

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Update from the Transition Team – 2/12/2025

Bible Study Summary

As our congregation continues the process of calling a new pastor, we need to determine what our vision, mission and core values are. Three Bible study groups have looked at the vision, mission and core values in the books of Nehemiah, Acts and First Corinthians. A brief summary of their observations follows:

In the **book of Nehemiah**, his vision was for a spiritual renewal among the Hebrews of Jerusalem so that more of them would return from exile. His mission was to use the reinstatement of Sabbath rituals, confession of sins and gratitude to God for keeping his promise to bring them back to Jerusalem to achieve this vision. The core values in his efforts were respect for God, responsibility to the community, and communication with God through prayer.

The overall vision of the **book of Acts** was to preserve the history of the Christian movement, the teachings of Jesus and the works and lives of the apostles, particularly Peter and Paul. The vision and mission are so closely tied together that it is difficult to separate them. The greater vision may be to reach all of mankind with this saving message of salvation. Acts shows that the Christian faith truly fulfills God's promises in the Hebrew scripture. Christ brought salvation. Prayer advances God's kingdom while the Holy Spirit energizes and equips God's people to carry out their mission. The core values in Acts are community, mutual support, trust, and learning to accept, believe, and teach that Jesus is real.

In Paul's **first letter to the Corinthians**, the vision is to not get in the way of anyone else's relationship with God through acceptance, tolerance, charity and respect. The mission emphasizes being Christ-centered and welcoming to all. The group felt that our current mission statement – "We are a Christian fellowship, reaching out to all people, so that they might experience God's love for them" fit well with what they read in Acts and suggested the addition of the word "know" along with "experience". The core values in Acts were respect, tolerance, lack of judgement in all things, community and love.

There are certainly common themes in these three books of the Bible and I think that they are reflected in our current congregation. Our task now is to develop a vision statement, a mission statement and a list of 5 or 6 core values so that we can put together an accurate profile of who we are as a congregation. We will need the **participation of as many members as we can get** to develop these things over the next three weeks. **We will meet after the Sunday service on Feb. 16th and 23rd and March 2nd to do this.** We can add a weekday meeting or two if we feel that it is necessary. **Please join us.**

Interim Pastor: Kim Sterner

Music: Miloy Cañete

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