



Communion Before Confirmation

I recently received an inquiry about the link between Holy Communion and Confirmation, and whether or not it was necessary for a child to be confirmed in order to receive Holy Communion. I did not need to make up much of an answer here, because there are some notes in a book called the *Agenda*. The *Agenda* contains a large amount of rites which are used less frequently than the ones in the Lutheran Service Book hymnal. The hymnal contains Holy Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Matrimony, and Funeral. These are the big four that you'll go through during the course of your Christian life. The *Agenda* has dozens of other rites, such as Installation of Officers or Excommunication from the Holy Christian Church. It also has a rite for First Communion Prior to Communion. Each rite has a series of introductory notes. Here are the relevant and helpful notes:

“First Communion Prior to Confirmation: General Notes

1. This rite is intended to be used to admit to the Lord's Supper baptized children who have not yet been confirmed. Candidates for admission to the Lord's Supper have learned the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. They have received careful instruction in the Gospel and Sacraments. Confessing their sin and trusting in their Savior, they desire to receive the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of their sins and the strengthening of their faith in Christ and their love toward others.
2. Concerning the worthy reception of the Lord's Supper, the Small Catechism teaches: “That person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: ‘Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.’ But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words ‘for you’ require all hearts to believe.”
3. Baptized Christians are admitted to the Sacrament when they have been examined and absolved by their pastor in accordance with the practice outlined in the Augsburg Confession (Article XXV).” - Lutheran Service Book: *Agenda*; Concordia Publishing House, 2006. P. 25.

We must never be haphazard or careless with admission to the Lord's Supper. It is not our supper, but the Lord's, so His word and will goes. Confirmation is not a requirement for receiving Communion, nor is it an automatic qualification. It is a convenient shorthand phrase for what you might believe, but it is not the last word when it comes to whether or not you are meant to be at the Table. Our goal is to commune every last person on the face of the earth in the way that the Lord would have them come.

One of the primary ways that I know you, as your pastor, is through the giving, and sharing, of Holy Communion. I might notice that your child seems particularly attentive at the rail, and ask questions about their desire to receive Communion. Encourage their curiosity! Answer their questions! Teach them that this is Jesus' Body and Blood for the forgiveness of our sins! *Let the little children come to me!* Confirmation is also very important, as it continues a child's personal involvement in the church, bringing them to the public confession of the Faith. Confirmation as a requirement for Communion emerged in the Lutheran churches in the 18th century. Others have studied this more than I have, particularly Pastor Mark Surburg. A quick google of his name and “confirmation” will direct you to quite a voluminous amount of information if you're interested in the fascinating history of Confirmation.

+Pastor Kyle Mietzner

IN THIS EDITION

Pastor's Letter	1
Church Notes	2
Worship Services	2
Special Voters' Meeting	3
Stewardship	3
Calendar	4

CHURCH NOTES

Christian Education Opportunities

We have resumed bible study in person following worship service on Sunday, as well as on Zoom. The Wednesday 7pm bible study can also be attended in person or via Zoom. If you aren't included on the Zoom email invitation list, please contact the office or Pastor to be added to the distribution list.

Helping Hands Meal Prep

Our outreach program to help feed residents at Brother Francis Shelter and Clare House is temporarily suspended.

Pioneer Home Christian Fellowship

Suspended temporarily.

Offerings

You are welcome to mail your offerings to the church to be presented during the next Sunday worship service. This can also be done through your financial institution's BillPay service.

Birthdays

Levi Thomas Rawlins	8/1
Ina Mueller	8/2
Jahna Pollock	8/4
Cayre Saden	8/4
Rawlin Mascelli	8/5
Christie Mascelli	8/7
Cheryl Erickson	8/10
Cheryl Hopkins	8/16
Aaron Wisroth	8/17
Sid Anderson	8/18
Joe Pollock	8/18
Darrell Lampert	8/19
Todd Nichols	8/23
Anita Hunsucker	8/28



Anniversaries

Sam & Debby Dickey	8/22
Aaron & Nicole Wisroth	8/28
Will & Viki Enstice	8/31



Church Contacts

Church Office:	338-3838
Preschool Office:	222-3838
Pastor's cell phone:	(336)944-2394
Church address:	2100 Boniface Pkwy Anchorage, AK 99504

Worship Services

We have returned to having in-person worship services at 9:30am Sundays. For those not yet comfortable with gathering together, Livestream video is also still available via Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/zionalaska/live/>. There is an order of service PDF for each service posted on our website, [ZionAnchorage.org](https://www.zionanchorage.org). You will need a Lutheran Service Book for hymns and liturgy.

Special Voters' Meeting

A special voters' meeting has been called and scheduled for August 23rd at 1pm, following worship and bible study. The purpose of the meeting will be to address closure of the Zion Preschool for the 20-21 academic year.

STEWARDSHIP

Winston Churchill reportedly said, “we make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” According to Churchill then, our lives are defined less by what we have gotten and more by what we give away.

Our Lord's life is defined in this way. He gave completely of Himself for us. He became man for us. He taught the truth of God's Word. He healed those with many and various diseases. He died the death that we deserve because of sin. He gave of Himself in order to save us from sin, death, and hell. So it is that by giving completely of Himself, He got us for Himself, making us citizens of His eternal kingdom by grace.

As it was for Jesus, so it is also for us. We get more from giving than we do from simply getting. Giving softens our hearts and frees us from the worries of this world and making a living. For when we are singularly focused on making a living, we are singularly focused on what we get.

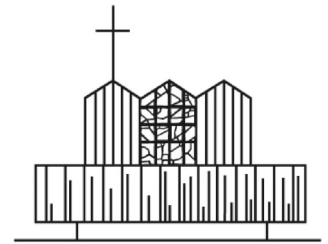
That mindset begins to bleed into all areas of our lives – our relationships with friends and family, with neighbors and coworkers, and with the Lord. It shifts our focus from asking “How can I be a friend, family member, neighbor, and servant to others?” to “What have they done for me lately?” We become more selfish instead of selfless.

But, when we give, we do not have less, and we do not become less. We have more and become more. Because when we give, we join in the bond of friendship and family, the bond of service to those around us out of love for them. And love is the fulfillment of the Law. It is the nature of God Himself, for God is Love. Thus, we are participating in the divine nature. As Jesus said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35).

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AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study via Zoom	27	28	29 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Zoom Bible Study	30	31	1-Aug
2 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study via Zoom	3	4 7pm Elders' Meeting	5 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Zoom Bible Study	6	7	8
9 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study via Zoom	10	11 7pm Council Meeting	12 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Zoom Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study via Zoom	17	18 Election Day	19 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Zoom Bible Study	20	21	22
23 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study via Zoom 1pm Special Voters' Meeting	24	25	26 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Zoom Bible Study	27	28	29
30 9:30am Divine Service 11am Bible Study via Zoom	31	1-Sep 7pm Elders' Meeting	2 4pm Youth Catechesis 7pm Zoom Bible Study	3	4	5