



**Mission of the Cross  
Lutheran Church-  
LCMS**

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Mission of the Cross Lutheran Church is a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) serving people in the Brainerd Lakes area of Minnesota. We are a confessional and liturgical congregation called, gathered, and strengthened by Christ's Word and Sacraments. We are Biblical in doctrine and observe the historic liturgy of the Western Church which is notable for its dignity and reverence.



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### The Chalice as the Symbol of Christian Unity

The 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mission of the Cross Lutheran Church is swiftly approaching, and the items the congregation decided to purchase will be arriving shortly, including new communion vessels. It is fitting that we learn about the vessels as we give thanks to God for the Lord's Supper and the new vessels that will bring it to our lips each week.

The chalice is a large single cup from which Christians may receive our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's precious blood. It is the most recognizable of all the sacred vessels in part because of its universal use until the advent of individual cups in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In some cases, congregations don't even use the chalice anymore. This is unfortunate not merely because all Christians received the blood of Christ from the chalice for 1,900 years, but also because the practice of individual cups isn't derived from Scripture. Each of the accounts of our Lord's institution of the Lord's Supper refer to "the cup" not many cups (Matthew 26:27, Mark 14:23, Luke 22:17, 1 Corinthians 11:25).

Individual cups first came about from concerns about hygiene, especially from those who disregarded our Lord's institution and began using grape juice instead of wine. Scientific studies like the one mentioned in May's newsletter couldn't detect the transmission of organisms when conditions approximated the normal use of wine in a silver or gold chalice. Our aim here isn't intended to disparage individual cups and those who receive our Lord's blood from them, but to promote the use of the chalice and highlight what we believe about the Lord's Supper and the unity God has worked among us through the Holy Spirit and the teaching of his word.

The chalice isn't only a symbol for our Lord's blood but is also a visible representation of our unity in doctrine and life because we drink from the one cup. This most closely aligns with the language of Scripture as we find it in the accounts of the institution of the Lord's Supper. For this reason, like many other faithful pastors, I encourage everyone to make use of the chalice. However, I won't insist on it as though it were a commandment of God or required by our Lord's institution (Mark 7:7). Individual cups aren't ideal because they aren't described in Scripture, depart from the tradition of the Church, and as their name indicates they lack the visible unity of the chalice. However, they aren't wrong or sinful, and Christians still receive the Lord's blood from them. As such we have also ordered new individual cups and a tray that will match our other vessels.

As mentioned above the accounts of the institution of the Lord's Supper speak of "the cup." St. Paul gives us two other names for this cup. The first is the "cup of blessing" or the "cup of thanksgiving" depending on what translation you look at (1 Corinthians 10:16). It might sound like two names in English, but both are accurate translations coming from the same Greek word. St. Paul calls the cup this because our Lord instituted the cup by "giving thanks." He blessed it and gave his blood in the cup to his disciples and now to us that we might drink it for the forgiveness of sins. This is a sharp contrast to the cup of God's wrath that we have earned by our sins. The Lord hasn't given us the cup of wrath. Instead, he sent his Son to drink it for us just as Jesus prayed, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours be done" (Luke 22:42). It pleased the Lord to pour out his wrath on his Son to reconcile us to himself, so that now he gives us the cup of blessing by which we are blessed and saved from our sins.

The other name St. Paul gives is "the cup of the Lord" which is distinguished from the cup of demons (1 Corinthians 10:21). He was warning the Corinthian Christians that participating in pagan festivals was idol worship and a violation of the First Commandment. This is why Christians should not participate in the rites and sacraments of other religions, belong to lodges, etc.

The chalice is also called the common cup. This name doesn't directly appear in the Bible and at first blush we might not like it because there is nothing common about the common cup. However, the term didn't originate as implying that it is common and not sacred. It comes from the word "community" just like the term "communion" and refers to the one cup from which all Christians drink. A community isn't just people who live in geographic proximity or do the same thing together, but also includes shared beliefs, values, and ideals. It might sound different to us but there is little difference between calling it the common cup or the communion cup. In both cases, it refers to the cup from which the community or gathering of believers drink. It bears witness to our common confession and faith, even as we drink from the one cup.

#### Other Communion Vessels

The paten is a small plate. Traditionally it is made so that it can sit inside the rim of the chalice, while still being large enough to distribute the body of Christ. It is also a symbol of our unity in Christ as the "one bread" is distributed from the same vessel. The ciborium and pyx hold additional wafers. The pyx is a short round cylinder with a lid. The ciborium is a taller vessel roughly the same size as the chalice with a lid. It may be used during distribution, but the paten would still be used for the consecration.

The flagon is a pitcher with a lid that might hold a full bottle of wine or more. It should not be confused with an ewer, which is a pitcher that is used to fill the baptismal font with water. Flagons have become less common in many congregations as the need for larger amounts of wine has decreased along with the number of communicants. Flagons are often difficult to clean because of their lids and the size of the mouth of the pitcher. Large glass cruets are sometimes used in place of a flagon because of cost, cleaning, and maintenance. This has been the practice at Mission of the Cross, and we will continue it, although we will have two larger cruets for water and wine instead of the three cruets we have been using.

