



FIRST
STEP

THE FIRST STEP TO DISCOVERING OUR COMMUNITY

Community Guidebook



FIRST STEP GUIDEBOOK

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTORS

Welcome to LCM. We don't think it's any accident you're here. We've been praying for you and hope you make yourself at home. Our hope is that you will feel welcome here and find it a place to grow your faith and serve Jesus in our community.

We offer Biblical preaching and an authentic style of worship in our services. While we strive to connect people to Jesus and one another, we also work toward being a faithful church who reaches out and challenges everyone to follow Jesus completely. One of the ways we try to connect people is by loving people where they are.

The church community is very important for us. God uses the church, made of men and women like you and me. We don't need to be perfect to be used by God but need to be open, willing and eager to grow. We need to spend time together, surrender to God's way for our lives and live out His plan each day as fully as we can. We need to know where we are headed, how to get there and how to stay connected in community as we make the journey together.

Whether you are new here or a long-time guest of the church, we're glad you are visiting LCM. We hope that you will join us as we come together and use our God-given gifts for the greater community and participate in transforming lives.

We hope you will prayerfully consider joining the LCM community. When you say yes to belonging here, you step onto the playing field and honor God with your unique contributions to LCM, our community and this world. Our church will be stronger for it. And you'll be stronger for it, too.

In Faith,

Kip Tyler
Senior Pastor

H. John Lewis
Executive Pastor

Jonathan Haseley
Campus Pastor

Mario Alejandro
Campus Pastor

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Three Ways to Belong

Welcome! We're thrilled you're exploring what it means to be part of the community at LCM. Below, you'll see the three primary ways people can choose to belong here. Joining the community is a significant step toward integrating into the life of the church. Explore the information in this guidebook to help you get to know LCM as your potential church home.

ATTEND SERVICES OR EVENTS

All people are welcome to attend LCM and be part of our church and ministries—including weekend, midweek and holiday services; classes; workshops; and special events. LCM is a safe, loving place where everyone can explore a relationship with God, no matter where they are on their spiritual journey.

JOIN THE LCM COMMUNITY

If LCM is your home church and you can declare the following, then the LCM community is for you.

1. I am a baptized believer and follower of Jesus.
2.
 - a. I have read and accept LCM's Mission and Vision Statement, directives for Community Development and Faith Community Statements.
 - b. I affirm the Holy Scriptures and the Creeds as authoritative in community life.
3. I agree to be respectful and honoring.
4. I want to help build this church and the broader church by using my gifts and resources for God.

JOIN THE SERVANT-LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY

While many of LCM volunteer roles are open to anyone in the church, specific roles in each ministry require being part of the Servant-Leadership Community because volunteers who serve in these areas represent the church or provide spiritual guidance for others.

Those who are part of this community have read and signed the LCM Servant-Leadership covenant, completed servant-leadership training and declared the following:

1. I am part of the LCM Community.
2. I commit to leading a spiritually surrendered life.
3. I commit to displaying a Christ-like attitude in every interaction.
4. I model a whole-life commitment to the church's beliefs, values, and strategies.
5. I commit to pursuing a life above reproach.
6. I commit to giving God my best as I serve and lead in my current role(s).

Frequently Asked Questions

What can I expect from a weekend worship service?

There are two styles of worship, contemporary and traditional, that are lived out in our community:

-Contemporary Services

You can expect to hear a compelling sermon instilled with a strong Biblical foundation and a focus on the Gospel. You can also expect engaging songs aimed at glorifying God and inspiring people, dynamic stories and testimonies, and a multimedia experience to support the message. We value truth over trend, authenticity over performance, relationship over results, excellence over perfection, relevance over tradition, creativity over complacency, and Christ above all else.

-Traditional Services

You can expect to hear a compelling sermon instilled with a strong Biblical foundation and a focus on the Gospel through the singing of hymns with traditional church instruments, using a traditional liturgy with certain orderly elements, being relevant and inspiring for worshipers.

We use the Green Hymnal/Lutheran Book of Worship and have a full choir that sings during worship during the school year, with volunteers providing special music during the summer. The Master Rings Bell Choir performs during morning services at least once a month during the school year and during holiday services.

What should I wear?

Whether you come in a three-piece suit or jeans and a t-shirt, there is no dress code for any of our worship services—we just want to see you here!

How early should I arrive?

Both of our campuses experience differing levels of traffic. Please allow enough time to navigate our parking, check your kids into childcare (if needed), and find a seat before the service begins. Normally, arriving 15-20 minutes before service times provides enough time for you get settled, talk with others and to be seated before worship begins.

Where do my children go for Sunday School?

We have specific ministries and programs designed for all ages. Children, birth through grade 5, have programming available to them during all Sunday worship services times. Students in middle school, high school, or college-age also have programming available to them at varying times depending on the campus you attend.

Can my children sit with me during worship?

Children are always welcome to sit with parents during worship. If your children need a little more space, there are family friendly spaces located just outside the worship centers.

When is the nursery open?

Child care for infants - age 3 is offered at all Sunday worship services and for many classes and events. The nursery opens 15 minutes prior to the start of events and worship. Please talk with the event or class leader to arrange for child care.

What is a multi-site church?

LCM is one church with multiple locations, or campuses. Our locations are chosen and designed to connect people to Jesus and one another by loving where we are. We believe bringing the church to more communities is a great way for everyone in our faith community to reach more people with Jesus' love. Our campuses serve the specific needs of the areas in which they are located, while receiving centralized leadership from the 114th & Center campus.

How do I reach a pastor in an emergency?

During business hours, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Monday - Friday, call LCM at 402-333-4444. The after-hours numbers for emergencies are 402-651-0858 (P. Tyler), 402-598-3986 (P. Lewis), 716-807-1370 (P. Haseley) or 801-597-4869 (P. Alejandre).

Who can take classes at LCM?

Everyone is warmly welcomed into the various classes, groups, studies and events, regardless of whether or not you join the LCM Community.

How do I get the full details on classes? Do I need to register?

Descriptions of all opportunities are available at:

lcm.church/connect-serve. Please take a few minutes to register for the classes that you plan to attend. By doing so, you help our teams adequately prepare so we can provide you with appropriate materials, accommodations and child care.

Can I take classes or go to programs at an LCM location I don't normally attend for worship?

Yes. We hope you will make yourself at home and take full advantage of what's offered at both campuses.

How are you involved in the community?

LCM is deeply involved in service and support of the community. We provide direct support to over 80 local, state, national and international groups reaching close to half a million dollars in funding in addition to hundreds of hours of hands on volunteerism. To learn more about the ways LCM serves and supports the greater community, go to lcm.church/benevolence-missions.

Overview of LCM

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'"
Matthew 28:18-20

THE MISSION

"mission gives your life purpose"

"The mission of Lutheran Church of the Master is to make Christ known to all people; aiding them to become baptized believers, equipping them to become committed disciples of Christ, and inspiring them to become Christian servant-leaders in God's Church and world."

THE VISION

"vision gives your life direction"

"To share the Love of Christ Today!"

THE CORE VALUES

"values give your life character"

Our core values are rooted in the Word of God and lived out in the ministry of people of all ages.

1. Empowering leadership

Our congregation commits to the development and empowerment of faithful servant-leaders in the true Spirit of the New Testament where leaders not only strive to be effective and effective leaders of others, but who also humble themselves before their God in prayer, worship and service.

2. Gift Oriented Ministry

Our congregation commits to assist individuals discover their spiritual giftedness and passion in order for them to respond to God's calling for them. Our congregation further commits to equip them for the ministry for which they are gifted.

3. Passionate spirituality

Our congregation commits to grow the spiritual depth of individuals so that they have a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ in order that a godly vision can be accomplished through an optimistic faith, which views obstacles as opportunities and turns defeats into victories.

4. Functional Structures

Our congregation commits to develop systems, which work together to fulfill the intended mission of the congregation, which are evaluated regularly to determine if they are still the best way to accomplish the intended mission.

5. Inspiring Worship

Our congregation commits to engage in inspiring worship, which is not driven by a particular style, but rather is expressed in the shared experience of God's awesome presence. When worship is inspiring, people are drawn to the services.

6. Holistic small groups

Our congregation commits to birthing holistic small groups which are disciple-making communities which endeavor to reach the unchurched, meet individual needs, develop each person according to their God-given gifts and raise servant-leaders to sustain the growth of the church. Like healthy body cells, holistic small groups are designed to grow and multiply.

7. Need-oriented evangelism

Our congregation commits to helping every Christian see their task as using his or her gifts to serve non-Christians with whom they have a personal relationship, to see to it that they hear the Gospel, and to encourage contact with the local church. Need-oriented evangelism intentionally cultivates relationships with pre-Christian people so they become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who are actively participating within the life of the church and community. This is done through authentic relationships where believers can lovingly and prayerfully guide others into the family of God.

8. Loving relationships

Our congregation commits to an unfeigned practical love rooted in the love God has shown us through Jesus Christ. Genuine Christian love is far more effective than programs in drawing people to Christ. People do not want to hear us talk about love; they want to experience how Christian love really works.

DIRECTIVES FOR CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Developing dynamic children's ministry as a top priority of programming.**
- 2. Commit to engage youth with empathy—walking along side helping them address the great questions of identity (who am I?), belonging (where do I fit?) and purpose (what difference do I make?) through grace (gospel), love (relationship) and mission (service).** Commit to walking youth from childhood to adulthood by partnering with parents, connecting youth with mentors and finding ways to integrate them in every area of ministry according to their gifts and interests.
- 3. Build launch teams.** Establish launch teams engaging church leadership in local community groups, learning the needs of the community. (Neighborhood associations, PTAs, park boards, Boy/Girl Scouts, etc.) Launch teams are time-bound, include anyone willing and committed, engaged to accomplish the task, focus on those outside the church and ends with an outward focus.
- 4. Become the community's resource center.** From gym, playground, kitchen and field access to coffee bars and book stores to community wellness resources. We are the Community Center volunteering and funding community improvement projects. Establish the notion that you do not need to be a member of the church in order to receive God's grace. (From cleanup days to building ball fields and playgrounds)
- 5. When planning campus ministry/elements/structure, focus on community needs.** Answer, "Why does THIS church NEED to be HERE?" Our focus will vary greatly from town to town and from neighborhood to neighborhood. Remember what is essential to faith and salvation and adapt everything else to where the people are because the building does not belong to us; the Church is the people.
- 6. Focus ongoing ministry outside the walls of the church building, going where people are.** The church campus will be for equipping servants, gathering for worship/celebrations and operational support for ministries. Focus more on equipping the faith community. This can be done in all the many ways that friendships, small groups and community gatherings can afford.

