

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 19th and 20th, 2020

Service of Holy Communion

Please see the communion statement in the back of this bulletin

Bethany Lutheran Church
222 Church Street
Kohler, WI 53044

Pastor: Rev. Robert Steele
Church Office: 920-457-4681

DO YOU BEGRUDGE MY GENEROSITY?

AS WE GATHER - A part of us expects justice from God. We think that fairness ought to reign—that each of us should get what we deserve. But this is a dead end. God does not give us what we deserve but acts with mercy and grace beyond belief. He is scandalously generous and lavish with us—giving us what we do not deserve and have not earned. We are tempted to ask God for equity and what we deserve, but God is determined to give us so much more in Christ. Only in faith can we learn to let God be God, to honor His generosity with the only response He desires: faith and thanksgiving. Today we pray the Lord to break through to our hearts and minds with His abundant grace and to rejoice that He is more than fair—He is merciful!

LAMB OF GOD

[550]



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, But You have
2 Your Gift of love they cru - ci - fied, They laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, But You have



sent Him from Your side To walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned Him as He died: The hum - ble King they named a
brought me to Your side To be led by Your staff and



sod, And to be - come the Lamb of God.
fraud, And sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.
rod, And to be called a lamb of God.

Refrain



O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God!



O wash me in His pre - cious blood, My Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor Hide not Your face from me.

People Turn not Your servant away in anger,

Pastor O You who have been my help.

People Cast me not off; forsake me not, O God of my salvation!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People I, a poor sinner, plead guilty before God of all sins. I have lived as if God did not matter and as if I mattered most. My Lord's name I have not honored as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let His love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. There are those whom I have hurt, and those whom I have failed to help. My thoughts and desires have been soiled with sin.

Pastor Is this your sincere confession?

People I am sorry for all my sins, and I ask for grace that I may do better. Amen.

Pastor As you believe, so let it be. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

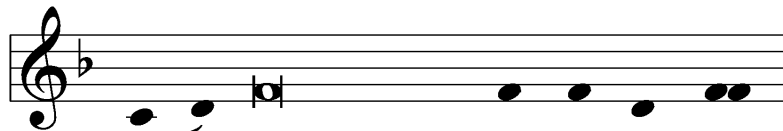
People Amen.

Pastor May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion at the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

†WORD†

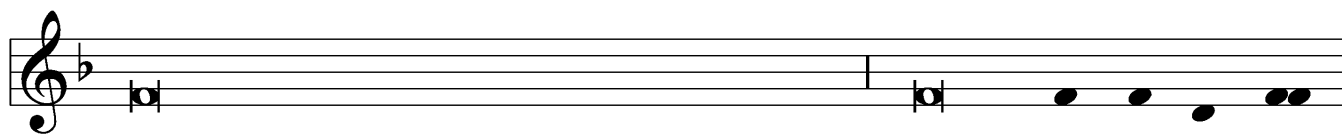
KYRIE



A In peace let us pray to the Lord.



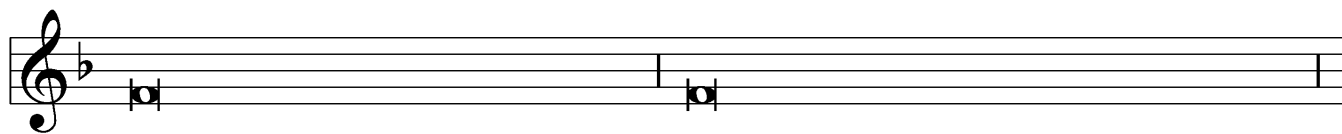
C Lord, have mer - cy.



