

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.*
Jeremiah 29: 11

*Preaching, Teaching and Serving
In Christ's Name*

New Members Handbook 2023

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death. (Phili. 3:10)

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Mission and Values

*Teaching, Preaching and Serving
In Christ's Name*

What we believe:

- We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures.
- We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, “According to which all doctrines should and must be judged” (Formula of Concord).
- We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.
- We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ.
- We believe that making disciples — in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world — must be a priority of the Church in the present age.
- We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament.
- We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.
- We strive to be a church that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servanthood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.

Values: Who We Are.

These core values define who we are and what is important to us as a congregation.

Our Core Values:

1. **Worship:** We gather to give thanks and praise to God for all He has done for us through our Savior Jesus Christ.
2. **Teach:** Through God's Word, we make the love of Christ known to a lost world as we encounter others every day.
3. **Study:** Through the Holy Spirit, we seek to understand the Word of God and apply it to our lives.
4. **Love:** We seek to follow the Lord's command to love God and love our neighbor.
5. **Serve:** In the example of Christ, we seek to meet the needs of all God's creation.
6. **Fellowship:** We gather to build lasting relationships of love, care, and support.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Values Statement:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is a traditional congregation which believes God's Holy Word as revealed through the Scriptures. Following Christ's example, we seek to share the Scriptures as we worship, teach, and serve in fellowship and love.

Mission: What We Do.

We determined that there was no better way to describe the mission and purpose God has for the members and ministry of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church than what had been its guiding purpose for many years.

Preaching, Teaching and Serving in Christ's Name.

Preaching: It is in worship and the sharing of the Gospel message of our Savior Jesus Christ that we are strengthened and enabled to be His disciples and go into the world to witness to God's love and help others experience His abundant life. *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God^[b] may be complete, equipped for every good work.* (2 Timothy. 3:16)

Teaching: In the study of God's Word we hear proclaimed the truth of our God and His victory for our lives in Christ Jesus. We grow closer to our Savior and better understand our call to live our lives as His disciples in the world. *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[b] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.* (Matthew. 28: 19-20)

Serving: All believers are blessed with gifts and talents and are called to use these gifts in a life of service to our Lord. It is here that we are blessed to be Christ's hands and feet to the lost, the needy, the lonely, and the forgotten that Jesus Himself came to save. In serving, we give of ourselves as Christ gave to us, following His command; *For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.* (John 13: 15)

In Christ's Name: In this statement, we proclaim to all who listen why we do what we do. It is not for our benefit or for what we can get out of it, but that Christ may be known and praised for all he has done for us. As the Apostle Paul tells the Ephesians, *"We live for the praise of God's glory."* (Ephesians 1:12)

Vision: How We Live It Out.

A visioning Sunday was held during worship where the team encouraged the congregation to dream dreams and ask themselves, “what are your hopes for the future of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church?”, and “what is one need you would like to see addressed as it relates to...preaching, teaching, and serving?” We received numerous responses that gave us a broad spectrum of hopes, dreams, and needs the members felt God was calling the congregation to address over the coming years.

As we began to collate and categorize the information provided through the surveys several themes concerning the congregation’s hope for the future stood out. Utilizing these themes, the team produced a summary statement of the vision that they provided.

We are an active congregation who are believers of Christ, and seek out how best to help others discover the love of Christ in their lives.

The congregation expressed their hope for the future with these themes.

- That we will continue to preach, teach, and serve in Christ name.
- That we provide a future for the children of our church
- That we show God’s love to others by carrying out the obligations we promised as we joined the church
- That we still exist in 20 years
- That we continue to trust in God to make us a strong, caring, and compassionate church

Specific themes the congregation recognized as things needed to be addressed in the future are:

I. Involvement/Fellowship

- a. Improve attendance at ministry events and increase membership
- b. Improve involvement and participation in the ministries of the congregation
- c. Maintain unity of the congregation by serving each other and the community

II. Learning/Teaching

- a. Improve attendance at Sunday School and spiritual growth opportunities
- b. Provide meaningful opportunities to increase Biblical knowledge and application
- c. Provide worship opportunities for all to give praise and thanks to God

III. Outreach/Service

- a. Serve the Lord and spread His love within our community and world
- b. Be more welcoming and open to all generations in the church and community
- c. Improved communication of activities and events

IV. Buildings/Facilities

- a. Upgrade facilities to meet ministry needs of the congregation
- b. Use technology to enhance and assist the ministries of the congregation
- c. Allow space for future staffing needs

Committee Ministry

Our discipleship ministry is centered in the work of our ministry teams and fellowship groups. Each in their own way work hard to help our congregation fulfill its mission and share the Good News of our God. Each provide an opportunity for members of the congregation to use their gifts and talents within the ministry of our church, practicing their own discipleship and serving our Lord in unity as one people for the same purpose of sharing God's love, and making disciples for Him. Christ calls His disciples to "Go and make disciples of all nations" and expects His disciples to serve as part of the body of Christ. With this biblical understanding of discipleship, here at Holy TLC we live this out by expecting members to use their gifts and talents as part of a committee ministry within the church. In order to help members, grow in their faith, practice their call and help our congregation fulfill its mission and purpose, members are appointed to serve a 4-year term as part of a particular ministry committee.