7. **Seek out and encourage coordinated ministries to create community wide momentum toward a common call or goal.** The call needs to be a strong inner impulse toward a particular course of action, especially when accompanied by conviction of divine influence. To sermon, school, study and events all covering the same content moving toward the same goal.
8. **Campus Pastors.** Pastors living and engaged in the community near church, focused on meeting, remembering and connecting the Faith Community.
9. **Establish a welcome center ministry designed to engage guests and provide members of the faith community the resources to mission where they are called within society.** The focus will be to connect individuals to ministries and answer questions about our faith community.
10. **For pastors and most ministry staff: less than half of the working hours should be located on campus.** Community involvement, missions, studies and visitation need to be done where people are. Examples include coaching, school activities, board leadership, neighborhood projects, gatherings, office hours in places of business, etc.
11. **For pastors and most ministry staff: retreat, individual study, professional development and personal time off will be encouraged and planned by their respective supervisors.** Time in retreat for growth and recuperation is required for a focused ministry that creates momentum for the faith community. This does not mean going on sabbaticals where they are disconnected from their faith commodity, but routine periods of retreat throughout the year.
12. **Good stewardship.** (Physical, financial, human) Manage a well-maintained and pristine property. We will impliment faith-based budget focusing on God's Will while at the same time modeling the same biblically based finance practices that are asked of the community. We will strive for an effective & nimble governance and staff structure knowing that the human resource controls the whole.

- 13. Focus always on missions in relation to building/campuses**
building out instead of up. Consistently keep track of member home addresses and when there are 200-300 people from a given community out the immediate church area, create another campus where they are.
- 14. Commit to removing barriers: physical, financial, human, strategic (complexity, focus, completion) and spiritual (fear, inadequacy, loneliness, confusion, rejection, etc.)** between staff, leaders, and community, as well as, societal barriers so that believers and non-believers can co-operate side-by-side.
- 15. Develop staff as a team focusing each hire on specific mission needs.**
- 16. Encourage all forms of promotion but advocate and teach direct delivery.** Direct Delivery: personal invitation, team invitation, planned events (single and multi-sponsor events).
- 17. Encourage, equip and coach members of the faith community to live out and witness to the faith where they are.** Help lay people to mission in the areas they are called to and gifted in giving permission and support. When the lay are ready, the people will come.
- 18. Strive to lesson the measure of God's fruits through material evidence (ABC - attendance, building size, cash) but through the Spirit.**

DUAL-SITE MINISTRY

LCM is one church with multiple locations, or campuses. Our locations are chosen and designed to connect people to Jesus and one another by loving where we are. We believe bringing the church to more communities is a great way for everyone in our faith community to reach more people with Jesus' love. Our campuses serve the specific needs of the areas in which they are located, while receiving centralized leadership from the 114th & Center campus.

HOW IS/DOES HAVING MULTIPLE SITES HELP THE OVERALL COMMUNITY.

Having multiple sites has several benefits to the overall faith community:

1. Encourages untapped talent to emerge with additional service opportunities
2. Creates a platform for intentional leadership development.
3. Improves stewardship by directly affecting the local community around the site.
4. Enjoys the benefit of both large and small churches.
5. Fosters an effective evangelistic strategy by focusing on going out and not up.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT TO SEE ON SUNDAY AND THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

Expect to see the same Campus Pastor and Worship Coordinator every Sunday with the entire pastoral team taking turns proclaiming a sermon message. The Campus Pastor will be dedicated to their assigned campus for visitations, teaching and service opportunities. They will also be involved in several whole church activities. The Senior and Executive Pastor will rotate between the campuses providing connection to the whole faith community.

AS THE CHURCH GROWS, WILL THERE BE MORE SITES ADDED?

When planning ministry, we focus on community needs. We first answer, "Why does THIS church NEED to be HERE?" The answer will vary greatly from town to town and from neighborhood to neighborhood. We focus on what is essential to faith and salvation and adapt everything else to where the people are. As a result, we strive to meet people where they are and look to reach out and not build up in one location.

LCM HISTORY - A BRIEF HISTORY

It was on June 29, 1959, that Pastor Robert DeYoung, newly ordained, arrived in Omaha to organize a church in the southwest part of the city. First services were held in a dance studio, and later in a former tavern. The infant congregation struggled with the problems of purchasing a site and building its own house of worship. Ground was broken at the present location at 114th and Center streets on May 29, 1960, and the first service was held in it less than seven months later. In January of 1961, the congregation became self-supporting.

When the congregation was formally organized on December 6, 1959, it was 78 baptized members strong. Ten years later baptized membership totaled 1,325. Entering upon its silver anniversary year in 1984, LCM had 2,176 baptized members. Currently membership is at 2,623. To keep up with steady growth, LCM built a second wing, dedicated on May 24, 1964. Three years later a fund drive for a main sanctuary was launched, and the new structure was dedicated on June 7, 1970.

By the end of the 1970's, it was obvious that even these facilities were inadequate, and a new building project was undertaken resulting in expanding the seating area in the sanctuary, opening new basement space and remodeling other available space. The expanded facilities were dedicated on April 10, 1983.

In about 1999, LCM became concerned with some of the things the ELCA was doing or failing to do. LCM responded by becoming a founding member of the Lutheran Churches in Mission for Christ in 2001 while trying unsuccessfully to get the ELCA to change. LCM voted to leave the ELCA effective September 1, 2002. The decision had the unanimous support of the Council and the pastors, and over 81 percent of the voting members at a special congregational meeting.

In the late 1990's, LCM concluded that the size of the church building and the inability to expand parking was having a negative impact on their ministry. It was determined that there were a significant number of members who did not want to leave the present building. The final decision was to become a dual site church—one church at two locations. It was decided to remodel and slightly enlarge the present building (this was completed in 2005), buy 28 acres of land at 180th and Dodge streets (this was done in 2003) and construct phase one of a new church facility on the 28 acres that was completed in 2006. Phase one included a family life center (combination gym and worship area),

office space, and a number of rooms for Sunday school, youth activities and meetings. The first worship service was held on July 16, 2006.

LCM became a designated teaching center for the Institute of Lutheran Theology in 2008 and started a Nuer Language ministry for members of the South Sudanese community in Omaha in 2014. The Sudanese community would become its own recognized LCMC congregation in 2017 while continuing to hold serves at our East Campus (114th & Center) site. To expand our mission to the Sudanese community, LCM became a teaching center for the South Sudan Seminary in 2017.

THE LCM COMMUNITY - JOINING

Those who are part of the LCM community seek to follow Christ in every area of their lives. By joining the LCM community, you affirm the following:

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **I am a baptized believer and follower of Christ.** I acknowledge that my wrongdoings in this life create a barrier between me and our holy God -- a chasm that no amount of effort on my part can bridge. Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, I receive forgiveness for my wrongdoings, accept God's grace as the only way by which I can be reconciled with Him, choose to follow Christ with my life and anticipate being united with God in heaven for eternity (Acts 2:38, John 3:16).
2. **I have read and accept what LCM believes.**
 - a. I have read and accept LCM's Mission and Vision Statement, directives for Community Development and Faith Community Statements.
 - b. I affirm the Holy Scriptures and the Creeds as authoritative in community life.
3. **I agree to be respectful and honoring.** I accept the core beliefs of our church as being founded in and supported by the clearest passages of the Bible. I will be respectful in my conversations and honoring with my language (James 3:1-12; Matthew 15:18-20). I will avoid being inflexible (dogmatic) about matters on which Bible-based believers have held differing views. In any area where my opinions or views about doctrine, ministry decisions or church direction differ from LCM leadership, pastors or staff, I will be respectful rather than divisive in how I communicate. If I have a serious disagreement about something happening in the church, I will go directly to the person involved, a pastor or a board member rather than talking about it with others (1 Thessalonians 5:12-14; Romans 12:9-17)

- 4. I want to help build this church and the broader church by using my gifts and resources for God.** I understand that being part of a local church means using my spiritual gifts, talents, skills and financial resources to help the church and its mission thrive (1 Corinthians 12). If I'm not clear on what gifts God has given me, I will seek to identify and understand them through LCM's "My Faith in Action" class. I will find a volunteer role that maximizes my gifts, talents, skills and areas of interest -- both to benefit our church, broader community and to develop myself as a fully devoted follower of Christ (1 Thessalonians 5:11). In addition, I recognize that everything I have comes from the loving hand of God. I will steward the resources He entrusts to me in a way that honors Him, giving with a joyful heart toward the mission and vision of my local church (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

IF SOMETHING CHANGES

As we live and follow the Lord, changes are bound to occur. If you are unable to participate with the LCM community, please notify the church staff or pastors so that we can update your status. In addition, if you move to another church home (or out of the area all together), please let our church staff know about the changes.

OPPORTUNITIES

Belonging has additional opportunities. As part of the LCM community:

- You have the right to influence key decisions of the church -- most importantly through the selection and affirmation of Board candidates and pastors, voting on church motions at the annual meeting and special meetings, but also through your ministry involvement and contributions in the area(s) where you volunteer.
- You will be invited to classes and workshops for personal development and support in your area of ministry that will deepen your ability to know and serve the community.
- You will have greater access to LCM's facilities and staff members' time as you work side-by-side with them.
- Those who have taken the additional step of joining LCM's servant-leadership community are also eligible to serve in leadership positions within the church.

CONCLUSION

Just a reminder, God does not expect you to be a perfect Christian, living a struggle-free life -- and we don't expect that either. But since every believer is called to be like Christ, we encourage one another out of love to follow Christ by living in His teachings, serving His church and sacrificing for our neighbors.

THE LCM COMMUNITY - SERVANT-LEADERSHIP COVENANT

Thank you for your interest in serving Christ and others at LCM. We are both grateful and excited that you have a desire to further God's kingdom by investing your time, talents and resources here.

