



He indeed bears
fruit and yields
Matthew 13:23

Reformation Lutheran Church
"Gathered by Christ to be and make disciples."
2100 Manor Ridge Dr.
Lancaster, PA 17603
Pastor Mark Chavez
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Phone: (717) 947-4284
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Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 16, 2023



WORSHIP LEADERS

	July 16	July 123
Assit. Min./ Comm. Assit.	Kim Wittel	Ivan Wittel
Lector	Kim Wittel	Ivan Wittel
Ushers	Bill & Rose Bennett	Fred & Crystal Lepley
Musician	Rose Keller	Dcn. Arica Demme
Altar Guild	June Kreider	Barb Wisler
Sound Tech.	Chaz Stroup	John Null
Offering Counters	John Null & Sandy Tippett	Fred Lepley/Beth Birchall
Livestream	Mark Wisler/ Lee & Judy Mills	Ray Kneisley/Kris Brill
Communion Prayers	Sandy Tippett	Fred Lepley/ Marianne Burkholder

July 9, 2023
ATTENDANCE - 67

ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE USHERS.

“CRY ROOM AVAILABILITY”

For parents with children younger than one year, there is a “Cry Room” near the front entrance if you would need to use that during the worship service.

Please maintain silence for meditation as soon as the candles are lit until the beginning of the service.

TODAY'S COMMEMORATION

Ruth



Ruth of Moab, the subject of the biblical book that bears her name, is an inspiring example of God's grace. Although she was a Gentile, God made her the great grandmother of King David (Ruth 4:17), and an ancestress of Jesus himself (Mt 1:5). A famine in Israel led Elimelech and Naomi of Bethlehem to emigrate to the neighboring nation of Moab with their two sons. The sons married Moabite women, Orpah and Ruth, but after about ten years, Elimelech and his sons died (Ruth 1:1–5). Naomi then decided to return to Bethlehem and urged her daughters-in-law to return to their families. Orpah listened to Naomi's but Ruth refused, replying with the stirring words: “Where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God” (Ruth 1:16). After Ruth arrived in Bethlehem, Boaz, a close relative of Elimelech, agreed to be Ruth's “redeemer” (Ruth 3:7–13; 4:9–12). He took her as his wife, and Ruth gave birth to Obed, the grandfather of David (Ruth 4:13–17), thus preserving the Messianic seed. Ruth's kindness and selfless loyalty toward Naomi, and her faith in Naomi's God, have long endeared her to the faithful and redounded to God's praise for his merciful choice of one so unexpected.

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – *For the Fruit of All Creation*

arr. Patricia Lou Harris

The assembly stands (if able)

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

Matthew 28:19b; [18-20]

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

[John 20:19-23]

C: Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

1 We plow the fields and scat - ter The good seed on the land,
 2 He on - ly is the mak - er Of all things near and far;
 3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, For all things bright and good,

But it is fed and wa - tered By God's al - might - y hand.
 He paints the way - side flow - er, He lights the eve - ning star.
 The seed - time and the har - vest, Our life, our health, our food.

He sends the snow in win - ter, The warmth to swell the grain,
 The winds and waves o - bey him; By him the birds are fed.
 No gifts have we to of - fer For all your love im - parts,

The breez - es and the sun - shine, And soft re - fresh - ing rain.
 Much more to us, his chil - dren, He gives our dai - ly bread.
 But what you most would trea - sure— Our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Refrain

All good gifts a - round us Are sent from heav'n a - bove.

Then thank the Lord, oh, thank the Lord For all his love.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.
 Tune: Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747-1800

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



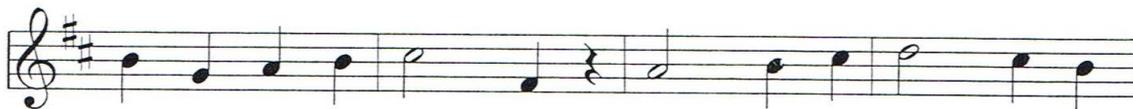
A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al-might - y God and



Fa - ther: We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the

Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the
 Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, you a-
 lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
 in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Richly inspire us, O Lord, to consider and accomplish what you see is good. For we know that we cannot live without you, but that with you, we shall prevail. And so, we pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The assembly is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-13

¹⁰“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. ¹²For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. ¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall make a name for the LORD, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Brief silence for reflection.

The Psalm is read responsively.

