

Sunday, July 7th 2024

The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



Mailing Address:

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
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WELCOME TO EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

“How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!” (Psalm 84:1) We are thankful that God has brought you here with us this morning to hear His Word and receive His gifts! You’ll find everything you need for the worship service in this bulletin and in *Lutheran Service Book*, our hymnal. If you have any questions about our worship service, our congregation, or what we believe, please ask our pastor or any of our members.

OUR COMMUNION POLICY:

Lutherans believe in Real Presence, that during the Lord’s Supper we receive the True Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ present in, with, and under the Bread and Wine for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because those who eat and drink our Lord’s body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, those not instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession different than that of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an Elder. (Please refer to 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 for self-examination.)

SERVANTS DURING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Pastor – Rev. E. B. Holschuh
Musician – Susan Michael
Lay Reader – Richard Giro

Initial and ongoing funding for Epiphany Lutheran Church has been received through a grant made possible by the Roy D. and Ingaborg G. Randolph Memorial Endowment Fund.

AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

The Ministers of Christ Are Sent with His Authority to Forgive Sins and Give Life

The prophet Ezekiel was raised up by the Spirit of the Lord and sent to speak an unpopular Word to the rebellious house of Israel. As a prophet, he was not to speak his own word, but to preach the Law and the Gospel: “*Thus says the Lord GOD,*” whether the people “*hear or refuse to hear*” (Ezek. 2:4–5). So, too, in the footsteps of the prophets before Him, the Lord Jesus “*went about among the villages teaching*” (Mark 6:6). In His hometown, as elsewhere, “*many who heard him were astonished,*” marveling at His wisdom and at the “*mighty works done by his hands,*” and yet “*they took offense at him*” (Mark 6:2–3). The offense culminates in His cross, which is, ironically, the heart and center of His “*authority over the unclean spirits*” (Mark 6:7). It is by that authority of His cross that those He sends preach repentance, “*cast out many demons*” and heal the sick (Mark 6:12–13). Thus, the apostle Paul boasts in the cross of Christ and in his own weaknesses, knowing that God’s grace is sufficient and that the power of Christ “*is made perfect in weakness*” (2 Cor. 12:8–9).

DIVINE SERVICE SETTING FOUR

Prelude Selected Music

Welcome and Greeting Pastor

Announcements

Opening Hymn “*Christ High-Ascended, Now in Glory Seated*” LSB 840

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen. *Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]*

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth. *Psalm 124:8*

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Ps. 130:3-4

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

[Luke 18:13]

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P 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.

C Amen.

[John 20:19-23]

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Introit

Psalm 62:5-8

P For the Lord has chosen Zion;
he has desired it for his dwelling place:

C **“This is my resting place forever;
here I will dwell, for I have desired it.**

P I will abundantly bless her provisions;
I will satisfy her poor with bread.

C **Her priests I will clothe with salvation,
and her saints will shout for joy.”**

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

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Lue 2:14; John 1:29



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole - be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor - shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat - ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

O God, Your almighty power is made known chiefly in showing mercy. Grant us the fullness of Your grace that we may be called to repentance and made partakers of Your heavenly treasures; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 2:1-5

¹He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you.” ²And as he spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. ³And he said to me, “Son of man, I send you to the people of Israel, to nations of rebels, who have rebelled against me. They and their fathers have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴The descendants also are impudent and stubborn: I send you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ ⁵And whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house) they will know that a prophet has been among them.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 12:1-10

¹I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. ³And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— ⁴and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter. ⁵On behalf of this man I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. ⁶Though if I should wish to boast, I would not be a fool, for I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think more of me than he sees in me or hears from me. ⁷So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. ⁸Three times

I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. ⁹But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. ¹⁰For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

John 20:31



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Holy Gospel Reading

Mark 6:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹[Jesus] went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ²And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, “Where did this man get these

things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴And Jesus said to them, "**A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.**" ⁵And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶And he marveled because of their unbelief.

And he went about among the villages teaching.

⁷And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— ⁹but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. ¹⁰And he said to them, "**Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.**" ¹²So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn of the Day

"O Christ, Our True and Only Light"

LSB 839

Sermon

*"If they will not listen to you,
then shake the dust off your feet."*

Mark 6:1-13

Apostles' Creed

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

**And 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.**

**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.**

Passing of the Peace

When Jesus himself appeared to the disciples after his resurrection, he greeted them by saying, “Peace be with you” (Luke 24:36; John 20:19, 26) – and so we do likewise.

Prayer of the Church

℟ Lord, in Your mercy
☩ hear our prayer.

Offering

Usher

Please sign the attendance books as they are passed.

If you would like to transition to making your regular tithe or offering online, you may do so at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKYH/home>



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

For those unfamiliar with our congregation's practice regarding the Lord's Supper, please refer to "Our Communion Policy" located at the beginning of the bulletin.

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

[Colossians 3:1]

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

[Psalm 136]

P 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. 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

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san - na in the high - est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P 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.

For Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed. By His death, He has redeemed us from bondage to sin and death, and by His resurrection, He has delivered us into new life in Him.

Grant us to keep the Feast in sincerity and truth, faithfully eating His body given into death and drinking His life's blood poured out for our salvation until we pass through death to the promised land of life eternal.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13

C **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 Words of Our Lord

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

Pax Domini

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29



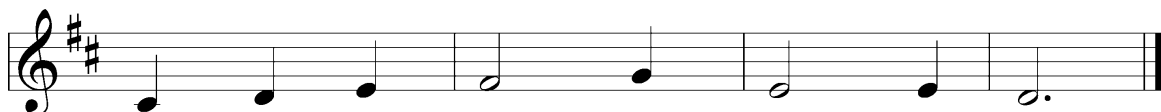
C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,



You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,



Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29-32



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
 part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
 glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
 glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
 Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
 A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
 For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
 to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
 now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
 peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
 sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus and Benediction

P Let us bless the Lord.

[Psalm 103:1]

C Thanks be to God.

P 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.

Numbers 6:24-26

C Amen.

Closing Hymn

“How Firm a Foundation”

LSB 728

Postlude

Selected Music

SERMON NOTES

Mark 6:1-13 | *“If they will not listen to you, then shake the dust off your feet.”*

1. Jesus was not powerless apart from men’s _____, but in the absence of _____ he could not _____ mighty works in accordance with the purpose of his ministry.
 2. Jesus meant for his _____ to have the support of one another as they proclaimed the kingdom of God to a _____ hardly ready or receptive to their _____.
 3. How we live our lives as _____ impacts our _____ as _____.
 4. Expressions of _____ are never simply condemnations carried out immediately but are intended as a _____ to elicit _____.
 5. Jesus’ instruction to “shake the dust off our feet” reminds us that we are only responsible for our _____ to _____, not for the results of that _____.
 6. As _____ to a world bound on the road of sin and death, we are to _____ the _____ to an intersection of forgiveness and life in Jesus Christ, at the Cross.
-

PRAYERS AT EPIPHANY

PRAYER REQUESTS: Please share any prayer request on the Prayer Requests sheet as you enter on Sunday. You may also email a prayer request, as well as a request to become a part of Epiphany’s prayer chain, to secretary@epiphanybastrop.org.

Please continue to pray for...

- Rev. Dr. Quintin and Lindsay Cundiff and their son Carter – missionaries in Latvia

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

The first step to becoming a member of our congregation is to speak with our pastor.

We believe, teach, and confess that we are all broken sinners in need of God's salvation, which He freely gives through His Word and Sacrament. Church is not a club for the sinless– it's a hospital for sinners!

You may become a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church by transferring your membership from a sister congregation of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) or you may receive instruction from the pastor and become a communicant member of Epiphany and the LCMS through Adult Instruction Class or through a profession of faith.



Epiphany Lutheran Church has a podcast! Our ***Peace Be With You*** podcast is still very much a work in progress that we hope will help us reach those in our community and beyond with the Gospel message of hope and salvation in Christ. In the coming days it should be available on popular podcast apps, but you can always find it at peacebewithyou.podbean.com (or just scan the QR code).



THIS WEEK AT EPIPHANY:

Sunday, July 7th

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Thursday, July 11th

- 12:00pm – Neighbors at Neighbor's

Sunday, June 14th

- 10:00am – Children's Sunday School (Fellowship Area)
- 10:00am – Adult Sunday School (Sanctuary)
- 11:00am – Fellowship / Coffee Time
- 11:30am – Worship Service with Communion

Adult Sunday School: Join us at 10am for *Isaiah: A 12-Week Study* (started on June 23)... Isaiah's prophecy, which alternates between promises of judgment and restoration, reminds God's people of the magnitude of humanity's sin, the judgment that we all deserve, and how God displays his glory by saving sinners.

Thursday 6pm Zoom Study: Ever wondered if there was just a bit more to some of those lessons you learned in Sunday school? Join us online for *Stuff They Didn't Teach Me in Sunday School*, through August 29. Registration: bit.ly/ELC-Stuff

Neighbors at Neighbor's: If you're available at lunchtime on Thursday, July 11, you're invited to join Pastor E.B. for "**Neighbors at Neighbor's**" from noon to 1pm on the "beer deck" at Neighbor's Kitchen & Yard in Bastrop (behind the Bastrop County Museum at Main and Pine). We hope to make this a monthly opportunity to make new friends and build new relationships, as well as let folks know about the new Lutheran congregation in town!

Lutheran Hour: Next Sunday, July 14th – "Words of Grace Build Us Up" – Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Daniel Paavola. The gracious words of God change our lives for the better, tell us of our inheritance, and remind us that we are part of a much larger family. (Acts 20:32)

Hear The Lutheran Hour each Sunday on station KBUK-FM 104.9 at 7:00 a.m. or on station KANJ-FM 91.5 at 12:30 p.m. or go to lhm.org for a link to listen to the Lutheran Hour live.

KFUO Radio, the broadcast voice of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, shares Christ for you anytime, anywhere on **KFUO.org** via worship services, Bible and theology studies, practical talk programs, and sacred music. Find programs on demand at kfu.org and wherever you get your podcasts! Find us on social: @KFUOradio on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/KFUOradio), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/KFUOradio), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/KFUOradio).

