

LIGHT OF CHRIST MEMBERSHIP PACKET

Light of Christ Lutheran Church- The big picture:

Because Jesus said, "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 28:19-20)

We want to be a place where those who don't have a church home can find one.

To do this-

We will try new things,

We will not be afraid of failure,

We will walk with each other,

We will do it all with a sense of humor and

We will do all of this with the power of the Holy Spirit.

This packet contains the following:

- 1. What we believe.**
- 2. Why membership?**
- 3. Church structure.**
- 4. A brief note on opportunities to serve.**

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

Light of Christ Lutheran Church begins with Jesus Christ. Jesus is bringing us to be his disciples. We are a Bible-based Christian congregation. We believe that the Bible is God's Word, a Word that begins and ends with Jesus.

We believe in the one true God, who has revealed Himself as Father, Son, and Spirit. We believe that humankind, created perfectly, went against God's will and brought sin into the world. Since then, all people have inherited that sin and are born sinful. We believe that people cannot save themselves by their good works. We believe that in order to save us, God sent His Son into the world. Jesus is both true God and true man. He lived to fulfill God's Law for us, died on the cross to pay the penalty that our sins deserved, and rose from the dead so that we might have eternal life. He ascended into heaven, and will come again to take all believers to Himself. We believe that because of Jesus' death, God declares a person righteous and forgiven.

All those who believe in Jesus as Savior and are baptized will be saved. We believe that this faith in Jesus is a gift of God, given by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that God uses the Bible and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper to reveal Himself and apply His grace and forgiveness to us. Our worship, therefore, centers around these things.

We also confess the following creeds, plus the Athanasian creed, along with Christians from all backgrounds and places:

APOSTLE'S CREED:

I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth

and in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

As Christians we believe Jesus Christ's body and blood are joined together with the Bread and Wine in the Sacrament; given to us for the forgiveness of sins, the strengthening of our faith, and as an expression of the unity of our faith. Those who profess this faith, are baptized, penitent, and acknowledge Christ as their Savior are welcome to participate in the Sacrament with us.

HOLY BAPTISM

As Christians we believe that those who believe and are baptized have eternal life. Jesus gives us the command to go and baptize all people. Baptism unites us with Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. We believe this promise is for everyone; man, woman and child.

2. WHY MEMBERSHIP?

The difference between attenders and members can be summed up in one word: **Commitment.**

A. Membership says, "I accept responsibility for a group of fellow believers in the family of God," and that's God's plan as well. You want to be part of a group of believers who pray for each other, support each other and help each other grow through worship, Bible study and ministry.

Galatians 6:1-2

Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6:10

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

B. Membership says, "I am accountable to mature believers in Christ for my walk with God." Christians want to receive guidance, equipping and help as necessary to remain on target. You don't want to go it alone in your Christian walk.

Hebrews 13:7

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Matthew 18:15-17

"If your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault, just between the two of you. If he listens to you, you have won your brother over. But if he will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, treat him as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

Matthew 18:19-20

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

C. Membership says, "I accept responsibility for how things are done here," and God says that's how it should be. Members vote on budgets, issuing calls and have an impact on the shape and direction of the church's mission.

1 Corinthians 12:20-27

There are many parts, but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I don't need you!" And the head cannot say to the feet, "I don't need you!" On the contrary, those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it, so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

We never ask church members to do more than the Bible clearly teaches. We only expect church members to do what the Bible expects every Christian to do. These responsibilities are spelled out below.

** Having received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and professing the same faith as this community, I join with Light of Christ to do the following:

1. Protect the unity of my church

- * By acting in love toward one another
- * Be refusing to gossip
- * By following the leadership of this church in doing the work of the Lord.
- * By attending faithfully.

1 Peter 1:22

Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

Ephesians 4:29

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Hebrews 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Hebrews 10:25

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another.

2. Pray daily for myself and my church.

- * I will pray twenty minutes everyday.
- * I will pray for other members of this church for their well-being, protection, and guidance from the Holy Spirit.
- * I will pray for the staff- pastor, teachers and secretary.
- * I will pray for the unchurched to attend our services or bible studies.
- * I will pray that God provides finances and people to run the ministries of Light of Christ.

Ephesians 6:18

And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

2 Thessalonians 1:12

We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

James 5:16

Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

Jude 1:20

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

3. Read scripture daily

- * I will read my bible for twenty minutes a day.
- * I will live by the standards the Bible lays out for me.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

4. Serve the ministries of Light of Christ

- * I will give of my time to help run or support the various ministries.
- * By inviting the unchurched to attend.
- * By warmly welcoming visitors to the church.

Matthew 28:18-20

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."

Luke 14:23

"Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and make them come in, so that my house will be full.'

1 Peter 4:10

¹⁰ Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

Philippians 2:1-5

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

5. Support the ministry of Light of Christ

- * By giving of my time
- * By financially supporting the church
- * Through my prayers

1 Corinthians 16:2

On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made.

Leviticus 27:30

"A tithing of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD; it is holy to the LORD.

3. A BRIEF NOTE ON CHURCH STRUCTURE

The two leadership groups in the church are the Board of Elders and the Council. The Board of Elders is responsible for the Spiritual well-being of church members and the pastor. The Council administers the business of the church. Both are necessary and the people who serve in these roles are dedicated Christians who want to serve Jesus Christ.

One of your roles as a member will be to attend voter's meetings- held about every three to six months. The council will bring business items to the congregation (annual budget, loan items, major purchase items) for congregational support. As a member you will have a say in determining the direction of the church.

As a member you will be assigned to an Elder who will pray for you and your family, give you a call if you are not seen in church after awhile and talk to you about how you are doing with your daily bible reading and prayer. The Elders don't ask because they want to judge you. The Elders ask because we all need help and motivation in developing and maintaining these disciplines. The Elders ask the pastor these questions too!

4. A BRIEF NOTE ON OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

There are many ways for you to serve God by serving through the church. Help is needed in all areas. From help during the Worship services to help with Vacation Bible School and everything in between. During our membership classes we will talk more about the opportunities that are available. Want to start now? Talk with the pastor and he will help you get started.