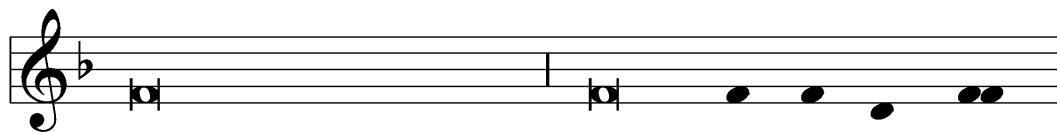
A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



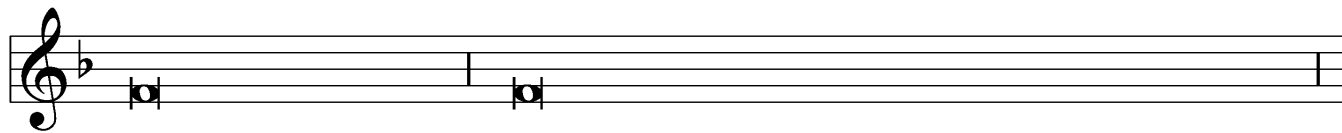
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



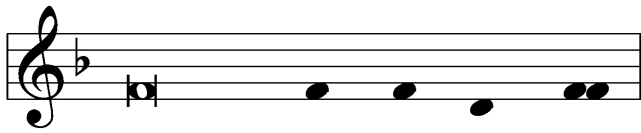
and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



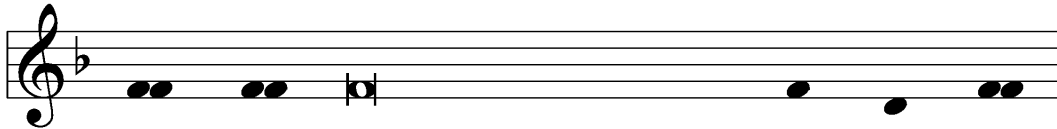
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



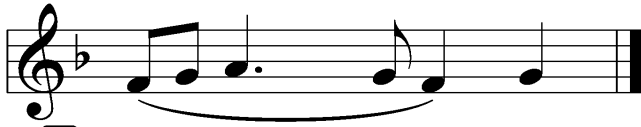
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



C A - men.

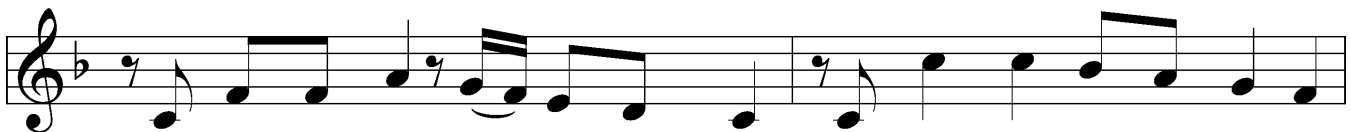
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship You, we give You thanks, we praise You for Your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For You a-lone are the Ho-ly One, You a-lone are the Lord,



You a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Pastor Let us pray...Lord God, heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done, help us trust in Your abiding grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 55:6-9

⁶“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:12–14

¹²I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1–16

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.

People Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴and to them he said, ‘You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.’ ⁵So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. ⁶And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You go into the vineyard too.’ ⁸And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ ⁹And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius?’ ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not

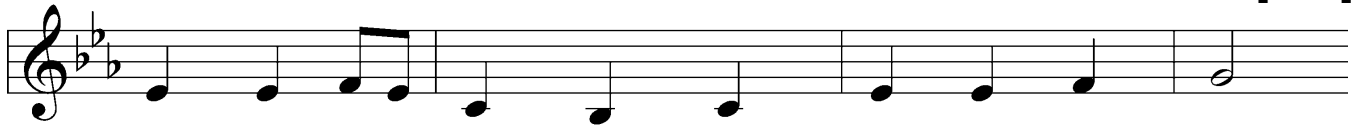
allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity? ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first last."

Pastor This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to You, O Christ.

LORD OF ALL HOPEFULNESS

[738]



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Your hands swift to wel - come, Your arms to em - brace:
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

