

# Holy Manners for Holy Cross Vestry\*

June 24, 2013

We believe that these promises will enable us to better serve God, our church family, each other and every one He places in our path. Holy Manners are promises that we make to each other, that is, shared expectations for Christian behavior that we strive to offer each other. When practicing Holy Manners, people feel safe, are more likely to experience healthy relationships and are best equipped to work together for godly purposes.

As individual leaders and together as a Vestry we are striving to make the following promises a grand reality as God continues to fill us with His Holy Spirit and love.

## A. Promises to God

These promises to God relate to our personal spiritual growth and our commitment to seek God's best in our walk with him individually and collectively.

We promise to...

1. participate in the worship, Christian growth, and educational activities of Holy Cross Lutheran Church.
2. cultivate our own personal spiritual life through the use of devotions, prayer, Bible study, and the practice of Christian stewardship.
3. grow as Christian leaders by continually striving to increase our understanding of Lutheran theology and the mission and ministry of the Church.
4. devote ourselves to prayerfully seek God's will for the congregation.

## B. Promises to Our Church Family

These promises to our church family let every person at Holy Cross know what they can expect from us.

We promise to...

1. respect and support every person and ministry of Holy Cross and recognize that when we serve outside of the Vestry we do so as a congregation member under the direction of those in leadership.
2. listen with an open, nonjudgmental mind to the words and ideas of congregation members, staff and other vestry members.
3. manage conflict in a constructive way, by taking concerns to the appropriate ministry leader and encouraging others to do the same, realizing that conflict can be a positive experience.

## C. Promises to Each Other

These promises to each other form the basis for our work together as a caring community in Christ helping us fulfill our unique role as Vestry leaders.

We promise to...

1. practice servant leadership which includes maintaining a "safe place", being open, honest, respectful, and serving with integrity so that we may "spur one another on toward love and good deeds." (Hebrews 10:24)
2. know Vestry policy and procedures and maintain compliance as relates to us as individual members and together as the Vestry.
3. share our unique perspectives and opinions and listen to those of others as we seek to find the best solutions and then speak with "one voice" once decisions are reached.
4. attend and prepare for Vestry meetings through prayer and review of all material; and if absent to review the minutes and contact the Chair to stay informed.
5. maintain confidentiality regarding the discussion of individual members during the meeting and as relates to all topics and documents identified as requiring confidentiality.