



The St. John's Communicator

April 30, 2021

From the Pastor's Desk...

Just as people are speculating about what the "new normal" in our culture will come to be, many are also speculating about what the Church is going to look like in the future. As you probably expect, a majority of those who weigh in on the question are betting heavily on a digital future for the Church. I don't agree.

The 2020 "me" was fully "onboard" with this train of thought, but the 2021 "me" thinks otherwise. I love that our worship services are broadcast on the internet and can be accessed whenever someone is available to worship. I love that I can record prayer services and Bible classes and upload them to the web so that our members and others can access them. I have every intention of expanding the content that I make available on the web to assist people in connecting with our Lord Jesus, however, going forward digital ministry is not going to remain at the center of my work as a pastor. The pandemic may have forced this focus upon us, but it doesn't signal a permanent change. While I will continue to make usage of every tool for ministry that becomes available to us, this will not become the object of my passion and best efforts.

Why? Because of the incarnational nature of the Church from its inception. I thought that perhaps I should use a complex sentence since I may be sounding to you like a dullard, in a culture that is enamored with the latest technologies. To speak of that which is "incarnational" is to speak of that which has a body or is "embodied." On Christmas, we celebrate our Lord's "Incarnation" which began with his conception by the Holy Spirit in blessed Mary's womb. We worship a God Who is not simply spirit, but is also a body. You are not a body possessing a soul, nor are you a soul possessing a body. Instead, you are both body and soul. Likewise, the Church is not simply an idea but a body.

As you read St. Paul's letters you will notice that he uses the phrase "body of Christ" in three ways: 1. Jesus' physical body, 2. Christ's body as it is truly received in the Lord's Supper, and 3. the Church (Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 1 in particular). As Paul describes the Church as the body of Christ, he is speaking of the assembly, congregation, or community of believers. While I have no qualms acknowledging that community can exist on the internet, the lack of physical proximity of internet gatherings presents a disembodied community. Just as face-to-face communication is rarely inferior to what may be accomplished over the telephone or through email messages, there is a dimension to the physical gathering of the congregation that can never be replaced by gatherings over the ether.

Just as God declared in Genesis 2 that it was not good for the man to be alone, God has chosen to deliver His gifts of salvation through water, bread, and wine which have been joined to His Word in the Holy Sacraments. Can, and does, God save through the Word alone? - Absolutely! And yet, He has given to us for our assurance His Word through water, bread, and wine which can be seen, touched, tasted, smelled, etc.

While many things in our culture may become completely or primarily digital, many things will remain in-person. The ice-skating rinks, water parks, ice-cream shoppes, and other similar venues will remain in-person because what they offer cannot be truly experienced online. In the same way, **the Church is not simply a distributor of religious content, but a community gathered around the Gospel and the Sacraments.** In fact, as more and more American workers transition permanently to remote workspaces and other in-person social gatherings disappear, the embodied community of the local congregation will not only serve the spiritual needs of those who gather, but will also provide the human need for personal interaction that we all have.

An insistence upon gathering together in worship may perhaps seem outdated in our digital age, but only if one's understanding of worship is limited to consuming content. Worship is more than listening to a message or some songs, it is the gathering of God's people before Him to hear His Word, join their voices together in prayer and praise of Him, and to receive the body and blood of Christ AS the body of Christ. When you are absent from worship, one of the unintended consequences of your absence is that the body of Christ does not receive the Lord's gifts that He provides through you. Your sisters and brothers in Christ need the whole "you." If everything that we have to offer and receive could be accomplished through a mouse and keyboard, God would not have made us bodies. The disembodied church is hollow. The God Who made us body and soul deserves better from His Church and so does His people.

Thank you for any assistance you may be able to provide.

In Christ Jesus,

Dennis

Time Off for Good Behavior

**Pastor Roser will be taking off from
Friday, April 30 through Thursday May 6th.**

He will be back on Friday, May 7th.

**If you require pastoral assistance during his
absence, Pastor Dan Eddy (Messiah Lutheran)
will be happy to assist. (314-775-7371.)**

**Because Pastor Roser is off, there will
be no Prayer At the Close of the Day
on Wednesday, May 5th.**

HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS
WILL BE LIKE A GARDEN
IN EARLY SPRING,
WITH PLANTS SPRINGING UP
EVERYWHERE.