The volunteer serving role you are pursuing is entrusted with influence and authority. By assuming this role, you are signing up to be a role model and representative of Jesus and the LCM community. Your ministry participation comes with a level of accountability above and beyond that of the general congregation. People pay attention to church leaders. They watch our actions and listen to our words. In addition, people often define the qualities of God and the character of our church by our choices and behaviors as leaders, both in how we serve within the church and how we live outside of the church. We must understand the weight of responsibility this brings—and use wisdom and discernment as we navigate our personal and public lives (1 Timothy 3:1-7).

It is not LCM's expectation that its servant-leaders be without fault. We all have areas of weakness and we make mistakes. However, in the spirit of honoring the influence and responsibility that comes with servant-leadership in the local church, we ask that you read through the commitments below and the Scriptures that inspire them—and prayerfully reflect on the questions that follow. After reflection, please connect with the pastors or ministry leader in your area to discuss next steps.

SERVANT-LEADERSHIP COVENANT STATEMENTS

As people who represent Christ and our church through our serving role, we commit together to honor God and reflect Him in all areas by leading spiritually surrendered lives.

1. We are part of the LCM member community.

2. We commit to leading spiritually surrendered lives.

Anyone in an influential role at LCM must be engaging with Scripture consistently, pursuing a conversational relationship with God through prayer, actively listening for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, practicing the spiritual disciplines that help mature and sink their faith deeper into Christ and must be a baptized believer of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:7-9, Galatians 5:22-23, Acts 2:38).

One more important component of a spiritually surrendered life is regular and consistent participation in the local church community and its gatherings -- in our case, LCM (Hebrews 10:25).

Reflect: How are you actively pursuing God in this season of your life? In what areas in your life is God calling you to greater levels of obedience or surrender?

3. We commit to displaying Christ-like attitudes in every interaction.

Followers of Jesus are identifiable by the love and grace they show to others. Our love for others must be the most prevalent attribute that people see and experience when they encounter us. For everyone in an influential role at LCM, relationships with family and friends should be honoring and should model the attributes of love (1 Corinthians 13, Philippians 2). With Christ as our example, we are servant leaders who navigate conflict in a biblical way (Matthew 18). We move the work of God's kingdom forward through humility, collaboration and service.

Reflect: Assess the health of your relationships. In what situations do you need to approach people with a more loving, Christ-like attitude? Is there someone with whom you need to reconcile or resolve conflict?

4. We model a whole-life commitment to the church's beliefs, values and strategy.

As leaders of LCM, we commit to the values of the church and we pledge to respect church leadership -- from both men and women. As people of influence, we refuse to stir up dissension and disharmony within the community. While there is room for respectful disagreement and dialogue, we choose unity over personal preference. We consistently pray for our church and its leadership -- that we may live out God's vision of the local church.

Reflect: How do you model unity within the church while still retaining your personal opinions and views? Have you read the church's values and do you commit to modeling them in your life?

5. We commit to pursuing lives above reproach.

While none of us are perfect or blameless, we actively pursue lives that are conformed to the image of Christ (Romans 8:29) and we regularly confess our wrongdoings to Him, allowing Him to transform our areas of brokenness (Romans 12:1-2). If you find yourself engaged in patterns of pride, greed, hatred, lust, irresponsible debt, unwholesome language or all-together destructive patterns of wrongdoing, please talk with your pastor

or ministry leader and ask him/her to walk alongside you in your journey toward overcoming these areas of brokenness.

People watch how leaders in the church act and treat others. We must understand the weight of responsibility this entails and use wisdom and discernment as we navigate our personal and public lives (1 Timothy 3:1-7).

Reflect: When you consider your life in light of the teachings of Scripture, is there any ongoing pattern of wrongdoing or brokenness that hasn't been confessed or surrendered? Have you welcomed accountability from healthy, trusted leaders and peers? If not, what is your plan to do so?

6. We commit to giving God our best as we serve and lead in our current roles.

God has gifted each of us with unique gifts and abilities (1 Corinthians 12). We believe that each of us should serve according to our gifts in order to best help build the local church. We also believe that every one of us can get better in using our gifts through development, training and coaching.

Reflect: How are you using your gifts and abilities to build God's kingdom in and through the local church? Does your current serving role utilize these gifts and abilities?

CONCLUSION

Just a reminder, God does not expect you to be a perfect Christian, living a struggle-free life -- and we don't expect that either. However, since every believer is called to be like Christ, we encourage one another out of love to follow Christ by living in His teachings, serving His church and sacrificing for our neighbors.

By signing below, I promise that I have read and will strive to carry out the tenets described in LCM's servant-leadership covenant statements. If my actions or circumstances change such that specifics of this covenant are no longer true, I commit to sharing this with my LCM ministry leader to receive care and direction.

Name (please print): _____

Date: _____ Ministry Area: _____

Signature: _____

APPENDIX A

WHY CHURCH? | BIBLE STUDY

“I will build My church!” These words of Jesus anticipated the start of the Christian Church. But, what was it that Jesus built and what is the Church?

WHAT IS THE CHURCH?

When most people hear the word church they probably think of a building. Maybe it is a fancy building or a simple building where believers gather. But biblically speaking, a church is much more than a building. In fact, the church is not a building at all but is all about the people—a family of believers that follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior striving to live according to His teaching and example. We see this looking at the images of the church in the Bible.

There are many images of the church in the Bible, but we will mention just three: the church as the Body of Christ, the People of God and the Bride of Christ. Christ is the head of the church (Ephesians 1:10; 4:15) and Christians are the body. “People of God” is another image of the church. God says of the church, “I will be their God, and they will be my people” (2 Corinthians 6:16; Hebrews 8:10 NIV). The church is also referred to as the Bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:32; Revelation 19:7; 21:9), suggestive of a special and sacred family relationship between Christ and the church. Family is important and extends to a larger faith community.

What do you think the church is?

What are some of your past interactions or experiences with the church?

TO BELONG AND BE ACTIVE IN A FAITH COMMUNITY

There is great value becoming like family to other believers. Acts 2:42 could be considered a basic statement of church activity: “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” The Bible places importance on the church family because of these reasons:

We study God's Word together—A church family provides consistent Bible teaching. This often comes through small groups, Bible studies, teachings from the pastors, Sunday school lessons, and so on. The church family is called to grow spiritually together, spurring one another on. Second Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness."

How important is the Holy Scripture to the life of the church?

We honor God together through worship—There is a unifying factor when believers worship God together, whether it's through music or preaching or serving. Psalm 34:3 emphasizes a call to corporate worship: "Glorify the LORD with me; let us exalt his name together."

Read John 4:23-24. What is Jesus teaching us about worship?

We find accountability—The church provides a practical framework for accountability. Once relationships grow and friendships form, there is someone to encourage you, correct you when necessary, and rejoice with you. Proverbs 27:17 says, "Iron sharpens iron; so, man sharpens his friend's countenance." Accountability is crucially important in the battle to overcome sin, and the church family is a great place to find someone to pray with, talk to, and confide in.

Do you have a relationship where you can speak truthfully about your life and receive encouragement and correction?

We find support in trial—When trials come, a support system is crucial. When in need, you will want your brothers and sisters in Christ to uphold you in prayer and assist with practical needs like meals, cleaning, and childcare. Galatians 6:2 encourages us to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

How would a whole community be able to help those in need?

We gain opportunities for service—We not only receive support in the church; we give it as well. Your calling in the church is to contribute, not just to receive. When we are in close fellowship with other believers, we know when they need support and prayer. We can step in and help in practical ways. Ephesians 6:7 says, "Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people."

How can a faith community help in finding good opportunities to serve?

We make disciples—There comes a time when we need to learn to feed, not just be fed (Hebrews 5:12). We can evangelize, teach, encourage, and “disciple” our church family. “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matthew 28:18–20).

Why is it important that we “live” what we believe as we tell others about Jesus?

TO BE PART OF A GREATER LIFE

In an age when the culture is increasingly secular, it is beneficial to be in a family of like-minded believers. These brothers and sisters can encourage you in your faith journey, respond to your questions about spiritual issues, and be a support in times of hardship. The church family can also give you opportunity to serve and disciple others. “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching” (Hebrews 10:25). Learning more about the church helps us make a real difference in the world, not just temporally, but for all eternity.

FIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE | BIBLE STUDY

On any journey, there are milestones and markers, challenges and progressions, growth and development, all in the hope of reaching a destination that is not yet fully realized. On our Christian journey, there are five areas that guide us as we travel in our time here on earth as we move toward our full recovery in Christ.

The Five Characteristics paint the picture of a healthy faith life. If each member grows, expressing those traits and values consistently, the community as a whole will grow healthily as well. The following Bible study is a tool for guiding our personal and church wide health. Through this study, you will learn what LCM aspires to be as a faith community and what God aspires for each of us individually.

1. **Receive** -- faith and aid others along their faith journey
2. **Know** -- more about God and how He works in the world
3. **Aspire** -- to God's purpose and plan for your life
4. **Live** -- as a disciple of Christ going into the world
5. **Belong** -- to a supporting Christian community inviting others

1. **Receive**

a. Grace given to us by God through faith.

"GRACE" MEANS "A FAVOR WE DIDN'T EARN." It's the bedrock of our Christian experience and saturates every aspect of who we are. It means every relationship we have and situation we encounter is an opportunity to experience grace -- or share it.

Some people think they are good enough for God to accept them just as they are. Use the space below to summarize what these verses say about this line of thinking:

Romans 3:10-18, 23 (see also Isaiah 59:2 and 64:6)

Once we understand and accept that we have fallen short of the standards set by our holy God, the next step is determining what to do about our shortcomings. Perhaps we react by becoming "religious." We try to stop doing wrong things to earn God's approval. That will settle things, right? Read Ephesians 2:8-9 and Titus 3:4-7, then write down why you can't and don't have to earn God's acceptance.

Scripture often uses the concept of debt forgiveness to help us understand the concept of grace. When we forgive a monetary debt, the loss becomes ours, not the debtor's. What do these verses say about how that concept applies to our relationship with God?

1 Peter 2:24

Hebrews 10:10-14

Once we're in the place of being honest about our need for God's help and forgiveness, what happens next according to these verses?

