



- All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory and are in need of salvation.
- Humans are helpless to achieve salvation by self-improvement or good works.
- We are saved by faith in the work of Jesus Christ who loves us and offers us this by grace.
- Salvation is offered to all.
- Through salvation, we can have a relationship with God that leads to holy living and eternal life.

### **Sacraments**

- We recognize two sacraments: Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.
- Both Baptism and Communion are means of grace in which we experience the presence and power of God's grace.
- Baptism is taught by Jesus as a part of our ministry into the world (Matthew 28:19).
- Through Baptism, God initiates a covenant with individuals, people become a part of the Church, and individuals accept the responsibility to live a "New Life" of love and service to all.
- We are called to repeat Holy Communion by Jesus on the last night before his death (Luke 22:19).
- We believe that the elements are symbols of the body (Bread) and the blood (wine) of Jesus.
- We believe the communion table should be open to all who confess their sins and wish to walk in a relationship with Jesus, and since it is a means of grace, we should meet at this table as often as we can.

### **Prayer**

- Prayer is the chief means of communicating with God and an essential part of our relationship with God and our spiritual journey.
- Prayer is the means we have of inviting God's rule in our life and the life of others.
- Praying for one another is a form of love and unleashes the power of God in their lives.

### **Love**

- The great commandments (Matthew 22:37-39) demand that we express our faith through love of God and one another.
- All relationships, both inside the church and outside the church, should be steeped in love.

### **Discipleship**

- The great commission (Matthew 28:16-20) calls us to go into the world for the purpose of making disciples by proclaiming Jesus as Savior, and teaching all Jesus commanded.
- We are called to transform the world.
- We are called to serve, not be served. We believe we do that best by using our spiritual gifts.
- Following Jesus (discipleship) is a lifelong pursuit of ever-increasing intimacy with Jesus, surrendering to the work of the Holy Spirit daily.

### **Detailed Descriptions of Our Core Values**

#### **Love**

Love is the first fruit of the Holy Spirit and the most powerful demonstration of God's grace in our lives. All relationships, both inside and outside the church walls, should be steeped in love. Love is how we will interact with one another and ultimately will be how the world understands we are disciples of Jesus. (Matthew 18:14; 22:37-39; Luke 5:30-32; Luke 15; John 13:34-35; 1 Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:6, 22-23; 1 John 4:7-12)

#### **Service**

Jesus came to earth not "to be served, but to serve." As followers of Jesus, we honor the Master by serving others as He served. We believe each member of the Body of Christ has been given a spiritual gift that enables us to serve for the "common good." It is through our service to others that we grow most in faith and personal maturity. We believe we are most effective in our service through ministry of the church. (Mark 10:42-45; John 13:5-17; 1 Corinthians 12; Galatians 6:9-10; James 2:14-18)

#### **Evangelism**

We are commanded by Jesus to go to the "ends of the earth" to witness, teach, baptize, and make disciples. It is the responsibility of each member of the body of Christ to share by word and deed the light of Jesus' love and grace. People need the Lord, and we accept the responsibility to share the good news of Jesus. We go into the world, as ambassadors of Jesus, to invite people to be reconciled to God through the blood of Jesus. (Matthew 9:35-38; 28:19-20; Acts 1:7-8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21)

#### **People**

We believe people are created by God and therefore are sacred and of great self-worth. We reject any behavior that does not value an individual as a person of sacred worth. We also accept the fact that we are sinners, and all fall short of the glory of God. The power of Jesus' death on the cross is that we can be forgiven and given new life to