

Strategy for Making Disciples of Jesus at Holy Cross

God has called us into a fellowship of believers at Holy Cross, gathered around the Word and Sacraments, in order that the Kingdom of God might expand, and that He might work in our hearts faith toward Him and love toward each other.

Based on God's Word and flowing from our Baptism, we believe it is our mission to make disciples of Jesus who are Growing in Faith, Caring for Others, and Experiencing Community.

Therefore we are striving to see that people actively involved in the ministries of Holy Cross Lutheran Church are becoming and making disciples of Jesus who are Growing in Faith, Caring for Others, and Experiencing Community.

To this end, Holy Cross Lutheran Church has established the following Desired Outcomes of all our ministry efforts and will evaluate those ministries against these Outcomes:

Growing in Faith
Caring for Others
Experiencing Community

A. **Growing in Faith**

We believe that the Holy Spirit uses God's Word and the Sacraments to form faith and causes it to grow and flourish in the hearts of people so that we can "know and rely on the love God has for us."

Our Strategy for "Growing in Faith": So that disciples of all ages and in all vocations "know and rely on the love God has for us" with an ever increasing trust in God we will teach about, encourage participation in and offer opportunities for:

1. **Worship**

Christians of all ages praise the Triune God, acknowledge the sinful nature of man and the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ, and celebrate His presence through the Word and Sacraments. Such worship is culturally relevant, biblically sound, and distinctively Lutheran.

2. **Bible Study**

We are students of God's Word and the catechism, in order to live as God's children filled with grace and truth at every age in life and in every vocation.

3. **Faith Practices @ Home**

To make faith real throughout the week we cultivate spiritual habits and attitudes that strengthen our faith and trust in Christ and our witness to others, including:

- **Being in the Word**
Christians of all ages are regularly reading their Bibles and memorizing key portions of the Bible so as to enrich their connection to God through His Word and to better prepare themselves to share the Christian faith with others.
- **Prayer**
Christians of all ages pray privately and with family and friends offering our thanks and requests to God, listening for His answers and yielding to His will, as an act of trust in God and love for others while at home, church and wherever we may be.
- **Sharing Jesus**
Christians of all ages give personal testimony of their trust in God and saving faith in Jesus Christ to friends and family and those God places in our path.

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.

1 John 4:16

B. **Caring for Others**

We believe good works are the fruits of faith and are necessary for the care of one's neighbor. Empowered by the Holy Spirit we answer Jesus' call to "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Our Strategy for "Caring for Others": So that disciples of all ages and in all vocations can "love their neighbor as themselves," we will teach about, encourage participation in and offer opportunities for:

4. **Service**

Christians of all ages are active in gift-based service as we use our time and talents, according to our God-given vocations, to care for each other, our family, our local community, our nation, and the world. Such care is characterized by a spirit of compassion, generosity, and mercy.

5. **Supporting the Church at Large**

Recognizing that the mission of the Church includes and extends beyond Holy Cross, we are committed to supporting Kingdom work locally, nationally and internationally by sharing the unique service and ministry resources relating to our staff, lay leaders and facilities.

6. **Generosity / Financial Stewardship**

Since all we are and all we have is a gift from God, all Christians manage all of life and life's resources for His purposes and imitate God by giving generously to support His work in and through the church. As such, Holy Cross annually grows toward becoming a tithing congregation and encourages all Christians to do the same.

Love your neighbor as yourself.

Mark 12:31

C. **Experiencing Community**

We believe that the Christian Church is called to model and foster real community as we connect to one another and "live at peace with everyone."

Our Strategy for "Experiencing Community": So that disciples of all ages and in all vocations can "live at peace with everyone," we will teach about, encourage participation in and offer opportunities for:

7. **Connecting to One Another**

Christians of all ages and in every vocation work for, experience, and celebrate healthy relationships, meaningful friendships and servant leadership characterized by unity, peace, reconciliation, forgiveness and Holy Manners. As such, Holy Cross is committed to fostering:

- **Healthy Relationships**
Christians of all ages live together in community (home, church, work, etc.) and treat one another with love and respect; and when conflict arises, address it in a way that leads to reconciliation and unity as described in "Holy Manners for Holy Cross."
- **Meaningful Friendships**
People of all ages gather together in a safe and welcoming environment to initiate and renew meaningful relationships as an expression of our unity in Christ.
- **Servant Leadership**
Christians of all ages develop leadership habits and attitudes that equip them to faithfully serve others as a mentor or friend and strive to pass these on to others.

*If it is possible, as far as it depends on you,
live at peace with everyone.*

Romans 12:18

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