

Communion Host Guide

Resurrection Lutheran Church

Communion Hosts play an important role for the worship service as they help in sharing Christ's sacrifice with the congregation. Through the distribution of bread and wine, the Great Thanksgiving is recreated in the service and the assembly is reminded of God's ultimate offering for us. As a minister during this portion of the service, the communion hosts help draw the congregation into the mystery and majesty of God's love.

General

- Communion hosts may include the members of one or more families or groups. Two hosts are necessary for each service.
- It is important that the hosts are available afterward to clean the communion ware.
- From September through May, communion hosts are needed for each of the two Sunday services.
- From June through August, communion hosts are needed for only one Sunday service.

Specifics

Before service:

- Please arrive 10-15 minutes before the beginning of the service to set up. Turn on the dishwashing machine.
 - See **Dishwashing Instructions** sheet for directions on the use of the dishwashing machine.
- Take out the following pieces of communion ware from the kitchen pantry:
 - Flagon (*pitcher*)
 - 2 pouring chalices
 - Paten (*plate*)
 - 4 communion cloths
- Fill the flagon 2/3 to 3/4 full of wine
 - Wine can be found in the refrigerator
- Place communion bread in paten
 - Bread can be found in the freezer, if not already thawing on the kitchen counter
 - From September through May, use 2 loaves of bread for each Sunday service
 - From June through August, use 3 loaves of bread for the single Sunday service
 - NOTE: Allow bread to thaw naturally since microwaving will make it dry and tough.
- Bring all communion ware into the sanctuary and place onto the communion cart (to the right of the altar) and cover them with the communion cloths.

- Retrieve 4 cups from the communion cabinets and place them on the communion cart (for the pastor, assisting minister, and communion hosts)
- Set up empty cups on top of the communion cabinets, to then be filled with 1/4 full of white grape juice (found in kitchen refrigerator)
 - From September through May, have 10 cups of juice prepared for each Sunday service
 - From June through August, have 15 cups of juice prepared for the single Sunday service

During service:

- Both communion hosts come forward to the altar when the pastor announces that “the table is ready”.
- The communion hosts help the pastor and assisting minister finalize any communion preparations while the congregation is singing the Lamb of God. These ministers may first commune before communing others.
- Each communion host will be given a pouring chalice full of wine and a communion cloth. They will follow the pastor or assisting minister to the front of the altar and stand on the outside of them (towards the windows of the sanctuary).
- After each member of the assembly receives bread, she/he will present their cup and the communion host pours the wine into the cup, aiming for 1/4 full, while saying “**the blood of Christ, shed for you.**”
 - The same is also said when one comes forth with a cup of juice.
- Once all members of the congregation have received communion, including the musicians, ushers, pastor, assisting minister, and communion hosts, return the pouring chalices and communion cloths to the communion cart. The communion hosts should then return to their seats.

After service:

- Retrieve all communion ware from the communion cart and all used communion cups from the communion cabinets and bring into kitchen.
- Any remaining bread and/or wine should be ingested or discarded outside.
 - **Consecrated bread and wine should never be thrown in the garbage or down the drain.**
- All pieces of communion ware should be washed in the dishwasher.
 - See **Dishwashing Instructions** sheet for directions on the use of the dishwashing machine.
- Return all clean communion ware to their places in the pantry and communion cups to the communion cabinets in the sanctuary.

**Wednesday worship services may be held in different locations and with different service structures. Communicate with the Worship and Music Coordinator or Pastor for details concerning the role of Communion Hosts in these occasions. **