

We are all one in Christ

By Pastor Nora Mendyk

United Methodist Church, Grant

World Wide Communion Sunday will be observed on Oct. 6. It was first observed in 1936 as a call to ask the Church to be as inclusive as the Church Universal.

It is a wonderful day to think about all the Christians around the world observing Communion on the same day in recognition that we are all one in Christ. It has been observed that perhaps Jesus chose bread and wine for us to remember Him because every country in the world has some form of bread. Every country in the world has some form of juice.

Notice this is a call asking us all to recognize that we are one in Christ. The universal church is the church that Jesus calls His. There are plenty of 'church jokes' out there that poke fun at our denominations. The following is a 'you design it' joke. You get to fill in the Church name.

A man arrives at the gates of heaven. St. Peter asks, "Religion?"

The man says, "(a denomination)"

St. Peter looks down his list, and says, "Go to room 24, but be very quiet as you pass room 8."

Another man arrives at the gates of heaven. "Religion?"

"(a denomination)"

The man says, "I can understand there being different rooms for different religions, but why must I be quiet when I pass room 8?"

St. Peter tells him, "Well the (a denomination) are in room 8, and they think they're the only ones there."

Is heaven really sectioned off? As much as Jesus preached about unity and Paul preached about being one in Christ, it is a good question.

The word denomination is an interesting word which can also be used to describe a certain amount of money. Bills can be in denominations of 10s, 20s, 50s. It is easy for us to recognize that it doesn't matter what denominations are used to make a 100 dollars. A hundred dollars is a hundred dollars no matter what. This analogy begs the question, "How many denominations does it take to make the Church Universal?" The Church Universal is the Church Universal no matter what the denomination.

Whenever and wherever you remember Christ through Communion, give thanks that we are not all alike, but also give thanks that we all are a part of Christ's universal Church. We are one in Christ.

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ for we were all baptized by one spirit into one body whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free - and we were all given the one spirit to drink." I Corinthians 12:12.

Is heaven really sectioned off for one part to be for the Presbyterians and another for the United Methodists? As much as Jesus preached about unity and Paul preached about being

one in Christ, it is a good question.