



# First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville

## Faith Step #7

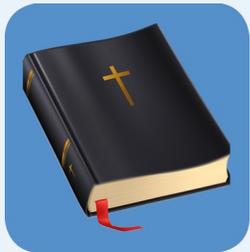
### Communion (1st Grade)

*We are a companionship of faith on a spiritual adventure following Jesus Christ.*



#### Faith Step Marker

All baptized children are invited to the Lord's Table. *Communion instruction is introduced in Sunday School when a child is in the first grade.* It is scheduled on the Sunday before World Communion Sunday (1st Sunday in Oct.) along with a parent information session. However, when to begin partaking of this sacrament is a decision that rests with the family. When you desire your child to be welcomed as a guest at Christ's table, it is suggested that you inform one of the pastors of your decision. He or she will assist in welcoming your child and provide a **small wooden cross (wheat and grapes)** to mark this special day in your child's faith journey.



#### Bible Verse (NRSV)

"The Lord Jesus...took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also saying, 'This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'" 1 Corinthians 11:23-26



#### We Believe – *Belonging to God: A First Catechism*

##### Q41—What is a sacrament?

A sacrament is a special act of Christian worship which uses visible signs to present God's grace for us in Jesus Christ. We believe that two sacraments were given by Jesus: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

##### Q45—What is the Lord's Supper?

In the Lord's Supper I am fed at the table of God's family. Through the bread that I eat and the cup that I drink, the Lord offers me his body and blood. He renews my faith and gives me the gift of eternal life. As I remember that he died for all, and therefore also for me, I feed on him in my heart by faith with thanksgiving.



#### Caring Conversations

- Share with your child some of your earliest memories of receiving the Lord's Supper.
- When you receive the bread and the wine, what do you think, how do you feel?
- Looking at your child's baptism certificate, share memories of that day. Talk about their baptism (God loves us) and first communion (God is with us). What is the relationship between the two? Help them to recognize key phrases of love, grace and their role in the family of God.



## Music

- *One Bread, One Body* by John Michael Talbot
- *Let Us Break Bread Together* (Presbyterian Hymnal #513)



## Faith-filled Actions

- The Bible is full of stories about Jesus sharing meals with friends and strangers. Meals together are really important. Help set the table for dinner with your family. You could make special placemats or a centerpiece, too.
- As a family, you could volunteer to serve at FPC's Mobile Food Pantry on the third Saturday of the month or simply prepare a simple dish for a neighbor. Connect the stories of Jesus' meals with your own experience.



## Prayer

Loving God, you who feed us daily with your love, we thank you for the sacrament of Holy Communion and for the opportunity to gather together in faith to receive forgiveness and new life. Come Holy Spirit, fill our lives with trust in your promises, inspire us to acts of love, and encourage us with the hope of the heavenly banquet that knows no end. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.



## Books (available in church library)

for Children

- *You're Invited: A Week of Family Devotions on the Lord's Supper* by John Bouwers, Karen DeBoer, S.R. Larin.
- *Signs of God's Love: Baptism and Communion* by Jeanne S. Fogle

for Parents

- *Come Unto Me: Rethinking the Sacraments for Children* by Elizabeth Francis Caldwell, The Pilgrim Press.
- Pamphlet: "Welcoming Children to the Lord's Table"



## On the Web

[www.pcusa.org/resource/gifts-god-sacrament-dvd2](http://www.pcusa.org/resource/gifts-god-sacrament-dvd2)

Baptism and Communion in the Reformed tradition are celebrated in this downloadable resource from the Presbyterian Reformed Educational Partners (PREP)

- Communion: A feast of grace
- Baptism: A sign of promise



## Who to Contact

- Our Director of Children's Ministries is Jan Schuett at [jschuett@boxp.net](mailto:jschuett@boxp.net)
- Our Associate Pastor for Christian Formation is Rev. Roberta Dodds Ingersoll at [roberta@boxp.net](mailto:roberta@boxp.net)