

Core Values
Word of God Lutheran Church

We are a congregation that is ***Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded,*** and ***Congregationally Focused.*** Our congregation understands this as:

1) **Word of God** This congregation is formed with its name at the Core – Word of God Lutheran Church. This means that this congregation seeks in all things to be faithful to God’s Word such that it is able to say, as Martin Luther said, "*Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason - I do not accept the authority of the popes and councils, for they have contradicted each other - my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. God help me. Amen.*" As such, we understand that in no way is it acceptable to argue against our statement of faith, and chiefly article C2.03 of our constitution.

2) **Great Commission Centered** This congregation understands that we are baptized to be disciples and spend our lives of faith learning how to obey all that Jesus has commanded. To this end, Bible Studies, classes, Sunday School, Youth groups and activities have in mind intentional places to further develop a disciple’s journey toward becoming evermore like Christ. Members are expected to be active in growing in wisdom and stature.

3) **Ministry Driven** This congregation is dedicated to be an outreach congregation and seeks to have practical, meaningful and useful ministries that impact our community, nation and the world in very real, tangible and, with our members, in a demonstrable way. There is an expectation of active members of this congregation being involved – as the Holy Spirit leads – in a life of ministry, reaching out with the love of Christ to others – through the tangible ministries that are or will be established. Everyone is expected to participate in a ministry.

4) **Fostering Family** This congregation recognizes the gift of family. It is intentional about creating inter-generational activities that nurture relationships amongst members of the larger family of faith in our congregation through activities, one-on-one mentors and a culture of mutual helpfulness and respect.

5) **Team Centered** This congregation is formed around the concept of Ministry Teams. These teams are made up of those whose ministry aligns with the team and for the purpose of being an organized ministry. These teams meet to seek and maintain good order and clear communication. Teams are not committees and everyone who practices a ministry within a team is a part of the team. The structure of every team is for the sake of the ministry of that team. Committees have specific tasks and are formed only for those tasks. Teams are made up of the active participating members of the congregation.

6) **Collaborative** This congregation seeks a collaborative model of governance. The only standing committee is the Service Committee. Other committees formed are for a short duration and with a specific goal in mind. The teams themselves are a part of the greater team which is Word of God Lutheran church congregation members. Recognizing our sinful nature and the desire to have things go the way we want them to go, this *Core Value* calls upon all at every level to first and foremost seek to hold all things in common and to be willing to always seek collaboration with decisions, attitudes and directions. As Scripture teaches, no one is above, nor below the other, but all seek to hold all things in common. In this sense, this congregation seeks to say of every decision, “It seemed pleasing to the Holy Spirit and us . . .”

7) **Flexible** This congregation realizes that the ministries the Holy Spirit calls us to will rise, grow, wax and wain over time. It is committed to the concept that we be able to adopt new ministries as they arise and allow old ministries to retire when their time is done. Through much prayer and discernment, we are committed to always seek the will of the Lord in all things. To this end, there is encouragement that new ministry possibilities are always explored.

8) **Stewards** This congregation is committed to tangible stewardship. It commits eleven percent of its receipts to benevolence. It encourages others through living a life of intentional stewardship, recognizing that such stewardship can never be measured in terms of money, but in terms of commitment to the cause of Jesus Christ. Our understanding of stewardship includes all in terms of the ministry engagement points that are a part of the life of this congregation. The goal is that others would know our faith by seeing what we do, not as a “proof,” but as evidence of the hope that is within us.

9) **Interdependent** This congregation seeks to not be reliant upon anyone other than Holy Trinity. Recognizing the genuine call of Scripture to the priesthood of all believers, there is an intentionality that avoids specialization or reliance upon any individual. This is true even for reliance upon a pastor. Although for the sake of good order and according to our tradition, we have pastors, there is a strength in lay-leadership at every level of ministry. To that end, this congregation is deliberate with active participation of all its members in worship and worship leadership.

10) **Responsible** This congregation respects the call of each member who is called to the holy priesthood of all believers. Recognizing the variety of gifts and the varying level of ability, we hold each other to mutual accountability for the sake of the mission of Jesus Christ through Word of God Lutheran church.