Psalm 65:1-13

- ¹ Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,
and to you shall vows be performed.
- ² **O you who hear prayer,
to you shall all flesh come.**
- ³ When iniquities prevail against me,
you atone for our transgressions.
- ⁴ **Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,
to dwell in your courts!
We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your temple!**
- ⁵ By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,
O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas;
- ⁶ **the one who by his strength established the mountains,
being girded with might;**
- ⁷ who stills the roaring of the seas,
the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples,

- 8 so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs.
You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy.**
- ⁹ You visit the earth and water it; you greatly enrich it;
the river of God is full of water; you provide their grain,
for so you have prepared it.
- ¹⁰ You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,
softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.**
- ¹¹ You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.
- ¹² The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,**
- ¹³ the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.

Brief silence for reflection.

The Second Reading is from the 8th chapter of Romans

Second Reading: Romans 8:12-17

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

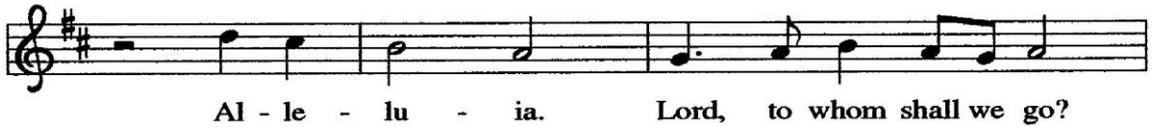
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Brief silence for reflection.

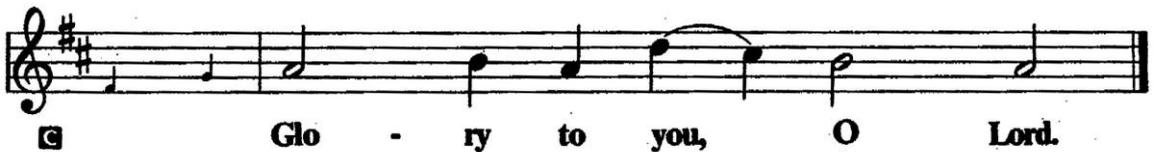
The assembly stands (if able) to welcome the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6:68



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th chapter.



Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear."

¹⁸{Jesus said to the disciples,} "Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³As for what was sown on good soil, this

is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The assembly stands (if able).

HYMN OF THE DAY

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -
 D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye . . . first the king - dom of God and its
 2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and
 3 We do not live by bread . . . a - lone, but by

le - lu - ia, al - le -
 D Em A⁷ D F#m

righteous - ness, and all these things shall be
 you shall find; knock and the door shall be
 ev - 'ry word that pro - ceeds from the

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 G D G D Em A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
 mouth . . . of . . . God. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

Text: st. 1, Matt. 6:33, adapt. Karen Lafferty, b. 1948; st. 2, Matt. 7:7; st. 3, Matt. 4:4
 Music: Karen Lafferty, b. 1948
 Text st. 1 and music © 1972 Maranatha! Music, admin. The Copyright Co.

LAFFERTY
 irregular

APOSTLE'S CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the
virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was
buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of
the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all
people according to their needs.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these or similar words:

P: Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in
your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Matt. 5:22-24; Eph 4:1-3

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

*The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Ps. 104:14-15; Is. 25:6; 1 Cor. 5:7



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

P The Lord be with you.

C And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry,



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

AGNUS DEI

John 1:29



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION AND TO PRAY FOR EACH OTHER

We invite you to pray silently for someone in the congregation while sitting in the pew before or after receiving Communion or while in line waiting to receive. Two people will be at the back of the sanctuary praying for everyone at this time.

All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine.

HOW WE COMMUNE: When you come forward the pastor will first give you bread to eat. Then, take a cup from the tray. The assistant will pour in wine to drink. Afterward, you will place the empty cup in the water in the plastic container at the side aisle, and return to your seat.

If you are unable to consume wine, you may commune with only the bread. Unbaptized and those who have yet to receive first communion may come forward to receive a blessing. Signify by holding your hands to your chest instead of reaching out for the bread and wine.

The assembly stands (if able) when everyone has received the sacrament.

BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE

[Psalm 105:1-3, 42-43; 1 Chronicles 16:8-10]



☉ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Let us pray,

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen

The Old Rugged Cross

He humbled Himself and became obedient to death . . . on a cross! Phil. 2:8



1. On a hill far a - way stood an old rug - ged cross, The
2. O that old rug - ged cross, so de - spised by the world, Has a
3. In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine, A
4. To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true, Its



em - blem of suf - f'ring and shame; And I love that old cross where the
won - drous at - trac - tion for me; For the dear Lamb of God left His
won - drous beau - ty I see; For 'twas on that old cross Je - sus
shame and re - proach glad - ly bear; Then He'll call me some day to my



dear - and best For a world of lost sin - ners was slain.
glo - ry a - bove To bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.
suf - fered and died To par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.
home far a - way, Where His glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.



Refrain



So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross, Till my
cross, the old rug - ged cross,



tro - phies at last I lay down; I will cling to the old rug - ged cross, the

cross, And ex - change it some day for a crown.
old rug - ged cross,

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Old Rugged Cross'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The first system contains the first two lines of the hymn. The second system contains the last two lines. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

TEXT and MUSIC: George Bennard

OLD RUGGED CROSS
Irregular meter

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE – *It Is Well With My Soul*

arr. Cindy Berry

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PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

In your daily prayers please remember those listed below:

Homebound

Debbie Binder
Clair Crist
Donna Hildebeitel
Elizabeth Larsen
Sonya LaGamba
Earl and Janet Harry
Paster Luke Seamon
Deb Kneisley

Additional prayers

Tom Scherer - ALS
Pr. Ted Hummel – bone marrow cancer
Brittany Merrill – chemo, radiation & surgery
Donald Moyer – chemo
Jeff Bradley – recovering from lung cancer surgery
Meghan Mills – colitis
Neil Vital – stem cell transplant
Chuck Landis – cancer
Courtney Tito – kidney transplant
Lauren Didyoung – brain cancer
Judy Mills – securing a diagnosis
Jo Zimmerman – dementia
Ed Zook – recovering from heart attack
Barbara Knapp – issue with heel
Dorothy Mills – bleeding esophageal Varices
James Meisenbach – recovering from surgery
Patricia Stroup – pulmonary disease
Rose Bennett – upcoming MRI
Anthony Riggi – custody of daughter

To request a prayer during today's worship for a person not on the list above, "print" the name on the prayer request form on the table in the back of the nave before worship.

Names on the additional prayers list will be printed for one month.

Contact Rose Keller (717) 333-1448 or (rose.a.keller@gmail.com) or Pr. Mark at (pastor@reformation-nalc.org) to keep a name listed for another month, to add a new name, or to remove a name.

Prayer Chain participants are emailed prayer updates. Contact Judy Mills (pabluebird1242@icloud.com) to be included in the updates, or request removal from the chain.

STEWARDSHIP



Offering plates are not passed during the service. They are on a table in the back of the nave. You may also mail checks to Sandy Tippet (3377 Horizon Drive, Lancaster PA 17603) or make a donation online at <https://www.reformation-nalc.org/giving/>.

MINISTRY CONTACTS

Altar guild	June Kreider	717-285-3241
Announcements	Ray Kneisley	717-449-9155
Assistant ministers	Judy Mills	717-468-7571
Coffee Time	Joan Hollinger	717-684-8584
Funeral Luncheons	Rose Bennett	717-468-8106
Lectors	Judy Mills	717-468-7571
Luther Lager League	Pastor Mark	717-947-4284
Prayer Requests	Judy Mills	717-468-7571
Purl's Shawl Ministry	Judy Mills	717-468-7571
Sound	Chaz Stroup	717-684-2760
Ushers	Rose Keller	717-333-1448

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS AND LIAISONS

President	Ken Hollinger	717-951-0323
Vice President	Melissa Cuff	610-457-6412
Secretary	Kim Wittel	717-468-7917
Treasurer	Fred Lepley	717-629-6371

Christian Ed	Melissa Cuff	610-457-6412
Communications	Betty Scheich	717-464-6759
Mission Team	Melissa Cuff	610-457-6412
Fellowship	Ken Hollinger	717-951-0323
Finance/Stewardship	Fred Lepley	717-629-6371
Property	Jack McCarthy	717-471-5855
Social Ministry	Terry Miller	717-898-0001
Worship & Music	Kim Wittel	717-468-7917

CORE VALUES OF THE NALC

Christ-Centered

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

Mission-Driven

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

Traditionally-Grounded

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

Congregationally-Focused

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



NALC

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