

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod
Rev. Dr. Matthew W. Rueger
Hubbard, IA



Church Office: 641-864-2672

Parsonage: 641-864-2766

Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.

Adult Bible Class: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Church Website: www.stjohnhubbard.com

Email: stjohnhubbard@hotmail.com

To God Be the Glory!

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 26, 2023

HOLY COMMUNION Our congregation believes and confesses that in Holy Communion not only does Jesus give us forgiveness; He also miraculously gives us His actual body and blood.

We seek to receive our Lord's Supper according to the guidelines God has established in His Word. God's Word states that the Sacrament is to be an expression of like-mindedness in faith (same in doctrine) and that only those should commune who are worthy to receive it (who have been properly instructed and are truly repentant).

In keeping with God's instruction, and out of deep love for the souls of His people, we invite visiting members of other Missouri Synod Lutheran congregations, who are members in good standing, to receive Holy Communion with us after announcing their intent to the pastor. Visitors who are not members of a Missouri Synod Lutheran congregation are asked to please refrain from the Sacrament at this time. Thank you.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Liturgy: Divine Service 2, pg. 167

Hymns: 425, 540, 430, 798, 622, 437

Handbell Choir Anthem: "At The Cross"

Organist: Ruth Fiscus

Ushers: Stan Penning, Al Doering

THIS WEEK AS GOD LEADS US TOGETHER

Wednesday: 6:00-7:15p.m. Midweek Classes

6:00-6:45p.m. Handbell Choir

6:45-7:15p.m. Senior Choir

7:30p.m. Lenten Vespers

Next Sunday: 9:00a.m. Christian Education Classes

10:00a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion
Rite of Confirmation

Acolyte: Adelyn Zoske

Ushers: Mick Zoske, Dr. Dennis Winter

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God by Al & Kerri Doering.

EXAMINATION OF CONFIRMANDS: Being examined today are: Lorina Dykman, Skyler Mennenga, Aleighia Roberts, and Ryan Zoske. Confirmation examination is meant to be a public demonstration that each confirmand knows and understands the basic teachings of Luther's Small Catechism. It is evidence that they are prepared to approach the Lord's Supper in all seriousness with a proper understanding of what it is and how it benefits them. It is also an opportunity for each member of the congregation to renew his or her commitment to the basic teachings of God's Holy Word.

LENTEN VESPERS: We will have Lenten vespers on Wednesday, March 29th at 7:30p.m.

EASTER FLOWERS: There is a sign-up sheet for Easter flowers on the bulletin board; Lilies-\$18; Mums-\$18; Azaleas-\$35. **Deadline to sign up is today.**

LUTHERAN WITNESS: It is once again time to renew your subscription for the Lutheran Witness. The price is \$19.20 for the year. Please let the secretary (Shelly Petersen) know before May 1st if you want to subscribe. Thank you.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS: A reminder if you are a customer of Thrivent that there is still time to direct your choice dollars for 2022. The deadline for this is March 31st.

You can go to the website, call 800-847-4836, or contact your Thrivent representative to direct your choice dollars. If you have any questions about it feel free to contact Scott Neubauer.

CANADA FISHING TRIP: There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone wishing to go on the Canada fishing trip scheduled for July 22-29, 2023.

BIRTHDAYS: Today-Danny Bradshaw; Mon.-Jean Winter; Tues.-Mick Zoske, Rebecca Neubauer; Thurs.-Zachariah Zoske, Mark Frohwein; Fri.-Joyce Schnormeier; Sat.-Richard Winter.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: Today-Eugene & Tresa Zoske (52); Tues.-Matthew & Sheila Riese (25); Sat.-Brian & Amelia Wosepka (6).

PSALM 43:1-5

antiphon vs. 1



¹Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly | people,*
from the deceitful and unjust man
de- | liver me!

²**For you are the God in whom I take refuge;
why have you re- | jected me?***
**Why do I go about mourning
because of the oppression of the | enemy?**

³Send out your light and your truth;
let them | lead me;*

let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your | dwelling!

**⁴Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my ex- | ceeding joy,*
and I will praise you with the lyre,
O | God, my God.**

⁵Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil with- | in me?*

Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation | and my God.

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

¹Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly | people,*
from the deceitful and unjust man
de- | liver me!

GENESIS 22:1-14

¹Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

²Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

³So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

4Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off.

5And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you."

6So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together.

7But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." Then he said, "Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?"

8And Abraham said, "My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering." So the two of them went together.

9Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood.

10And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son.

11But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I am."

12And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

13Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.

14And Abraham called the name of the place, The-Lord-Will-Provide; as it is said to this day, "In the Mount of The Lord it shall be provided."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HEBREWS 9:11-15

¹¹But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.

¹²Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.

¹³For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh,

¹⁴how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

¹⁵And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

JOHN 8:46-59

⁴⁶Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?

