Wayne Dukes
10:00- Steve Roth

ALTAR FLOWERS

July 5- Cyndy & Daryl Rotman
July 12- Maria & Tad Schell
July 19- Karon & Fred Makrancy
July 26-

Forms for your bulletin announcement
are available on the bulletin board and
at 1stLutheranChurch.org.

Flowers need to be delivered to the

ALTAR GUILD

Amber Leipheimer, Julie Buck

COUNTERS

Tom & Pam Basinger

LSS DELIVERY

Marty Schmidt

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:30/10:00

July 5- Tim Cochran
July 12- Kylie Timbrook
July 19- Tim Franks
July 26- Kylie Timbrook

July



SOUND ROOM

Aug. 2
8:30- Wayne Dukes
10:00- Jerry Bryant

Aug. 9
8:30- Wayne Dukes
10:00- Todd Thompson

Aug. 16
8:30- Wayne Dukes
10:00- Steve Roth

Aug. 23
8:30- Wayne Dukes
10:00- Alex Treece

Aug. 30
8:30- Wayne Dukes
10:00- Jerry Bryant

ALTAR FLOWERS

Aug. 2- Jon & Sandra Burnside
Aug. 9
Aug 16- Maria & Tad Schell
Aug. 23- Elaine Ashley
Aug. 30- Carol & Milt Peters

Forms for your bulletin announcement
are available on the bulletin board
and at 1stLutheranChurch.org.

Flowers need to be delivered to the
church by noon on Friday.

ALTAR GUILD

Dave & Shirley Gerber,
Bob & Arlene Schriner

COUNTERS

Ken & Jean Wynkoop

LSS DELIVERY

Jennifer Kamm

FLOWER DELIVERY

Robin Bowman

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:30/10:00

Aug. 2 - Pastor Chris
Aug. 9- Pastor Chris
Aug. 16 - Pastor Chris
Aug. 23 - Pastor Chris
Aug. 30- Tim Franks

August

first
Lutheran
109 E. Lincoln Street
Findlay, OH 45840

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Current Resident or:



Mailed around
July 2, 2020

In-person Worship

8:30 & 10:00

ACTS

*experiencing community
expressing mission*

www.1stLutheranChurch.org

419-422-2638