



Faith Lutheran Church

A member congregation of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

Key Components of Faith

We are called by God.

We believe in "the priesthood of all believers." All of God's people are called to ministry and the body of Christ must recognize and affirm that call. God has gifted every believer through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to serve the cause of Christ Jesus in the world.

1 Peter 2:4-5 RSV. "Come to him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

Matthew 4:19 RSV. "And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' "

1 Corinthians 12:12 RSV. "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."

1 Corinthians 12:27 RSV. "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

Ephesians 4:11-16 RSV. "And his gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the cunning of men, by their craftiness in deceitful wiles. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love."

We affirm that Jesus Is Lord.

Jesus is the head of the church. Unity among the various expressions of the body of Christ is best achieved through focusing on Jesus, who alone is able to draw all people to Him. Jesus is the complete and ultimate expression of God and is part of the one Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Matthew 22:34-40 RSV. "But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question, to test him. 'Teacher, which is the greater commandment in the law?' And he said to him, '*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.* This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, *You shall love your neighbor as yourself.* On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.' "

John 14:6 RSV. "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but by me.' "

Philippians 2:9-11 RSV. "Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

We are moved by the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the 'breath' of God that lives within us: helper, counselor, and teacher. The Holy Spirit prays for us and strengthens us. Through the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit we are moved to understanding, purpose and accomplishment vastly beyond our individual capability.

Romans 8:14 RSV. "For all who are led by the Spirit of God, are sons of God."

Romans 8:26 RSV. "Likewise the Spirit helps in our weaknesses; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words."

1 Corinthians 3:16 RSV. "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

John 14:26 RSV. "But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

John 20:21-22 RSV. "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' "

Acts 1:8 RSV. "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Acts 4:13 RSV. "Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they wondered; and they recognized that they had been with Jesus."

We live by the Word of God.

The Bible is our authority and sole guide for life and faith. We accept on faith that all of the Scripture is inspired and without error. We agree that not all human interpretation is without error. Therefore, we commit to prayerful study of the scriptures so that the Bible may interpret itself to us. We support and encourage the study of the original manuscripts, recognizing that the original audiences and purposes of a text will always further our understanding. The Scriptures are the living Word – always relevant and always revealing God's purpose for all of creation.

John 1:1 RSV. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

John 1:14 RSV. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father."

2 Timothy 3:16-17 RSV. "All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching. For reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

2 Peter 1:20-21 RSV. "First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

Romans 15:4 RSV. "For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope."

Psalms 1 RSV. "Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted in streams of water, that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers. The wicked are not so, but are like chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregations of the righteous; for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish."

We are strengthened in worship.

Worship establishes and encourages a right relationship between God and His people – God is the audience. Worship is essential for the believer and central to the life of the church. In it, we cast our eyes to the cross. We come under the instruction of God's Word. We are strengthened by the

sacraments of Baptism and of the Lord's Supper. We are bound together as Christ's body. Worship involves the whole person – body, mind, heart and spirit.

1 Peter 2:9 RSV. "But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into the marvelous light."

John 4:23-24 RSV. "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Psalms 98:4-9 RSV. "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises! Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody! With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord! Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who dwell in it! Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together before the Lord, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity."

Psalms 105:1-4 RSV. "O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples! Sing to him, sing praises to him, tell all of his wonderful works! Glory is his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his presence continually!"

We are free in Christ.

Because of what Jesus has done for us, we are free. In this congregation it is OK to have fun. It is OK to make mistakes. It is OK to say "No". We are free to serve God as the Lord leads us – not out of guilt, obligation or duty. We serve God in response to what the Lord has already done for us. We serve Him joyfully.

Romans 8:1-2 RSV. "There is therefore no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death."

Galatians 5:1 RSV. "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand fast, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."

John 8:31-36 RSV. "Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, 'If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.' They answered him, 'We are descendants of Abraham, and never have been in bondage to anyone. How is it that you say, 'You will be made free?'' Jesus answered them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not continue in the house forever; the son continues forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.' "

We proclaim the Gospel.

Jesus gave his disciples this command: "Go and make disciples of all nations." Therefore, the church exists primarily for the sake of those who don't yet belong. We will seek to invite every person to consider a living and personal relationship with Jesus Christ – for He is the only way to salvation and eternal life.

Matthew 28:18-20 RSV. "And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.' "

Matthew 4:18-20 RSV. "As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him."

Luke 19:10 RSV. "For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

We believe change comes from God.

We believe that God changes lives and that He alone has the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to create faith and help us to live lives that are pleasing to Him. As believers, we accept that there is nothing in this world that ever stays the same except the solid rock of our Salvation. We can,

therefore, learn to adjust and adapt to our changing surroundings. We worship Jesus our Lord – not our tradition, not our history and not ourselves.

John 8:1-11 RSV. "but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple; all of the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such. What do you say about her?' This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, 'Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once more he bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the eldest, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus looked up at her and said, 'Woman where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again.' "

2 Corinthians 5:17 RSV. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has passed away, behold, the new is come."

Colossians 3:15 RSV. "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body."

2 Timothy 2:15 RSV. "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

We support one another in prayer.

In prayer we communicate directly with God. We pray for ourselves and we pray for others. We use our own words and we are free to say anything. We pray in praise and thanksgiving as well as in supplication. We look to Jesus as our model for intercessory prayer. In prayer God opens our eyes, changes our hearts, heals our souls and reveals in us a greater understanding.

James 5:16 RSV. "Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray to one another, that you may be healed."

Ephesians 6:18 RSV. "Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplications. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints"

1 John 5:14 RSV. "And this is the confidence which we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us."

Philippians 4:6-7 RSV. "Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

We help those in need.

We have the ability to help others solely because of the gifts God has already bestowed upon us. We choose to provide help to those in need through a grateful heart and with genuine love and care for others. We welcome this spiritual opportunity to manifest God's will. While we are directed to help the poor and needy, our cheerful actions lead also to growth and blessing for ourselves.

1 John 3:17 RSV. "But if any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?"

Galatians 6:2 ESV. "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Acts 20:35 ESV. "In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

Matthew 25:35-40 ESV. "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ... "

Deuteronomy 15:11 ESV. "For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.' "

2 Corinthians 9:7 RSV. "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

Proverbs 19:17 ESV. "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."

Luke 6:38 ESV. "Give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."

Bible References

RSV – Revised Standard Version

ESV – English Standard Version