

Holy Communion at Home

This Sunday, June 28, 2020, Emanuel's Lutheran Church will be celebrating Holy Communion in a new way. Below are some thoughts, guidelines, and reminders as we learn together.

Some Thoughts:

Out of great concern for you and the larger worshipping community of Emanuel's Lutheran Church, we daily monitor the ebb and flow of the pandemic. We deeply miss the fellowship of in-person worship, the communal voices of confession and forgiveness, and the tangible reminders of grace and eternal life given in the bread and wine of Holy Communion. As the time away from each other grows, Emanuel's Pastors and Council, in conversation with other Synod leaders and our Bishop, have determined a way we can remotely celebrate communion, as a church, while we are apart.

Some Guidelines:

These guidelines are meant to be temporary while we live in the COVID-19 era. The Spirit always moves with great intrigue and energy. We will see what learnings surface in this new way of being the church.

- **Create a space** in your home that reflects a place of prayer and worship. You can use a nightstand, coffee table, small area of your counter, or your dining table. Place items on this table that draw you into a place of peace and reflection, anything meaningful to you or your family. This is your space and a great time to include children as you reflect what it means for you as a family to worship.
- **Prepare the elements** you will need for worship. You can use wine, juice, or water and crackers, bread, tortillas, or any other substitution that you might have on hand that meets the needs of your family. We ask that you store these elements separately from other food items. This means you will not consume them nor use them in a way other than the celebration of Holy Communion during worship.
- **Celebration of Holy Communion** is participatory. As the Pastor lifts each element during the Eucharistic Prayer, "In the night in which he was betrayed...", you also lift each element. We encourage you to share this responsibility with everyone joining you, including children. Following the Lord's Prayer, share the elements with those gathered with you or with yourself, using the words we would share in communal worship, "The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you." or, "The body of Christ, given for me. The blood of Christ, shed for me."
- **After the service**, any prepared leftover communion elements should be disposed of with care. They may be consumed by those present, returned to their original containers and used the next Sunday, or returned to the earth by taking them outside to feed birds and critters. Make this a reverent time for you and, especially, any children present.

Some Reminders:

- Our bulletin is published digitally each week on our church website, www.emanuelslutheranchurch.com/worship. You can download it to your digital device or print it out and follow along. For those without internet, the bulletin is printed and mailed weekly.
- The word "liturgy" carries with it the idea of the "work of the people." The singing and sharing in the rhythms of worship, the work, are what make us a community of faith. It is our wish that we will live out these rhythms in our daily work, while maintaining the sacredness and reverence of Holy Communion as something we do together each week.
- Embrace the importance of physical distancing and wearing your facemask. The health and safety of our church depends on every person making the best decisions on behalf of the most vulnerable.
- Continue to connect with your "Pew Pal" and beyond, networking our church together.

In God's grip,
Pastor Marcus, Pastor Kelsie, and the Church Council