

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church			
Disciple Opportunity			
Ministry:	Communion Assistant	Revision:	0
Responsible to:	Worship, Music, & Arts Team/Pastor	Date of Revision:	4-21-2022

COMMUNION ASSISTANT

Goal of Position

The purpose of this position is to help distribute Holy Communion during worship.

Description of Responsibilities

- When Holy Communion is celebrated during worship, the Communion Assistant/s will come forward following the Lord's Prayer to the altar table and meet the pastor/s.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at the altar table; however, it may also be good to clean hands prior to coming forward.
- The pastor leading Holy Communion will first share Christ's body and blood with the Communion Assistant/s.
- Then the Communion Assistant/s may commune the lead pastor.
- Pastor and Communion Assistant/s will then distribute Holy Communion to the congregation in one of several different methods including:
 - A. around the chancel rail – most often the Communion Assistant will distribute the glasses of wine/juice following the pastor who usually distribute the host/bread. While giving the glass to the communicants, the Communion Assistant will say to each person: *"The blood of Christ, shed for you."* Either the Acolyte or possibly another pastor or communion assistant will follow and take up the used cups from the communicants.
 - B. at the foot of the chancel steps – also with glasses of wine/juice and saying the same: *"the blood of Christ shed for you"*
 - C. or at the foot of the chancel steps by intinction – communion assistant/s will hold chalice/cups while people dip the bread in. Communion Assistant/s says, *"The blood of Christ, shed for you."*
 - D. the pastor and/or communion assistant may go and commune people sitting in the pew if they cannot come forward, taking the body and blood (bread and cup) to the communicants.
- At the end of Holy Communion, the assistant places the tray of glasses or the cups from intinction back on the altar table and returns to their seat.

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- Options:
 - A. to robe or not to robe?** Usually, the 10:30am Sunday worship communion assistants are robed; however that is not the case for 8:30am (confirm with a Pastor for the particular service).
 - B. who can serve as a Communion Assistant?** Anyone who is confirmation age (around the age of 11) or older can serve as a Communion Assistant. There will be times when the communion assistants are selected specifically because they are youth or confirmands.
 - C. is there anything else to do for a Communion Assistant?** To have the communion assistants be more visible in worship other than just during Holy Communion – there will be times when the communion assistants will also serve as *the Lay Lector and/or Reader of the Prayer of the Day* - if they are willing to help with those particular readings.
- Note: in serving as a Communion Assistant, people will recognize your face but may not know you. Be ready following worship to have people that you have communed: A) ask you questions about St. Mark’s, about yourself, or about Holy Communion; B) AND/OR be ready to share with someone else what it means to you to be able to serve God and your church in this particular way.

Length of commitment

Sign-up every year

Training Provided

Request clarification on duties listed in job description from one of the pastors.

Benefits to this position

In your role as communion assistant you will have opportunities to meet and connect with people in worship – both members of St. Mark’s congregation as well as those who are visiting. Through sharing your time and gifts in this particular ministry you are helping others get the most out of their worship experience.

An additional resource is:

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/How_do_we_distribute_Holy_Communion.pdf