

“Called to Confess”

(A Free Conference of Confessing Pastors and Laity of the NOW District)

November 14, 2007

Dear Brothers in Christ:

Who May Partake of the Lord's Supper Today? It's a tough question that pastors and congregations must face every Lord's Day in which the Supper is offered. Here, in part, is how at least one pastor in the NOW District is addressing the question in the church bulletin.

Love expresses itself in many ways and there are various forms of love. Love for a friend expresses itself differently than love for a spouse. Is participation in the Lord's Supper more like marriage or friendship? Many in our day and age think of it as friendship. The idea is that we have to be friendly to everyone, so no one should be excluded from partaking of the Lord's Supper. Indeed, Christians should be friendly to everyone, even to strangers.

However, the imagery for fellowship in the Lord's Supper found in the Bible and in the early church is that of marriage. The Lord's Supper is a foretaste of *the marriage feast of the Lamb*. Friendliness involves no commitment and very few expectations. Marriage, however, involves a high commitment and great expectations. One may not share the marriage bed with just anyone, no matter how friendly they may be, no matter how much we may like them. If the Lord's Supper is like marriage, then we should not be surprised that love compels us to exclude certain individuals from the Lord's Supper, even though we love them.

Called to Confess is pleased to announce and make available to the Church the next bulletin insert in our series on the talking points highlighted in our previously published and mailed tri-fold titled: “The LC-MS: Are we Still Following Jesus?” The enclosed insert deals with the last of our six talking points and is titled: ***Admittance to the Lord's Supper***. We thank Pastor Eric Lange, and all who aided us in putting it into its final form, for their contributions on this important topic. We commend it to your study and the benefit of the sheep for whom you have been given oversight and charged to nourish and feed with the Word of truth.

As always, we solicit your prayers and support in these troubled days as we seek to be led by the source of all doctrine and practice in the Church: Holy Writ. As we have stated in all our previous correspondence:

In love we have endeavored to put the best construction on the actions of others and we have consciously avoided pointing fingers at anyone. We simply see ourselves as ***Called to Confess***. And “*in love*,” we pray that, if we are in error, you would “*in love*,” show us our error from Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

If you do not agree with the positions stated here, we ask that you at least consider the arguments and put the best construction on our actions, our motivation, and our concern to fulfill the great commission by “*teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you*” (Matt. 28:20). Our goal is not division, but that once again our Synod be united under the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ as confessed in the Lutheran Confessions. May God bless you and lead you to recognize that all of us are ***Called to Confess***.

To contact us or request an electronic version of the ***Admittance to the Lord's Supper*** insert (or previous inserts), send a note to: CalledToConfess@yahoo.com. You may also download copies of any and all of our inserts at www.scholia.net by clicking on LC-MS Matters.

Laboring together in the vineyard of our Lord, we remain ***Called to Confess***.