



# Community of Faith

A Lutheran Congregation in Mission for Christ

## VALUES OVERVIEW

### VALUES DEFINED:

TRAITS OR QUALITIES THAT ARE CONSIDERED OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES  
AND THE MOST DEEPLY-HELD DRIVING FORCES OF THIS COMMUNITY,  
THAT DO NOT CHANGE, AND  
THAT DETERMINE WHERE WE SPEND OUR TIME AND RESOURCES

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VALUES ANSWER THE QUESTION OF “HOW” WE WILL  
CARRY OUT OUR MISSION AND VISION



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## *Our Core Beliefs:*

### **SALVATION,**

the gift of the eternal Father  
through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit,  
that all may live forever with Him.

This gift is offered in God's Word alone (*not tradition*),  
through Christ alone (*not other religions*),  
by Grace alone through Faith alone (*not by works*).

### **THE HOLY BIBLE**

as the inspired, authoritative Word of God,  
which is unchanging, inerrant and serves as our guide to daily life

### **THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS**

which we uphold as our  
foundational doctrine to the Christian faith

## *Our Core Values:*

We value **JOYFULNESS** among those in the Faith  
that enables a Fantastic Adventure with Jesus Christ. (*Attitude*)

We value the **GROWTH** of our Faith community  
that is a result of Amazing Love for God and for Each Other. (*Evangelism*)

We value **INTENTIONALITY** in developing one's Faith  
that generates Life and Growth in God's Word. (*Discipleship*)

We value **BELONGING** to God's Faith Family  
that cultivates a tightly woven caring community. (*Fellowship*)

We value **SERVANTHOOD** communicating our Faith  
towards those in need that makes Christ visible to the world. (*Mission*)

*We are Community of Faith Church and we seek:*

## **F**antastic Adventure with Jesus Christ

*“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace, the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.” (Isaiah 55:12)*

*“As the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.” “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.” (John 15:9,11)*

## **A** amazing Love for God and for Each Other

*Then Hannah prayed and said: “My heart rejoices in the Lord;...” (1 Samuel 2:1)*

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”  
“Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matthew 22:37,39b)*

## **I**ntentional Life and Growth in the Word of God

*“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.” (Psalm 119:105)*

*“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:18)*

## **T**apestry Weaving of Disciples into God’s Faith Community

*“They will be mine,” says the Lord Almighty, “in the day when I make up my treasured possessions...” (Malachi 3:17)*

*“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...” (Matthew 28:19)*

## **H**oly Hearts Committed to Serving Others

*“Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will.” (Psalm 103:21)*

*“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:10)*

# ***F**antastic Adventure with Jesus Christ*

- We value that all who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are united with Him as members of His Body, the one True Church. Jesus is the Head of the Church and Community of Faith worships Him with praise and thanksgiving.
- We value that God's Word teaches believers to gather for worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching of His Word, to celebrate two Sacraments, Baptism and Communion, as established by Jesus Christ, to serve the church through use of talents and gifts, and to reach out to the world. These are core elements of Community of Faith.
- We value that worship is coming into God's presence through Word and Sacrament, expressing our praise and thanksgiving to Him with our songs and prayers. In celebrating the Sacraments, God comes to us through the waters of Baptism and through the bread and wine, His Body and Blood, in Holy Communion.
- We value that Jesus Christ, born of a virgin birth, lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father, came to earth to carry our sins to the Cross and gave us eternal salvation. This salvation is a free gift of His grace and we receive it through faith. Jesus is the only intercessor between God and mankind and promises to return to earth one day to fulfill God's eternal plan. This is called the Gospel or Good News of Jesus Christ. Community of Faith celebrates this Gift of Love in all we do. We believe that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Him.
- We value that when we believe, we begin a Fantastic Adventure with Jesus Christ, a journey with His unconditional Love, abundant Joy, indescribable Peace, humbling Grace, eternal Hope, blessed Forgiveness, and assured Salvation, infused by the Holy Spirit guiding our way!
- We value children and youth at Community of Faith, and provide tools for them to experience a Fantastic Adventure with Jesus Christ.

