

Weekly Communion Readdressed

Some of you are aware of my desire to move to weekly Holy Communion. While some may be on board, others might not see the need. The biggest objection I've heard from several is: weekly communion would lead to indifference. It would make it less special and people would take it for granted. Maybe you feel this way. Many do.

I wrote a lengthy article back in March laying out the rationale. I want to readdress it here. Again, the most common argument against a weekly partaking is that Holy Communion will lose its "specialness". It is said that it will become mechanical. Fair enough. However, let me give you an analogy. Let's say that one evening my wife invites me to spend time with her. Now, remember, she is my beautiful bride and God's gift to me. "Come over here and sit down next to me on the sofa." she says. Imagine if I told her, "Nah...that's okay. I'm good. I sat down with you last week. I wouldn't want to take you for granted"! The truth is, taking something of value for granted is not the fault of the object but of the person.

The Lord says, "Do this in remembrance of Me." (Luke 22:19) St. Paul tells us, "For **as often** as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes." (1 Corinthians 11:26) The 1st century Church celebrated the Eucharist every single Sunday! It was not until the 16th century where denominations, as part of the Radical Reformation, began to limit the amount of times they would take communion. This practice was tied to their view that it was only a symbolic meal and not the true Body and Blood of Christ. Even Lutherans in the last 100 years or so began to mimic their practice.

The blessings and benefits from weekly communion are almost too many to count. More forgiveness of sins. More grace from God. More strengthening and nourishment. More communion with our Lord. More life together with our neighbor in the context of the meal. For the Holy Supper is a gift. It is a gracious invitation. It is God's means to deliver Himself, His grace and mercy, to you and for you. And we need it. We need it "as often as we eat...drink it." We are broken, miserable sinners, who are weary and sick with the burdens of life. We need medicine. We need forgiveness. The Word of God is that balm and salve for our souls, and the Body and Blood of Jesus is sustenance for our lives.

There is more to say. Some people attend sporadically, due to necessity or habit. Weekly Communion gives them more opportunities to partake. The Service of the Sacrament also completes our Divine Service. For those who think it makes worship longer, then you haven't been paying attention! I put more "stuff" in a non-communion Sunday service(!). I hope and pray that you take my words to heart and ponder them. If you have questions, please contact me. I would love to have a further conversation. Frankly, I think, no...I believe, that this is something we need to do. It is for our earthly and eternal good and benefit. And we are commanded to eat and drink often. Martin Luther says in The Large Catechism, "The Lord's Supper is given as daily food and sustenance so that our faith may be refreshed and strengthened and that we may not succumb in the struggle but become stronger and stronger." The Lord's Supper brings us strength and refreshment. It is a gift of grace that will sustain us to the end and a foretaste of the feast to come.

Let us vote in October as a congregation to receive God's gift as often as we come together.

On October 11th, the congregation voted to move to a weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper.
Thanks be to God!