

Holy Communion notes:

Name special meals you like? What makes them special? A healthy life requires good food and plenty of exercise right? What about our spiritual life? What do we need? Faith from the Word and sacraments. There is a holy meal that happens every time we gather for worship what is the name of it? Holy Communion? When is it celebrated in the service?

There are several names for Holy Communion:

1. Holy Communion- Holy. Sacrament. God is bodily present. There is a communion not only body and blood of Christ in bread and wine but the body of Christ communing together. Sharing together and unity.
2. Sacrament of the Altar- Luther calls it that in the Small Catechism. Why do you think?
3. Lord's Supper- Last meal Jesus gave.
4. Eucharist- Thanksgiving
5. Mass-Catholics call it Mass but in the Lutheran Book of Concord it is called the Mass or German Mass-Latin word missa meaning dismissal, the principal meal in worship. is called "Mass" (from the Latin missa) because of the "mission" or "sending" with which the celebration concludes." The celebration of the body of Christ given. Catholics use the word sacrifice.
6. Divine Service-. Meal connected to the liturgy

What is the sacrament of the Lord's supper?

It's receiving the body and Blood of Jesus Christ through bread and wine.

So when you hear people ask what Lutherans believe about Holy Communion say, The real Presence or Real Bodily Presence. We are going to go look at Luther's Small Catechism first and see what does that mean. But first

The sacrament, instituted by Jesus is a

- A) Reminder of the last meal shared by Jesus before he died.
- B) A memorial of Jesus' death on the cross so we might have eternal life. A event-Testament-covenant
- C) A physical means where you experience God's grace through which the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation comes to us.

Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

Matthew 26:26-29

Mark 14:22-25

Luke 22: 13-20

Look at Small Catechism. You can download the app on your smartphone. Look at Sacrament of the Altar. It is also available in your ELW hymnal or online.

<https://www.augsburgfortress.org/store/product/22879/Luther-Small-Catechism-App>

<http://thesmallcatechism.org/home/the-sacrament-of-the-altar/>

Origins of the sacrament. Old Testament/Hebrew Scriptures tells of the first Passover Meal, shared on the night before Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and into slavery. God instructed the Israelites to mark their door frames with the blood of the slaughtered lamb. The angel of death would then pass over these homes while claiming the lives of all first born Egyptian children.

To gather and eat their last meal in Egypt, They shared roasted lamb(sacrifice) unleaven bread(representing the haste of flight) and bitter herbs(recalling the suffering of slavery) God commanded that the Passover be celebrated each year on the anniversary of the exodus from Egypt. Many Jews do this today,

The New Testament describes another Passover Meal that Christians celebrate. On the night before the crucifixion Jesus gathered with the twelve disciples to celebrate the Passover.

Matthew 26:27-28

Jesus chose to be the Passover Lamb-he marked the cross on which he was crucified and eternal life is given to all who believe. John 6:51-Jesus calls himself what?

Why should I know about this sacrament?

It is a gift-it strengthens us and enable us better to serve God and others.

Renew our faith-build us up.

Make us aware of God's presence-we are children of God.

Remember last week we learned about Holy Baptism-initiates our life in Christ-relationship with God. The sacrament of the Lord Supper sustains that life.

So we do this to:

Follow God's command

Receive God's gift

Celebrate our joy

Strengthen our fellowship

Offer God Praise and Thanks.

Remain close to God

Who may receive? Those who are baptized and those believe that Jesus body and blood is given for you in the bread and wine.

Small group discussion:

Talk about your first Communion or when you remember taking Holy Communion what was that like?

What are the benefits of Holy Communion?

How would you explain Holy Communion to a friend from another church, faith or one who does not go to church?