John 1:11-12

Acts 16:30-31

Romans 10:9

Galatians 2:16

Briefly describe how God has impacted your life. If you are unsure whether or not you have received God's favor through Christ's work on the cross, note this below.

Other important scriptures: John 3:16; Romans 5:1-2; Acts 4:12; John 5:24; 1 John 1:9

b. Aid others along their faith journey

An outward sign of grace is sharing it with others. What does the Bible say about our role in telling others about what God has done in our lives (“sharing the gospel”)?

Matthew 16:15

Matthew 28:19-20

Romans 10:13-15

Matthew 9:37-38

1 Peter 3:15

Colossians 4:2-6

Since Scripture encourages us to share our faith with others, how might you do that with the people you know?

Other important scriptures: 1 Corinthians 9:19-23, 10:23b;
2 Timothy 4:2; Romans 10:17; Acts 2:1-13

LCM Vision Statement:
“To share the Love of Christ Today!”

2. Know

a. More about God

Is there a God? Who is He? What does He think of us? What does He have planned for us? These are wonderful questions and begin to be answered as we develop a relationship with Jesus. God created you. Not only that, he loves you so much that he wants you to know him now and spend eternity with him. Jesus said, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." Jesus came so that each of us could know and understand God in a personal way. Jesus alone can bring meaning and purpose to life. And He has made it very clear in the Bible how we can know Him.

Read through the following scriptures and summarize what they tell us about God and His ways:

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Exodus 3:14

Exodus 20:2

Isaiah 40:28

John 1:1

2 Peter 3:14a

2 Timothy 3:14-15

b. How He works in the world

God works through many means or ways in the world. God does indeed provide, but He generally does it through means. In the book of Job the question is asked: "Who provides food for the raven when its young cry out to God?" (Job 38:41). The psalmist gives this answer: "He [God] provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they call" (Psalm 147:9). God does it through the bounty of nature - through the grasses and grains and through His helpers: parents who provide for the young. That is how God provides for you and me. He works through means. Yes, He could do it through astounding miracles, like when He fed the Israelites with manna from heaven or when Jesus fed the multitudes miraculously. But even in the latter case our Lord used means: bread and fish.

In our lives God likewise provides for us by giving us sunshine and rain, strength and health so that we can work. He gives us fathers and mothers and other persons as His agents. They provide for us in His behalf: it is God who gives us daily bread and other blessings.

How do these scriptures help us understand how God works in the world?

Through creation: Genesis 1:1, Luke 5:44-45, Matthew 6:25-31

Through people: Luke 10:2, Acts 2:42-47, Philippians 2:3-4
(including and especially you, John 20:29, Matt 28:19-20)

Through the Spirit: John 16:7-14, Matthew 7:7-11

3. Aspire

a. To God's purpose

(What) God has a purpose for us here and for eternity. Many people go through life feeling discouraged about themselves and thinking they do not have a purpose in life. But that's not true. Whoever you are—whatever your life experiences, talents, physical ability, or role—you have a purpose. In one sense, you are always living in God's purpose. God is God and He works all things, including your life, according to his purposes. Read these Bible verses and see a glimpse of what God has for you.

Ephesians 2:10

Psalms 139:13-16

Romans 8:28

1 Peter 1:2

b. To God's plan for your life

(How) Plans are what the Lord has prepared for us to accomplish His purpose through the Spirit. God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your life. Look through these scriptures and summarize what you find:

Ephesians 1:11

Jeremiah 29:11

Proverbs 16:9

Ecclesiastes 3:1-22

John 15:5

Psalms 32:8

Romans 12:2

4. Live

a. As a disciple of Christ

Peter, was one of Jesus' "top" disciples. He walked on water, healed the sick, and even raised the dead. Pretty impressive credentials. And yet Peter was just a "regular guy," just like you and me. He wasn't perfect. He knew what it meant to mess up. And he messed up a lot. But despite his flaws, Peter knew what a Christian should look like. He even gave us a checklist; you can find it in 2 Peter 1:3-11. Summarize what you find here:

b. Going into the world

We have only one general purpose as Christians in this world, witness. Your witness is important. You don't need to be a super-Christian. You don't need to be a missionary (though that is sensationally important work). You need to recognize the task God has given you and invest where you are. It may not always be the case that you can share the whole gospel, either. Perhaps you take time in a certain situation to build trust and establish a friendship. Don't condemn yourself in that case. When it is right to speak up, you'll know. Sometimes we need to be direct, and sometimes we need to allow people to observe how we live a loving Christian lifestyle.

What can we learn from these scriptures on our calling to witness:

Matthew 28:19-20

Mark 16:15

1 Peter 3:15

Acts 22:15

Proverbs 11:30

5. Belong

a. Supporting Christian community

Scripture is full of specific instruction on how we should treat each other. If we're serious about following Christ, we will follow his teaching that "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). The following Scriptures explain clearly what God expects from us in this regard. Read them carefully and consider how to apply them in your life:

John 13:34-35

Hebrews 10:24-25

Philippians 2:1-11

Acts 2:42-47

Galatians 6:2

Romans 12:9-10

1 Peter 4:9-10

b. Inviting others

God has richly blessed us with a faith community to partner with us as we live out our faith and grow our relationship with Christ. Seek out ways to introduce those you invite to others at church. What is God saying to us when we read the following scriptures?

1 John 1:3

Philippians 2:3-5

Romans 15:7

Hebrews 13:2

Luke 14:12-14

The Reasonable Response to Our Gracious God

Stewardship is about discipleship and discipleship is about following the example of Christ and living out our faith. For Jesus, teaching about money was an essential preparation for a godly life; it was and is a discipleship issue. Sometimes, though, people can get confused about this thinking that stewardship is only about money. Though money is one part of what we receive, there is much more God gives us each day.

We believe that God has made each of us and all of the universe; that He has given us our body and soul, eyes, ears, and all our members, our reason and all our senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives us clothing, food, house and home, family and all we have. He richly and daily provides us with all that we need to support this body and life. He does all of this only out of goodness and mercy without any worthiness in us.

In response to all He has richly given us, we, out of love through the teachings and example of Jesus, serve and give to one another. Here are some of the right motives to giving. After each motive write down your thoughts and discuss:

- 1. We give because God has given to us.** God has given us everything (James 1:17). He gave His Son to provide for our salvation. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ (Eph. 1:3). He “richly supplies us with all things to enjoy” (1 Tim. 6:17). Because He has given so abundantly to us, we respond out of love and joy by giving back to Him.

2. **We give because God is glorified.** God is glorified when we sacrifice and serve our neighbors (2 Cor. 9:13). When we give, we turn our attention away from our needs and help bring needed care to others in His name.

3. **We give because we want God to be our Lord.** “You cannot serve God and money” (Matt. 6:24). Giving loosens our grasp on money. Giving works on our heart. Jesus said, “Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also” (Matt. 6:21). Our heart follows our treasure or wealth.

4. **We give so our lives can be used by God** (2 Cor. 9:10). God could have chosen to work apart from us, but He did not. He could have used angels or loudspeakers from heaven to spread the gospel, but He chose to use us. And so, God has given each of us the ability to further His work.

A BIBLICAL BASIS FOR GIVING

The Bible provides many examples and narratives around giving. Read through the following examples and discuss how they help us to understand how giving impacts the world and our lives:

- 1. Exodus 35 - THE BUILDING OF THE TABERNACLE:** The Israelite people were freed from Egyptian bondage and began the journey to the Promised Land. They were told to build a place of worship, the Tabernacle. When provided the opportunity to give, these former slaves gave so freely and abundantly that they were eventually asked to stop giving. They had completely met the needs for their place of worship.
- 2. I Chronicles 29- THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE:** King David began preparing for this magnificent building that his son, Solomon, would actually complete. Beginning with his own sacrificial gift and challenging the leaders and people to give, he raised a great sum of money to provide for this temple.
- 3. Acts 4 - EARLY CHURCH EXPERIENCES THE SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY:** At Pentecost, a spirit of generosity swept through the church to such an extent that it was reported in Acts 4 that “no one claimed private ownership of any possessions.” Barnabas personified the spirit of giving by donating his personal property and giving the receipts to the church in order to meet the needs of other Christians.
- 4. II Corinthians 8-9 - A SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JERUSALEM CHRISTIANS:** Paul instructed the first known donor consultant, Titus, to lead the Corinthian church in a giving campaign for the poverty-stricken Christians in Jerusalem. Using the example of the Macedonian Christians, these members of the Corinthian church were challenged to give joyfully and intentionally.

A key verse about giving is found in 2 Corinthians 9:7-8, "Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

What does this passage teach us about giving and who does giving effect?

What past experiences do you have in giving to the church and giving to others?

Read Matthew 6:9-13. What does the Lord's Prayer teach us about God providing our daily bread and how does it relate to God's will for our life?

For more information on how to give of your time and talents, go to the serving page of our website at www.lcm.church/my-faith-in-action.

For more information on how to give financially, go to the giving page of our website at www.lcm.church/give.

WORSHIP

Our vision for worship is to bring people into a closer relationship with God because of His command and our love of God reflecting a “heart language” that captures a meditative and reverent Spirit (Hebrews 12:28).

There are two styles of worship, contemporary and traditional, that are lived out in our community:

Contemporary Services

You can expect to hear a compelling sermon instilled with a strong Biblical foundation and a focus on the Gospel. You can also expect engaging songs aimed at glorifying God and inspiring people, dynamic stories and testimonies, and a multimedia experience to support the message. We value truth over trend, authenticity over performance, relationship over results, excellence over perfection, relevance over tradition, creativity over complacency, and Christ above all else.

Traditional Services

You can expect to hear a compelling sermon instilled with a strong Biblical foundation and a focus on the Gospel. Through the singing of hymns with traditional church instruments, using traditional liturgy with certain orderly elements, being relevant and inspiring for worshipers, we seek to transform lives through a deeper relationship with God. We use the Green Hymnal/Lutheran Book of Worship and have a full choir that sings during worship throughout the school year, with volunteers providing special music in the summer. The Master Ringers Bell Choir performs during morning services at least once a month during the school year and for holiday services.

Whether you come in a three-piece suit or jeans and a t-shirt, there is no dress code for our worship services—we just want to see you here!

Children are always welcome to sit with parents during worship. If your children need a little more space, there are family friendly spaces located just outside the worship centers.

