

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK.....

Thank God,
for the gifts of creation and faith.
Follow Jesus,
who brings forgiveness and purpose in life.
Walk With Us,
sharing burdens and joys,
reaching out to others.

Walk With Us is an invitation – an invitation to others to join with us in our fellowship of faith. It is also a reminder to us of our commitment to each other as members of the church. Jesus spent much of his time on earth walking from town to town, preaching and teaching along the way. He invited people to follow him – which they did.

Following Jesus, then, means that we walk together on the journey of life, just as the early apostles did. And so we share our burdens and celebrate our joys with one another, through worship, prayer, bible study, and simply spending time with each other.

This last phrase of my elevator speech describes our life together as Christians. All that we do together is seen through the lens of following Jesus.

So we come together for worship – to hear Jesus' words, to offer thanks and praise, to be inspired by music and hymns, to listen to God speaking to us through the sermon.
We pray for one another, because Jesus himself prayed, and taught us to pray for others.
We study the bible together, for only in dialogue with fellow believers can we fully understand and comprehend the words of the scriptures.
We spend time with other church members, because, well, that's what makes life enjoyable – each other's company.
We cry with each other in times of grief, we laugh with each other in times of joy, we encourage each other when times are tough.
We reach out to others.

The church is more than a social group whose focus is inward. Jesus told us to go out into the world, and so we do. Christ's Lutheran, like all other Christian churches, reaches out in many ways to help feed the hungry, bring joy into a child's life, provided assistance to those in need, help others in countries around the world to have lives of decency and dignity and self-sufficiency. We donate money and goods and time and skills to others.

And in doing so, we share the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, and his message of compassion and caring and forgiveness and hope. These are the words and acts of love, taught to us by Jesus.

That's my elevator speech. What would be yours?

Pastor Ed