

Communion Assistants

What

Communion assistants help the Pastor distribute communion elements when communion is served.

Number of Volunteers

Communion Sundays require three volunteers plus two acolytes to assist the Pastor when communion is served. Two communion stations are normally used. High attendance services such as Christmas or Easter may utilize three or more communion stations.

For each communion station three people are needed. One person serves communion bread, one person serves wine and one person serves grape juice. The Pastor normally serves communion bread.

Additional Responsibilities

None.

Before Worship Service

- If you have any questions regarding communion, ask your Ministry Team Leader or Assistants. They can provide information, instruction and practice as needed.
- Review and practice if necessary the distribution of the communion elements. The pouring chalice is easier after some practice and experience.

During Service

- Walk to the front of the altar when directed to do so by the Pastor.
- Use the available hand sanitizer fluid to sanitize your hands.
- The Pastor will hand the communion elements to the communion assistants and direct them where to stand.
- When serving bread, hold the bread for the person while you say: “The body of Christ, given for you” and then place the bread in the persons’ hand.
- Someone, usually a child, may come forward for a blessing rather than communion. In this case, the person serving communion bread places his or her hand (not the one used for handling the bread) over the person’s head and says one of the following blessings: “Jesus loves you” or “God bless you” or similar words of blessing that may be pertinent to the message or theme of the day.
NOTE: Do not actually touch the person’s head.
- When serving wine or grape juice, say: “The blood of Christ, shed for you”.
- Towards the completion of communion, an usher may inform the Pastor of anyone seated in the sanctuary that desires communion. The volunteers of the first serving station to finish can go and serve these seated worshipers.
- After the congregation has received communion, the assistants serve communion to each other and the Pastor.

- DO NOT place soiled napkins directly on the altar. The empty paten is for holding the soiled napkins.
- When everyone has received communion, return to your seat in the sanctuary.

After Service

- No further responsibilities for this activity.

Additional Notes

- Communion is offered the first, third, fifth Sunday of each month and during holiday services such as Christmas and Easter. Communion may also be offered during special services.
- Communion assistants normally receive communion after the congregation is served.
- A table and tray of clean cups is provided for recipients. They pick up their cup to receive the wine or grape juice. The table of clean cups is between the person serving the communion bread and the person serving communion wine. These two communion assistants should stand several feet apart.
- Pouring Chalice Suggestions:
 - Pour slowly. Try to fill about 2/3 of the cup. Gently lift the chalice. Pause. Slowly raise the chalice to standing position. Use a napkin for catching drips. When you have the correct technique, you can pour without dripping.
 - The pouring chalice is easier if you hold it at a comfortable height. The recipient brings their glass to where you comfortably hold and pour the chalice.
 - If the Pouring Chalice needs additional wine, walk to the altar, pour wine from the flagon into the chalice and return to your station to resume distribution of wine.