

# Gethsemane Lutheran Church

## **Our Mission** (*what we do*)

The mission of Gethsemane Lutheran Church is to *gather, empower, and send* persons into the world as disciples of the living Christ. In Christian community we are called to:

- \_ **Worship – as the center of our community life.**
- \_ **Lifelong learning – as a part of our common life.**
- \_ **Passionate serving – as a part of our daily life.**
- \_ **Caring Connections – as a part of our support life.**

## **Our Vision** (*what we are becoming*)

The vision of Gethsemane Lutheran Church is a place of ...

- \_ Ongoing dialogue about being a child of God in the present.
- \_ A lively Lutheran and congregational heritage.
- \_ Equipping people to discern and practice their callings.
- \_ Gospel centeredness.
- \_ Value for people of all ages, races, economic levels, and lifestyles.
- \_ Preparation for future leaders of the Church.

## **Our Core Values** (*what we believe*)

- \_ Jesus is Lord.
- \_ Loving Jesus, and being embraced by grace, changes people.
- \_ The Gospel calls us to unconditional regard for all people.
- \_ Prayer is necessary for our relationship with God, one another, and the world.
- \_ Scripture provides the foundation for our lives of faith.
- \_ Each member is uniquely gifted by God for ministry and is expected to mature in discipleship of Jesus Christ. Everyone has something to offer.
- \_ Each member is called to be a responsible steward of the gifts God has given us.

The world needs what we have, and we are called to serve those in need.

## **Our Guiding Principles** (*what is normative/policy*)

1. God's action in Jesus Christ
  - \_ The fulfillment of God's covenant with us.
  - \_ The Gift of God's Grace.
  - \_ Claimed in Baptism, nurtured by Word and Sacrament.
  - \_ We live in response to what God already has done.
2. Hospitality / Diversity
  - \_ Welcome in the name of Jesus Christ.
  - \_ "My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people."
  - \_ Openness and acceptance.
3. Flexibility

- \_ Try new things and let go of old.
- \_ Excellent mistakes and colossal failures.
- \_ A "go" orientation.
- 4. Congruence
  - \_ Actions consistent with our words.
  - \_ While we are all sinners, we are called to lives consistent with the message we preach and teach.
- 5. Clarity
  - \_ A consensus about the focus on our mission.
  - \_ Intentionality.
  - \_ Communication.
- 6. Living Conflicted
  - \_ The world is a confusing place.
  - \_ Absolute answers are misleading.
  - \_ Search for meaning.
  - \_ Living the questions.
- 7. Excellence
  - \_ Cannot do all things.
  - \_ Excel at what we do.
  - \_ Known for quality.