

Claiming our Identity, Purpose, and Mission

Discipleship

Living the Baptized Life with Intentionality

We Are...

Baptized into the Body of Christ

Called followers of Jesus

Purposed to continue His Ministry in the world

Dear friends,

We rejoice that you now desire to make public profession of your faith and assume greater responsibility and the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world.

It continues...

These persons desire to make public affirmation of their baptism as a sign of their renewed participation in the life and work at the Church of Christ

Dear friends,

We rejoice that you have returned to the household of God to claim again the eternal inheritance which is your birthright in Holy baptism.

Then we bring it all together by
affirming our faith...

The Apostles Creed

When we affirm our baptism we agree to take this lifestyle and...

Live among God's faithful people

Hear God's Word and share in the Lord's Supper

Proclaim the Good News of God in Word and Deed

Serve all people following the example of our Lord Jesus

Strive for justice and peace in all the earth

Six Principles of Discipleship

Discipleship is personal

Discipleship is relational

Discipleship is intentional

Discipleship is consistent

Discipleship is spirit-led

Discipleship is outcome – focused

The Apostle Paul tells us...

keep things simple!

Practice Love

Give Generously

Lead a Quiet Life

Mind Your Own Business

Work with Our Hands

2020 and 2021 Productive years for us at St. John's

Thank You!!!

All our Volunteers

All our Leaders

Congregation Council

Staff

Does Church Matter?

Family comes first (70%)

Career takes second place (34%)

Money unsurprisingly comes in third at (23%)

Spirituality and Faith take fourth (19%)

We were forced to dig deep....

All our leaders know NOW is the time for us to lean into our future

We can build a ministry that reflects new realities, the things we have learned and the things that quite simply must be jettisoned

You're Invited –

To Join Jesus in the Deep Water

We live in a culture that makes it hard for people to imagine and be led by God.

How could faith ever be an option in discovering your meaning your purpose your identity?

We aren't clear about what's distinctive about being Christian.

What is our core story – honestly?

How do we make a difference in peoples lives?

What's a Church to do?

Get back to the basics

Reclaim the simple practices that Christians have always done – prayer, scripture study, service, reconciliation, hospitality, all should be at the center of congregational life

Shift from performance to participatory spirituality

It's not only for the clergy and staff it's for every member to be equipped to practice their faith in daily life – spiritual practices spiritual disciplines and spiritual habits are to be adopted by everyone

Listen

It's time to meet in small groups and hear one another's spiritual stories and experiences to help them connect to the stories of scripture and our theological tradition

Explore

No one knows what's going to work ahead of time. And clearly much of what we've been doing hasn't worked at all and when it did how long ago was that half a century ago?

Corrective Lenses Needed

The most important thing we can do is get clear on what God's promises and what Christ does for us and for our neighbors and find simple ways, like Paul said, to make those promises come alive for ordinary people in ways they can understand.

We Have All Heard

No Child Left Behind

Leave No One Behind

Cultural Christianity Has Adapted...

... because we don't want to leave anyone behind

The Result...Consumer Christianity

Instead of go and tell all the nations
We've become a go and sell all the nations

Leave no one behind is not in the New
Testament ...

and it's not taught by Jesus

Case in Point

The story of the rich young ruler in Matthew chapter 19

“What must I do?”

Jesus spells it out for him and...

When the young man heard this, he went away sad, because he had great wealth.

Mark 10 - Luke 18 – Matthew 19

All three versions tell us that the wealthy young man walked away.

Jesus didn't chase him down to negotiate, compromise, or offer a better deal, he uses the incident as a teaching moment

A love that allows people to be left behind?

John 6:66–71

How about you read it and you tell me if you hear anything other than if they didn't want to get on his bus, he was ready to close the doors and drive away

Jesus offers a Great Invitation

An invitation to become a permanent indentured slave

Invitation to surrender everyone of our freedoms and preferences and habits and addictions in the control of our finances and even our relationships it's necessary to become a slave of God.

Keeping in line with Paul's way of thinking...

St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
All Are Welcome

Guests – You are welcome to the Table
(Please don't feel like you need to put anything in the 'plate')

Members - Two options
Option One – Voting
Option Two – Nonvoting

Keeping Things Simple

The only way you can ever be removed from the rolls at St John's, or any ELCA congregation

You request a transfer

You ask to be removed

You depart this life

Again, keeping in line with Paul's urging to
keep things very simple...

Voting Members

Fill out a card and receive the Lord's Supper ONE time a year

Put a buck in an envelope and make sure your name is on it so we can
send you a thank you note and a receipt for your taxes

Not-Just-For New Member Class

Bear Witness