

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers about Holy Communion at neighborhood sites with St. Paul Lutheran Church

Q Who is preparing the elements for communion?

A *Altar Guild Leader Carol Solomons & Deacon Kathleen prepared the elements for July 12th – our first time doing Communion in the Neighborhoods. They will train others as needed to do this in a reverent and safe manner as we move forward.*

Q Is it being prepared at the church? Are he/she/they wearing gloves and a face covering?

A *Yes, it is prepared at the church. The surface where the elements are measured out and assembled is sanitized, and those doing the preparation wear gloves and masks throughout. The items being prepared are sealed in either saran wrap, sanitary food cups or zip-lock bags to keep them clean and safe to distribute.*

Q Is the grape juice being poured individually into tiny glasses and then covered, i.e. saran wrap? Is the bread on a plate that is covered with saran wrap?

A *The grape juice is poured into travel bottles that are refrigerated each week. On Sunday morning, the bottle goes into the Eucharistic Ministers' bag to be distributed at the neighborhood site in a safe manner using small, disposable glasses – that have been wrapped in saran wrap by those wearing masks and gloves. The wafers have been safely packaged in groups of 10 - 11 into small sanitary food containers that are packed in a zip-lock bag for transportation. Gluten free wafers for those who have requested them are in individual packages & placed in a sanitary food container to travel safely.*

Q Will we be given the elements by the Eucharistic Minister? If so, will he/she be wearing a face covering and gloves as well?

A *The Eucharistic Minister will not hand you the elements, please see the paragraph below regarding our distribution method. Yes, the Eucharistic Minister will wear a mask/face covering and they have been given gloves and hand sanitizer. Each Eucharistic Minister will decide if they use gloves or sanitizer or both on site.*

Distribution of the Holy Communion Elements at the Neighborhood Sites

The Eucharistic Minister sets up their table, tray, and elements at the site. It is important to stay at least 6 feet away from them while they set up. They set out a tray, and pour grape juice into single, clean disposable plastic cups, and put a wafer either on the cup or by the cup. When they step back and indicate they are ready, the Zone Manager will guide folks into the circle. (if there are too many for one circle, look to your Zone Managers for guidance! There are options on what to do.) The Eucharistic Minister opens with a greeting, scripture, and prayer. The Eucharistic Minister will tell you when its time to come forward - one at a time - to take the bread and cup. You pick up your elements and return to your place. When all in the circle have their elements, the Eucharistic Minister will tell you when it is time to commune together, eating the bread and drinking the grape juice.

There is a closing prayer and you leave one by one, looking for the trash bag/can the Zone Manager has pointed out to you – so you can dispose of your cup and return home for online Sunday School and the rest of your Sabbath.