

Communion Assistants

Description: Communion Assistants are necessary for the distribution of the bread and wine. Generally, the Pastors offer the bread from two stations at the side isles of the church. The Communion Assistants offer wine from chalices with a spout for filling the communion cups. As the wine is offered, the Communion Assistant says to each communicant, "This is the blood of Christ, shed for you." As the cup runs low, they may motion for the Assisting Minister to refill their chalice with wine.

Eligibility: Any confirmed member of the church may serve as a Communion Assistant once they have received training from the Parish Assistant.

Specific Duties:

1. The Communion Assistants approach the altar, once the bread has been broken, to be communed with bread and wine.
2. The Communion Assistants then receive a chalice and a purificator (linen cloth) from the Pastor and proceed to their assigned stations for distribution of the wine. The Communion Assistant should stand on the diagonal tiles midway between where the bread is distributed and the center of the altar to maximize traffic flow.
3. If the wine in the cup should run low, look to the Assisting Minister, who typically is assigned to offering the common cup. The Assisting Minister will retrieve the flagon from the altar and refill the chalice.
4. If the Assisting Minister is busy communing from the common cup, the Communion Assistant may leave his/her station and refill their chalice from the flagon on the altar.
5. At the direction of the Pastor, wine and a clean glass may be taken to a congregant who is unable to come up and receive communion.
6. Once all congregants have been communed, the Communion Assistant should return to the altar and hand the chalice to the presiding pastor, or place the chalice on the right side of the altar (looking out at the congregation) and return to his/her seat.

If you are ever unable to serve your duties in the assigned slot, please let the Parish Assistant, Neil Sunkel, know as soon as you are aware of the conflict, so that a replacement can be found. You can always email Neil at neil@tree-of-life.us, or you can call him at (717) 805-1176.