The following is a list of our ministry committees and specifics about their responsibility and ministry.

Christian Education

Part of the nurturing life of every Christian congregation is to provide for the regular instruction and faithful development of each of its members. This is regularly accomplished in our congregation through our Christian education ministry. Christian education includes such ministries as Vacation Bible School, Confirmation ministry, Bible studies and special studies, but is primarily centered in our Sunday School and weekly adult and children's Bible study ministries. Sunday School is offered at 9:15am prior to our 10:30 am worship service. For adults there are five regularly scheduled classes. Our Men's Bible Study Class and our Adult Bible Study Class are an ongoing study of the books of the Bible through printed Concordia materials. Our Disciples Bible Study Class is an ongoing study of different books and themes of the Bible or specific topics related to faith development. Our Ladies Bible study focuses on biblical issues related to the life of the Christian woman.

Our Children's Sunday School classes are grouped by age and grade in order to meet the needs of all our children. Weekly Bible studies occur regularly throughout the year and include opportunities for men and women to study the Bible together. Our youth, "Teens for Christ", meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday at 5:30pm. Confirmation classes vary in time but traditionally begin in the fall.

Stewardship of Life

One of the hardest things to talk about in the church is stewardship and giving. However, stewardship has more to do with our life than simply money and the finances of the church. Stewardship includes every part of our life; the giving of our time, our talents, as well as our finances for the ministry and mission of God's church. There is no better place, and you can find no more meaningful thing to do in this life than to give of yourself to the needs of God's church. Our goal is to help each member of the congregation find where and how we can best use our gifts of time, talent, and finances for the benefit of God's Kingdom here on earth.

We accomplish this goal by:

- Ministry focused on God's purpose for our lives and fulfilling that purpose through the use of God's gifts and talents.
- Assisting congregation in identifying gifts and talents.
- Education related to biblical tithing, stewardship as a way of life, and financial planning in today's world.

Worship and Music

The worship life of the congregation provides the glue for sustaining all congregational life. We worship during the year on Sunday morning at 10:30am. Our worship service uses the traditional worship liturgies of the Lutheran Church base from the Lutheran Book of Worship *Book*. Worship services are centered in the hearing of God's word and the celebration of God's sacraments, using a variety of scripture, music and prayer to help God's people give thanks to our God, while receiving the fullness of God's love and grace for our life. Special services are also held during Lent and on other church festivals such as Easter, Pentecost, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Choirs: We are blessed with wonderful musical gifts and members who are willing to share their gifts with the congregation. Our adult choir meets regularly for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 pm. Our children's choir rehearses as part of our Sunday School opening and our hand bell choir meets on a seasonal basis.

Worship and Music Committee:

Planning for worship is an involved task, which requires plenty of input from various segments of the congregation. If you would like to help plan our worship life, please feel free to join the worship and Music Team.

Evangelism

Jesus tells us in Matthew 28:18, "Go and make disciples of all nations." It is with this calling that we reach out to all people to share the Good News our God brings to our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord. Our mission is in the world as well as in the congregation. Ministering to all with love and compassion, we feel it is in the sharing of our love that the love of God is revealed to others.

Examples of outreach ministry:

visitation teams, outreach to the community through publications and promotion, monthly free community meal, telephone ministry, maintaining church web site, feeding the homeless in Columbia, outreach to local children and families in need such as "Blessing in a Back Pack Ministry, "We Care," just to name a few, as well as our family ministry outings, "Squeals and Wheels" skating and BBQ night, Marriage Retreat, Fall Festival.

The goal of this Team is to stimulate and lead all members of the congregation into continuous endeavors to reawaken the spirit of God in all of us while reaching out to the world in love to share God's good news in Christ Jesus.