SERMON

NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life † of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Lord God, You have promised to hear the prayers of Your people, and so we come to You this day offering You petitions and supplications for all manner and needs of people...You have invited us to seek Your face and to call upon You while You are near. Lord, grant to us such confidence in Your grace and favor that we seek Your wisdom, walk in Your ways, and delight in Your gift of salvation with thanksgiving in our hearts. Lord, in Your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Pastor We delight in dwelling in Your house, O Lord. Bless Your Church and those who minister to us in Your name. Guide them to preach faithfully the whole counsel of Your Word so that we be steadfast in faith in the face of temptation, threat, and trial. Lord, in Your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Pastor You have placed in our ears Your Word and in our hearts Your Spirit, O Lord. Grant that we learn to follow Your Word and live holy, upright, and honorable lives that reflect Your goodness and show forth the fruit of the Spirit in all we say and do. Lord, in Your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Pastor You are our light and our salvation and in You we rest our fears. Lord, grant Your aid, comfort, and strength to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Be especially with the sick for whom we pray this day, [*especially . . .*]. Heal them in accordance with Your will and sustain them through their afflictions until the perfect healing comes in heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Pastor Your power is greater than all and Your mercy is without limit. Lord, look with compassion upon our world of violence and terror. Bless those who govern here and everywhere that they protect the weak, promote the cause of virtue,

administer justice to the criminal, and act with mercy toward those in need. Lord, in Your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Pastor You have given us a place at Your Son's Table and grace to receive His very body and blood. Lord, grant that we come with repentance and faith to receive all that Christ has accomplished for our salvation in this blessed communion with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Lord, in Your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Pastor You have shown us generosity greater than we deserve, O Lord. Silence our complaints when we would question Your mercy, and teach us to be satisfied by Your grace in all that we need for this mortal life and find contentment in God's promise of the life to come. Teach us to rejoice over every sinner who repents and for everyone who comes to You in faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Pastor All these and whatsoever other things we need, we ask You to grant us in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Into Your hands, O gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People Amen.

†SACRAMENT†

PREFACE

Pastor The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Pastor Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.


Pastor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS




C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

People **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People **Amen.**

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

People **Amen.**

THINE THE AMEN, THINE THE PRAISE

[680]



1 Thine the a - men Thine the praise Al - le -
 2 Thine the life e - ter - nal - ly Thine the
 3 Thine the tru - ly Thine the yes Thine the
 4 Thine the king - dom Thine the prize Thine the
 5 Thine the glo - ry in the night No more



lu - ias an - gels raise Thine the ev - er - last - ing head
 prom - ise let there be Thine the vi - sion Thine the tree
 ta - ble we the guest Thine the mer - cy all from Thee
 won - der full sur - prise Thine the ban - quet then the praise
 dy - ing on - ly light Thine the riv - er Thine the tree



Thine the break - ing of the bread Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 All the earth on bend - ed knee Gone the nail - ing gone the
 Thine the glo - ry yet to be Then the ring - ing and the
 Then the jus - tice of Thy ways Thine the glo - ry Thine the
 Then the Lamb e - ter - nal - ly Then the ho - ly ho - ly



sto - ry Thine the har - vest then the cup Thine the
 rail - ing Gone the plead - ing gone the cry Gone the
 sing - ing Then the end of all the war Thine the
 sto - ry Then the wel - come to the least Then the
 ho - ly Cel - e - bra - tion ju - bi - lee Thine the



vine - yard then the cup is lift - ed up lift - ed up.
 sigh - ing gone the dy - ing what was loss lift - ed high.
 liv - ing Thine the lov - ing ev - er - more ev - er - more.
 won - der all in - creas - ing at Thy feast at Thy feast.
 splen - dor Thine the bright - ness on - ly Thee on - ly Thee.

†DISTRIBUTION†

(following distribution, you may exit the back of church)

BETHANY MISSION STATEMENT
BETHANY'S PURPOSE
AS A LOVING & CARING CHRISTIAN CONGREGATION IS TO:
+ GLORIFY THE TRIUNE GOD
+ STRENGTHEN THE SAVED
+ OFFER THE HAND OF CHRIST TO ALL

SIT OR STAND? – For those caring for young children or who have difficulty standing for the Prayers or other parts of the service, please know that you are most welcome to sit as you find need or comfort.

CHARITY OF THE MONTH – **Good News Jail & Prison Ministry.** During the months of September and October, any money received in the “Designated Offering” contribution envelope, will go to **Good News Jail and Prison Ministry.**

ADOPT-A-BAG FOOD DRIVE - Bethany's 2020 Adopt-a-Bag Food Drive will be held during the month of September. Bags are available in the lower narthex of church and can be brought back to that same area any time during the month of September. Donations will be taken to the Sheboygan Falls Area Food Pantry which serves Sheboygan Falls, Kohler, Howards Grove and Oostburg. Barb and Lee Gumm are the Bethany coordinators for our Adopt-A-Bag program.

