

## **“Why Communion?”**

Pekin First Church of the Nazarene

Sunday, March 16, 2025

Rev. Lloyd Brock – *NWIL District Superintendent*

❖ District Superintendent/Interim Pastor Update

### **Questions about Communion:**

➤ **Why are we talking about SUPPER?**

➤ **What are the different names for this Supper?**

- The Lord's Supper (1 Corinthians 11:20)
- The Lord's Table (1 Corinthians 10:21)
- Communion or Holy Communion, Cup of Blessing (1 Corinthians 10:16)

The word communion means we are coming together united as a church body living as Christ has united or enjoined us.

*“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?  
The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?”*

**(1 Corinthians 10:16)**

- Breaking of Bread (Acts 2:42)
- Eucharist or giving of thanks (Matthew 26:27; Luke 22:19)

➤ **What are some key Scriptures in the Bible about Communion?**

*“And He took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same way, after the supper He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you.”*

**(Luke 22:19-20 NIV)**

*“For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same way, after supper He took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.”*

**(1 Corinthians 11:23-26 NIV)**

➤ **What is the meaning and theology of Communion for us?**

- The Lord's Supper is a **sacred meal** that is a tangible connection to Jesus Himself.
- The Lord's Supper is an expression of unity and fellowship among believers.
- The Lord's Supper is an invitation to transformation and discipleship.
- The Lord's Supper empowers us for holy living and discipleship.
- The Lord's Supper is a sacrament.

➤ **What is a sacrament?**

- A sacrament is a means of grace which is an outward sign of an inward spiritual reality.

➤ **What is a means of grace?**

- Specific practices through which believers receive God's grace and grow in their spiritual life.
- Holy Communion is not a ritual to be observed, but a blessing to be received.

➤ **What is the background of Communion?**

➤ **How often do we take communion and who can participate?**

➤ **Am I holy enough to take Communion?**

➤ **What elements do we use for Communion?**

➤ **Why do we use grape juice and not wine for Communion?**

- As Nazarenes: In light of the Holy Scriptures and human experience concerning the ruinous consequences of the use of alcohol as a beverage, and in light of the findings of medical science regarding the detrimental effect of both alcohol and tobacco to the body and mind, as a community of faith committed to the pursuit of a holy life, our position and practice is abstinence rather than moderation.

➤ **What really changes when we are taking Communion?**

*“Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood remains in Me, and I in them.” (John 6:56)*  
and in the last supper in which He states, “This is My blood,” and “This is My body.”

The core issue is not “did the elements change”, become bread or blood, bread or wine or juice, “not did they change”, but “DID I CHANGE”? Have you been changed by Jesus? That is the key question of communion.

➤ **What should I be thinking about, setting my heart on, as I participate in Communion?**  
**Five thoughts to focus on:**

1. The Lord's Supper is for every believer! Think unity.  
Every believer is welcome at the Lord's Table.
2. Jesus is always present in the Lord's Supper!  
Think INTIMACY and CLOSENESS with Jesus.
3. The Lord's Supper is a Spiritual meal! Think spiritual impact.
4. The Lord's Supper is a TIME OF REMEMBRANCE!
  - Think Back: REMEMBER JESUS AND THE CROSS
  - Think Forward: REMEMBER JESUS IS COMING BACK
  - Think Outward: REMEMBER WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST
  - Think Inward: REMEMBER WHAT JESUS HAS DONE FOR AND IN ME
5. The Lord's Supper is filled with thanksgiving! Be very, very Thankful.

Holding the bread and then the cup say these incredible words together aloud.

**“The body of the Lord Jesus Christ saves me and offers me eternal life. I eat this bread in remembrance that Jesus died on the cross for me. Lord, I am very thankful. Amen.”**

**“The blood of the Lord Jesus Christ saves me and offers me eternal life. I drink this cup in remembrance that Jesus shed His blood on the cross for me. Lord, I am very thankful. Amen.”**