



## Witness (μαρτυρία, testimony)

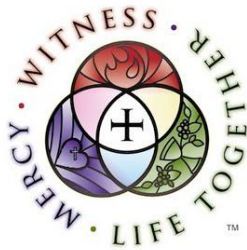
"For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree." 1 John 5:7–8

*We boldly confess the precious, saving Gospel message of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Scriptures, remaining faithful to the confessions and doctrine of the Lutheran Church.*

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Lord of Life Lutheran Church is here to bear witness to the truth. God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit through all eternity. The eternal Son was made flesh in Jesus Christ, died on the cross for the sins of the world, and was raised bodily from the dead on the third day, for life and salvation to all who believe in his Name. He is the only hope for sinful man. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in him alone.

The Church bears witness to salvation in this Jesus through our preaching of Christ crucified, raised, and ascended to the right hand of the Father. Lord of Life Lutheran stands in agreement with the Bible, the Creeds, and the Lutheran Confessions, in their teaching the truth about Jesus. Our teaching follows these standards so that we do not teach the doctrines of men, but the Word of God. This is a place that testifies to Jesus the three that is written by John: the Spirit, in the preached word of God; the water, in Holy Baptism; and the Blood of our Lord, offered for our sins and given us to drink, with his Body to eat, in his Holy Supper. This doctrine, the Word of Jesus that is Spirit and Truth, is the beating heart of both our life together and our works of mercy. We therefore see to the preaching of this Word and the administration of the Sacraments in our community and throughout the world by using our gifts and prayers.



## Mercy (διακονία, service)

"For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark 10:45

*Because of the mercy shown to us by Christ on the cross, our hearts are filled with love and mercy from Christ. That which we have received cannot but overflow as active love and mercy to those in need wherever they may be.*

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Jesus did not come to help those who help themselves, or to show a way of living by which we could try to save ourselves by serving God in a better way. He came to seek and to save the lost, by giving his own life as a ransom for all. By his faithful service to us, those justified through faith in his blood, we are confident that nothing can separate us from the love of God in him. Our hearts are therefore freed from trying to justify ourselves so as to love others, and our hands are therefore freed from trying to save ourselves so as to help and serve our neighbors.

Just as Lord of Life Lutheran is a place where witness is borne to Jesus through Word and Sacraments, it is also a place where his mercy goes forth into the world through acts of loving service. We exercise the various gifts and offices with which God has entrusted us to serve one another with the love of Christ. We joyfully serve and give out of the substance with which our Lord has served and gifted us--locally, through our lay ministers, ministry groups and community service projects, nationally and internationally, through gifts and prayers. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for all.



## Life Together (κοινωνία, communion

or fellowship)

"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:9

*As children of God, we live together as one body and extend the hand of fellowship to our brothers and sisters in our common faith in Christ, to build up, care for, and serve one another in Christian love.*

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

When Jesus began his ministry, he did it by being baptized together with sinners, by taking his place with us in the baptismal waters, taking all the "dirty bathwater" of our sins on himself to make us clean. Just before he was crucified, putting those sins away, he instituted the Holy Supper of his Body and Blood, giving his Church communion with him and with all the saints in the holy things that bought our peace. At his ascension, he sent his apostles to preach and baptize, to gather a holy Church out of this dying world, a Church gathered in the one hope that belongs to her calling: one Lord, one faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is over all and through all and in all (Ephesians 4:5–6).

We at Lord of Life Lutheran are gathered into the living community raised up in the resurrection of Jesus, gathered in the forgiveness of all sin by his blood, calling upon one Father in heaven in his Name. Even as we confess that we are gathered together with all the saints who believe in Jesus in the church universal, so we are gathered together now in this place, as those who partake together of our Lord's common gifts, as those whose sins are forgiven alike, as those who are made new as sons and daughters of God by his Word even in the midst of our imperfections and sins. Our life flows from receiving the Word of Christ together. We are united by his teaching and reconciled by his forgiveness. We rejoice in our life together in Christ, forgiving one another as he has forgiven us, gathering frequently to receive his gifts and to build each other up with "spiritual songs and hymns of praise", as the Word of Christ richly dwells inside us. We await our common hope, together with all the saints, in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting, where we, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, will forever praise the Lamb once slain and now forever alive, our Lord Jesus Christ.