## OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

"Our Savior's Lutheran Church is a scripture based, welcoming fellowship of believers who proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, and who, through our support of and connecting with each other, the local community, and children of God everywhere, strive to *love Christ and all others*."

Membership at Our Savior's Lutheran Church begins with an understanding and a commitment to our mission statement. The following are an extension of this mission statement and represent what membership means at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

WE are Lutheran, founded on beliefs derived from the Protestant Reformation. We are respectful of the history and traditions of both Lutheran theology and of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. We will be open minded to adapt when new circumstances and changing times require it, but always we will confirm our faith and be ever vigilant not to conform it. We are also a member of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, which places emphasis on the freedom for our congregation to be creative in how we do ministry and for how we work together to transform lives as we serve our Triune God.

WE are a Church; we will look to our Pastor for spiritual guidance and to the Council to manage business affairs and to direct the functions and activities of our church. We have an obligation to support our Pastor and the members of the Congregational Council and to respect their leadership, but also to hold them accountable for their actions and decisions. But our Church is more than our Pastor and the Congregational Council, it is all our members united for the common purpose and a shared goal to serve our awesome God. Every member has voice that should be listened to and considered, and every member has a duty to express concerns so that the Pastor and Council have the knowledge and awareness to make informed decisions on behalf of the congregation. We will respect that actions taken by our church's leadership need to be taken in the best interest of the entire congregation and not to serve any individual member or group.

WE embrace scripture in its entirety as the inspired Word of God, and we will not use individual chapters or verses to defend a point or to push an agenda. Scripture should never be weaponized, but rather be used as a guide to make us better Christians and to improve our relationship with our Lord.

WE are a welcoming Church where anyone can find respect and support, a place to feel loved and cared for, even with all our imperfections. We will always keep our hearts open to the stranger, eager to expand the circle of Christ's love.

WE are a fellowship of believers. We will appreciate our differences. We know that our relationship with our God is a walk of faith, and that each of us may be at a different point on that walk of faith. We recognize that at any time some may be supporters and connecters and proclaimers of the Gospel, and some may need to be supported and connected with and to hear God's Word proclaimed. Some may need to come to church as a refuge from daily life, and some may need to be actively engaged in ministry. Recognizing our different needs and experiences, we embrace our diversity and will strive to always be kind, compassionate, and empathetic to one another.

WE understand that supporting each other also means supporting our church. This means through both financial giving and volunteering our gifts of time, talent, and energy as our circumstances allow and as we feel led to do. As we are able, we will support our ministries by becoming an active member of a ministry and/or by participating in ministry activities. We believe that it is through our Ministries that we exercise our faith and actively support and connect with one another, our local community, and children of God everywhere.

WE will strive to love Christ and all others. We want our Church to be a place where we can freely praise and worship our God, where we feel united in faith, and empowered to fulfill Christ's great commission.