

## **COVID-19 TASK FORCE POLICY FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION – Effective August 2, 2020**

As Christians we believe that in receiving Christ's spiritual flesh and blood, He lives in us, providing us with eternal life and assurance of resurrection on the last day. We have deeply missed receiving the Eucharist during this Coronavirus pandemic. After five months of severe restrictions, the ELCA is permitting distribution of Communion on the condition that all possible safety efforts are in place. At St. Paul's we will distribute wafers only, no wine; Communion in one element is acceptable for Lutherans according to long standing doctrine. Communion will be distributed to each parishioner at their seat as a means to provide the best protection from the spread of the virus.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMUNION WAFER**

1. Stand and remain at your chair.
2. As the usher approaches, hold out an open hand, palm up, fingers straight out.
3. The usher will place a wafer in your open palm.
4. **DO NOT REACH FOR THE WAFER. DO NOT TOUCH THE USHER'S HAND. DO NOT TOUCH THE PATEN OR OTHER WAFERS.** Such actions would cause contamination.
5. Consume the wafer and take your seat. Remain in silent meditation until the Pastor gives the Blessing.

In order to continue weekly communion, we need four (4) volunteers each Sunday whose duties include preparation of the wafers, ushering, and communion distribution. We are covered for the month of August. We need additional volunteers in order to continue with Communion in September and going forward. Please notify the office of your availability.