

CALLED TO BE HOLY

“13 Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.” 1 Peter 1:13-16

Greetings and Salutations:

The Holy Spirit has guided your internet browser so as for you to now be in contact the Pastor and People of St. John Ev. Lutheran Church - Rodenburg. (And you thought it was Google right?!) You find yourself digitally connected to a holy people, who believe our heavenly Father constantly imparts to us His holy righteousness of being steadfastly gracious and merciful, by giving us His most blessed gift of trusting in God the Son, who is our crucified and risen Christ Jesus.

There are 3 “C”s of holiness whereby He binds us to Himself and to one another.

Communication: God’s Holy Scriptures are His autobiography of cosmic salvation and personal redemption. As a congregation who confesses the Christian faith according to the Lutheran confessions, we preach and teach Christ crucified and raised, so the Holy Spirit inspires us with growing faith that bears fruits of developing discipleship. By granting us the privilege of hearing His communication in sermons, bible study and personal meditation, we give thanks God makes us holy in His sight.

Communion: As sinners we realize our Creator Father acts in many mysterious ways, uses diverse means and various methods. As His creatures, we acknowledge such actions grant us moments of earthly contentment and happiness. We also concede some inactions permit physical pain and emotional sufferings. Trying to gauge if God is near to or far from us using these transient events enslaves us to worry and anxiety. Employing our temporal experiences to measure when He is for or against us traps us in a spiritual state of manic doubts and/or compulsive arrogance.

Rather than let us remain in the curse of such confusion and insecurity, God bids us cling to three ways of promising to commune with us.

- ❖ Once and for all personally and intimately through the Water and Word of Holy Baptism;
- ❖ Continuously in the company and companionship of sharing Christ's Real Presence in, with and under the Bread and Wine of the Holy Supper.
- ❖ Repeatedly, as needed individually or corporately, Him forgiving our sins as we forgive one another's sins in Holy Confession & Absolution.

Community - We are a group of sinners held together by faith in the power and authority of Christ Jesus' death and resurrection promising our heavenly Father's forgiveness of all our faults and failures. That same faith makes us, first and foremost, a fellowship of forgivers of one another's accidental mistakes and intentional iniquities. We impart pardon in order to propagate peace. Faith in God's work for us, leads us to lay down our lives in sacrificial loving service to one another, our neighbor and the whole world. Loyalty to the Lord and allegiance to one another drive us to build forgiving and forgiven relationships that endure in this world, and last for an eternity.

Are we perfect? I never said we are. What we ARE is holy, in God's sight, by His grace alone, solely through faith, only in Jesus Christ crucified, raised, and now reigning at the Father's right hand.

The clarity of the Triune God's Holy **C**ommunication in the Gospel,
 the purity of the Trinity's Holy **C**ommunion in the Sacraments,
 preserves our Holy **C**ommunity at St. John Ev. Lutheran Church-Rodenberg.
 You are welcome to connect with us as the Spirit continues to guide you, and at
 your convenience.
 Grace and peace:

Pastor Mark Brockhoff