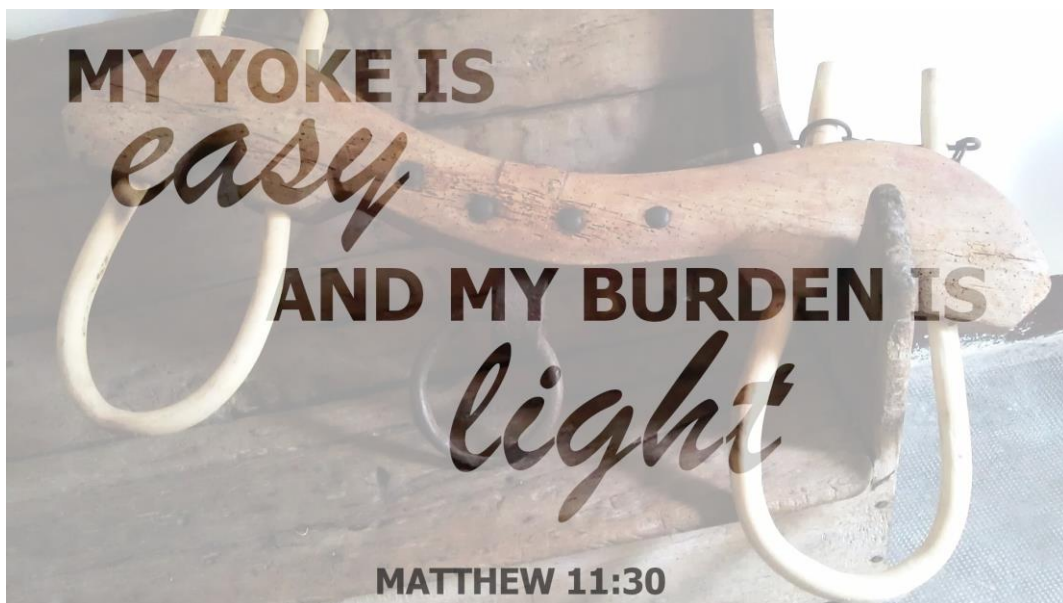




1074 N Fairfield Rd  
Layton, UT 84041  
801-444-1591  
[www.lotvlayton.org](http://www.lotvlayton.org)



**The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
July 5 & 6, 2020

# LIGHT OF THE VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH

1074 N Fairfield Rd, Layton, UT 84041

[www.facebook.com/lotvlayton](http://www.facebook.com/lotvlayton)

**Worship:** Sundays at 10:30 am

**Church Office:** 801-444-1591

**Office Assistant's E-mail:**

[secretary@lotvlayton.org](mailto:secretary@lotvlayton.org)

[www.lotvlayton.org](http://www.lotvlayton.org)

[www.youtube.com/lotvlayton](http://www.youtube.com/lotvlayton)

**Bible Study for All:** Sundays at 9:15 am

**Pastor's Mobile:** 385-319-1026

**Pastor's E-mail:**

[pastorklein@lotvlayton.org](mailto:pastorklein@lotvlayton.org)

## Welcome

The Christian finds rest in Jesus. From the beginning of time, God provided rest for his creation. He blessed the seventh day and set it apart, that man might learn to find his rest in God alone. In Jesus, the Christian finds rest from his burdens, rest from his battles, and rest forever in heaven. Being yoked with him, he will walk through this life with us side by side and take us to that eternal heavenly rest.

## Visitors

We are so thankful that you joined us for worship! We would be thrilled to share more about what we teach, preach, and believe with you. Please leave your contact information with Pastor Klein or fill out our [online guestbook](#) on our church website. If there is any other way that we can serve you, please let us know. God bless your worship!

## Information

**Restrooms** are located on your right as you exit the back of the sanctuary.

The **Fellowship Hall** is located to the left of the sanctuary.

A **Playroom & Nursery** are available for small children, located to your right as you exit the back of the sanctuary, near the entrance to the Ladies' Restroom.

**Hand Sanitizer** is located in the entry way of church.

**Prayer Requests** can be made by filling out the prayer request book as you enter church or by speaking with the pastor.

