

The Lord's Table

There are many views of the Lord's Table—also known as “the Eucharist” or “Communion.” Virtually all Christian denominations practice communion (the biggest exceptions being the Quakers and the Salvation Army until the late 1990's), and there are a few things all agree upon:

- It was established by Christ for the Church.
- It is a repetitive practice, a continual observance.
- It proclaims something about Christ to the Church and the world.
- There is a spiritual benefit to the participants.
- The observance is restricted to believers.
- There is a horizontal dimension among the believers.

Beyond these areas of agreement, there are significant theological debates as to the following:

- The presence of Christ in the observance, with views ranging from the bread and wine being the *actual* body and blood of Jesus (Catholic *transubstantiation*) to a completely symbolic approach.
- What exactly the observance accomplishes in the life of the believer, whether it is a means of grace (salvific) or simply a representation.
- Who can administer the observance is debated, with some believing only properly ordained ministers can perform the meal properly.
- Who qualifies as a believer, with many denominations not allowing people outside their fellowship to partake.
- Finally, there is debate as to the elements themselves with some groups using alcoholic wine, others unfermented, some groups using only unleavened bread, and others using anything.

We believe the Lord's Table is a *living memorial*, in which Christ is present as our head and the object of our faith. It is open to all those who have placed their faith in Christ, and it is administered not by a priesthood but by the local assembly/congregation as the body of Christ.

Financial Summary

2023 Budget	\$224,885	Budget to Date	\$134,075
Weekly Budget	\$4,325	Giving to Date	\$140,228

Thank you again to all for your generous stewardship. You can give via the offering box in the back of the sanctuary, via mail, or online at bedfordroad.org/giving.

August 6, 2023

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