
PRESIDENT'S PAGE

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Shall we Feast?!

I appreciate meeting my wife at Plaza Mexico in Storm Lake and ordering the Seafood Chimichanga. It is SO GOOD! The **food** is so good, and the **company** is so good. My wife **sits** at the table with me. Eating together and talking together and caring for each other benefits my brain and my heart and my soul.

Congregations in Iowa West continue to discuss Holy Communion frequency. How often would Jesus like to meet you at His table and feed you with His very body and blood and sit with you and care for your brain and your heart and your soul?

A few months ago I prepared some thoughts concerning Holy Communion frequency and shared these with our circuit visitors, asking them to discuss these in circuit meetings with their pastors. Since then, more of our congregations have returned to celebrating this Holy Meal each Lord's Day. But why? And what do I mean by "returned"?

Returned. Early Christian writings from 100 AD (Didache) and 150 AD (Justin Martyr) and 215 AD (Hippolytus) all report celebrating the Lord's Supper at least each Lord's Day. As history continues: Basil the Great (329–379 AD): "We commune four times a week." Augustine (354–430 AD): "Some receive the body and blood of the Lord daily, others on certain days only; at some places the Sacrament is administered every day, at other places on the Sabbath (Saturday) and Sunday, at other places on Sundays only."

What do our kids read in their catechisms? Q.295: In Reformation times our churches celebrated the Sacrament "every Sunday and on other festivals." What do our adults read in their Large Catechisms and their Confessions (to which our pastors and congregations ascribe)? Large Catechism: "The Lord's Supper is given as a daily food and sustenance so that our faith may refresh and strengthen itself and not weaken in the struggle but grow continually stronger." Augsburg Confession, Apology: "In the churches, the Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday and on other festivals."

But why?! Matthew 26:26–28: Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is My body." Then He took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." 1 Corinthians 10:16: "Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?"

What Synod resolutions have we passed concerning Lord's Supper frequency? Resolution 2-08A: "Resolved, that the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod... encourage its pastors and congregations to study the Scriptural, confessional, and historical witness to every-Sunday communion with a view to recovering the opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper each Lord's Day." ('95 Synod Convention)

My encouragement: Do what the apostles did. Do what Luther and the early Lutherans did. Listen to the encouragement of Scripture. Attend to our own LCMS in convention. Follow the example of more and more LCMS congregations who have returned to the church's historic practice of the Lord's Supper for the Lord's people each Lord's Day.

*Thy Body, giv'n for me, O Savior, Thy Blood which Thou for me didst shed,
These are my life and strength forever, by them my hungry soul is fed.
Lord, may Thy body and Thy blood be for my soul the highest good. LSB 619.*