

Every Week Communion?

Why Not? We've Never Done It That Way

Review

- **We considered the statement: "If we do it too often, it will lose its meaning."**
 - o Thoughts/questions?

- **Clarification of the use of reason in this study**
 - o Proof Texts vs. Biblical Theology

 - o **"Every-week Communion is not directly commanded in Scripture."**
 - What about Infant Baptism?
 - This argument could potentially strip our services down to nothing. For example, there is also no explicit command that we have to sing every Sunday. And yet we do. This is what the saints do in the presence of the Lord, praising our God. And this is the pattern of the church throughout history.

Why Not? Reason #2: "We've Never Done It That Way"

This one works for just about everything. We are creatures of habit. We don't like change. And as I've heard from Baptist and Presbyterian friends, this isn't just true of Lutherans. Sometimes the switch to weekly communion may be uncomfortable or unthinkable because the practice is unfamiliar. If we were to look at the history of the church before this century and beyond our American context, we would see that weekly communion has typically been the normal practice of the church. For example, if the Reformers were to drop in on one of our Sunday services of the Word, I think they would respond to the absence of communion with, "We've never done it that way before!" Certainly there were services of the Word, but from what I can tell these were catechetical services, Matins, Vespers, and others. However, on the Lord's day and other holy days, it was the church's custom so share in the Lord's Supper. (Rasmussen)

- How long is "never"? 100 years? It is important to evaluate a full history of the practice of our church. Was there a time when our forefathers would have said "we've never done it that way" about our current practice?
 - o "New/Never" vs. "Old/Return"

 - o Read 2 Kings 22:1-13; 23:21-23.
 - What might have the people said about the changes that King Josiah was bringing to the nation?
 - Had these things ever been done before?
 - What does this text add to our discussion about Reason #2?