

St. John's Practices "Close" Communion - What does this mean?

It means that if you are not a member of St. John's nor in fellowship with us by being a member at one of our fellow WELS or ELS congregations we ask that you please not come forward to receive the Lord's Supper until after completing a Bible Instruction course from our Pastor.

Why does St. John's practice "Close" Communion?

Scripture teaches that in the Lord's Supper the True Body and True Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ is Really Present in / with and under the bread and wine. In First Corinthians 11:17-34 we are warned that those who do not believe in the Real Presence will receive this Sacrament to their Judgment rather than their blessing.

(For the Pastor to give the Lord's Supper to someone who does not believe in the Real Presence would obviously NOT be a loving practice, since the individual would then receive the Lord's Supper to their judgment instead of to their blessing.)

The Lord's Supper is given for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:26-29).

It is not to be taken by anyone who willfully continues to live a sinful lifestyle (Romans 6:1-2; Hebrews 10:26-27).

It is also an expression of Christian unity (Romans 15:5; Romans 16:17-18; Acts 2:44), and we are able to share Holy Communion only with those who are in our fellowship.

If you are interested in learning more about the Lord's Supper please be sure to contact our Pastor.

It should also be noted that the following two teachings concerning the Lord's Supper are false teachings which have crept into the Christian Church.

They are:

Transubstantiation – This is the false teaching that the Bread and Wine change into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Representation – This is the false teaching that the Bread and Wine merely represent the Body and Blood of Christ.

When the Lord Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper He said:

This IS my Body.

This IS my Blood.

Jesus did NOT say, this Represents OR this Changes into.

1 Corinthians 3:11: For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.