

Adult Spiritual Formation Lunch & Learn

Walk in Love – Chapter 4

Following are statements from the 'Walk in Love' book offered for discussion – in addition to something you read that raised a question in your mind, or a statement about which you would like to hear the thoughts of others in the group.

Chapter 4 – The Wonderful Sacrament | Eucharistic Beliefs

The word *Eucharist* comes from a Greek word that means *thanksgiving*. The center piece of the Eucharistic service is called the Great Thanksgiving (WIL pg 42). What is it for you that thanks is given in participating in the Eucharist?

From I Cor 11:27-32 (WIL pg 43) “Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For all who eat and drink [in an unworthy manner] without discerning the [Lord’s] body, eat and drink judgment against themselves. For this reason many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are [being] disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.” How do you respond to Paul’s instructions to the Corinthians?

In the Eucharist, God blesses us with the presence of Christ himself, both in the sacred elements and in the gathered community (WIL pg 45). How do you perceive Christ’s presence in the Eucharist?

The Eucharist goes by many names: The Lord’s Supper, Holy Communion, The Divine Liturgy, The Mass, The Great Offering, The Great Thanksgiving (WIL pg 45, 46; BCP pg 859). Do any of these names carry a different meaning for you? Does one name resonate with you more than another?

Children should receive communion, even if they don’t understand it well (WIL pg 49). Do you agree? Why? Or Why not?

The church has considered the concept of ‘Open Table’, in which anyone / everyone is welcome to receive communion, even if they are not baptized? Do you think this is a good idea? Why? Or why not?

Eucharist is the real, though mysterious and undefined presence of God that we cannot fully comprehend. If someone asked you, "I'm curious, why you go to church to receive Holy Communion every week," how would you respond? (WIL pg 49)