ISAIAH 61:11

Prayers for those in need of physical or spiritual healing:

all those whom we have named on our prayer list, and those we now name in the thoughts of our hearts; Paula Devlin, Hunter Griinke, John Beckes, Dan Burrows, Lesley Hunter, Jo Cunningham, John Kannengeiser, Dick Sears, Pam Matchett Damrow, Al Jenks, Jan Jenks, Kurt, Ruth Peterson, Carol McKechney, Jan Petterson, Marsha Griinke, Bob Brohn, Darlene Willing, Carol Lowry, Karen Nohr, Brad Carter, Keith Stowers, Ed Spychalski, Jon Turner, Bobbie Reynolds, Mike Papini, Tom Wulf, Doris Rindfleisch, Joaquin, Marcie Moore, Laura Jo Pearson, Cayden Krueger, Janice Hemerley, and all of our members who are homebound, those who serve in the military (particularly Pastor Keith GeRue, Kyle Summers and Logan Davies), emergency services and all who work for the common good.



St. John's Prayer at the Close of the Day!

When: Every Wednesday from 7:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: Facebook Live - <https://www.facebook.com/stjohnslutheranbeloit>

How to Submit a Prayer Request:

Send requests to Pastor Roser

*cell: (608)-713-2050

*email: dennismroser@outlook.com

*or send a PM using St. John's Facebook Page

*Deadline for prayer requests is Wednesday each week at 6:30 pm



Calling All High School and College Graduates!

Is this your year for a diploma? Please let us know so we can include you in our upcoming special service.

Email your information (name, school/college) to officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com

This week's Worship service bulletin is available for you on our website on the Digital Church page. It will be used for both the in-person and on-line Worship.
<https://www.stjohnsbeloit.com/connect-with-us.html>

Sunday Morning Streamed Worship CAtchism and Dog Prayer At the Close of the Day Catechism for Life

Like St. John's on-line videos? We encourage you to share them on your own Facebook page, and with your family and friends. It's a great way to invite people to learn more about the Word of God!



This week's CD Ministry is sponsored by Jeanne Ludeman in celebration of her birthday.

BELOIT LEARNING CENTER

WHO WE ARE : The Beloit Learning Center is a group of volunteers invested in helping your children succeed. We are teachers, professionals, musicians, college professors, and business owners who are donating their time and are offering one on one tutoring to assist your child in achieving excellence in education.

WHO CAN ATTEND: We work with students from Kindergarten through 12th grade.

LOCATION AND HOURS: We are located at 1000 Bluff St., Beloit, Wisconsin, in the classrooms of the St. John's Lutheran School building. Our hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

HOW TO ENROLL: Contact us either by email or phone: (608)-363-1150 or wmclawyer428@gmail.com

We'll have you fill out an information sheet and you'll be set to go.



Two Alternative Ways to Experience the Word of God!!

Two weekly video programs are easily available to you, giving you the opportunity learn more about the Word of God, as an individual or as a family! One program is for children of all ages and one is for adults. Both of these video programs are uploaded to Youtube and shared on Facebook each week.

The program for young people is **"CAtchism and Dog"** and is uploaded every Wednesday. In this program, Belle and Pastor Roser work through a section of the catechism at a level that connects with young children and their families.

The program for adults is **"Catechism for Life"** and is uploaded on Saturdays. In this program, Pastor Roser reviews a section of the catechism, discussing how it applies to our every day lives.

Join us on-line for these programs, as well as our weekly Worship services, streamed live each Sunday at 9:00 a.m., and also recorded so you can watch them anytime!

Look for the links on our Facebook page, subscribe to our Youtube channel, or find the links on our Webpage under Digital Church!

Your Last Chance To Win Delicious Culver's Food!

Answers can be found in/on the monthly Messenger, the weekly Communicator, the Facebook page, the Web page, the Sunday Bulletin, or the Worship service.

Submit the answers either in writing or by email to the church's Administrative Assistant, and a winner will be drawn from the entries with the correct answers. The winner gets a gift card for delicious Culver's food!

officestjohnsbeloit@gmail.com

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS!

- 1.) On the front of this Communicator is a special message from Pastor Roser. What is one of the Biblical references he makes within it?
- 2.) Who is/was the special guest pastor four Sunday Worship on May 2, 2021?
- 3.) What is the Women's Guild currently collecting, and for whom?
- 4.) What great news does Pastor Roser's message in the May Messenger contain?
- 5.) There are currently five pages/headings on the St. John's Website. Name three of them.

Answers need to be submitted by noon, May 7, 2021.



THIS IS THE LAST CULVER'S QUIZ!!
Be watching this Fall when we will have a different opportunity for you to win!