Social Ministry

In his own ministry, Jesus cared for the poor, healed the sick and loved the sinner. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to do the same. The Social Ministry Team at Holy Trinity takes this call from Jesus serious, not only in its work within the church but also in our community and the world. Our goal is to inform the congregation of needs and opportunities within the community and share with others the gifts we have been given and the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. We do this as a congregation by supporting such programs as Habitat for Humanity, We Care, Souper Bowl of Caring, World Hunger, Global Missions and Lutheran Disaster Relief, American Cancer Society. The committee places great importance in helping the sick, hospitalized and shut-in members of our congregation remain a part of God's fellowship here at Bethel. Through such ministry programs as our Visitation ministry, Prayer Shall, Prayer Group we reach out in love to those who may not have the opportunity to experience God's love in their life.

Property

A church that looks good, well maintained and cared for not only says something about the church. It also says something about how much a church family loves God and God's gifts to them. Maintaining and care for God's house is always an important responsibility. It takes the time and gifts of many people, as well as the willingness of all to ensure the job gets done. The Property Team is responsible for upkeep of facilities, maintaining the church grounds and providing plans for future care and needs of the church.

Cemetery

The purpose of the Cemetery Team is to develop, maintain and operate the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery and to do everything necessary, suitable and proper to accomplish any of these purposes. It is the committee's responsibility to see that the Cemetery of the church is kept in good order at all times. We work to ensure that all rules and regulations regarding the use of the cemeteries are enforced. The committee takes applications for space, keep all records and issue certificates of assignment in compliance with the By-laws. Our goal is to assist families in their time of loss and make the burial process of loved ones as easy as possible.

Fellowship/Service Group Ministry:

Christian fellowship groups are intentional gatherings on a regular basis who work together to discover and grow in their spiritual walk and life with Christ. The members provide a wonderful opportunity to join in and form meaningful relationships with others and with God, while working to serve God in the congregation, the community and the world. These ministries include:

Ministry Group

Sisters in Christ

Lutheran Men in Mission

Youth: Teens for Christ

Happy Mountaineers (senior fellowship group)

Discipleship Ministry

Contact

Becky Chapman

James Wieters

Artie and Melisa Livingston

Janet Fulmer

Ted Arnold

Getting Involved

What you get out of your new church home depends to a great deal on what you put into it. As our values statement declares and our mission statement helps us live out, the congregation is dedicated to sharing God's love in fellowship and involving people in ministry. Here are some ways that will help you get involved.

- Worship regularly and faithfully. (“Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.”)
- Read the Newsletter and bulletin.
- Ask questions about the ministry of the church and what opportunities there are to serve in it.
- Faithfully support the church's ministry with your attendance, participation, time and finances. “For where your treasure is there will your heart be also.” Matt. 6:21
- Feel free to attend congregation Council meetings. They are open to all members and your voice is appreciated. Council meets every second Sunday at 7:30am.
- Participate on a committee. Everyone is part of the Holy TLC Ministry Team. God has placed us in ministry together and given us the gifts to complete his calling. Only together with God's help can we make this mission possible.
- Attend all congregational meetings.
- Stop by the church office to say hello!

Who to Call

The Congregations ministry is overseen by an elected governing board known as the Congregational Council. Any active confirmed member is eligible to serve on our Council. There are 15 members elected to this leadership position by the congregation. All positions are for a term of three years, with five members rotating off and five newly elected members joining each year. The Council meets monthly on the second Sunday at 7:30am to carry out the responsibilities of our ministry. Each member is assigned to one specific areas of ministry as liaisons to the individual ministry committees of the church. The congregation meets annually in November to elect council members and approve the church ministry plan for the coming year:

The Church Staff

The Members of Holy Trinity: Disciples of Christ

Rev. Randy Drafts, Pastor

Mr. Phillip Allison, Council President

Mrs. Marie Shealy, Parish Office Administrator

Mrs. Terecia Wilson, Director of Music Ministry

Mr. Ted Arnold, Sexton

Mrs. Lib Boland, Organist

Mrs. Donna Fulmer, Organist

Mr. Brett Lindler, Organist



Christ Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, “according to which all doctrines should and must be judged” (Formula of Concord). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.

Mission Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples — in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world — must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

Traditionally Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.

Congregationally Focused

We strive to be a church that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servanthood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.

The North American Lutheran Church confesses: The Triune God — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the Gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe.

1. Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
2. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
3. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by the Holy Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them the Holy Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith and life, "according to which all doctrines should and must be judged." (Formula of Concord, Epitome, Part I)

The Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the faith of the Church.

The Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a true witness to the Gospel, acknowledging as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

The other confessional writings in the Book of Concord, namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles and the Treatise, the Small Catechism, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid interpretations of the faith of the Church.

The Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world.

The NALC honors and accepts The Common Confession (2005) included below, as a summary of teachings otherwise affirmed in the Lutheran Confessions.