

Go To Church *Every* Week? Why?

The only valid reason for missing church is because of poor health. If you think saying so is provocative and unrealistic, perhaps you fail to see the benefits of the Divine Service.

Go to church every week? Why?

It is NOT to make God happy. God is happy with you because you belong to Christ and are redeemed by his sacrificial life and death. Your works can not improve that status at all.

It is NOT to just obey the Third Commandment. It is true: We should not despise preaching and his word. But if going to church is only about keeping the Third Commandment, your reason for going is to jump through a hoop to appease God. Your motive, then, is corrupt. Your worship will not please God.

It is NOT so that others will see you and, thus, think well of you. This would make you a hypocrite—looking pious on the outside but being far from God in your heart. While others might be impressed with your attendance, God would know better. He despises hypocrites.

Go to church every week? Why?

We come as beggars—poor, needy, and destitute. We come with our sins. We come bearing guilt. We come cloaked in shame. We come with struggles, frustrations, angst, unrest, and fears. We come because God offers relief from all of these things. We come as beggars, and God fills us with heavenly riches.

Go to church every week? Why?

Because every week, we suffer trials and temptations.

Because every week, Satan seeks to deceive and destroy us.

Because every week, false teachers and false teachings try to seduce us.

Go to church every week? Why?

Because others sin against us.

Because we sin against others.

Because we live in a world that is evil.

Because we face disease and sickness; disappointment and disaster; sorrow and stress; decay and death.

Because we are weak and frail.

Go to church every week? Why?

Because we are sinners, and we can't fix it.

Because we face judgment, and we can't avoid it.

Because we are dying, and we can't stop it.

Because our only hope to be delivered from our wretched condition comes while we are still alive.

Go to church every week? Why?

Because Jesus forgives sinners.

Because the Lord's forgiveness comes through the gospel rightly preached and the sacraments rightly administered.

Because we desire to be saved, to partake in the resurrection of the dead, and to be judged worthy of eternal life through faith in Jesus.

Because faith will only remain alive if it is fed by word and sacrament.

Go to church every week? Why?

Because our Father desires to bless us since we are his dearly loved children.

Because Jesus Christ delivers pardon for our sins, relief from our guilt, and hope despite our shame.

Because the Holy Spirit pours upon us encouragement, strength, and peace.

Go to church every week? Why?

Because the sheep listen to the voice of the Good Shepherd.

Because the Bride of Christ loves to hear her Groom proclaim his constant love and devotion to her.

Because the children are eager to be heard by their good and merciful Father in heaven.

Because by their actions, God's people confess what they regard as their comfort, their hope, the foundation and the goal of their life.

Go to church every week? Why?

Because God's promises are declared in the lessons.

Because God's grace is given in the Absolution.

Because God's mercy is applied in the preaching of the sermon.

Because the body and blood of Christ are administered to us in Holy Communion for our salvation.

Because God puts his name on us and blesses us in the Benediction.

Go to church every week? Why?

Because God gives his greatest blessings there. What week don't we want these? What week don't we need these? Our joy and comfort are this: Every week, without fail, God gives these. Every week, God serves us—for our benefit, for our comfort, and for our salvation.

NOTE: If you work on Sunday mornings and cannot change your schedule, speak to your pastor about alternative dates, times, or ways to be served. If you need a ride, let your pastor know so that he can arrange one for you. If you are not aware of a WELS/ELS church where you are living, contact your previous pastor or go to www.wels.net to use the church locator to find one.