



*Hello!*

I'm guessing if you're reading this, you're either someone looking for a congregation who's checking us out, or someone who's already a member seeing what's new with the website. Either way, I'm glad you're taking a look at what's here.

And what's here, at least for my message, is a little bit about our new congregational motto - and updated summary of what our mission as a part of the larger church. Said another way, it's what we at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church focus on as a part of God's kingdom.

The first element is welcome - welcoming all people, in the name of Jesus Christ, into both our community here and into a deeper relationship with God. The spirit of hospitality and welcome runs all through scripture - from Abraham's welcome of messengers to God's commands to show kindness to the stranger and alien to Jesus' welcome of tax collectors and sinners. We try to mirror this welcome when we pass the peace in worship, open our events (from dinners to Sunday School to special events) to all, and in our general attitude of friendliness.

The second is worship - as we gather each week around the word (lessons from scripture and a sermon) and sacraments (communion, every week, at each service) we also sing together (in either traditional ways on Sunday, with the organ and choir, or more modern ways on Saturday, with the band) and meet as a community. Worshipping together is one of our primary callings as disciples of Jesus - you can't really be a Christian by yourself - and it's a source of comfort, strength, and inspiration.

The third is witness - simply enough, telling others what we've experienced of God and Jesus Christ and his Spirit - and it's woven through the first two. We show others about God through our welcome and our worship, and by our actions as well as our words. We're active in many types of ministry, from local things like the West Side Food Pantry

and Ruth's Place to larger things through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (our parent church body) like working against world hunger, ending malaria, and advocating for justice. We do all of these things because they point to Jesus Christ, and let us participate in God's kingdom.

So there's a bit about our congregation, based around our motto. If it seems to be what you're looking for, please know that you're always welcome - at worship, to stop by our building during the week, or simply to give us a call if you have any questions.

*God's grace and peace be with you -*

*Pastor Paul Metzloff*