

**New Member Class**  
**“Sacraments and Our Lutheran Identity”**  
**Rev. Anjanette Rist**  
**7-8:30 p.m.**

*Welcome/Introductions*

*Opening Prayer*

*Opening Story* Basic Necessities of the Christian Life

**SACRAMENTS**

What are the Sacraments?

According to the Altar Guild Handbook, a sacrament is:

A rite \_\_\_\_\_ by Christ which uses an \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ as a sign of God’s grace.

The 2 *Sacraments* are: \_\_\_\_\_

The *command* is found in: \_\_\_\_\_

The *earthly element(s)* is: \_\_\_\_\_

Another way to remember:

<b>G</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>G</b>
<b>O</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>R</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>
<b>G</b>		<b>C</b>
		<b>E</b>

To Understand the Sacraments it is important to remember that:

1. God \_\_\_\_\_ in the Sacraments.
2. God's action is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. God's self-giving action occurs as \_\_\_\_\_ made visible.
4. God's self-giving action as love is made visible through relationships of love within \_\_\_\_\_.

“The sacraments function within the community, enabling Christians to build one another up in love, faith, and hope.” (White)

### **Baptism and Holy Communion**

**Baptism:** Sealed with the sign of the cross forever!  
ELW service page 227

**Holy Communion/ The Eucharist**  
ELW service page 129

An imaging exercise

\*\*\*\*\* **Break**\*\*\*\*\*

### **OUR LUTHERAN IDENTITY**

What is Lutheran Christianity?

From Daniel Erlander's book, Baptized We Live

Lutheranism is not primarily a system of doctrines but Lutheranism is a WAY...

A WAY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
A WAY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
A WAY OF \_\_\_\_\_  
A WAY OF \_\_\_\_\_

*Lutherans have no monopoly on certain ways of being a Christian, other Christian traditions share certain traits of Lutheranism, but we do have an identity that is worth defining and clarifying.*

### **A Way of SEEING**

1. The Cross is central to our understanding of faith. GOD meets us, we did not find God, but God found us in our darkness, pain, loneliness, and weakness.
2. The Cross is God's embrace.
3. The Cross is God's victory.
4. It is through the sacraments that Christ is revealed to us.

### **A Way of HEARING**

1. God speaks to us in a LIVING WORD. The word of God is a living address which enters our hearts and calls for a radical change. God's word transforms us.
2. Power given to us in baptism through the Holy Spirit to discern God's Word in our lives.
3. Luther taught that the Bible is like the manger because the Scriptures hold Christ, the Living Word, God's address to us.

### **A Way of TEACHING**

1. The Holy Spirit calls preachers and teachers and witnesses to explain the Living Word in words.
2. Martin Luther's imprint was to reform the Catholic church of its time and the teachings that hindered faith (i.s. selling forgiveness versus transformed hearts).
3. Augsburg Confession: A basis for ecumenical dialog and defines the Lutheran movement as catholic (the whole Christian church), evangelical (reaching out to all in Jesus' name) and reforming (the Holy Spirit breathing new life into the body of Christ.)

### **A Way of FOLLOWING**

1. The church is shaped by the Gospel.
2. Our baptism become the overpowering event in our lives, the event which tells us who we are and how we are to live.
3. "We follow the way of the cross. Baptized into Christ, dying and rising with him, we share his rejection of a 'Theology of Glory' and his acceptance of a 'Theology of the Cross'--- the way of radical, vulnerable, risking, trusting, obedient, self-surrendering, joyful submission to the will of God. This is the Biblical way of following."—Daniel Erlander

## ***CLOSING WORSHIP/AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM***