

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH'S POLICY ON THE LORD'S SUPPER

(Celebrated in Today's Worship)

Since the Lord's Supper is Christ's will for us, it is our desire to faithfully administer and receive this precious sacrament according to His Word. Therefore, St. Paul Lutheran Church practices closed Communion.

Closed Communion is the historic practice of the church. It is prompted by love, both for God's Word and for God's people. It does not deny that members of other denominations are Christians. Rather, it bows the knee to the Bible's witness that agreement in teaching is central to the common reception of this sacrament. Members of sister LCMS congregations who commune regularly in their home congregations, and members of our foreign partner churches are invited to commune. Other guests are invited to speak with Pastor Williams after the service about communing with us in the future. We give thanks for your presence and pray that you are blessed by the Word of God and the risen Christ who comes among us to speak.

COMMUNION PREPARATION

(See page 1 regarding who may commune)

"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself." I Corinthians 11:28—29

After looking at your thoughts, words, and deed in light of the Ten Commandments, you should ask yourself:

1. Do I believe that I have sinned against God and am I sorry for my sins?
2. Do I desire with the help of God to amend my sinful life?
3. Do I set aside any refusal to forgive others?
4. Do I believe that Jesus gave His body and shed His blood on the cross for the forgiveness of all my sins?
5. Do I believe that in the bread and wine Christ offers me His true body and blood and with His body and blood I receive forgiveness of sins, union with Christ, eternal life, the promise of a bodily resurrection, and the strengthening of faith to live a godly life?

After answering "yes" to each question, approach the Lord's Supper with full and complete confidence to receive the blessings Christ gives you in this sacrament.

"Fasting and bodily preparation are indeed a fine outward training; but he is truly worth and well prepared who has faith in these words: "Given and shed FOR YOU for the forgiveness of sins." But he that does not believe these words, or doubts, is unworthy and unprepared; for the words, "FOR YOU," require all hearts to believe" –from Luther's Small Catechism