## Serving in Worship

**Music:** 8:00 am & 10:30 am Gail Vander Wal

**Ushers:** 8:00 am Steve V & Gary T; 10:30 am Jacob G & Larry C

**Communion Assistants:** 8:00 am Tyler J; 10:30 am Eric M; 7:00 pm Jeff E

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Jon Klein



*Light of the Valley is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS).*

# Precautionary Measures in Worship for COVID-19

## **Masks**

The wearing of masks at church is encouraged. We have free masks on the table in the front entry way for you to use and take home.

## **Worship Folders & Children's Bulletins**

The worship folders are placed on the chairs in the sanctuary prior to each worship service. Please take them home or put them in a blue recycling bin at the end of worship. At this time, we are offering children's bulletins only for download on our website.

## **Offering Plates**

The offering plates will not be passed around but will be on a stool near the doors to the sanctuary. You also can use our electronic giving options for contactless offerings.

## **Communion**

We will distribute communion in a "continuous flow" style. When the usher directs you, move down the center aisle to the front of the sanctuary to the line of tape closest to the baptismal font on your side. The communion assistant will place the bread (Jesus' body) in your outstretched hand. Then proceed to the pastor to receive the wine (Jesus' blood). He will hand you the individual cup, holding it from the top. Please take it from the bottom. Once finished, proceed to the side aisle, depositing your individual cup in the basket provided. At the end of the distribution of the Lord's Supper, pastor will bless the entire congregation after covering the elements (the bread and wine).

## **Ushers**

They will provide you additional worship folders as needed, usher you up for communion one row at a time, and usher you out one row at a time at the end of worship.

## **Sanitization**

Volunteers are needed to sanitize all of the high contact areas in church after each worship service. Please help when and where you can.

## **Fellowship Food & Drink**

At this time, we will not offer any self-serve beverages or food.

# Order of Worship

*In our worship, God comes to us in his Word and his Sacraments, and we respond with our praise and thanksgiving to him. All are welcome to participate as indicated. The parts marked **M** are spoken or sung by the minister, and the parts marked **C** are spoken or sung by everyone in the congregation.*

## Opening Hymn: CW 238 Oh, Bless the Lord, My Soul



1 Oh, bless the Lord, my soul! Let  
2 Oh, bless the Lord, my soul, Nor  
3 'Tis he for - gives my sins; 'Tis  
4 He fills the poor with good; He  
5 His won - drous works and ways He



all with - in me join And aid my tongue to  
let his mer - cies lie For - got - ten in un -  
he re - lieves my pain; 'Tis he that heals my  
gives the suf - f'ers rest; The Lord has judg - ments  
made by Mo - ses known, But sent the world his



bless his name Whose fa - vors are di - vine.  
thank - ful - ness And with - out prais - es die.  
sick - ness - es And makes me young a - gain.  
for the proud And jus - tice for th' op - pressed.  
truth and grace By his be - lov - ed Son.

STAND

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## Confession & Absolution of Sins

*In the confession of sins, we acknowledge our sins and ask God to forgive them. The absolution gives and assures us that we are forgiven by the substitutionary life and death of Jesus Christ.*

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**C: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, you should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: O Lord, my God, I called to you for help, and you answered me. I thank you for the love you have shown me in Jesus Christ, my Savior. Through him you have rescued me from the guilt of my sin and given me the peace of forgiveness. Help me fight against temptation, correct whatever wrongs I can, and serve you and those around me with love and good works. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.**

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

**C: Christ, have mercy.**

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

**C: Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Day**

M: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us your promised rest and the full joys of your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## **The Word of God**

*This section is the heart and high point of our service. What follows is not the uncertain word of untrustworthy human beings. It is the Word of God that has called us to faith and strengthens our faith in Jesus as our Savior from sin, death, and the devil.*

### **First Bible Reading: Exodus 33:12-23**

<sup>12</sup>Moses said to the LORD, "Look, you yourself have been telling me, 'Lead this people up,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.'<sup>13</sup>So now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your ways, so that I may know you, so that I may find favor in your sight. Consider that this nation is your people."