At our 180th & Dodge campus, there is family room located just outside of the Chapel, a live video area just outside the CLC and a Mothers' room available in the hallway behind the CLC.

At our 114th & Center campus, there are seating areas with sound just outside the glass walls at the back of the sanctuary and a mother's room just down the hall toward the church office.

Child care for infants - age 3 is offered at all Sunday worship services. The nursery opens 15 minutes prior to the start of the first worship service and remains open until 15 minutes after the last service.

Read through the following scriptures and summarize what they teach about worship:

1. Psalm 100

2. John 4:21-24

3. Isaiah 29:13

4. Romans 12:1-2

APPENDIX B

THE ROLE OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP

An Introduction

The word leadership is usually defined by traits like authority, command, power, etc. Servant leadership is something quite different but is very effective through service and support. Servant leadership also contains elements of discipleship.

Robert Greenleaf coined the term 'Servant Leadership', where he replaced the traditional domineering leadership with a holistic, ethical approach. Servant leadership is the tool where leaders find their true potential and moral authority to lead. It helps those served become healthier, wiser, freer, and more autonomous.

It is also a Biblical principle lived out by faithful leaders who clearly led but also understood they were servants of God and servants of others. Jesus Christ himself said:

"But Jesus called them to him and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
(Matthew 20:25-28)

Dr. Martin Luther had a famous quote:

"A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all."

As the term suggests, becoming a servant-leader begins with an inherent mission that one wants to serve first. Then follows the practice of leading. When people become grounded in servant leadership, trust grows and the foundation for organizational excellence is established.

Servant leadership necessitates learning how to create the high moral culture. With the help of tools like love and humility, one can begin to impart high moral issues across the organization. Servant leaders have an inherent desire to serve others and satisfy others' needs voluntarily. This characteristic of having a passion to serve is deeply rooted and value-based. Servant leaders have a desire to bring about change in other people and impact others' lives positively.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP | BIBLE STUDY

Twelve Characteristics of a Christian Servant-Leader

1. Faithful:

Christian servant-leaders are first of all disciples of Jesus Christ, which means followers, learners and servants of Christ's purpose and call. Whatever they do and say are rooted in being Christ-centered and God-focused. In other words what drives them is not a self-centered or self-serving agenda, but a commitment to Christ's mission and love of neighbor. They do this with the understanding this is not to merit God's favor or salvation, but rather with the power of God's Holy Spirit they are doing these things because they have been saved by Christ.

Fundamentally the task of a servant-leader at Lutheran Church of the Master is to live out the mission of LCM, which is rooted in Matthew 28:19-20 and the vision of LCM, which is inspired by John 31:34-35. A servant-leader should be engaged in regular study of God's Word with other believers, active in worship and providing leadership in the congregation in service to the community in the Name of Christ.

Bible Truth: Matthew 25:14-30

Questions:

- These servants were placed in positions of leadership by their master. What was it in their behavior that demonstrated faithfulness or lack of faithfulness?
- How might you, as a servant-leader, demonstrate your faithfulness to God?

Discernment:

Discuss if an idea or direction is truly in accord with God's desires as reflected in Scripture.

2. Listening:

Leaders have traditionally been valued for clear communication abilities and decision-making skills. While these skills of a servant-leader are critical, they need to be strengthened by a deep commitment to listening intently to others. Listening does not just involve hearing, but a striving to understand the position of another. The servant-leader seeks to identify the will of another, either a person or a group, and helps to clarify that will.

He or she listens receptively to what is being said and unsaid. Listening also encompasses getting in touch with the still small voice of the Lord as depicted in Scripture. Listening, coupled with periods of reflection and prayer, are essential to the growth and well-being of the servant-leader.

A servant-leader at LCM should have the intent of being influenced when listening to others. This means as servant-leaders we are willing to learn, grow and develop. This does not mean we agree with everything someone shares with us, but we still listen striving to understand their position. Servant leaders listen to others who may even be criticizing unreasonably, knowing somewhere in all this is a prophetic point that needs to be heard. A servant-leader should engage in assertive listening where we strive to express our needs while drawing out the needs of the other person. A servant-leader neither attacks the other person nor do they become passive in order to avoid conflict. The goal is that solution can be achieved.

Bible Truth: James 1:19-27

Questions:

- How can you demonstrate being quick to listen and slow to speak as a servant-leader?
- How can you show you are listening, even to positions with which you may disagree?

Discernment:

Discuss if an idea or direction has been clearly understood or if there is a need to listen to more input and ask more clarifying questions.

3. Empathy:

The servant-leader strives to understand and empathize with others. Empathy is closely tied to listening. Empathy seeks to understand where people are at and how they got there. It is to be a position where help can be given as opposed to sympathy which is just commiserating with them. People need to be accepted and recognized for their special and unique spirits. One assumes the good intentions of co-workers and colleagues and does not reject them as people, even when one may be forced to refuse to accept certain behaviors or performances. The most successful servant-leaders are those who have become skilled empathetic listeners. A Christian servant-leader does this best by reminding themselves they themselves are nothing but a forgiven sinner.

At LCM a servant-leader cares more about serving others than being served, to do this one must be empathetic to others. One of the ways to serve others is to go out of the way to help them succeed and accomplish that to which the Lord is calling them. Sometimes this means getting out of their way, providing resources, helping them see their calling, confronting self-destructive or mission-destructive behavior, or simply encouraging them.

Bible Truth: Galatians 6:1-10

Questions:

- What are some ways to empathize with people and learn their story?
- How do you, as a servant-leader, deal with people who are hurting or angry?

Discernment:

Discuss how as servant-leaders we might help a person who has come to us or ones we have heard about who are hurting, frustrated or upset.

4. Healing:

The healing of relationships is a powerful force for transformation and integration. Often this happens through confession and forgiveness. One of the great strengths of servant-leadership is the potential for healing one's self and one's relationship to others. Many people have broken spirits and have suffered from a variety of emotional hurts. Although this is a part of being human, servant-leaders recognize that they have an opportunity to help make whole those with whom they come in contact. In his essay, *The Servant as Leader*, Robert Greenleaf writes, "There is something subtle communicated to one who is being served and led if, implicit in the compact between servant-leader and led, is the understanding that the search for wholeness is something they share." In the Christian faith this gets lived out in powerful ways through honest confession and genuine forgiveness on both sides. Servant-leadership in the context of healing at LCM shows itself in accountability, redirection and support. In church terms we call this confession, repentance and forgiveness. The message of healing in the present is rooted in the healing found in Christ for all eternity. We are really talking about death and resurrection, the death of the old self and the raising up of the new in Christ. This truth should be at the center of our congregational culture.

Bible Truth: 2 Corinthians 7:8-13

Questions:

- What have you seen happen in leaders who seek to excuse their sin rather than confess their sin?
- How do you think a servant-leader should confront someone who has hurt them or another person in order to bring about healing?

Discernment:

Discuss how healing can be brought into a particular situation with which you are responsible.

5. Big Picture Understanding:

In the church the servant-leader needs to always strive to be aware of what is adiaphora (neither prescribed nor forbidden by Scripture) and what is key and essential in the life of the congregation. Awareness helps one in understanding issues involving ethics, power and values. It lends itself to being able to view most situations from a more integrated, holistic position. Servant-leaders strive to look at the big picture but are also keenly aware of how particulars may impact others. As Robert Greenleaf observed: "Awareness is not a giver of solace—it is just the opposite. It is a disturber and an awakener. Able leaders are usually sharply awake and reasonably disturbed. They are not seekers after solace. They have their own inner serenity." An issue for servant-leaders to constantly be aware of at LCM is the role of mission and institution. Too often leaders are tempted to be concerned about maintaining the institution for the institution's sake. Many times resources, emphasis and passion for the mission of the institution is sacrificed when this happens. Servant-leaders with a big picture understanding will always view the role of the institution is to undergird and support the congregation's mission. Jim Collins in his work, *Good to Great* and *The Social Sectors* writes, "In the social sectors, the critical question is not "How much money do we make per dollar of invested capital?" but "How effectively do we deliver on our mission and make a distinctive impact, relative to our resources?"

Bible Truth: Proverbs 3:5-18

Questions:

- How do you trust in the Lord and not lean on your own understanding?
- How does submission and servant-leadership go together?

Discernment:

Discuss if an issue is critical or adiaphora and use that understanding to influence your response and decision making.

6. Influence:

Another characteristic of servant-leaders is a reliance on unique persuasion and influence, rather than on one's positional authority, in making decisions within an organization. The servant-leader seeks to convince others, rather than coerce compliance. The goal is to build consensus and bring people along or walk beside them. In the church the servant-leader uses legislative "power" rather than CEO "power." Those who do not understand servant-leadership may sense a power vacuum and will want to fill it with executive control.

Lutheran Church of the Master seeks to distinguish between the traditional authoritarian model and that of servant-leadership. The executive seeks to gain control, while the servant-leader is effective at building consensus within groups, which truly is a better way to change a culture, but it takes time, commitment and persistence. The influence of a servant-leader is about building trust in the congregation to bring about a positive and faith-based change of culture. To change a culture is a slow heart and soul issue, and is not realized from a mandate from above. As is said, "Culture eats strategy for breakfast!"

Bible Truth: 2 Peter 1:3-11

Questions:

- How are you living out the journey from faith to love ? (verses 5-7)
- Which is harder for you self-control or control of others? Why?

Discernment:

Discuss how consensus can be built on this particular issue before you.

7. Visioning:

Servant-leaders seek to nurture their abilities to dream great dreams. The ability to look at a problem or an organization from a conceptualizing perspective means that one must think beyond day-to-day realities. For many leaders, this is a characteristic that requires discipline and practice. The traditional leader is consumed by the need to achieve short-term operational goals.

The leader who wishes to be a servant-leader must stretch his or her thinking to encompass broader-based conceptual thinking. At LCM, conceptualization is, by its very nature, the proper role of members of the Church Board with input given by staff and congregational members. Unfortunately, boards can sometimes be tempted to become involved in the day-to-day operations--something that should always be discouraged--and, thus, fail to provide the visionary concept for the congregation. Board members need to be mostly conceptual in their orientation, the staff needs to be mostly operational in their perspective, and the most effective servant leaders in a supervisory role probably need to develop both perspectives within themselves. These servant-leaders are called to seek a delicate balance between conceptual thinking and a day-to-day operational approach. Technical problem solving is basic, like changing a light bulb, whereas conceptual problem solving involves dealing with situations where problems need definition and solutions may not have ever been tried before. This takes prayer, deliberation, research, and candid conversation.

