

Peace Sanctuary Renovation

Communion Accessible To All

*Soul adorn yourself with gladness;
Leave behind all gloom and sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor;
There with joy your praises render
Unto him whose grace unbounded
Has this wondrous supper founded.
Though he reigns above most holy,
Deigns to dwell with you most lowly*



What makes communion special to you?

Look at our practice of Holy Communion at Peace with fresh eyes. Is it possible that some do not participate because they feel that a disability or physical ailment that might cause them to stick out?

If you were a visitor from another church watching the flow of communion, figuring out the procedure for approaching the table and how to return to your seat, would you be confused about where to go and what to do?

What do you think about leaving the worship space after communing to go through a storage room or workspace, and then back into the worship space?



A BLESSED COMMUNION

Think about that work *communion*. This important part of our worship is not only partaking in the miraculous union of body and blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine, for our forgiveness. It is also a precious opportunity to gather together at the Lord's table with fellow believers in a tightly knit bond of fellowship. This gathering together around Holy Communion is a special way we can receive encouragement not only from our Lord, but from fellow believers.

COMMUNION ACCESSIBILITY AT PEACE

The Sanctuary Renovation Committee is keenly aware that not all are physically able to gather together at the altar at communion, and many others have difficulty doing so. Of those who do make it there, not all are able to kneel. It begs the questions, "Are some not coming to Holy Communion because of the difficulty in doing so? Do some not participate because they would feel conspicuous as they stand while everyone else kneels, or because they are not able to climb the steps and join the rest?"

PATH AND FLOW OF COMMUNION AT PEACE

If you've ever received Holy Communion at another church, you know how it can feel to be unsure of what to do and where to go, not wanting to disrupt things or stick out. Visitors at Peace who have participated in Communion have expressed some confusion about where people go after receiving the Lord's Supper (especially if they happen to be first in line!). Several consultants have mentioned that it is unusual to leave the sanctuary, walk through auxiliary rooms, and then return back to the worship space. People who have trouble with steps have the added challenge not only of traversing those steps, but also turning the corner right after the steps on their way out.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

The Sanctuary Renovation Committee has spent many hours visiting other churches and learning and discussing more about possible solutions to these things that might hinder some from participating. We're looking at how we can remove obstacles that prevent some from participating and how we can better include those who are differently abled so they don't have to feel left out or conspicuous.

WE ARE EAGER TO SHARE

Over the coming weeks we'll be providing a weekly insert, like the one you're reading now. Each week will cover a different topic related to how we can make the best of the most important space on our campus, our worship space.

November 9

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November 16

Helping Others to Hear and Be Heard

November 23

A Warmer, Well-Lit Space

November 30

More Than a Make-Over

ADDITIONAL PRESENTATIONS

On the weekend of December 7, the committee is planning a very brief presentation after each service summarizing these four areas. We're also planning a lengthier presentation sometime in January, complete with artist renderings and access to committee members our design consultant, Paul Barribeau from Groth Design Group, for questions.

We are looking forward to sharing what we've learned and receiving feedback from all our Peace members.

The Sanctuary Renovation Committee Members

Don Radke, Chairman / Mike Marquardt, Secretary
Rodney Schultz / Betty Wolf / Janice Radke / Brian Horst
Minette Wolf / Clarence Roethle / / The Pastoral Staff