

New Communion Ware

“Recognize this bread what hung on the Cross, and in this chalice what flowed from His side”

-St. Augustine

“So man and man should but clay and clay differ in dignity, whose dust is both alike.”

-Wm. Shakespeare

The material substance of this Communion pottery portrays human beings created in the image of God. Communion ware blest by God’s Word represents the vessel of Christ’s sacrifice for us. Artistic shaping transforms the vessels of glory from which we drink the wine and eat the bread.

Consecrated Communion ware become vessels of the Word made flesh. Receiving Christ’s body and blood transforms us into vessels of God, who praise and proclaim the miracle of His sacrifice. The Last Supper ignites “bitter-sweet” and humble recollections of Christ’s dying and rising from the dead.

The ware reflects the holiness of Jesus, the sacrifice of His death, and the dark sin of mankind. Each time we receive God’s gifts in the Sacrament, we remember and are given a new beginning. We recall Jesus’ purity and humanity. In this regard, the white porcelain represents the pure and sinless nature of Christ. The interior glaze mixes dark with crimson and blue, which reminds us of Christ’s passion, His body and blood, and His humanity and loving presence.

The lid’s handles are formed by imprinting two one-inch dowels at a 90-degree angle into a one-inch ball of clay. The resulting form is an indentation that “remembers” the crossed dowels which imply an empty Cross. When we grasp this handle, our fingers also form a Cross with the thumb and forefinger, symbolizing our falling from God’s grace and our receiving His forgiveness. The handle-grasp represents our clinging to the Cross, holding our own cup of suffering and hanging our sins on the Cross.

The flagon symbolizes the old and the new. The first Communion took place with Jesus and with us as we drink and eat in the present. Jesus said, “Do this [Sacrament] in remembrance of Me”; we celebrate the original Last Supper each time we take Communion. In so doing, honoring the past melds with our present existence. “Then” and “Now” frame the style of the handle itself: in a varied tradition, the utilitarian handle’s contemporary style adds something of a new flare to the ancient and sacred ritual of the Lord’s Supper.

The communion trays have also been replaced as the previous ones had lost their finish and were not able to be reworked. They are made of materials similar to the previous trays.

We are thankful for all who have given gifts to help make this new communion ware a reality for our worship services. May these vessels simply be of service to all who come to the Lord’s altar to receive the precious gifts of Christ’s body and blood.

Worship Aesthetics Committee members: Betsy Werner, Bill Wolfram, and Don Dynneson. Advisory—Pastor Bruick and Pastor Ratcliffe.

