



The St. John's Communicator

June 29, 2019

Roser's Reflections . . .

You may or may not be aware that the practice of closed communion is one of the primary reasons why I applied for admission to the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, as it is the only responsible way to administer the Lord's Supper. The Bible teaches us that we are not to come to the Lord's Table as a body in which sharp divisions exist: "16The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? 17Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread." (1 Cor. 10:16-17). It is not wrong to consider members of other Christian denominations as our brothers and sisters, but it is inexcusable to approach the Lord's Table together with them declaring that we are one body even as sharp contradictions exist between what we each teach. This is to present a falsehood and it is an affront to the Lord Who calls us to unity as we receive this Sacrament. Additionally, the Bible teaches us that those who receive the Lord's Supper into their mouths but do not believe it is the Lord's true body and true blood bring upon themselves the Lord's judgment for their unbelief: "27Whoever, 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. 28Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died." (1 Cor. 11:27-30). Unfortunately, in recent years, these biblical truths have become unpopular and we are accused of being inhospitable. What could be more inhospitable than to choose not to protect those who worship with us from the Lord's judgment? To that end, our answer is not "no" but "not yet." I am always available to prepare inquirers to share in our confession of faith and thus also in the Lord's Supper with us.

I listened to an audiobook recently which presents the true biblical doctrine of closed communion in a clear and winsome fashion. It is called *Come in, We are Closed* and is written by Tyrel Bramwell, one of our pastors. It is a novel in which a young man is in a coffee shop on a winter's evening and becomes acquainted with an elderly Lutheran pastor. The two end up sharing a booth, consuming an insane amount of coffee, and discussing openly and thoughtfully why the Church practices closed communion. The publisher describes it in the following terms: "Many evangelicals are unfamiliar with it, don't understand it, and are often offended when they encounter it, but when it comes to the Lord's Supper the Scriptures clearly teach that Holy Communion is not for anybody and everybody. In this short work of fiction Rev. Tyrel Bramwell recalls the questions he had when he first encountered closed Communion as a young evangelical and the conversations he has had as a pastor, in order to dispel false assumptions and provide the Biblical answers to real misunderstandings."

This is a great book for everyone to read in order to explain clearly and compassionately why the Lord's Supper is administered among us in the way that it is. It is available in paperback, Kindle eBook, and audiobook. You can locate it by following the links below.

Paperback: https://www.amazon.com/Come-are-Closed-Tyrel-Bramwell/dp/1717081851/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=come+in+were+closed&qid=1561517244&s=gateway&sr=8-1

eBook: https://www.amazon.com/Come-are-Closed-Tyrel-Bramwell-ebook/dp/B07J16RQKM/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_o?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1561517244&sr=8-1

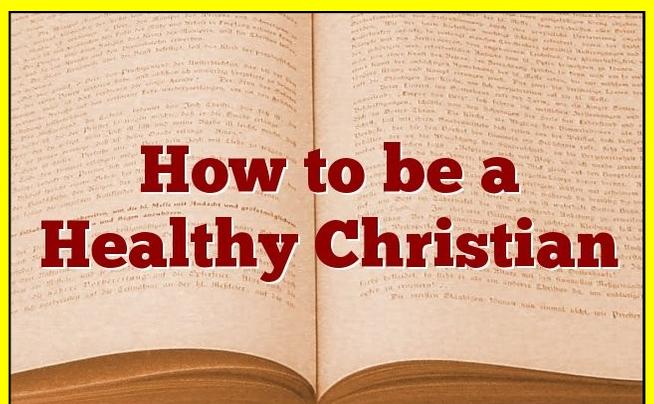
Audiobook: https://www.audible.com/pd/Come-In-We-Are-Closed-Audiobook/B07NSGC1KL?qid=1561519094&sr=1-1&pf_rd_p=e81b7c27-6880-467a-b5a7-13cef5d729fe&pf_rd_r=HJY2VZHESKZ56QE1TA2Q&ref=a_search_c3_lProduct_1_1

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor

TOMORROW—Mini Health Fair

The Christian life is a healthy life and a balanced life--body, soul, and spirit. **David Zimdars and Lana VanHove** (members of St. Andrew Lutheran - Rockton) **will be presenting "15 Simple Things to Do for Your Health" on Sunday, June 30th, during the fellowship time after morning worship.** Lana is the parish nurse at St. Andrew, and David is a licensed United Healthcare agent and a member of St. Andrew's as well. One of the keys to a healthy life is having good information on which to base your health and healthcare decisions. Bring your curiosity and any health questions and join in on the session.



LUMIN- ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Family FUN Day



**SATURDAY
JULY 20TH
2PM-4PM**

**GAMES,
FOOD &
FUN!!!**



LUMIN Schools
St. John's Lutheran

**1000 BLUFF ST.
BELOIT, WI 53511**



"It is for
FREEDOM that
CHRIST has set
US **FREE.**"

- Galatians 5:1

*Live life
by the
Spirit*

Help needed: Deb Stark's Mom is in need of occasional transportation to Rockford for treatment related to her dialysis. Although others are helping, every now and then there's a gap in the schedule. If you're able to lend a hand, it would be very appreciated. For more information, please contact Deb via email at: dstark@sjlmidland.org Thank you.



The St. John's Women's Guild is collecting shampoo and conditioner on behalf of Caritas. Please place your contribution in the box in the Narthex. Thank you.

You're Invited

You're cordially invited to join the congregation of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2129 Church Rd, Evansville, WI, as they celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Reverend Don Fehlauer's ordination as an LCMS pastor. Festivities are scheduled for Sunday, July 14th, at 9:00 a.m. Luncheon will follow at the Center Town Hall. Please RSVP before June 23rd to either Kathy Oberdeck (608-4360-3474) or Candace Thompson (608-295-7628.)