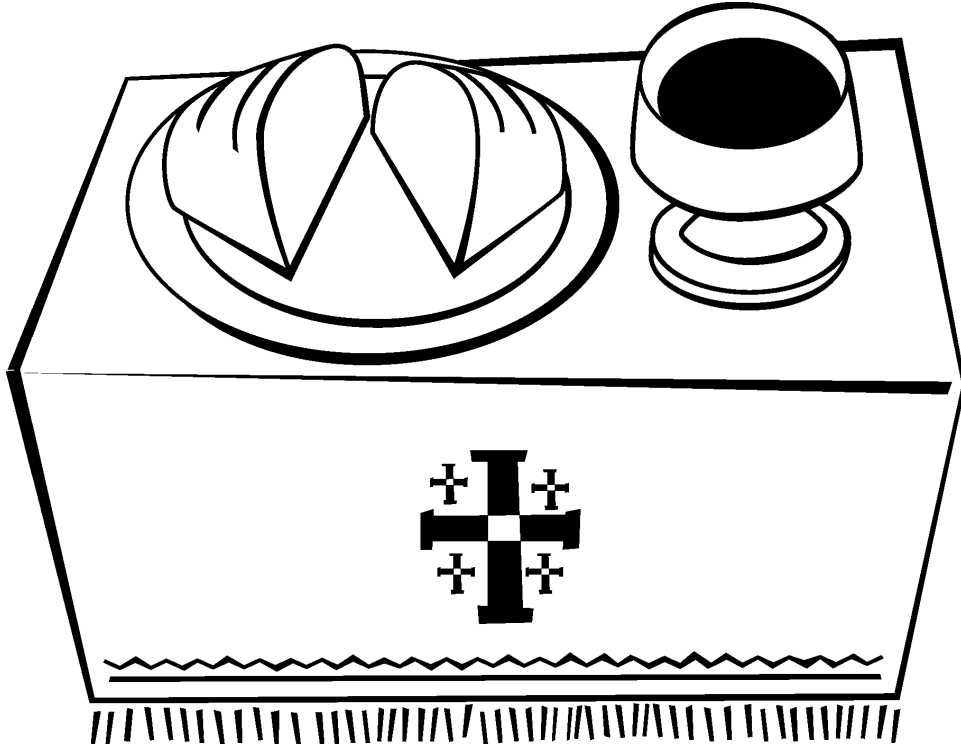
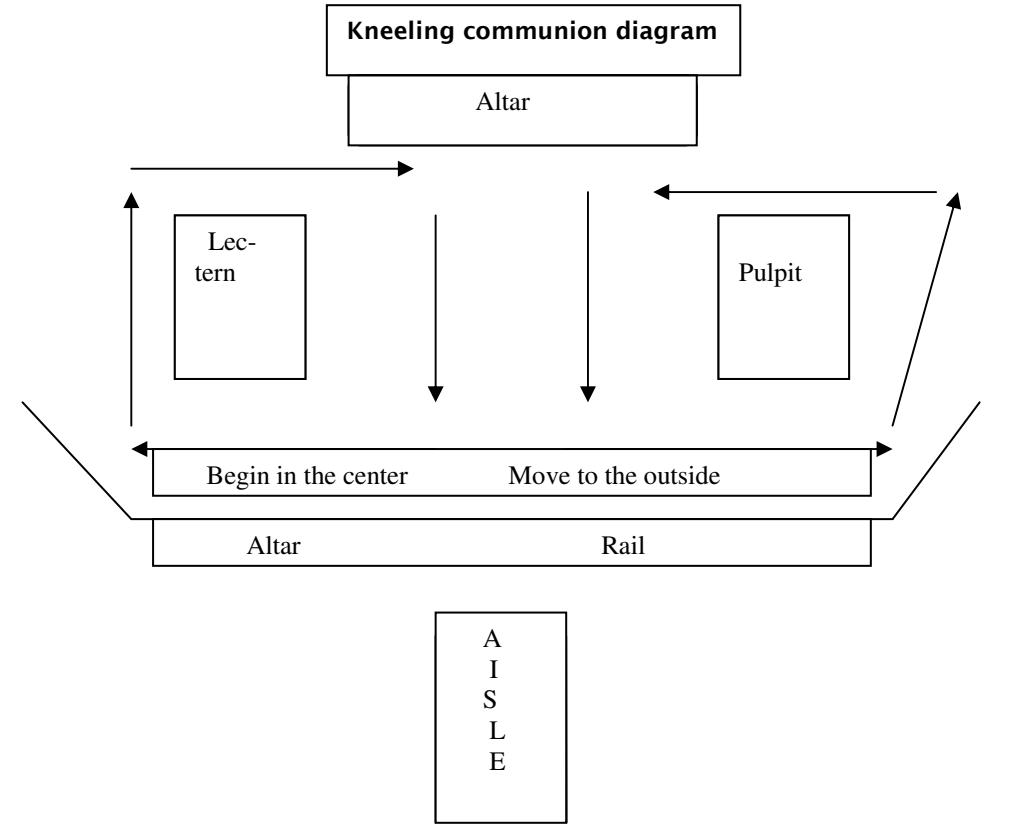