Bible Truth: Proverbs 24:6-16

Questions:

- How does the wisdom of God affect your conceptualizing as a servant-leader?
- How do you distinguish between your big dreams and God's big dreams?

Discernment:

Discuss if a strategic initiative is reflective of a Christ-centered concept or not.

8. Foresight:

Closely related to conceptualization, the ability to foresee the likely outcome of a situation is hard to define, but easier to identify. One knows foresight when one experiences it. Foresight is a characteristic that enables the servant-leader to understand the lessons from the past, the realities of the present, and the likely consequence of a decision for the future. It is also deeply rooted within the intuitive mind. Foresight remains a largely unexplored area in leadership studies, but one most deserving of careful attention.

Robert Greenleaf writes in *The Servant as Leader*, "The prudent [person] is [the one] who constantly thinks of "now" as the moving concept in which past, present moment, and future are one organic unity. And this requires living by a sort of rhythm that encourages a high level of intuitive insight about the whole gamut of events from

the indefinite past, through the present moment, to the indefinite future. One is as once, in every moment of time, historian, contemporary analyst, and prophet—not three separate roles. This is what the practicing leader is, every day of his life. Living this way is partly a matter of faith.” A servant-leader at LCM will learn from the past, observe the climate of the present and prayerfully strive to discern God’s desire for our future and the steps necessary to get there.

Bible Truth: 1 Corinthians 10:11-13

Questions:

- How can you be honest concerning mistakes of the past, issues of the present and potential results of decisions which impact the future?
- How might prayer and Scripture study influence such foresight?

Discernment:

Discuss the known past, present reality and future consequences of a decision.

9. Stewardship:

Peter Block (author of *Stewardship and The Empowered Manager*) has defined stewardship as “holding something in trust for another.” Robert Greenleaf’s view of all institutions was one in which CEO’s, staffs, and boards all played significant roles in holding their institutions in trust for the greater good of society. A church board holds in trust the resources of the congregation, but above even that such resources should be seen as a trust from God. Servant-leadership, like stewardship, assumes first and foremost a commitment to serving the needs of others reflective in the will of God. It also emphasizes the use of openness and transparent influence in “discipling” Biblical stewardship, rather than control and manipulation.

A LCM servant-leader will support the efforts of LCM through their God-given time, talents and possessions. This happens at board meetings, but a servant-leader needs to be active in the life of the LCM congregation and greater Omaha community sharing these God-given gifts. Servant-leaders also strive to model, teach and disciple others in living out this Biblical stewardship focus. A servant-leader will be quick to thank congregational members, show the impact of their gifts and be transparent and accountable in how those gifts were used.

Bible Truth: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Questions:

- At what point do you think one transitions from a guilt-ridden giver to a cheerful giver?
- What principle drives your stewardship?

Discernment:

Discuss as budget decisions are being made if a decision is based on stewardship which is faithful to the biblical will of God.

10. Commitment to the growth of people:

Servant-leaders believe that people have an intrinsic value beyond their tangible contributions as workers. As such, the servant-leader is deeply committed to the growth of each and every individual within his or her organization. The servant-leader recognizes the tremendous responsibility to do everything in his or her power to nurture the personal and professional growth of employees and colleagues. In practice, this can include (but is not limited to) concrete actions such as making funds available for personal and professional development, taking a personal interest in the ideas and suggestions from everyone, encouraging worker involvement in decision making, and actively assisting laid-off employees to find other positions.

LCM commits to assist individuals discover their spiritual giftedness and passion in order for them to respond to God's calling for them. Our congregation further commits to equip them for the ministry for which they are gifted. Our congregation also commits to grow the spiritual depth of individuals so that they have a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ in order that a godly vision can be accomplished through an optimistic faith, which views obstacles as opportunities and turns defeats into victories.

Bible Truth: Hebrews 6:1-12

Questions:

- How can you tell if you are producing crops or weeds in your servant-leadership?
- How can you remain diligent in your leadership?

Discernment:

Discuss how a decision will help people grow in their relationship and commitment to Jesus Christ?

11. Building community:

The servant-leader senses that much has been lost in recent human history as a result of the shift from local communities

to large institutions as the primary shaper of human lives. This awareness causes the servant-leader to seek to identify some means for building community among those who work within a given institution. Servant-leadership suggests that true community can be created among those who work in businesses and other institutions. Greenleaf said, "All that is needed to rebuild community as a viable life form for large numbers of people is for enough servant-leaders to show the way, not by mass movements, but by each servant-leader demonstrating his or her unlimited liability for a quite specific community- related group."

Our congregation commits to building up the Body of Christ through the birthing holistic small groups which are disciple-making communities which endeavor to reach the unchurched, meet individual needs, develop each person according to their God-given gifts and raise servant-leaders to sustain the growth of the church. Like healthy body cells, holistic small groups are designed to grow and multiply. Servant-leaders at LCM should be involved in a small group and meet on a regular basis with other Christians to grow in faith and encourage others in their growth as well.

Our congregation commits to an unfeigned practical love rooted in the love God has shown us through Jesus Christ. Genuine Christian love is far more effective than programs in drawing people to Christ. People do not want to hear us talk about love; they want to experience how Christian love really works. This aspect of love is lived out in the building of mutual respect and trust.

Bible Truth: Ephesians 4:17-32

Questions:

- As you look back over last year, do you see a process of change for the better in your thoughts, attitudes, and actions? What are they?
- As a servant-leader how can LCM do better in building community?

Discernment:

Discuss whether a decision is going to build up community or strain it or tear it down.

12. Discipleship:

Discipleship is about being a disciple and a maker of disciples. In Mathew 28:19 which is often translated: "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.” (ESV) Actually the verse expresses Jesus’ words this way: After your coming and going, disciple all nations / pagans while baptizing in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, while teaching all I commanded you.

Discipleship and servant-leadership are tied together in the life of the Christian. Both discipleship and servant-leadership involve being teachable and teaching others. Both seek to empower others. Both involve submission to God and service to others. Our congregation commits to the development and empowerment of faithful servant-leaders in the true Spirit of the New Testament where leaders not only strive to be effective and efficient leaders of others, but who also humble themselves before their God in prayer, worship and service.

A Christian servant-leader lives this out by constantly being in tune to the call of our Lord to make disciples of all. This does not mean replicating ourselves, but that helping others understand how Christ is active in their lives.

Our congregation commits to helping every Christian see their task as using his or her gifts to serve non-Christians with whom they have a personal relationship, to see to it that they hear the Gospel, and to encourage contact with the local church. Need-oriented evangelism intentionally cultivates relationships with pre-Christian people so they can become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ who are actively participating within the life of the church and community. This is done through authentic relationships where believers can lovingly and prayerfully guide others into the family of God.

Bible Truth: John 13:34-35

Questions:

- What kind of love is it Jesus is commanding us to do?
- Why would discipleship be marked by love?

Discernment:

Discuss whether a decision is going to help others in their discipleship journey or hinder them.

Adapted from [Character and Servant Leadership: Ten Characteristics of Effective, Caring Leaders](#) by Larry C. Spears of The Spears Center originally published in 2000 in Volume 8, Issue 3 of Concepts and Connections, the newsletter of the National Clearinghouse for Leadership Programs.

APPENDIX C

WHAT WE BELIEVE

God

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—and that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections. Although their eternal relationship is inscrutable, there is no priority or superiority between the three persons. Each person of the Godhead is equally worthy of the same homage, confidence, and obedience. (Matt. 3:16-17, 28:18-20, Mark 12:29; John 1:14; Acts 5:3-4; II Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4-6)

Jesus

We believe in the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, death on the cross to provide for our redemption, bodily resurrection and ascension into heaven, present ministry of intercession for us, and His return to earth in power and glory. (John 1:1,14; Philippians 2:6-7; Matthew 1:20-21; Luke 1:34-35; Isaiah 7:14; Luke 4:18-19; I Peter 3:18; I Timothy 2:4;-6; I Corinthians 15:1-5,12-20; Hebrews 7:25; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Acts 1:10-11; Matthew 26:64; Revelation 19:11-16).

Scriptures

We believe in the divine, whole and verbal inspiration of the Scriptures. The entire Bible is inspired in the sense that holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the very words of Scripture. This divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the writings taking into account all the literary forms used. Therefore, the whole Bible is without error. As the revelation of God, we believe the Bible to be the sole authority and sufficiency with regard to Christian faith and practice.

The Scriptures center upon the Lord Jesus Christ in His person and work in His first and second comings, and hence no portion is properly read, or understood, until it leads to Him. The Christian's responsibility and duty is to handle accurately the Word of Truth. The reading and interpretation of the Scriptures is to be under the guidance and illumination of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 24:27,44; John 5:39; Acts 17:2-3; Romans 15:4; I Corinthians 2:12-16; II Timothy 2:15, 3:16; II Peter 1:21).

Man

We believe that man was originally created in the image of and after the likeness of God. Adam fell through sin, and as a consequence of his sin, lost his spiritual life. Becoming dead in trespasses and sins, he became subject to the power of the devil. This spiritual death, or total depravity of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire human race of man, the Man Christ Jesus alone being excepted. Thus every child of Adam is born into the world with a nature which not only possesses no spark of divine life, but is essentially and unchangeably sinful apart from divine grace. (Genesis 1:26, 2:17, 6:5; Psalm 14:1-3, 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; John 3:6, 5:40, 6:35; Romans 3:10-19, 8:6-7; Ephesians 2:1-3; I Timothy 5:6; I John 3:8).

Salvation

We believe that, due to universal death through sin, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless born again. No degree of reformation, no attainments in morality, or other ordinance or other good works can help the sinner to take even one step toward heaven. Our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin and was made a curse for us by dying in our place. (Leviticus 17:11; Isaiah 64:6; Matthew 26:28; John 3:7-18; Romans 5:6-9; II Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13, 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 3:4-9; Titus 3:5; James 1:18; I Peter 1:18-19, 23).

