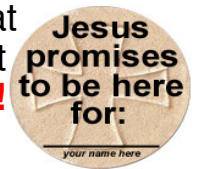




THINKING ABOUT COMMUNION: John proclaimed his baptism: *Push sin aside and turn to forgiveness* (Mark 1:4). From that area, so many people gathered and confessed their sins. Then John baptized them. Did you notice? So many gathered! God has made it so easy for people today! People can gather using their phones to watch the Services. BUT few and even fewer Deaf people use those services to gather with Jesus. Many have WiFi and most Deaf people have WiFi, allowing them to have VP services! Most people have cars, and if not, the bus services to our Church are very good. But fewer and fewer gather around Jesus' word and few meet Jesus in the Lord's Supper! Why? Perhaps John gives us the reason and I ask: Do people not want to push sin aside? Do people like to hold on to their cherished sins? Maybe? During Church, our sins we confess. Notice the sign for confession: the hidden inside your heart, you turn that out for God to see. Suppose you don't want God to see your sins. Why? Jesus died 1990 years ago! God already caused Jesus to become that sin, your sin, not His sin (2 Co.5:21a)! God's gracious faith gift believes that! Jesus already died to take that sin, your sin, and all sin that every person has ever done, yes, Jesus finished and took all sin away! When Jesus meets us here at the Lord's Supper; when Jesus gives us His true body & true blood, we receive that truth: All sin, He forgives! *He reconciled us to God* (2 Cor.5:20) & *we become God's righteousness* (2 Co.5:21b)! Can you say WOW! Gather with us! Meet and receive Jesus in the Lord's Supper and Jesus assures you that the sins you confessed He truly forgives! Jesus assures you that His Baptism succeeded! **Visitors study 1st before Communing!**



TODAY'S PRAYER: Father in heaven, JOHN baptized Jesus. You proclaimed *the* truth: "This is My Son!" With *the* Holy Spirit, You anointed Jesus. We *are* Your baptized children. Help us continue *to* live Your promised new life. Help us overcome sin and live holy *in* service *to* You. Until our final day of life here...help us boldly confess *that* we belong *to* Jesus. We pray, trusting Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Jesus lives and rules together-with You and *the* Holy Spirit, eternally One God. AMEN.