

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

Communion Assistant Guidelines

1. At 2nd service, the communion assistant helps the ushers hand out bulletins and greet people at the sanctuary doors before the service (please wear your name tag) and helps with collecting the offering. At 1st service where attendance is smaller, a third person is not usually needed for these tasks so the ushers can handle it.
2. After the Lord's Prayer and invitation to communion, join the other communion assistants at the altar. The communion assistants are communed first.
3. The communion assistant usually carries the tray of cups. Follow after the person carrying the chalice. When you extend the tray towards someone who is communing, say "This is the blood of Christ shed for you." When you are communing children, make sure you hold the tray where they can reach it and encourage them to take the clear grape juice rather than the red wine. Switch to a new tray of cups if you start to run out of cups or if you have only grape juice or only wine left. If there is someone who is unable to come up for communion, the pastor may commune them in the pews after everyone else has been communed. Follow the pastor to offer them the tray of cups. After communion stack the trays back up.
4. If the vicar is not present or if it is a healing service, you may be asked to carry the chalice. Follow after the pastor or the person with the bread. If a person indicates that they want to take the chalice, offer it to them with the words, "This is the blood of Christ shed for you." When you take the cup back, wipe the rim and turn the cup a quarter turn so that the next person will be drinking from a different part of the cup. If the vicar is not present, the person carrying the chalice communes the pastor.
5. During a healing service, you may be asked to carry the bread. Follow the pastor or vicar who will have the oil. Offer a piece of bread to the person communing with the words, "This is the body of Christ given for you."