We believe that the new birth of the believer comes only through faith in Christ and that repentance is a vital part of believing. Repentance is not in itself a separate and independent condition of salvation. Nor are any other acts, such as confession, baptism, prayer, faithful service, or manifestation of certain spiritual gifts, to be added to believing as a condition of salvation. (John 1:12, 3:16, 18, 36, 5:24, 6:29, 14:6, Acts 13:39, 16:31; Romans 1:16-17, 3:22, 26, 4:5, 10:4; Galatians 3:22).

We believe it is the privilege, not only of some, but of all who are born again by the Spirit through faith in Christ as revealed in the Scriptures, to be assured of their salvation from the very day they take Him to be their Savior. This assurance is not founded upon any discovery of their own worthiness or fitness, but wholly upon the testimony of God in His written word. Such assurance will motivate in God's children love, gratitude, and obedience to His commands (Luke 10:20; John 6:37; 10:28-30; II Corinthians 5:1, 6-8; Ephesians 1:13-14; II Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 10:22; I Peter 1:3-5; I John 5:13)

The Church

We believe that all those who have been redeemed by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ form the Body of Christ, the church. We also believe in the local church as the body of believers in a geographic locale who meet together to worship and serve God, observe the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and work together to unitedly further the gospel of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:12-31; Ephesians 1:22-23,4:11-16; Colossians 1:18).

The Great Commission

We believe the explicit message and mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ is to make disciples of all the nations. During His post-resurrection ministry Christ gave two particular commands. First in Matthew 28, Jesus commands us to "Go and Make Disciples of All the Nations". Secondly, just before His Ascension, in Acts 1:8 we are called to be witnesses to "the remotest parts of the earth." The greatest responsibility and privilege of the church is to serve as ambassadors and witnesses for Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; John 17:18; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:18-20; I Peter 1:17, 2:11).

THE MESSAGE OF LIFE

1. **God created us to be with Him.**

The world started out with PERFECT people in the PERFECT environment united together with the PERFECT God.
(Genesis 1:1, 1:27, 1:31, 2:7, 2:25, Psalm 139:13)

2. **Our sin separated us from God.**

But man sinned and destroyed God's original plan for man. We took sin into us, and so, kicked God out of our hearts.
(Gen. 2:17; Gen. 3:6-8; 3:23; Gal. 5:19-12; Rom. 1:18-21; Rom. 3:23; Rom. 5:12-14; Rom. 6:23; Psalm 51:5; Eph. 2:1-3; Isaiah 59:2; Ecc. 7:29; Jer. 17:9)

3. **Sins cannot be removed by good deeds.**

Our best is never enough. We've been trying to build, work, earn and scratch our way back. But we soon learn we can never get back through our efforts.
(Isa. 64:6; Lev. 4:27-31; 1 Sam. 15:22; Ex. 20:1-17; Gal. 3:23-24; Eph. 2:8-9; Job 9:2b-3; Ecc. 7:20; Rom. 3:20-23; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 3:5; Job 4:17-21)

4. **Paying the price, Jesus died and rose again.**

Jesus Christ, our Lord, took on our sin and was made a curse for us by dying in our place.
(Matt. 5:17; John 19:28-30; Matt. 28:1-15; John 1:29; Psalm 103:12; 1 Cor. 15:20-22 Eph. 2:8-9; Mark 8:31-32a; Isa. 53:3; Rom. 3:25; Rom. 5:8, Rom. 8:1-6)

5. **Everyone who trusts in him alone has forgiveness & eternal life.**

Through Jesus, we are forgiven through grace and reborn into the Spirit of God to live according to His will.
(John 3:16; John 6:47; Matt. 28:20; John 5:24; Heb. 11:1; John 14:6; Gal. 2:16; 2 Tim. 1:10; Acts 4:12; Acts 10:43; 1 John 1:9; Rom 10:9; Rom. 8:1-2; Titus 3:7; Acts 2:21; Joel 2:28-32, Rom. 8:1-6)

6. **Life with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.**

Jesus provided us hope and a future as we live eternally with Him where there will be no more tears, or death, or pain and all will be made right & perfect.
(Rev. 22:5, Rev. 21:4, John 5:24; 1 John 5:11-13; John 3:16; John 17:3; John 6:47; Ecc. 3:11; John 17:24)

JESUS IS FOR YOU!

Recognition

Your first step to true life is to recognize through God's Word and by the Holy Spirit that you are a sinner unable to reconcile yourself to God except through Jesus Christ.

*[Jesus said], "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
(John 3:16 NIV)*

*"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast."
(Ephesians 2:8-9 NIV)*

Repent of Your Sins

To repent means to change your mind. God's Spirit reveals to us the danger of just doing our own thing, and places within our hearts to follow God's path instead.

"Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." (Acts 3:19 NIV)

Confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

*"That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."
(Romans 10:9 NIV)*

Be Baptized into Christ

*"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
(Acts 2:38 NIV)*

Be Assured

If your trust is in Christ, you are the possessor of eternal life. Your sins have been forgiven. You have received the gift of the Holy Spirit and the promise of eternal life. You have been reconciled with God and you have been made into a new creature in Christ.

"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

(1 John 5:11-13 NIV)

For more, visit www.iamsecond.com and www.dare2share.org

I AM SECOND



BAPTISM

What is Holy Baptism?

We believe that a person is saved by God's grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ alone. The Bible tells us that such "faith comes by hearing" (Rom. 10:17, Eph. 2:8). Jesus Himself commands baptism and tells us that baptism is water used together with the Word of God (Matt. 28:19-20). Baptism is then (cf. Acts 8:37) for the purpose of conferring and strengthening faith in accordance with God's command and promise. Because of this, we believe that baptism is one of the miraculous means of grace through which God creates and/or strengthens the gift of faith in a person's heart (see Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Gal. 3:26-27; Rom. 6:1-4; Col. 2:11-12; 1 Cor. 12.13).

What happens in Holy Baptism?

Terms the Bible uses to talk about the beginning of faith include "conversion" and "regeneration." Although we do not claim to understand fully how this happens, we believe that when a person is baptized God creates and strengthens faith in the heart of that person. Baptism also is an entrance rite into the church community made possible by God through the calling and gathering of the Holy Spirit. We believe that baptism is God's act, not a human act. It is done to us in God's name (that is, as an act of God performed by his representative), we do not do it to ourselves. It is not the sign of my response to God, it is the sign and seal of what God has done for us. Some view baptism as a one-time act and don't bring up the subject again in the course of the Christian life. However, we remember and reenact baptism every day. We practice our baptism daily by repenting (dying to the old life) and rising to walk in new life. Baptism is never fully completed until our death into the full promise of Jesus Christ.

Who receives Holy Baptism?

Jesus declared that we should disciple all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19-20). There were no qualifications and requirements—simply a command to baptize with water and Word. The focus in baptism is completely on what God is doing. We believe that all people who request to be baptized should be baptized. Therefore, Lutherans baptize people of all ages from infancy to adulthood. We believe this because the Bible says that even infants can believe (Matt. 18:6) and that new birth (regeneration) happens in Baptism (John 3:5-7; Titus 3:5-6).

The infant's faith cannot yet, of course, be verbally expressed or articulated by the child, yet it is real and present all the same (see e.g., Acts 2:38-39; Luke 1:15; 2 Tim. 3:15). Just as with adults, we do not claim to understand fully how this happens, we believe that when an infant is baptized God creates faith in the heart of that infant. The faith of the infant, like the faith of adults, also needs to be fed and nurtured by God.

There is much more that can be taught, explained and answered with baptism. If you would like to speak with a pastor to gain a deeper understand or ask more about baptism, please call the church office at 402-333-4444 and schedule a meeting.

Would you like to be baptized?

If you would like to be baptized or would like to schedule a baptism for a family member or friend, your first step is to contact the church office at 402-333-4444 or visit our website at www.lcm.church/baptism. You will be asked to provide some basic information and given an opportunity to ask any questions you have about the Baptism service.

Questions for further discussion:

What experiences have you had with baptism?

How would you describe Christ's role in Baptism?

How would you describe your role in Baptism?

COMMUNION

What is Holy Communion?

Holy Communion is a sacred meal in which Christ comes to us in bread and wine. "This is my body given for you... This is my blood shed for you." We believe those words to be true. Christ is truly present in Holy Communion. When we receive the bread and wine of this meal, we receive his body and blood.

What happens in Holy Communion?

Christ comes to us in, with and under the bread and wine to nourish the faith of Christians and bring forgiveness through His grace. We commune with the saints who have gone before us and with other Christians around the globe who gather at our Lord's table. The uncontainable presence, grace, love, forgiveness and mercy of Christ come to us in simple bread and wine.

Who receives Holy Communion?

All of God's people are welcome and worthy to our Lord's table.

We welcome all believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to receive the sacrament, as this is a Christian sacrament that nourishes and strengthens faith in Christ. It is also customary for Christians to receive instruction prior to first receiving communion and to continue to reflect on and learn about communion throughout their Christian life.

There is no specific age for receiving communion. It is the desire of the church that those receiving the communion examine themselves and understand what it is they were receiving. Such examination and understanding take place at a variety of ages and is a part of on-going, life-long education and faith formation. Fifth grade is the traditional age for our first-communion classes, but we leave the decision to participate to the spiritual head of the child's household.

What about allergies or other sensitivities to bread and wine?

The church has long used bread and wine but understands the need to provide for those who have specific allergies. Other forms of food and drink, including gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic drink, grape juice, are available to those at every communion service. Grape juice is located in the center of the serving trays in tinted cups. Please let the communion attendant know that you need gluten-free bread.

There is much more that can be taught, explained and answered with Holy Communion. If you would like to speak with a pastor to gain a deeper understand or ask more about Holy Communion, please call the church office at 402-333-4444 and schedule a meeting.

Questions for further discussion:

What experiences have you had with communion–
How communion was delivered?

How often was communion given?

What was used for bread and wine/juice?

Who was allowed to receive communion?

Who was allowed to deliver or give communion?

How would you describe Christ's role in communion?

How would you describe your role in communion?

WE ARE LUTHERAN

We are first and foremost Christian; as with all believers in Jesus Christ.