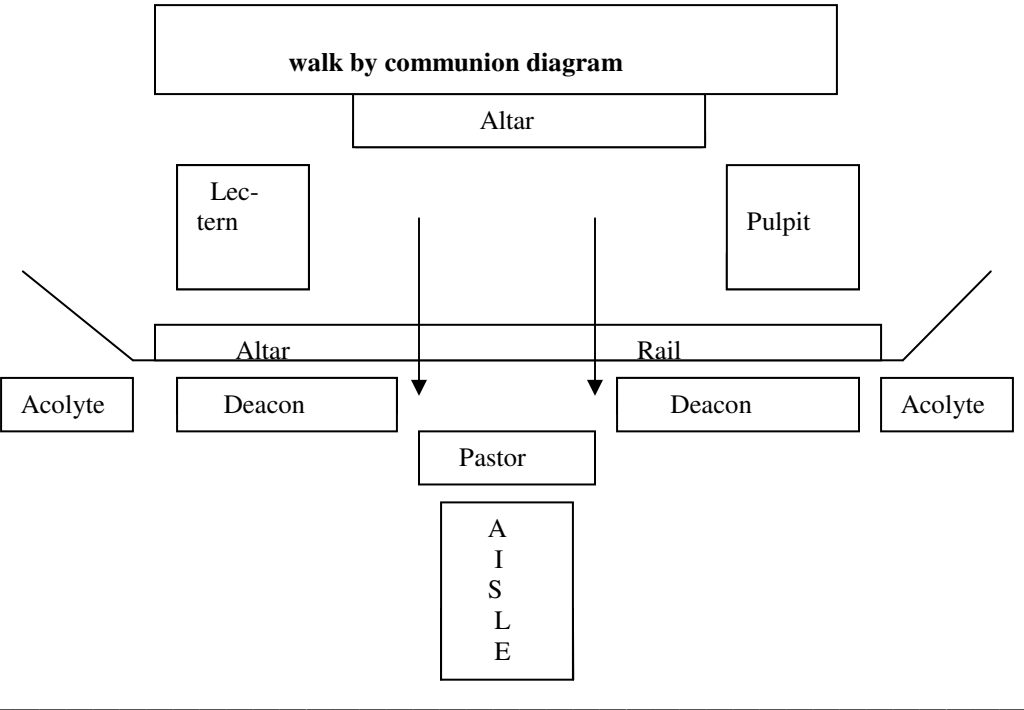