CHRIST FOR YOU this week on KFUE.org: Finish studying Haggai and begin Zechariah on Sharper Iron (weekdays at 8:00 a.m. CT), study Luke 6-8 on Thy Strong Word (weekdays at 11:00 a.m. CT), and study Confession and Satisfaction in the Apology of the Augsburg Confession on Concord Matters (7/13 at 10:00 a.m. CT). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfu.org and the KFUE Radio app!



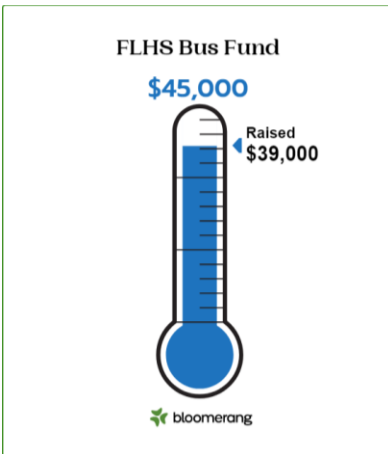
FAITH LUTHERAN
HIGH SCHOOL OF CENTRAL TEXAS

Summer Office Hours

June and July office hours will be Monday to Thursday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.
Please drop by for a visit!

Share the Gift of Love

Faith Lutheran High School has a unique role in combining knowledge and God’s love in a student’s high school experience. We are partnering with families at the intersection of education and faith development. If you would like to support our ministry through a one-time or enduring gift, Thrivent Action Grant or volunteer your time and talents, please contact Mrs. Nikki Kueck.



Transportation Fund

Did you know FLHS is raising funds to purchase a transportation option? FLHS plans to use this fund to purchase a bus to help transport our students to extracurricular activities and events. We have already made significant progress, but please consider a donation to help us finish raising the funds needed to move forward with this project. Thanks to some wonderful supporters, we are moving closer to our goal each week! Thank you for your support!!

Answers to Sermon Notes:
1. Jesus was not powerless apart from men's *faith*, but in the absence of *faith* he could not *work* mighty works in accordance with the purpose of his ministry.
2. Jesus meant for his *disciples* to have the support of one another as they proclaimed the kingdom of God to a *world* hardly ready or receptive to their *message*.
3. How we live our lives as *Christians* impacts our *efforts* as *witnesses*.
4. Expressions of *judgment* are never simply condemnations carried out immediately but are intended as a *warning* to elicit *repentance*.
5. Jesus' instruction to "shake the dust off our feet" reminds us that we are only responsible for our *obedience* to *God*, not for the results of that *obedience*.
6. As *witnesses* to a world bound on the road of sin and death, we are to *lead* the *lost* to an intersection of forgiveness and life in Jesus Christ, at the Cross.



Confessional Unity: Part 3 of 3

Among Lutherans—nay, among Christians—the very cornerstone of confessional unity is the Sacrament of the Altar. We in the Missouri Synod believe and teach that our doctrine and practice is guided by God’s Word, and when we consider Communion, one question punctuates our understanding of “confessional unity”:

Who is invited to the Lord’s Supper?

Perhaps the answer can be found in a different question: Who is not invited to the Lord’s Supper?

In a paper on the subject, one Lutheran pastor makes the point that “Jesus nowhere commands the church to invite everyone to this Supper. The gospel, the good news, we are to preach in all the world. And regarding baptism Jesus says, ‘Baptize all nations.’ Never, however, does he say: ‘Give my body and blood to everyone.’ It was instituted in the close fellowship of the twelve. It is not for everyone. The Lord has to tell us under what circumstances or to whom this sacrament is a blessing.” And so He did, through the Apostle Paul, whose exhortation in 1 Corinthians is the law of the Communion rail, so to speak:

²⁷ Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord.

²⁸ Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹ For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. (1 Corinthians 11:27-30 ESV)

But how does confessional unity fit into Paul’s exhortation about (un)worthiness? The church in Corinth was not Roman Catholic, nor Lutheran, nor any other denomination or sect. Paul’s letter was addressed to “the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours (v. 1 ESB),” the Christian Church.

Luther wrote that “those who are cold and careless, who use Christian freedom as a cover for their disinterest with respect to God; the impudent and wild, who discount their sins and grace” ought not to approach the altar. Such persons place their soul in peril by drinking the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner.

Faith creates the desire to amend one's sinful life. The repentant sinner who approaches the Lord's Table in genuine faith does so, then, in accordance with 1 Corinthians 11:27-29. Paul did not intend for the overseers of the church in Corinth to determine who was invited to Communion, but that right administration of the Sacrament requires oversight.

1 Corinthians 11 does not forbid anyone from the Lord's Table. Communion is to be administered and received in conformity with our Confessions and God's Word. By diligently ensuring that those who desire to approach the altar have been sufficiently instructed (with regard to Baptism, repentance, faith, self-examination, and confessional unity), our church—and our congregation—finds the answer to a question no longer needed to be asked: Who is invited to the Lord's Supper?