Lutheran is a denomination or group of Christians that believe that salvation can only come through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord, Son of God. We follow in a long tradition from the time of Reformation.

We believe and teach that salvation is possible only because of the grace of God through the birth, life, suffering, death, and resurrection, and continuing presence by the power of the Holy Spirit, of Jesus Christ.

We believe that God made the world, including humanity, perfect, holy and sinless. However, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God, trusting in their own strength, knowledge, and wisdom. Consequently, people are saddled with original sin, born sinful and unable to avoid committing sinful acts.

We believe that sinners, while capable of doing works that are outwardly "good", are not capable of doing works that satisfy God's justice. Every human thought and deed is infected with sin and sinful motives.

We believe that God has turned His Fatherly heart to this world and planned for its redemption because he loves all people and does not want anyone to be lost. To this end, "God sent his Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, into the world to redeem and deliver us from the power of the devil, and to bring us to Himself.

We believe and teach that saving faith is the knowledge of, acceptance of, and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Redeemer. We believe and teach that humans are saved from their sins by God's grace alone through faith alone.

We believe and teach the Word of God or canonical Scriptures of the Old & New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the sole authoritative source and standard of our proclamation, faith, and life.

We believe and teach the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

If you would like to know more specifics of our Lutheran faith, contact one of our pastors.

LCMC - LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION FOR CHRIST



Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) is an association of congregations and individuals who are:

- Free in Christ;
- Accountable to one another;
- Rooted in the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions;
- Working together to full Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples of all nations.

LCMC is an association of congregations. We have a great respect for the reality that the church is where the people of God gather together around Word and Sacrament. The local congregation is where the church becomes a concrete reality for God's people.

At the same time, we are joyously aware that each congregation is a part of the greater body of Christ. The actions of each congregation within our association reflect on our association as a whole. And the actions of our association reflect on the whole body of Christ. For this reason, we have committed ourselves to a common set of ministry standards.

Congregations have significant latitude in ordering and shaping ministry in their local setting, and we intentionally have made joining and leaving the association simple. We have also agreed to a disciplinary process for addressing congregations whose actions violate our agreed-upon statements of faith and practice.

For more information go to www.lcmc.net

JOIN THE LCM COMMUNITY

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Purpose of Helping each Person Discover their Spiritual Gifts

Spiritual gifts relate to our lives, other people's lives, the local church, and the body of Christ as a whole. Therefore, identifying and understanding God-given spiritual gifts should be a high priority in every Christian's life. Helping people find purpose through their spiritual gifts is important so that each person can find a place within the church. We are a church body with many different members—each of which needs to be healthy and functioning for the body to be healthy and growing. The discovery and deployment of spiritual gifts will benefit not only individual Christians but also the church as a whole. Understanding and living through Spiritual gifts is seen as the key to unleashing the faith community and spurs the growth of the body.

In addition to contributing to the growth of the church, the discovery of spiritual gifts can enhance the life of the Christian. Knowing your spiritual gifts helps you understand God's will for your life, fills a deep inner need, equips you to fulfill God's purpose for your life and builds unity with the people around you. Our challenge is to do as commanded in 2 Timothy 1:6, *"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you..."*

As always, the purpose of spiritual gifts is to glorify God.

1 Peter 4:10-11 teaches us, *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen."*

We encourage our faith community to take the first step to understanding their gifts by going to lcm.church/spiritualgifts and completing the Spiritual Gifts inventory. A summary of your results with an explanation of the gifts will be given after completing the inventory. We would then love to sit down with you and find how God has uniquely gifted you and find ways to fulfill God's purpose for your life.

MEMBER INFORMATION UPDATE

Date: _____ Worship Services/Campus you attend: _____

Head of Household

FULL Legal Name: _____ Preferred First Name: _____

Home Address: _____ Apt. # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Alternate Address: _____ Dates: _____

Email: _____

Household Phone: _____ Unlisted Cell: _____ Unlisted

Work Phone: _____ Ext. _____ Unlisted

Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY): _____ Gender: ___ Male ___ Female

Baptism Date/Place: _____ Confirmation Date/Place: _____

Marital Status: ___ Married Marriage Date: _____ Maiden Name _____

___ Widowed ___ Separated ___ Divorced ___ Single

Employer: _____ OR School: _____

Occupation: _____ OR Grade: _____

Hobbies/Special Interests: _____

Special Health Considerations/Allergies: _____

(Someone at a different address, preferably)

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

Do you have family/friends who are LCM Members? Who? Relationship?: _____

PLEASE PRINT

Spouse/Significant Other

FULL Legal Name: _____ Preferred First Name: _____

Home Address: _____ Apt. # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Alternate Address: _____ Dates: _____

Email: _____

Household Phone: _____ Unlisted Cell: _____ Unlisted

Work Phone: _____ Ext. _____ Unlisted

Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY): _____ Gender: ___ Male ___ Female

Baptism Date/Place: _____ Confirmation Date/Place: _____

Marital Status: ___ Married Marriage Date: _____ Maiden Name _____

___ Widowed ___ Separated ___ Divorced ___ Single

Employer: _____ OR School: _____

Occupation: _____ OR Grade: _____

Hobbies/Special Interests: _____

Special Health Considerations/Allergies: _____

ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

PLEASE PRINT

FULL Legal Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____
Relationship: _____ Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY): _____
Gender: ___ Male ___ Female
Baptism Date/Place: _____ Confirmation Date/Place: _____
School: _____ Grade: _____
Special Health Considerations/Allergies: _____
Interests/Activities: _____
Email: _____ Cell: _____

FULL Legal Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____
Relationship: _____ Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY): _____
Gender: ___ Male ___ Female
Baptism Date/Place: _____ Confirmation Date/Place: _____
School: _____ Grade: _____
Special Health Considerations/Allergies: _____
Interests/Activities: _____
Email: _____ Cell: _____

FULL Legal Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____
Relationship: _____ Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY): _____
Gender: ___ Male ___ Female
Baptism Date/Place: _____ Confirmation Date/Place: _____
School: _____ Grade: _____
Special Health Considerations/Allergies: _____
Interests/Activities: _____
Email: _____ Cell: _____

FULL Legal Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____
Relationship: _____ Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY): _____
Gender: ___ Male ___ Female
Baptism Date/Place: _____ Confirmation Date/Place: _____
School: _____ Grade: _____
Special Health Considerations/Allergies: _____
Interests/Activities: _____
Email: _____ Cell: _____

FULL Legal Name: _____ Preferred Name: _____
Relationship: _____ Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY): _____
Gender: ___ Male ___ Female
Baptism Date/Place: _____ Confirmation Date/Place: _____
School: _____ Grade: _____
Special Health Considerations/Allergies: _____
Interests/Activities: _____
Email: _____ Cell: _____

My Faith in Action

Name _____ Date _____

Phone _____ Email _____

ALL members (high school age and above) are asked to complete this survey.
Check Box if interested in (or already) participating,
Underline topic for more information.

Small Groups

- Bible Study Groups (Specify: _____)
- Foyer Groups
- Sports Teams
- Men
- Women
- Seniors
- Couples
- Families
- Parenting

Children & Family Ministry

- LCM Kids: Sunday School Volunteer
- LCM Kids: Sunday School Assistant
- LCM Kids: Sunday Substitute Teacher
- LCM Kids: Welcome Volunteer
- LCM Kids: Music Volunteer
- LCM Kids: Wed. Teacher/Assistant
- Special Needs Buddies
- Summer Sunday School Volunteer
- Administrative Volunteer
- Vacation Bible School Volunteer
- Special Events Volunteer

Church Operations

- Maintenance help
(Construction/Handyman)
- Landscaping
- Office Assistant/Volunteer
- Church Board Member
- Equipment/Appliance Repair
- NE Licensed Teacher/Substitute
- CPR/First Aid Certified
- Medical Volunteer
- Security (non-armed)
- Transportation

Community Outreach (Missions & Social Concerns)

- Habitat for Humanity

- Stephen Center
- Assist in time of emergencies
- Prayer Shawl Group
- Quilting Group
- Special Outreach Events
- Help for hospitalized/homebound
- Mission Team
- Donate items for various service projects throughout the year

Men's Ministry

- Men's Breakfast
- Men's Golf
- Baptismal Boxes (woodworking)

Senior Ministry

- Horizons
- Senior Care Ministry
- Game Day

Support Ministry

- Stephen Ministry
- Funeral luncheons
- Prayer Group
- Prayer Chain
- Grief Share
- Hurting Parents
- Divorce Care

Women's Ministry

Specify group(s) you currently attend:

- Women's Bible Study

- Mom's Group

- Circle Group

Worship & Music

- Greeter
Specify Campus/Time: _____
- Usher
Specify Campus/Time: _____
- Communion Assistant
Specify Campus/Time: _____
- Scripture Reader
Specify Campus/Time: _____
- Worship Team
- Altar Guild
- Choir
- Hand Bell Choir
- Special Music
- Instrumental Music
(instrument: _____)
- Audio - Visual Operator
Specify Campus/Time: _____
- Baptismal Banners
- Welcome Ministry
Specify Campus/Time: _____

Young Adult's Ministry

- Young Adult Study
- Care Packages
- Special Event Cards/Mailings

Youth & Family Ministry

- Sunday School
- EpiCenter
- Aftershock
- Confirmation Small Group Leader
- Youth Mentor
- Camp/Mission Trip Leader/Partner

Occasional Opportunities

I have talents/skills in these areas

- Cooking/food preparation
- Receptions
- Customer Service
- Teaching or mentoring
- Counseling/Care Giving
- Driving/Delivering
- Special Events Planning/Project Management
- Clean Kitchen(s)
- Computer (IT or Word/Excel, etc.)
- Art Ministry/Crafts (sewing, needlework, painting, etc.)

- Construction/Handyman/Landscaping
- Sports coaching or playing
- Dance/Drama/Music Performance
- Sign Language/Language Interpreter
- Substitute Teacher/Para
- Social Media/Print Communications/ Graphics/Marketing
- Other Talents/Skills:

Current Volunteer Service Outside the church that I participate in:

Please return this survey to the church office when it is completed. Thank you!

For Office Use Only

Date Rec'd _____

Data Entered _____

Contacted: Yes ___ No ___

No: Explain: _____

Yes: Date: _____

Lutheran Church of the Master

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FIRST
STEP

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