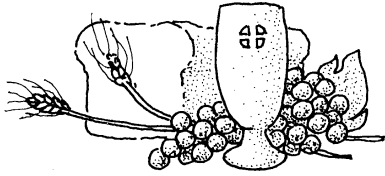


"DO THIS FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF ME."



**The communion set at Grace of God
Evangelical Lutheran Church**

As we gather together under the grace of God, it is natural that the Lord's Supper – the grace of God manifest in bread and wine – would be a central focal point for our life together. The Lord's Supper is what intimately unites us with God and with each other. As we share the Lord's body and blood we are experiencing the very grace of God for sinners.

Our communion set begins a unique tradition for us at Grace of God.

- The set was custom made by Red Wing Pottery in Red Wing, Minnesota. The process is a 600 year-old process from Germany called "salt-glazing."
- Each individual cup is different reminding us that we are uniquely created by God to be holy vessels for Him. "We are the clay; You are the Potter. We are all the work of your hands." (Isaiah 64:8)
- The empty cups symbolize the emptiness of sin and of our lives without Christ. "You were saved from the empty way of life." (1 Peter 1:18) We are filled with Christ himself and our "cup overflows." (Psalm 23:5)
- The chalice reminds us that we drink from a common cup. We are united in faith and life. We share a common condition of sin and we all share in his forgiveness.
- The pouring of the wine reminds us that Jesus' own blood was poured out for us on the cross and that God continues to pour out His Spirit on us. "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit whom poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ." (Titus 3:5-6)
- The common loaf is a reminder that we are one body in Christ. "We, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf." (1 Corinthians 10:17)
- God comes to us in ordinary, accessible ways in the sacrament. The fresh baked loaf of bread is similar to bread we would eat in daily life. Christ comes to us in ordinary ways, sustaining our daily life. Jesus said, "I am the bread of life." (John 6:35)
- The bread is a barley loaf calling to mind the miracle of the feeding of the 5000. Jesus took the barley loaves offered by a young boy and fed the multitudes. (John 6:1-15) This reminds us of the miracle of the sacrament and that there is no end to the grace and mercy of God.

May God bless our participation in the Lord's Supper so that it may nurture and strengthen our life together under the grace of God.

"Lord, may your body and your blood be for my soul the highest good!"

(from a hymn by Friedrich Heyder)