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# **A** *Amazing Love for God and for Each Other*

- We value there is one true holy God, existing in three equal persons: God the Father, God the Son in Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit. This Holy Trinity created the world and through His divine power sustains His creation to fulfill His redemptive purposes.
- We value that Jesus' First Commandment is to Love God with all your heart, soul and mind, and His Second Commandment is to Love your Neighbor as Yourself. Community of Faith Church upholds these commandments and rejoices in them.
- We value that our love for God is demonstrated through good stewardship of our time, our efforts, our spiritual gifts and our money, through a forgiving and loving spirit, through our worship, through prayer and thanksgiving, and through study of His Word. We are a tithing church and give 10% of our offerings to charities.
- We value that loving God with all our heart, soul and mind results in building up of the church and each person in it with an attitude of love and encouragement, a caring spirit, and acceptance of each other as Christ accepts us. We know that an attitude of criticism can destroy the church. Community of Faith encourages positive resolution of differences to benefit the whole Body.
- We value that Community of Faith Church takes joy in being a loving, compassionate church that welcomes people of all ages, in all stages of life, into its fellowship. We are an open door to people of all faiths, and especially to those who have yet to discover a life in Christ. Our teachings focus on the Good News of Jesus Christ and knowing and loving our Amazing God.
- We value that God is calling Community of Faith to build His church with His amazing Love.

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# *Intentional Life and Growth in the Word of God*

- We value the Bible as God’s Holy Word to all people. Inspired by Him, the Bible is the final authority for our Christian life, faith and thought. It is inerrant and the foundational source of Truth and Faith. Community of Faith established this church upon the Word of God.
- We value the commitment to study the Word of God in order to grow in our faith journey and live lives that reflect our love and gratitude to God. We believe that the Bible is relevant to our lives as the living, breathing Word of God where His transforming power can be experienced by those exploring the faith, new to the faith, or mature in the faith. Maturing in faith is becoming more Christ-like in our character.
- We value that when we become more Christ-like as we mature in our faith, our lives become transformed. Personal lifestyles will reflect more kindness, honesty, integrity, respect, patience, love and forgiveness for those around us. These characteristics will also transform our church and the ministries we serve.
- We value that God reveals Himself in the Bible, and that He desires a personal relationship with all mankind. When we study God’s Word with a mind open to His teachings, we learn of His divine love for us. The more we study, the more the Holy Spirit changes our hearts and, step by step, our faith is strengthened.
- We value that in the Bible, God teaches us to pray. Community of Faith is a praying church. We lift our concerns and thanksgivings to Jesus about all aspects of our lives. We express our dependence on Him and His divine power through prayer.
- We value our Lutheran heritage and accept the Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, the Augsburg Confessions, and the rest of the Book of Concord as Christian statements of faith of what is believed, taught and confessed “with one heart and voice.” This constitutes the theological foundation of Community of Faith. All of our teachings are consistent with the Statement of Faith of the Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC).

# *Tapestry Weaving of Disciples into God's Family*

- We value that the Word of God reveals God's plan to call all people into relationship with Him. We know that from the beginning of Creation, sin separates us from God, but God sent Jesus to save us and restore our relationship with Him. This is His Gift of Grace, by which we are saved through faith, not by our own doing, but by what Jesus did on the Cross. Community of Faith is an Easter church and we celebrate this Joy!
- We value that when we believe in God, we become His children, woven into His faith family, heirs to His eternal Kingdom and will live with Him forever. He is our Abba Father, and we belong to Him.
- We value that God has called Community of Faith Church to invite others into His faith family by sharing the Gospel and baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We commit to support new believers in their faith journey through prayer, teaching and preaching of God's Word, and loving them as brothers and sisters in Christ.
- We value the commitment to do whatever is necessary within the context of the Gospel to build a community of faith that reaches new people and helps them grow in their relationship with Christ.
- We value the importance of fellowship with one another. Community of Faith Church provides opportunities through its ministries for fun and fellowship for children, for youth, and for adults in every decade of their lives. We always encourage bringing a friend.
- We value that through fellowship we share our faith stories, our personal concerns, our joys and sorrows, further weaving our lives, one with the other, into a beautiful tapestry of God's family.

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# **H**oly Hearts Committed to Serving Others

- We value that we are created in God's image, and He knows our hearts. We are His servants, His hands and feet here on earth to carry out His will.
- We value as believers that God calls us into self-sacrificing service to help those in need, in our families, our church, our community, and in the world. We value that the Holy Spirit dwells within us and motivates us to reach out to others with God's message of hope, forgiveness, love and peace. Community of Faith seeks areas of need and establishes ministries of support and encouragement to meet those needs.
- We value that as we serve others, we take every opportunity to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We value as believers that God blesses each of us with spiritual gifts to be used to build His church. When we discover and utilize these gifts, God blesses and multiplies our efforts for His glory.
- We value that Community of Faith is a 'yes' congregation. The work of the church depends on volunteers to step forward and perform numerous tasks. Lay members often take on responsibilities normally held by staff. This is God's Church, and each person has a gift or talent to share. Our obedience to His call to do His work comes from transformed hearts.
- We value that our Love for Jesus Christ compels us to make a difference in the world.

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