

THE ECHO  
OF  
ST. JOSEPH'S HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH



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The Rev. Kim Truebenbach

JANUARY 2023

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Holy Communion in the ELCA is celebrated in many ways, but always with the words of Institution and a Pastor or worship leader saying, “given for you” and “shed for you” before eating and drinking the bread and the wine. Luther stresses in his explanation of Holy Communion that we are prepared for receiving the bread and wine when we believe the words “given for you” and “shed for you”. When the pandemic began, religious leaders were encouraged to forgo sharing of the bread and wine to keep transmission of the virus low. Now we have reached a time in this pandemic that allows us to return to more traditional ways of serving Holy Communion because we have vaccines, and more effective ways of treating Covid 19. The question before us is, “How do we return to or modify our current practice with the people we have?”

Let me break this down. We are currently worshipping 50-55 people on a Sunday. We have 4-5 people willing to setup Holy Communion. To return to serving communion with trays of wine in cups and coming to the altar, needs 4-5 people to setup and cleanup for one Sunday. Pre-Covid, the set up for Holy Communion required a minimum of two teams of two each Sunday.

In the shift to using prefilled Communion cups and wafers we made setting up for Holy Communion much easier for those who serve on Altar Guild. As more people have asked Council members to return Holy Communion to normal, we have asked people to step up and serve on Altar Guild. One person, to my knowledge, agreed. In order to return to “normal” Communion practice we not only need more volunteers for Altar Guild, we need more volunteers to usher.

This is what I mean by making the decision based on the people we have. Ten months of asking for people to volunteer to enable us to return to normal has produced *one* volunteer. Those who currently serve on Altar Guild do not want to go back to normal because it’s so labor intensive. What can we do to serve communion in a way that also allows for people who desire to come to the altar?

There are different ways of doing communion that require some setup and cleanup but not as much setup and cleanup as using cups in trays. At our congregational meeting in February, you

will have the opportunity to talk about and vote on the various options. To prepare for this let me explain what is possible.

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1. We leave Communion as it is and continue to purchase communion cups. This form of communion is called Pew Communion.
2. We offer Pew Communion with an option for people to come forward if they choose. Logistically we need to decide if the those who remain in the pew eat first or if those coming forward eat first. When coming forward Pastor will say the words "given for you" "shed for you" over your cup and you can eat and drink around the altar area.
3. We move to intinction. The setup can be done with one person. It includes setting out a chalice (or two if we offer grape juice) with wine in it and wafers or bread on the patent. People come forward at the directions of the ushers, and the Pastor hands out the wafer or bread, you do not eat the bread or wafer until after dipping it in the cup of wine that the worship assistant brings around. Cleanup requires cleaning out the chalice and patent. We would also need to purchase a few more linens with the cross embroidered on them and have volunteers who wash these. Unless we have a special coating on the chalice, we would not want to put the wine in until Sunday morning to prevent the wine from pitting the chalice. The flagon is not necessary for setup because this form uses very little wine.

Notice that intinction while not labor intensive for setup and cleanup requires worship assistants at each service to handle the wine or grape juice. Logistical questions also remain: who eats first, do we have ushers who will see if anyone remaining in the pew wants communion brought to them, or do we keep communion cups available for people who have trouble walking to the altar?

Please keep in mind, there are people who really enjoy taking communion together at once. Consider too how you are willing to help. If you want to vote to make a change, what will *you do* to facilitate this change? For example, will you volunteer to serve on Altar Guild, or as a Communion/Worship assistant, or as an Usher? We are a volunteer organization and everyone serving is a busy adult. We cannot dictate a change and expect it to happen without putting skin into the game. I also suggest we take time to thank Altar Guild members and ask them about their preferences.

God's Peace,

Pastor Kim

The JANUARY edition of the ECHO is not sponsored.

**Please consider sponsoring the ECHO in 2022! The cost to sponsor is \$35 in memory or honor of someone in your life. Thank you so much to help defray the postage costs to those without internet.**

If service is cancelled due to weather, you can confirm this by calling the church phone at 610-369-0990;

**RADIO STATIONS:** WBYN 107.5 FM – 610-369-7777 or **TV:** WFMZ 69 News 610-797-372-4560;

[weather@wfmz.com](mailto:weather@wfmz.com).

