

Memorial: Holy Communion Practices in Unusual Circumstances and in Pandemic Times

Whereas, we believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the meal we call Holy Communion. And that *“This holy mystery calls for reverence, care and pastoral wisdom in the practices surrounding its distribution.”* (Principle 45 - Use of the Means of Grace).

Whereas, Martin Luther said: *And we have, in the first place, the clear text in the very words of Christ: “Do this in remembrance of me.” These are bidding and commanding words by which all who would be Christians are enjoined to partake of this Sacrament. Therefore, whoever would be a disciple of Christ, with whom He here speaks, must also consider and observe this, not from compulsion, as being forced by men, but in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to please Him.* (Large Catechism)

Whereas, the common practice of gathering physically in person was prohibited for a time due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, and given the ability to gather virtually, and given that many congregants desire to receive the Sacrament regularly and not “fast” for a season (which is not a normative Lutheran practice). Therefore be it

Resolved, that the Pacifica Synod Assembly memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to consider with great faith and flexibility whether or not, and in what circumstances, virtual communion may be possible and to request further study and discernment by the appropriate unit or office of the Churchwide organization.

Respectfully submitted by:

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church Council, Dana Point