

*Sacraments* are the very heart of the Gospel and God's gifts to us.



**As the Church has practiced, according to our Lord's instruction since His apostles.**

**Holy Baptism**, water applied in the Name of the Triune God according to Jesus' institution for all people (Matthew 28:19), truly saves (1 Peter 3:21), causes one to be born again (John 3:5; Titus 3:5), delivers and applies grace and the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Ephesians 5:25-26), unites the one being baptized to the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:11-12), gives the gift of the Holy Spirit, even for children (Acts 2:38) & causes one to become a member of Christ's body (1 Corinthians 12:13). By God's grace we live a baptismal life as His child.

**Holy Communion**, instituted by Christ Himself, *is* the very real, true body, blood of the crucified, risen Jesus Christ, given under the forms of bread and wine, for Christians to eat and drink, for the forgiveness of their sins (Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 10:14-21; 11:23-26).

"is" = is. We simply take Jesus at His Word and believe as He says.

*Every visitor* at Risen Savior Lutheran Church is an answer to our prayers. You are always welcome to join us to hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. To give you a better understanding of the faith that we confess, we wish to take



this opportunity to explain the biblical practice of **closed communion**.

*In keeping with clear teachings of Holy Scripture* and the practice of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Risen Savior practices closed communion. What we mean by this is that we offer the Sacrament of the Altar only to those with whom we agree in all articles of Christian doctrine. We invite those

The Lord Supper is very personal but always a *public* confession of faith, a sharing of what that Altar teaches. 1 Corinthians 11

who are communicant members of other LCMS congregations to join us at the Lord's Table. LCMS visitors who wish to commune are asked to announce themselves to the

pastors prior to the service. All others guests are respectfully asked to refrain from taking the Sacrament and encouraged to speak with our pastor. Also we encourage you to consider attending our **Adult Information Class** that are held throughout the year that will prepare one for a future, informed reception of the Sacrament.

*Open communion* has sadly become the norm in the majority of American churches. We are aware even Lutheran congregations allow essentially unrestricted access to the Sacrament of the Altar. This unscriptural practice has come about because we live in an age and society in which significant differences in doctrine are often minimized as unimportant. **Open communion is not an act of love but a measure of indifference towards the individual and our Lord's clear instruction.** While it is our desire that all Christians would commune with us, unity

in doctrine must come before unity in Communion.

*The Bible* consistently teaches that God commands His children to remain faithful to



His Word. We here at Risen Savior desire above all to be true to

our Lord's instructions concerning His Supper. In the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Christ gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and strengthening of our faith. By His precious body and blood, which are truly present in, with, and under the earthly elements of bread and wine, our Lord unites Christians with Himself and with one another. When we bring doctrinal division and disagreement to the Lord's Table, we go against His gracious intent. In fact, we disrupt the Sacrament to such a degree that those who do not properly discern what they are partaking of actually endanger themselves. This scriptural warning is something we take very seriously (1 Corinthians 11:17-34).

**Be assured that we are not in any way questioning the personal faith or salvation of any brother or sister in Christ. We realize our practice of closed communion might seem inhospitable or even harsh at first glance. Please understand that we follow this policy in obedience to our Lord's clear commands regarding His Sacrament and to show love and concern for our fellow Christians whom we believe to be in**

**serious error. We ask that you respect our practice in this matter.**

# Sacraments

*We take God at His Word, according to His*

*instruction.* God has always come to His people in concrete, physical means to forgive and bless. The Christian Church as taught by Christ, continued with the Apostles, and for centuries teaches 2 Sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. According to Scripture, these are not symbolic actions on our part but are gifts of God through which we receive forgiveness and eternal life. According to the instruction of Christ, we baptize infants and adults who receive instruction, as well as celebrate the Lord's Supper as He declares it 'is' His true body and blood we receive.



*Sadly,* many Christians dismiss, deny these gifts God gave His Church and the Church carried forward throughout the centuries. It is important to note, the *entire* Christian Church, the first 1500 years, baptized infants and celebrated the true body, blood of Christ in the Lord's Supper. The clear teachings of Jesus Christ and continued in practice in those He taught. Simply following the Words of Christ. Did the



Church get 'things wrong' from day 1; was the entire Church wrong until the age of Enlightenment and Rationalism? No. We take God at His Word, even if it goes against human wisdom & reason.

*In Summary* □ The Lord's Supper is celebrated in the confession and confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread, wine but His very real, true body, blood to eat, drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him, with one another. According to Scripture, Holy Communion is a public confession of faith, sharing a unity in belief; and those who eat,



drink our Lord's body, blood unworthily do so to their harm. **Therefore in love and pastoral concern for guest, if you are not a member of this congregation or the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, you are asked first to speak with the pastor.**

For additional information about the Sacraments or closed communion, please speak with the pastor.

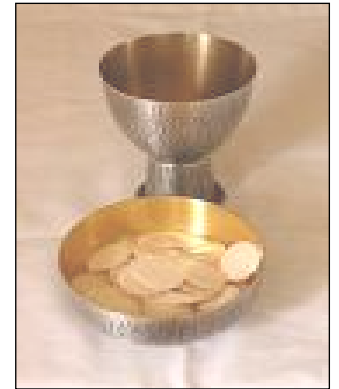
## Risen Savior Lutheran Church



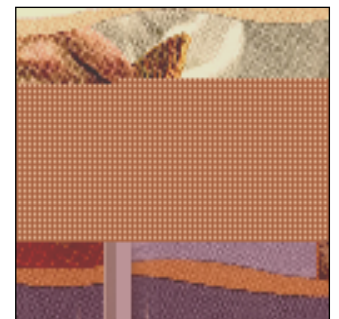
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# Why?



*Why the Lord's Supper and Baptism are so important.*



# Sacraments & Closed Communion