<sup>14</sup>The LORD said, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

<sup>15</sup>Moses said to him, "If your Presence is not going to go with me, do not send us up from here. <sup>16</sup>After all, how would people know that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people? Isn't it in this way: that you go with us, so that we are distinguished, I and your people, from all the people who are on the face of the earth?"

<sup>17</sup>The LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have said, for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name."

<sup>18</sup>Then Moses said, "Please show me your glory."

<sup>19</sup>The LORD said, "I will make all my goodness pass in front of you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD in your presence. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will show mercy to whom I will show mercy." <sup>20</sup>He said, "You cannot see my face, for no human may see me and live."

<sup>21</sup>The LORD also said, "Look, there is a place next to me, where you shall stand on the rock. <sup>22</sup>It will happen that, while my glory passes by, I will put you in a crevice in the rock. I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. <sup>23</sup>Then I will take away my hand, and you will see my back. But my face will not be seen."

## **Second Bible Reading: Romans 7:15-25a**

<sup>15</sup>For I do not understand what I am doing, because I do not keep doing what I want. Instead, I do what I hate. <sup>16</sup>And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. <sup>17</sup>But now it is no longer I who am doing it, but it is sin living in me. <sup>18</sup>Indeed, I know that good does not live in me, that is, in my sinful flesh. The desire to do good is present with me, but I am not able to carry it out. <sup>19</sup>So I fail to do the good I want to do. Instead, the evil I do not want to do, that is what I keep doing. <sup>20</sup>Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who am doing it, but it is sin living in me.

<sup>21</sup>So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is present with me. <sup>22</sup>I certainly delight in God's law according to my inner self, <sup>23</sup>but I see a different law at work in my members, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me captive to the law of sin, which is present in my members. <sup>24</sup>What a miserable wretch I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? <sup>25</sup>I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

*STAND*

### **The Gospel Reading: Matthew 11:25-30**

<sup>25</sup>At that time, Jesus continued, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from clever and learned people and have revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup>Yes, Father, because this was pleasing to you. <sup>27</sup>Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wants to reveal him.

<sup>28</sup>"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup>Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup>For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Alleluia! Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ. Alleluia!**

*BE SEATED*



## Hymn of the Day: CW 436 *Jesus, Shepherd of the Sheep*



1 Je - sus, shep - herd of the sheep, Who your  
2 In your prom - ise firm we stand; None can  
3 By your blood our souls were bought; By your  
4 Fa - ther, draw us to your Son; We with  
5 We, in robes of glo - ry dressed, Join th' as -



Fa - ther's flock does keep, Safe we wake and  
take us from your hand. Speak— we hear— at  
life sal - va - tion wrought; By your light our  
joy will fol - low on Till the work of  
sem - bly of the blest, Gath - ered to e -



safe we sleep, Guard - ed still by you.  
your com - mand, We will fol - low you.  
feet are taught, Lord, to fol - low you.  
grace is done, There to live with you.  
ter - nal rest In the fold with you.

### Sermon

*The sermon, for the most part, is a one-sided conversation from the pastor meant to apply God's Word to your life. In order to help with this application, consider these questions during or after the sermon.*

- 1) What am I yoked to?
- 2) How is Jesus' yoke easy and his burden for us light?



## **Confession of Faith: The Apostle's Creed**

*The Creed is a summary of the Christian faith and a confession of the whole Christian Church on earth concerning the teachings of Scripture and especially of the person of Jesus Christ. Believers join their voices with one another and the whole Christian Church on earth to confess God's truth.*

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**



## Thank Offering to God

*The offering is an opportunity for us to return thanks to God. Prompted by the forgiveness of sins given to us through our crucified and risen Savior, Jesus Christ, we give of our time, talents, and treasures, which also support the Gospel ministry done at Light of the Valley. You can place your offering in the offering plates on a stool outside the doors to the sanctuary. You can also set up electronic giving with GivePlus from Vanco, which you can find on our website ([www.lotvlayton.org](http://www.lotvlayton.org)) under the "Worship" tab or download it from any app store and start using it today. Another way is to "Give By Text" by texting to 833-946-1361 the amount you wish to donate, using the \$ before the amount; then follow the instructions in the reply text. If you encounter any problems, contact our Financial Secretary, Ben Heidfeld (435-740-0643; [finsec@lotvlayton.org](mailto:finsec@lotvlayton.org)).*