Our Savior's Lutheran Church



Communion Deacon Guide



Holy Communion is currently celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, plus Church festivals, each Sunday of the liturgical Christmas season, and each Sunday in the liturgical season of Easter. It is the goal of the ELCA for all congregations to resume the practice of weekly Eucharist. We do use both walking communion and communion by kneeling at the rail. Currently we use kneeling communion during Advent (November/December) and Lent (Ash Wednesday to Holy Thursday). The Wednesday noon service celebrates communion on the 1st Wednesday after the 1st Sunday of the month.

It is always appropriate to smile or to call the person by name if you know it while distributing Holy Communion. Many communion deacons feel communion is a meal with your church family.

The time to come to the altar to serve communion is when Pastor announces that "Come to the Table, all is ready" or words to that effect, just after The Lord's Prayer. You may come to the altar through the center of the altar rail when we use walking communion.

Walk by Communion

There is a hand sanitizer dispenser on the wall behind the pulpit. It is for your use to protect yourself and the congregation. Please use it as you come forward.

Gather in front of the altar with the other communion deacon(s) and acolytes, take the offered communion cup, receive the bread and wine from Pastor.

When the communion deacons and acolytes have communed, take the flagon (glass decanter of wine), napkin and the chalice (cup) down through the center of the altar rail to the floor. Set the flagon on the altar rail, refilling the cup as necessary. With the napkin under the spout of the cup fill the individuals' communion cups about half full while saying "the Blood of Christ shed for you". When you touch their communion cup with the chalice spout you will eliminate almost all shaking of everyone's hands, reducing wine spillage. Pastor will stand at the head of the aisle with the bread. The acolytes will be standing near the end of the altar rail. When the congregation has communed fully, bring the chalice, flagon and napkin back to the altar.

There may be a disabled member of the congregation who needs to commune yet, so be prepared if asked to, take communion to that member. Also, communion needs to be taken to the organist/pianist. If there is only one person to be communed you can pour the wine in an individual cup before you leave the altar, take along a host (wafer). If there are 2 or more people to be communed both deacons can take the hosts, wine and individual cups.

Pastor must be communed when the communion deacons return to the altar.

Kneeling Communion

It will be easiest to get to the altar by entering through the sacristy, the room behind the lectern (reader's podium) when we are using kneeling communion. Sometimes the ushers forget communion deacons are coming forward.

There is a hand sanitizer dispenser on the wall behind the pulpit. It is for your use to protect yourself and the congregation. Please use it as you come forward.

Gather in front of the altar with the other communion deacon(s) and acolytes, take the offered communion cup, receive the bread and wine from Pastor

If you are distributing bread, take the pyx (wafer container) and proceed to the center of the altar rail. Begin there, moving toward the side aisle, saying "the Body of Christ given for you" to each communicant. When you reach the end of the communion rail, go up the steps in the space between the wall and the lectern or the pulpit, depending which side of the sanctuary you are on. Return to the center of the altar and begin again.

If you are distributing wine, fill the cup from the flagon (glass decanter) and proceed to the center of the altar rail. Follow the deacon with the bread, saying "the Blood of Christ shed for you". Refill the cup as necessary at the altar. The acolyte will follow behind you to pick up the individual communion cups. When the congregation has communed fully, bring the chalice and napkin back to the altar.

There may be a disabled member of the congregation who needs to commune yet, so be prepared if asked to, take communion to that member. Also, communion needs to be taken to the organist/pianist. If there is only one person to be communed you can pour the wine in an individual cup before you leave the altar, take along a host (wafer). If there are 2 or more people to be communed both deacons can take the hosts, wine and individual cups.

Pastor must be communed when the communion deacons return to the altar.

The 1st Sunday of the month, regardless of which month, Pastor and the communion deacons prepare the kits for those who bring communion to homebound members. Each kit placed on the altar by the Altar Guild should have approximately 5 wafers in the small pyx and the bottle should be approximately 1/2 full of wine. One of the communion deacons will need to take the kits to the communion visitors at the altar rail.