

St. Philip's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilmington, Delaware

This statement of our values defines and guides the ministries of our congregation.

1. God's Grace. Jesus Christ died for each of us and we are offered God's forgiveness and salvation through faith alone.

"Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God." (Romans 5:1-2)

2. The Great Commission. We are called to be disciples of Jesus, living out the mission He gave to His first followers. We strive daily to share our faith with everyone in the world around us.

"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.'" (Matthew 28:18-20)

3. Power of Prayer. Prayer, both public and private, is necessary to strengthen our faith, to bring about growth and healing, to nourish our relationship with God, and to understand His will for us.

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1Timothy 2:1-4)

4. Community Worship. Through community worship, we praise God together, proclaim the Gospel, and receive forgiveness by the Word and the sacraments.

"Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves; for I tell you that from now on I will not eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'" (Luke 22:17-19)

5. Spiritual Growth. Christian Education is a life-long process, essential to our continuing growth as disciples of Jesus Christ.

"Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long." (Psalm 25:4-5)

6. Witness to Faith. God made us to serve those around us, and to be visible symbols of our faith in ways that are changing and relevant to world around us.

"I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks to you as I remember you in my prayers." (Ephesians 1:15-16)

7. Support of Individuals and Families. Our ministries support the spiritual and faith needs of both individuals and families.

"I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings." (1Corinthians 9:22b-23)

8. Outreach. As Christ's disciples, we are defined by what we do for one another. Through our baptism we are called to aid the needy, and comfort those who are in pain, sick, lonely, lost or abandoned.

"'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you?, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" (Matthew 25:37-40)

9. Fellowship. We enjoy the faith and fellowship we share with one another through our service to God, to one another and to the community around us.

"Many people say, 'Who will show us better times?' Let the smile of your face shine on us, Lord. You have given me greater joy than those who have abundant harvests of grain and wine." (Psalm 4:6-7)

10. Gratitude and Giving. Everything that we have comes from God, and we strive to give selflessly of our time, talents and resources as expressions of our faith and gratitude for all the blessings we have received.

"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 4:10-11)