## Prayer of the Church

*The Lord invites our prayers and asks that Christians pray for many people and circumstances. He promises to listen to them and respond according to his will in a way that is best for us. With that in mind, we approach our God with confidence and faith in him and his promises. You can request prayers by filling out the prayer request sheet as you come into church or by speaking to Pastor Klein.*

## Lord's Prayer

*The following prayer is what Jesus himself taught his disciples. (Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4)*

**All: 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 Sacrament of the Lord's Supper



*Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this supper we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.*

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*Jesus offered a prayer of thanksgiving when instituting the Lord's Supper, and so we offer one as well.*

**M:** Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power. By his incarnation, he became one with us. By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will. By his innocent death, he overcame hell. By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven. Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

**C: Amen.**

## **Words of Institution**

**M:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us and grant us your peace. Amen.**

*BE SEATED*

## **Distribution**



*On the basis of what God's Word says, the Lord's Supper is an expression of unity in beliefs. Therefore, we kindly ask that only confirmed members of Light of the Valley and of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod partake of Holy Communion. We encourage those who would like to receive Holy Communion with us to speak with the Pastor before doing so.*

*STAND*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

M: We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that you have given us to eat and to drink in this sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **Blessing**

*As we close our worship service, we leave with direct blessings from our Lord and God, using the words that God gave to Aaron the High Priest to bless the Israelites (Numbers 6:22-27).*

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

## Closing Hymn: CW 449 *Children of the Heavenly Father*



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
2 God his own doth tend and nour - ish; In his  
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the  
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his



in his bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird or star in  
ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things he  
Lord his chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them his grace he  
chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge ne'er was giv - en.  
spares them; In his might - y arms he bears them.  
show - eth, And their sor - rows all he know - eth.  
sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

*Take a moment to reflect on today's message, one of the Bible readings, or on a hymn during the service. Following the announcements, an usher will dismiss you by rows. For those who volunteered to sanitize, please meet in the kitchen. Pastor will greet you outside the front doors. Have a blessed week!*

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## Announcements

### **Ephesians Bible Study**

We are studying the book of *Ephesians* on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am in person at church and via Google Meet. These study sessions are uploaded on our Youtube channel and Facebook page afterwards. You can join in person or electronically by using this link ([meet.google.com/pqv-rkqb-zjo](https://meet.google.com/pqv-rkqb-zjo)). For technical help, contact Adam Horne (801-698-1599) or Chuck Kidd (801-671-3602).

## **Kids' Bible Study**

Although the kids will not gather at church for their own Bible study this summer, Wendy Klein has continued to email homeschool lessons and [videos](#) to all the families with grade school age children on Thursdays. If you come to church for worship, she has craft packets available on the table in the entry way for each family with kids. Contact Wendy ([wnk1029@gmail.com](mailto:wnk1029@gmail.com)) if you have any questions.

## **July Calendar**

The July calendar is available on the information table by the bulletin board between the restrooms. You can also download it on our church website ([www.lotvlayton.org](http://www.lotvlayton.org)) under the calendar tab.

## **Arts & Crafts**

Arts & Crafts will meet next on Tuesday, July 7 at 1:00 pm here at church and through Google Meet. Contact Brenda (801-663-0015; [sahrow@yahoo.com](mailto:sahrow@yahoo.com)) to RSVP, especially if you plan on using Google Meet.