### Arranging the Vessels on the Altar

There are no divine laws about how to arrange the sacred vessels on the altar, but the Church does have a tradition about how to do it. Many pastors and congregations need to adjust things to meet their needs and space. In our case, we have a large chancel and altar and so adjustments are minimal. We will have a workshop to help the altar guild and congregation understand not only how to set up the altar, but also why when our new vessels and paraments arrive this summer. The steps below describe how to set up the altar, but as you may notice in step three are some decisions we will need to make together.

- 1) The corporal is a large square of white linen that is folded in thirds each way resulting in nine smaller squares when it is unfolded. It is placed in the center of the altar.
- 2) The chalice is vested by:
  - A) Placing the chalice in the center square of the corporal in the center of the altar.
  - B) Purificators are always folded in thirds one way resulting in three sections. One purificator is laid across the chalice with the ends hanging down on the left and right so you can still see the whole chalice from the front.
  - C) The paten is placed on top of the purificator with a celebrant's host on it. This is the large host that breaks into four pieces and is held by the pastor above the chalice as he chants the Pax Domini, "The peace of the Lord be with you always."
  - D) On top of the paten the pall is placed. This is a firm white square with linen stretched over it.
  - E) A chalice veil in the color of the day is placed over the pall and everything that has been placed on the chalice. This will replace the larger white cloth that is currently placed over the communion vessels.
  - F) A burse is two firm squares joined on one end covered with fabric resulting in a pouch or envelope. It is placed on top of the chalice veil with the opening away from the congregation toward the wall behind the altar. In congregations where the altar isn't prepared for the Service of the Sacrament until during the offertory it holds the corporal and purificators until everything is brought to the altar. In such cases, the chalice with everything placed on it as indicated above is brought to the altar from the sacristy.
- 3) The other vessels (pyx, ciborium, flagon, cruets, tray of individual cups) may be set upon the altar throughout the Divine Service. In this case, the pyx or ciborium would be placed on the upper left square of the corporal and the flagon or cruets on the upper right square. The individual communion cup tray may sit to the right of the chalice, but not crowding it. A portion of it sits on the corporal, but the whole tray will not fit. Alternatively, the preferred practice is to put these other vessels on a credence table (small table approximately where the offering plates are) on top of a white linen until the offertory. Then they are brought to the altar when the chalice veil is lifted.

## Schedule of Divine Liturgies for June

June 2	First Sunday after Trinity	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service
June 9	Second Sunday after Trinity	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service
June 16	Third Sunday after Trinity	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service
June 23	Fourth Sunday after Trinity	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service
June 30	Fifth Sunday after Trinity	9:30 a.m.	Divine Service

## Birthdays, Baptisms, Confirmations, and Anniversaries

June 2	Joel and Diana Ullring	Anniversary
June 3	Julie Englert	Birthday
June 3	Phyllis Wurdeman	Confirmation
June 4	William and Stephanie Traphagan	Anniversary
June 5	Donald Wurdeman	Confirmation
June 7	Kevin Brand	Birthday
June 9	George Selvestra	Birthday
June 9	Phil Juracek	Baptism
June 10	Mark Wessel	Birthday
June 10	Dave and Sandra Tiegen	Anniversary
June 12	Dave Tiegen	Confirmation
June 14	Darla Panabaker	Birthday
June 15	Phil and Paula Juracek	Anniversary
June 17	Wayne and Ardis Haglin	Anniversary
June 18	Don Middlestadt	Confirmation
June 18	Dick and Darlene Wilson	Anniversary
June 20	Al Schewe	Birthday
June 22	William Traphagan	Ordination
June 24	Ruth Harmdierks	Baptism
June 25	Diane Johnson	Birthday
June 26	Arlene Shogren	Birthday
June 29	Daniel and Colleen Marquardt	Anniversary

## Mailing Address

Mission of the Cross' mailing address is: PO Box 718, Crosslake, Minnesota 56442.

## VBS

Save the dates for August 19-22nd. The theme will be Holy Baptism. Please invite any families you know and let Pastor know the names and ages of any children that plan to attend. If you are able to help please let Colleen know and she will be in touch soon.

## 35th Anniversary of Mission of the Cross Lutheran Church

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. The Divine Service at 10:30 a.m. will celebrate 35 years of God graciously giving us his Word and Sacraments at Mission of the Cross Lutheran Church. Rev. Rolf Preus will preach. Greetings from Rev. Brady Finnern, our district president, and lunch will follow. Please RSVP for lunch by September 11th by emailing Carol at [motc@crosslake.net](mailto:motc@crosslake.net) or calling 218 218-692-4228. If there is someone from outside the congregation that should be invited, please give Pastor their name and address and we will get a formal invitation out to them along with our former pastors, visitors, and friends.