

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMUNION ASSISTANTS



"There is a meal for you here."

SCHEDULING INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

You will receive an email reminder during the week before you are scheduled to serve. If you are unable to serve on your assigned date, first try to trade places with someone who also serves in the same way you do. Look over the Worship Assistant schedule and see if there is someone with whom you can trade Sundays. If you succeed, please notify the church office of the change. If you are not able to find someone with whom to trade, call the church office (482-3847) to let us know, even if it is early Sunday morning and you only get the answering machine.

Schedule conflicts: As soon as you know you will have a schedule conflict, please call or email Karen Gramacki so she can schedule you on a day that is good for you in the coming month. When two or more members of the same family serve as worship assistants, Karen will usually arrange for them to serve on the same day and service.

1. Please arrive about 10 minutes before the start of the service. The pastors will let you know if there are any special instructions for the service.
2. Please sit fairly close to the front of either side of the Sanctuary during the service.

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

3. After the Lord's Prayer and invitation to Communion, you will join the Assisting Minister and the Acolyte to receive Communion, usually kneeling behind the altar. On Sundays when we are doing "Walk-by" Communion, you will commune standing up. The Assisting Minister will then commune the pastor.

WHEN WE USE TWO CHALICES:

4. You will take the chalice used for intinction (dipping). The Assisting Minister will have the chalice to be used as the common cup.
 - Follow the Assisting Minister, around the altar rail.
 - You will see those wishing to use intinction still holding their wafer/bread after the Assisting Minister passes them.
 - Hold the chalice in front of them at the level of the altar rail and as they dip their bread/wafer, say: ***"The blood of Christ, shed for you."***
 - Hold the purificator between the chalice and the person so as to catch any drops of wine.
 - Some people request grape juice. The Assisting Minister will usually take care of this, serving them from the little wooden tray with three or four glasses in it. But if they have not, you may be asked for grape juice. Go up to the altar and bring back one glass.
 - Allow them a moment to shake off any drops of wine from the wafer/bread before moving on to the next person.
 - After all have been communed, your chalice will be returned to the table against the back wall. Drape a purificator over the chalice.
 - Return to your seat.

INDIVIDUAL GLASSES AND ONE CHALICE:

5. You will take the large tray of individual glasses.
 - After you have received Communion, wait behind the altar rail while the pastor is being communed. You will be handed the tray filled with wine.
 - Additional trays will be on the altar - in easy reach when your tray runs out in the middle of a circuit around the rail.
 - The acolyte will take the empty tray.
 - Follow the Pastor, who will be distributing the bread/wafers.
 - Hold the tray at about the level of the altar rail as you pass in front of the people at the rail. If they desire to use an individual glass, they will reach in to the tray. NOTE: the glasses in the center of each tray, marked with green plastic, are grape juice.

- As a glass is taken, you say: **"The blood of Christ, shed for you."***
- The Acolyte will collect the empty glasses.
- Continue around the altar rail, until the tray is empty.
- Return the tray to the altar and take a full tray. The Acolyte will take your empty tray.
- When all have been communed, return the trays to the back table and replace the lid.
- Return to your seat.

"WALK-BY" COMMUNION:

6. You will hold one of the chalices used for dipping.
- After the Lord's Prayer, go to the back of the altar rail and remain standing.
 - The pastor will give bread/wafer. Hold it until he returns with the chalice and commune by intinction.
 - After the pastor has been communed, you will take one chalice.
 - Move in front of the altar rail, on the right or left of one of the pastors, about an arms-length away.
 - As the people come up the center aisle, they will receive bread/wafer from the pastors, then move right or left to your "station".
 - As they dip their bread/wafer, you say: **"The blood of Christ, shed for you."***
 - When all have been communed, put your chalice on the back table and drape with a purificator.
 - Return to your seat.

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

7. You will hold one of the chalices used for dipping.
- After the Lord's Prayer and the pastor's instructions, walk up to the altar rail.
 - The pastor will give you a chalice and a purificator (napkin).
 - Move to the right or left of the pastor, about an arms-length away.
 - As the people come up the center aisle, they will receive bread/wafer from the pastor, then move right or left to your "station".
 - As they dip their bread/wafer, you say: **"The blood of Christ, shed for you."***
 - When all have been communed, put your cup on the altar rail and the pastor will commune you and the other Communion Assistant.
 - Return to your seat.

8. Sometimes there are people at worship who are not physically able to come to the rail for Communion. After all have been communed, the pastor may ask you to accompany him out to where these people are seated. This is especially true when we are using two chalices. After he gives the bread, you offer the wine in the same manner as described above.

* Please refrain from adding the name of the person to whom you are giving the bread or wine and simply say, **"The blood of Christ shed for you."** While it might seem a nice personal touch to you and the one receiving, it might seem odd to a person nearby (a visitor, perhaps) who is not similarly addressed. "One is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: *Given, and shed for you, for the remission of sins.*" [Luther's Small Catechism]