



First Communion 2023

Welcome to our First Communion program at St. John's. I am looking forward to working with the students, and I pray that our time together will be a blessing to them. I invite you to speak with me at any time about questions or concerns you may have about the program, or any other spiritual matter that may arise over the course of the year. I will do my best to keep you informed and updated on everything as we go through the time of instruction.

Participation with the Church at our Lord's Table is one of the highest gifts we can receive. It is a blessing to be given our Lord's body and blood, and as Lutherans, we have certain things we believe and confess about the Lord's Supper. We also have a more conservative view on who should receive the Lord's Supper. With all of this in mind, the goals of the First Communion class are to give the students a basic understanding of some of the tenets of our faith as Lutheran Christians by introducing them to various portions of Luther's Small Catechism in preparation to receive this holy gift. There are certain things that should be known, believed, and confessed, not only to consider oneself a Christian, but also to partake of this great sacrament of unity in the Church. There are, then, certain expectations of the First Communion program. The expectations for students are the same as the expectations of all members, and of all Christians.

Regular attendance at Divine Services: Our life beyond regular instruction is centered upon finding the joy and peace that comes in being in God's presence, receiving his forgiveness, and departing in his peace. It is expected that students and their families will be in church on a regular basis, not because it is a requirement, but because they desire to be there. In order to track attendance, a sign in sheet is posted by the front door of the church for the student to record their attendance on the way out of the sanctuary on Sunday. The student is expected to attend at least 7 services between now and Easter, and attendance as a family is encouraged.

Attendance in Class: It is expected that the student will be in class each week, and may not miss more than 1 class. Due to the short time period for the class, if the student is late by more than 15 minutes or must leave more than 15 minutes before class is completed, they will be considered absent that day. If you know you are going to be absent, please let the office know so that materials may be set aside for you. If no one answers, please leave a message, or you may email/text me.

Memory work: The students are asked to memorize and be able to write or recite the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. The student may write out the memory work, or if reciting it to Pastor is easier, they may do that. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO ALL 3 THINGS AT ONCE!!!**

Some final thoughts: We will follow the Sayville school calendar in regard to breaks and scheduled times to meet. If there is a snow day at school, we will not meet. It is expected that students will behave in a manner that is appropriate and respectful to both the Pastor and fellow students. If this becomes an issue at any point, a parent may be asked to accompany their child to class to help them with this.

Finally, please keep the lines of communication open between us. If there is something going on in your family or home life that is affecting things at school or church, please speak to me. If your child has any special needs or issues I need to be aware of, please speak to me as soon as possible. If I don't know about it, I can't help to find a solution to it and I will assume that everything is fine. If I know, I can try to help as I am able and time permits.

Thank you for participating in the First Communion Program here at St. John's. Once again, I look forward to growing with you and your families, and I pray that the students will grow together in Christian friendship and in a lively and active faith.

Contact Information

Pastor Brian Noack
631-589-3202 – office
631-806-7119 – mobile
pastor@stjohnsayville.org

Service Times

Sunday – 7:45am & 9:30am
Wednesday – noon & 7:15pm (starting Feb 22)