⁴⁷He who is of God hears God's words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God."

⁴⁸Then the Jews answered and said to Him, "Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?"

⁴⁹Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me.

[50](#) And I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks and judges.

[51](#) Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death."

[52](#) Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.'

[53](#) Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Whom do You make Yourself out to be?"

[54](#) Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God.

[55](#) Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.

[56](#) Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."

[57](#) Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"

[58](#) Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

[59](#) Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Vestments for Ukraine

This summer the LCMS will establish full fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine (ELCU). There is not a church body in the world right now facing greater trials. Our Lutheran brothers and sisters in Ukraine are facing the loss of every material possession they have, and worse; they face the very real possibility of death. Their Bishop was recently hospitalized after visiting a Lutheran congregation in Kherson. He was wounded by shrapnel from Russian artillery.

Besides these terrible hardships, the ELCU was recently removed from their Cathedral Church in Odesa. The Church was built by the liberal EKD (Evangelische Kirche Deutschland) for the Ukrainian Lutherans. However, they demanded that the Ukrainians adopt their liberal European theology, which included ordaining women into the pastoral office and accepting the LGBTQ agenda. The Ukrainians refused to compromise their theology and for that, they were barred by the EKD from the Church in Odesa built for them.

Through this the Ukrainian bishop, Rev. Serge Maschewski, lost all his liturgical vestments. They were confiscated by the EKD when they took the Cathedral Church away from the Ukrainians.

The congregations of the Eldora Circuit would like to help. Galatians tells us to ***“bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”*** To help with their burden, we are gathering funds to buy new vestments for Bishop Maschewski. We will gather funds until the end of March. The Bishop will be coming to the U.S. in July to establish formal fellowship with the LCMS at our Synod Convention. Our plan is to have his new vestments by then, and present them to him at the convention.

Considering all they are facing, it is our hope that this small gesture can bring them some joy and let them know, they are loved by their brothers and sisters here in Iowa.

See:

<https://reporter.lcms.org/2022/amid-war-in-ukraine-the-churchs-mission-remains/>

Confirmation Examination

St. John Lutheran Church

2023

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The Six Chief Parts of the Catechism:

I. The Commandments

The First Commandment: You shall have no other gods.
What does this mean? We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

Who is the only true God?

A: The only true God is the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three distinct Persons in one Divine Being.

The Second Commandment: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.

How is God's name misused?

A: God's name is misused when people

(a.) *speak God's name uselessly or carelessly*

(b.) *curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie, or deceived by His name.*

The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

What does God require of us in the Third Commandment?

- (a.) *We should hold preaching and the Word of God sacred.*
- (b.) *We should gladly hear it, learn it, and meditate on it.*
- (c.) *We should honor and support the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.*
- (d.) *We should diligently spread the Word of God.*

The Fourth Commandment: Honor your father and your mother.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents and other authorities, but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them.

The Fifth Commandment: You shall not murder.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

What does God forbid in the Fifth Commandment?

- (a.) *God forbids us to take the life of another person (murder, abortion, euthanasia) or our own life (suicide).*
- (b.) *God forbids us to hurt or harm our neighbor physically, that is, to do or say anything which may destroy, shorten, or make his or her life bitter.*
- (c.) *God forbids us to keep anger and hatred in our hearts against our neighbor.*

The Sixth Commandment: You shall not commit adultery
What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we lead a sexually pure and decent life in what we say and do, and husband and wife love and honor each other.

What does God forbid in the Sixth Commandment?

- (a.) *God forbids divorce except for marital unfaithfulness (adultery or desertion).*
- (b.) *God forbids sexual intercourse between unmarried persons.*
- (c.) *God forbids sexual sins such as rape, homosexuality, incest, sexual child abuse, obscenity, and the use of pornographic materials.*
- (d.) *God forbids sexually impure thoughts and desires.*

The Seventh Commandment. You shall not steal.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not take our neighbor's money or possessions, or get them in any dishonest way, but help him to improve and protect his possessions and income.

What does God require of us in the Seventh Commandment?

- (a.) *We should help our neighbor to improve and protect that person's possessions and income.*
- (b.) *We should help our neighbor in every need.*

The Eighth Commandment: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, slander him, or hurt his reputation, but defend him, speak well of him, and explain everything in the kindest way.

What does God require of us in the Eighth Commandment?

- (a.) *We should defend our neighbor, that is, we should speak up for and protect our neighbor from false accusation.*
- (b.) *We should speak well of our neighbor, that is, we should praise our neighbor's good actions and qualities.*
- (c.) *We should put the best meaning on everything, that is, we should explain our neighbor's actions in the best possible way.*

The Ninth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or get it in a way which only appears right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it.

The Tenth Commandment: You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

What does this mean? We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

What purpose does the Law serve?