## **Lutheran Recovery Group**

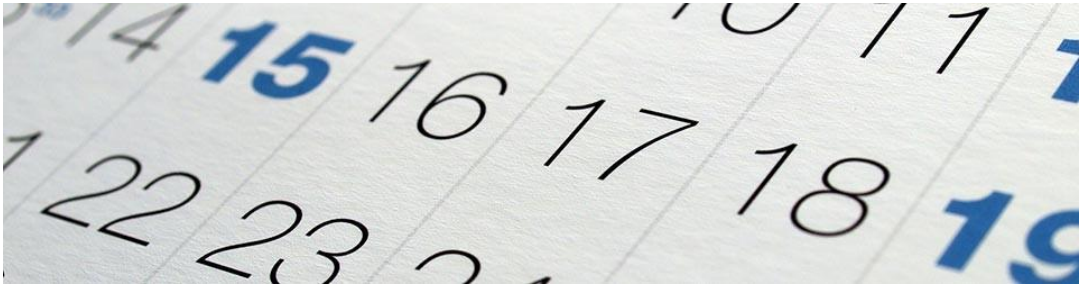
On Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm at church, we have a recovery support group to strengthen each other through God's Word, to smash our idols, and to encourage one another. Contact Faith York (920-691-2332; [gizmo619@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gizmo619@sbcglobal.net)) to join these meetings in person or online.

## **Book Club**

Our LOTV book club talking about what books everyone is currently reading meets every second and fourth Thursdays at 6:00 pm via Google Meet. The next one will be July 9. Contact Wendy ([wnk1029@gmail.com](mailto:wnk1029@gmail.com)) for details and to get an official invite.

## **Nebraska District Special Ministries Coordinator**

In June, Pastor Klein was asked to serve a 6 year term as the Special Ministries Coordinator for the Nebraska District of our national church body (WELS). The coordinator disseminates information about WELS Special Ministries to all the churches in our district, which includes the states of Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah. WELS Special Ministries includes programs and help for Military Services, Prison Ministry, Intellectual and Developmental Ministry, Nursing Home Ministry, Mission for the Deaf/Hard Hearing and the Visually Impaired, Care Committee for Called Workers, and Mental Health Needs. If you have questions regarding this, please ask Pastor Klein.



## This Week at LOTV

Sunday, July 5	8:00 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:30 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
Monday, July 6	7:00 pm	Worship w/ Holy Communion
Tuesday, July 7	1:00 pm	Arts & Crafts
	7:00 pm	Lutheran Recovery Group
Thursday, July 9	6:00 pm	Book Club via Google Meet
	7:00 pm	AA Meeting
Sunday, July 12	8:00 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	9:15 am	Bible Study
	10:30 am	Worship w/ Holy Communion
	12:00 pm	Council Meeting

## Church Membership: What Does it Mean?



There are over 80 member households at Light of the Valley (LOTV). Church membership is the tangible connection to the family of faith that is our congregation. It is a connection consisting of *unity* in the Bible's teachings and *commitment* to the mission, ministry, and members of this congregation. Participation in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at LOTV says, among other things, that you are so united and committed to this congregation. Our Bible Information Class (BIC) explains the Bible's teachings as confessed by our Lutheran church. It also explains the mission and ministry of this congregation so that inquirers can decide if they want to be committed members of it. Contact Pastor Klein for the next offering. You can also listen the lessons on our church website by clicking on the "Learn" and then the "Bible Information Class" tabs on the main front-page menu.



## Offering the Lord's Supper for July & August

When we began planning to resume in-person worship during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Elders and Pastor Klein decided to offer the Lord's Supper for every worship service from May 31 to July 5. We decided this because most of us had gone without the Lord's Supper since March 15 and had multiple confirmation services planned for June.

At the end of June, the Board of Elders and Pastor Klein met again to decide how frequently we should offer the Lord's Supper to you for the rest of the summer. Here is what we reviewed in making a decision:

### What God's Word Says

The Lord's Supper is a way that God tangibly and physically gives us the forgiveness of sins, calms the troubled conscience, strengthens our faith in Christ Jesus, proclaims our Lord's death, and expresses our unity in the teachings of and the belief in Jesus Christ as our Savior. (Matthew 26:28; Romans 5:9; 1 Corinthians 11:26-27; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17)

God does not mandate how often we are to partake in his Supper. Jesus simply says, "Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:25) Where God's Word does not give us a specific command, we have freedom in deciding what to do with the overriding thought of considering what is most beneficial. (1 Corinthians 10:23-24)

### The Historic Practice of the Christian Church

Although not explicitly stated, the New Testament gives evidence that the apostles and 1<sup>st</sup> century Christians celebrated the Lord's Supper weekly. (Acts 20:7) Early Christian writings reported that Christians celebrated the Lord's Supper whenever they met for worship. Since then, the frequency of offering the Lord's Supper has ebbed and flowed, sometimes being offered every week and other times being offered only a few times a year. Today, you find a large variance among Christians as to how often they offer the Lord's Supper.