“ZOOM” BETHANY BOOK CLUB – This fall's Book Club will be virtual, using Zoom. The book we will be reading is called “*Faith in the Shadow of a Pandemic*” by John T. Pless and Jacob Corzine. It is available at cph.org for \$10. Pastor Steele does have a few copies of the book so check with him or the church office before ordering. The class will be **Thursday evenings from September 24 – October 29 at 7:30pm.** If you are interested in joining this study, please email or call the church office so we can add you to the Zoom invite list.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – Please have all information for the October newsletter to Gina by Monday, September 21. Thank you!

REFORMATION SERVICE CANCELLED - The planning committee for the annual Sheboygan County Reformation Rally has made the difficult decision to cancel this year's service due to concerns related to COVID-19.

DRIVE-THRU BRAT FRY AT LUTHER MEMORIAL - Brats are coming! Come to Luther Memorial (1127 Eisner Ave.) on Saturday, September 26th between 10am-2pm for brats, burgers, hot dogs, and strawberry dessert. Stay in your car while we bring the food to you! Rain or shine, this event will happen! Proceeds will go towards our Church Flooring Fund.

OFFERINGS AND ATTENDANCE

Monthly amount needed to meet budget	\$17,034.59
Budget Offerings (August)	\$15,522.19
Charity of the month (August)	\$55.00
Other (August)	\$1,243.00

Weekly Attendance: Saturday, September 12...44
 Sunday, September 13...69

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19

Elder: Steve Hazen
Ushers: #7 – Fibiger
Acolyte: Kaleb Faucher
Altar Guild: Sue Prange, Lois Schmideler
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THIS SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20

Elder: Andy Fibiger
Ushers: #8 - Matte
Acolyte: Madison Fibiger
Scripture Reader: Todd Matte
Door Locker: Tom Schnettler

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE NEXT SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 26

Elder: Jason Mengel
Ushers: #1 – B. Marotz, Schnettler, Hazen
Acolyte: Ryan Mengel
Altar Guild: Cindy & Gary Bartz
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE NEXT SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27

Elder: David Hasler
Ushers: #2 – Faucher, D. Fibiger, Hazen
Acolyte: Winston Hasler
Scripture Reader: Lee Gumm
Door Locker: Patrick Johnson

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH, FELLOWSHIP & PRAISE THIS WEEK

Wed	9-23	3:15 pm	Confirmation 5-8 grade
Thu	9-24	TBD	Zoom Book Club
Sat	9-26	4:00 pm	Worship
Sun	9-27	8:45 am	Sunday School & Bible Study
		10:00 am	Worship

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Communion Statement:

Holy Communion was begun and commanded by Jesus Himself – 1 Corinthians 11:23-25. In, with and under the bread and wine, the Lord offers His Body to strengthen the faith of believing Christians – 1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:27. Those who receive the Sacrament in faith receive what Christ promised, the remission of sins. Please review the following. Individuals who may commune with us are those

- Who are already Baptized Christians; Baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- Who confess Jesus as their Lord and Savior and that He died for their sins and on the 3rd day rose to life.
- Who are able to examine themselves; (1 Corinthians 11:28 “Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.”)
- Who are repentant of their sins and desire, with the help of God, to change the way they think and act.
- Who profess the “real presence” of Christ in the partaking of the bread and wine; Christ is truly present in, with and under the bread and wine. (Christ’s body is truly present in, with, and under the bread. Christ’s blood is truly present in, with, and under the wine.)

Children are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing from the pastor, but should not receive the bread and wine unless they have been instructed in the above teachings.

Because those who eat and drink the Lord’s Supper unworthily do so to their great harm (1 Corinthians 11), anyone who holds to a confession differing from ours or has questions about the above is asked to refrain from partaking until a further study of Scripture can be provided.

* Typically our children and adults attend special instruction classes taught by the pastor on the worthy manner from which one receive the Lord’s Supper.