




A Reconciling in Christ Community 

zionlutheranmi.org

143 Albany St. Ferndale MI, 48220 | (248) 398-5510 | fernzionoffice@gmail.com

Pastor Bode's Statement About Communion Online

March 25, 2021

Dear Saints of Zion,

After more than a year of COVID-19 deeply effecting our community, I am so proud of the way Zion has responded. Not only an alternative Sunday worship has been formed, but numerous other weekday opportunities have either deliberately or organically grown for worship, prayer and Holy Communion. It truly is something that we have allowed ourselves to be changed not only to survive as a congregation, but to do everything in our power to share the love of God in Christ Jesus in these times.

There have been many aspects of worship and prayer that we have wrestled with, perhaps none more so than Holy Communion. As the ELCA had not yet had any sort of settled theological or ecclesiastical (i.e., church practice) statements or practices for communion online when this whole thing started, most congregations, including Zion, simply refrained from online communion. This way when we got back together it would be all the more joyous. Plus, we did not know it would last this long!

Since it has been a year, and church thought has changed rather widely, at Zion we will offer Holy Communion online beginning Easter Sunday at our 10:30am worship. In practice, it means that where we would normally have Holy Communion in worship in person, we will partake of it online. I will pray the Eucharistic Prayer and the Words of Institution, and you may have the elements where you are that you have gathered for yourselves. Appropriate elements for the body include leavened or unleavened bread, pita, crackers, and more. Appropriate elements for the blood include wine (red or white), grape juice, or any kind of fruit juice. The exact nature of the bread or wine/juice is not as important as the people gathered and the words said. If you have any questions about whether what you want to use is appropriate, feel free to ask me. We will have online communion the first Sundays of the month until further notice. As the vision for moving into the sanctuary becomes clearer, we will of course alter our plans for communion accordingly.

Thank you for being patient as things have changed over the year. I have changed my mind, as have many clergy, and maybe most in the ELCA. If you are not comfortable with online communion, you do not need to participate. Please also remember we have in-person communion outdoors at our church building the first and third Fridays of the month (not including Good Friday) as well as Easter Sunday at 9 am. As the weather warms up, and if demand is there, we may increase those opportunities as well.

Saints, you remain in my prayers for your spiritual, emotional, mental and physical health. God is indeed good and I look forward to seeing you this Holy Week!

Peace & Power,

Pastor Matthew Bode