### The Historic Practice at Light of the Valley

When we began as a mission congregation in the early 90's, the Lord's Supper was celebrated in worship once a month. As LOTV grew, it was offered every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. In recent years, the Lord's Supper was sometimes offered more or less in a month for special occasions such as confirmations and festival celebrations according to the church calendar.

In the summer of 2018, a worship survey indicated that 40% of our people would like to have it offered every week. This desire was accommodated by offering the Lord's Supper every Monday night when we began Monday night worship in the Fall of 2018.

## **Practical Considerations**

We also considered many practical issues. Offering the Lord's Supper weekly would maintain unity between our three weekend worship services and allow the opportunity for our members to commune at any worship service they attend. At the same time, weekly offerings of the Lord's Supper would require extra supplies and extra work.

Maybe the biggest concern for many of us is the fact that we adhere to the biblical practice of "close communion," meaning that we only offer the Lord's Supper to those who have professed the same Christian faith as taught in the Bible. This biblical practice inevitably makes some guests and visitors of our church feel excluded. Since we will continue to adhere to this practice regardless of when we offer communion, the best we can do is continually use the practice of the Lord's Supper to explain that it is a meal not only to receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins and strengthening of our faith in him but that it is also an expression of our unified confession of faith. In other words, we can say to our guests, "Let's get to know each other's faith before we partake in this special meal together."

## **The Decision**

Weighing all of these pieces of information, the Board of Elders and Pastor Klein decided that it would be most spiritually beneficial for our people to continue offering the Lord's Supper for each service through July and August. Towards the end of August, we will re-evaluate this practice.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a lot of change for all of our lives. It is stressful to continuously experience change. For some, we realize that this change in how frequently we offer the Lord's Supper may bring more questions and concerns. We encourage you to speak with Pastor Klein or one of our elders. God bless and keep you!

In Christ, Pastor Jon Klein

Andy Hartmann, Head Elder – [elder@lotvlayton.org](mailto:elder@lotvlayton.org); 801-726-5169

Jeff Evey, Elder – [jeff.evey@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.evey@gmail.com); 425-476-8799

Ben Heidfeld, Elder – [benheidfeld@gmail.com](mailto:benheidfeld@gmail.com); 435-740-0643

## An Independence Day Devotion

### Proclaim the Christian's Freedom

*The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the afflicted. He sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for those who are bound. (Isaiah 61:1)*

When the smoke cleared on the morning of September 14, 1814, the battered American flag still stood. This sight of victory caused Frances Scott Key to write what eventually became our national anthem, the "Star Spangled Banner". That anthem is now proudly sung across the entire United States, a reminder of our freedoms.

When the smoke cleared on that first Easter morning, the once battered and crucified Savior stood victorious over sin, death, and the devil. Because of that victory, you are now dedicating your lives to telling others about that message. Your life is a religious "national anthem" of sorts.

There are likely children and families in your care that don't know what it's like to be free in Christ. They still don't know the message of the crucified and risen Savior. The message of the gospel is still hidden behind a veil of despair or pride for some of those we serve. The Sovereign LORD has called you to pull back that veil, so that they can see the victory is won. Some still strive and grasp about, blindly seeking the "meaning of life". The LORD has sent you to provide for them THE meaning of life. Praise and thanks to God for giving you that opportunity.

That sounds like a tall order, doesn't it? Thankfully, God our Savior does all the work for us. We simply carry out our duties faithfully, and the LORD of all creation does the rest. That glorious gospel message has the power to work faith. Take heart, even your meager, stumbling efforts don't come back to the LORD empty. Trust the power of God's Word!

On this Independence Day, take a moment to thank God for your freedoms. Thank him for the opportunity that he has given you to "proclaim freedom for the captives". Especially thank him for the faith that he has already worked in your heart—the faith with which you reach out and receive the gift of sins forgiven and eternal life.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the freedom that we have through Christ. Help me to faithfully proclaim that freedom to those in my care. Amen.