**Congregational Meeting is scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**All committee reports are due to the church secretary by January 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**Communications:** If you wish an announcement in the Eblast!, ECHO, Website or facebook, please send an email to [secretary.stjosephshill@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.stjosephshill@gmail.com) with exactly how you wish to word your information. Please indicate where you want this advertised and how long you want the information to appear. Or handwrite your announcement and leave it on my desk.

### **JANUARY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

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|------------|--|
| January 1  | 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas – One Service.<br>10:00 AM Worship Service & zoom.  |
| January 8  | Baptism of Our Lord<br>8:00 AM Worship service.<br>9:00 AM Sunday Church School.<br>10:00 AM Worship Service/zoom available.                 |
| January 15 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday In Epiphany.<br>8:00 AM Worship service.<br>9:00 AM Sunday Church School.<br>10:00 AM Worship Service/zoom available. |
| January 22 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday In Epiphany.<br>8:00 AM Worship service.<br>9:00 AM Sunday Church School.<br>10:00 AM Worship Service/zoom available. |
| January 29 | 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday In Epiphany<br>8:00 AM Worship service.<br>9:00 AM Sunday Church School.<br>10:00 AM Worship Service/zoom available.  |

**Prayer Chain:** If you would like to be a member of our Prayer Chain Phone Call List, please give Joanne Bieber a call.

You will receive prayer chain requests. You then need to call the person below your name on the list (or leave a message if the person is not home and then call the person who is next on the list). If you have any questions, I'll be happy to answer them. There is great power in prayer!! Joanne.

**Christian Education** Sunday School is available for anyone from kindergarten through adult. We start classes at 9:00am and end at 9:45am. Children from kindergarten through grade 6 will be in one classroom using "One Room Sunday School" materials. There will also be a Jr/Sr High class and an adult class. If there is an interest in preschoolers attending Sunday School we may also add a preschool class. If there is anyone interested in teaching Sunday School for any age group, please contact Lucy Hartman or [luc19009@windstream.net](mailto:luc19009@windstream.net).

Learning Ministries Day will be held on Saturday, January 28 from 8:30am to 3:00pm at Hope Lutheran Church in Cherryville, PA. The keynote speaker is the Rev. Richard E.T. Jorgensen, Jr. Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

There will be no Sunday School on Sunday, January 1, 2023.

*Happy Anniversary*

**January Anniversaries**

Carol & Paul Miller	52 years
Cathy & Mark Corkran	24 years
Polly & Keith Sharp	51 years
Allard & Marianne van der Veld	19 years
Phyllis & Earl Luft	60 years

**HAPPY BIRTH DAY!**

**January Birthdays**

Joseph McKnown  
Gloria Mayberry  
Denise Robertson  
Mindy Morgan  
Jennifer Souder  
Shirley Baus  
Matthew Albrecht  
H. Richard Bernhard  
Christine Hahn  
Mark Moyer  
Bernice Fronheiser  
Carl Reichert  
Leonard Hauseman  
Christopher Schaeffer  
Beth Reichert

Benjamin Wood  
Katharine Graef  
Gerald Schaeffer  
Samantha Schwenk  
Barry Schwenk  
Brandon Hoch  
Emory Pattison  
Anna Frain  
Calvin Snyder  
Edward McCaffrey  
Scott Brown  
Sandy Seashultz  
Kim Truebenbach  
Helen Hoffmaster  
Morgan Miller

# Register Now!

*Join us!*

## LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY

*January 28, 2023*

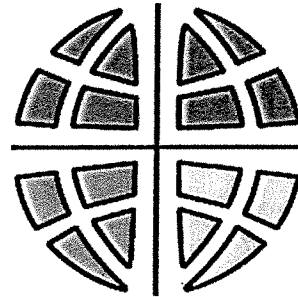
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LEARNINGMINISTRIESDAY



SAVE  
THE  
DATE

SYNOD  
ASSEMBLY  
2023

JUNE  
1-3



ELCA

### A Fresh Look for the ELCA

The ELCA has released refreshed branding featuring a cleaner look and a modified color scheme. Learn more at [elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Branding](https://elca.org/Resources/ELCA-Branding). The new logos should be used in digital media including websites, email, and social media. Printed materials may be used until they are depleted.