

First Communion FAQ

Why does St. Peter offer the option of receiving communion before confirmation?

Many students are spiritually ready to receive the Lord's Supper long before confirmation in fall of their Freshman year of high school. We want them to be able to receive the benefits of the Lord's Supper as soon as they are ready. We also hope by separating communion from the confirmation experience, student's will not view confirmation as graduation (with communion as the "prize") but rather see both as simply two of many faith stepping stones in their spiritual development.

Is receiving communion before confirmation O.K. with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)?

Yes. The LCMS has discussed this practice and has concluded that there is no Biblical reason to prevent offering communion before confirmation. Increasing numbers of LCMS congregations are moving to this practice.

What does the Bible say about the "right age" for receiving the Lord's Supper?

The Bible gives no specifics on "the right age." First Corinthians 11:27-29 says communicants must be able to examine themselves and discern what is happening in the Lord's Supper. Again, we believe that many children are able to do this before the end of 8th grade.

What if I want my child to wait to receive the Lord's Supper until confirmation?

The First Communion class is optional. Parents and students who would rather wait until confirmation to receive the Lord's Supper may do so.

Is the Lord's Supper taught during Confirmation classes?

Yes. Students who choose not to receive communion before completing the confirmation program will still need this instruction and will be a great review for the students already receiving the sacrament.

Why do parents need to attend the class?

It is the parent's primary calling and responsibility to teach children the faith. This class enables the church to come along side parents to provide a shared experience between parent(s) & child to learn about the Lord's Supper. If a student wishes to participate in the class but does not have a parent to come with them, they can still attend the class. Please contact Pastor Greiner to discuss your situation.

Does a child need to be baptized before taking communion?

Yes. The Bible teaches that people should be baptized before taking the Lord's Supper. Please contact the church office about getting a child baptized before taking the class.

If my student takes the First Communion class, do they still need to go through Confirmation classes?

Yes. The First Communion class has a different purpose than the confirmation experience. The First Communion class covers our beliefs about the Lord's Supper only. Confirmation, covers the primary teachings of the Christian faith. The First Communion class will definitely enhance a student's confirmation experience, but can't replace it.

We want to participate in the class but are unable to attend the worship service on March 29, can we still come to the class?

Yes-absolutely. Those who are unable to attend this service may take Communion at any service once they've completed the class.