- (a.) *First, the Law help to control violent outbursts of sin and keeps order in the world (a curb).*
- (b.) *Second, the Law accuses us and shows us our sin (a mirror).*
- (c.) *Third, the Law teaches us Christians what we should and should not do to lead a God-pleasing life (a guide).*

II The Creed

The First Article

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my sense, and still takes care of them.

He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil.

All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

How did God first create life?

A: God created all living things, both plant and animal, by His Word alone, from nothing. He created humanity specially, from dust, then gave us His own breath as life.

Does the Bible allow for evolution?

A: No. Hebrews 11:3 says, "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen what not made out of what was visible."

The Second Article

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

What does this mean? I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,

who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death,

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

How do you know that Jesus Christ is true God?

A: Because the Scriptures clearly call Him God, teaching the following:

- (a.) *Jesus has divine names*
- (b.) *Jesus has divine attributes*
- (c.) *Jesus does divine works*
- (d.) *Jesus receives divine honor and glory.*

Why was it necessary for our Savior to be true man?

A: Christ had to be true man in order to

- (a.) act in our place under the Law and fulfill it for us*
- (b.) be able to suffer and die for our guilt because we failed to keep the Law*

The Third Article:

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean? I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church he daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the last Day He will raise me all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Where is this holy Christian Church to be found?

A: The holy Christian Church is to be found where the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel.

What do the Scriptures teach about our life in the Church?

A: They teach that

- (a.) we should seek always to be and remain members of the invisible Church, Christ's body, by sincere faith in Christ, our Savior;*
- (b.) we should be faithful to that visible Church, or denomination, which professes and teaches all of the Bible's doctrine purely and administers the sacraments according to Christ's institution;*

- (c.) *we should avoid false teachers, false churches, and all organizations that promote a religion that is contrary to God's Word;*
- (d.) *we should maintain the extend God's church by telling others about Jesus Christ, by personal service, and by prayer and financial support.*

III. The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever.
Amen.

The Sacraments

IV. Baptism

Why are babies to be baptized?

A: Babies are to be baptized because

- (a.) *they are included in the words 'All nations'*

Matt. 28:19 "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit.

- (b.) *Jesus especially invites little children to come to Him; as sinners, babies need what Baptism offers; babies also are able to have faith.*

What great and precious things are given in Baptism?

A: Baptism

- (a.) *works forgiveness of sins;*
- (b.) *rescues from death and the devil;*
- (c.) *gives eternal salvation.*

Does the Bible specifically say that Baptism forgives sins?

A: Yes at several places, like:

Acts 2:38-39 “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children.

Acts 22:16 “Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away.”

V. The Office of the Keys

What special authority has Christ given to his church on earth?

A: Christ has given to His church the authority to forgive sins or to withhold forgiveness.

Why is this authority called the Office of the Keys?

A: This authority works like a key to open heaven by forgiving sins, or to close heaven by not forgiving them.

Whose sins are to be forgiven?

A: Those who repent and ask for forgiveness are to be forgiven.

Whose sins are not to be forgiven?

A: Unrepentant sinners, that is, those who are not sorry for their sins and do not believe in Jesus Christ, are not to be forgiven as long as they do not repent.

VI. The Lord's Supper

What does Christ give us in this sacrament?

A: In this sacrament Christ gives us His own true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins.

How are we to examine ourselves before receiving the Sacrament?

A: We are to examine ourselves to see whether

- (a.) we are sorry for our sins;*
- (b.) we believe in our Savior Jesus Christ and in His words in the Sacrament;*
- (c.) we plan, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to change our sinful lives.*

Who must not be given the Sacrament?

A: The Sacrament must not be given to the following:

- (a.) Those who are openly ungodly and unrepentant, including those who take part in non-Christian religious worship.*
- (b.) Those who are unforgiving, refusing to be reconciled. They show thereby that they do not really believe that God forgiveness them either.*
- (c.) Those of a different confession of faith, since the Lord's Supper is a testimony of the unity of faith.*
- (d.) Those who are unable to examine themselves, such as infants, people who have not received proper instruction, or the unconscious.*

What is the benefit offered in this sacrament?

- (a.) *The chief blessing of the Sacrament is the forgiveness of sins which Christ's body and blood have won for us on the cross.*
- (b.) *Together with forgiveness, God gives all other blessings as well, that is, "life and salvation."*
- (c.) *In the Sacrament Christ gives victory over sin and hell and strength for the new life in Him.*
- (d.) *As Christians partake of this sacrament together, they make a solemn public confession of Christ and of unity in the truth of His Gospel.*

Why are we to receive the Sacrament often?

A: We are to receive the Sacrament often because

- (a.) *Christ commands, or urgently invites us saying: "This do in remembrance of Me."*
- (b.) *His words, "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins" promise and offer us great blessings.*
- (c.) *we need the forgiveness of our sins and the strength for a new and holy life.*