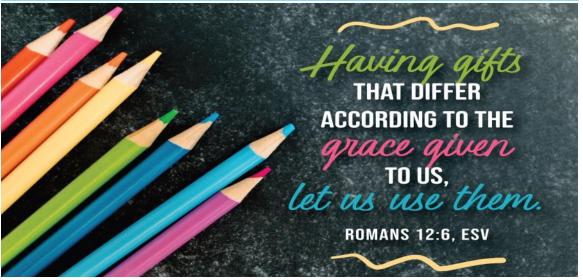
# Christ Calls

# The Monthly Newsletter of Memorial Lutheran Church August 2025

<u>In This Issue</u>			<u>Dates To Remember</u>
Staff Pastor's Corner Church Council Church Council Back to School Blessing Prayer, Finances, Birthdays Year of Prayer The Sign of The Cross Vacation Bible School Hound Packs / Camp Outreach Preschool SPO Homebound	page 2 page 3 page 4 page 5 page 6 page 7 page 8 page 9 page 10 page 11 page 12 page 13 page 14 page 15	August 3 August 8 August 10 August 11 August 17 August 24 August 30 August 31	Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am Quiet Service - 8:00 am Sunday School - 9:00 am Worship/Live Stream Service - 10:00 am Corn Festival - 8:00 am



### Memorial Lutheran Church 34 E. Orange Street Shippensburg PA 17257



**PASTOR** Rev. Godfred Effisah



PARISH COORDINATOR Amy Piper office@memluth.org



**BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR SENIOR CHOIR DIRECTOR**Kathy Kerr



**ORGANIST**Nancy Fogelsanger

717-532-4614 www.memluth.org office@memluth.org

### 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

ELDERS DEACONS

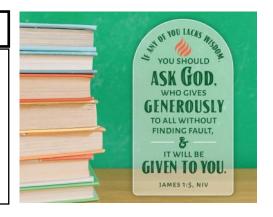
Linda Basler Demaree Deardorff

Mary Cox Linda Eves
Mary Beth Fishel Beth Houser
TRUSTEES Tasha Koenig

Matthew Creek
Bill Drake
Galen Piper

Ron Luffy
Jan Nichols
Karin Vargo
Susan Wenger

Bob Snyder – Treasurer



# FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Grace and peace from our Lord Jesus Christ be with you and your entire families. Thank you very much for all your prayers during my trip to Ghana. I had a wonderful time with my family and friends during my visit, and I am glad to be back safely.

Friends, as August dawns upon us, I am amazed by the simple fact that summer is almost over. Even though some of us are trying to squeeze in on that one last vacation or get out for just a few more days. At least in part, we've begun to transition back into our fall routines. I wonder how this has happened so fast. Wasn't it just yesterday we finished planting our flowers and celebrated some graduations?

No matter how fast time seems to be running, we must not just allow our time to be something that simply evades or escapes from our fingers. After all, time and every moment on this earth is a gift from God. I thus believe that at the end of Summer, we will make time to reflect on how we used our time over the past few months. Did we include prayer and God in our Summer bucket list, i.e., did we set aside time either as individuals or as a family to pray and strengthen our relationship with God? What time did you give back to God and others? Were you a good steward of your Summertime? As we bring Summer to an end and begin our fall routine, seek out ways you can serve God in our faith family and those around us. Remember, God always desires to be part of us, and how we spend our time with God and those around us reveals a great deal about us as disciples of Jesus Christ. We live with limited time as humans; it is short and uncertain, yet we can make it meaningful when we place Christ at the center and share it with our neighbors.

As we prepare to resume our busy season of Fall, I hope you will make time for God, keeping God in your heart, in your mind, and on your lips as a disciple ready to bring others to God. In this parish Year of Prayer, commitment to prayer and active participation in our congregational life is sought from all of us. Let us make a sacred promise to be people of prayer, to learn more about our faith through Sunday school and Bible Study, and to grow our faith community through participation in social and life-giving church events. Participation in our Sunday liturgy is paramount in our journey with Christ. Be active, come, and let us desire to always sit at the feet of Jesus together.

God bless you, and please keep me in your prayers as I strive to serve with a heart for God and you.

The Rev. Godfred Effisah, Pastor.



### COUNCIL NEWS

Church Council met Monday, June 9, 2025.

The meeting was called to order and Concerns and Thanksgivings were shared. Thanksgiving for the wonderful service on Pentecost, June 8<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Godfred expressed his thanks for everything done for the 10<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary Celebration, reception, cards, and generous gift. Ron Luffy shared the concern for Rachel Diaz Debias, guidance counselor at the high school, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 colon cancer.

Devotions were led by Jan Nichols who shared *Walking In Grace*, a reading about being a hero and Father's Day. Jan gave the opening prayer.

Pastor gave a summation of the Synod Assembly. His name was included in the first round of five voting for the position of Bishop. Voting was done by ecclesiastical ballot which narrowed down the candidates in each round. Pastor Steve Herr of Gettysburg was elected as Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod for a term of six years. All are asked for prayers for Bishop-elect Herr.

Pastor Godfred attended the Preschool Graduation on May 20<sup>th</sup>. A citation, gifts of appreciation and flowers were given to Shirley Perry and Hope Alspaugh in recognition of their dedication and work with the Preschool. Pastor thanked those who attended the Preschool Graduation ceremony, also. A meeting was held with some members of the Preschool Board and the Finance Ministry. A second meeting is to be scheduled.

Pastor Godfred reported that while he is away the Rev. Martin Horn will be the Supply Pastor on June 22, 29 and July 6. Pastor Christopher Frye of St. Luke's Chambersburg will be on call for emergencies during Pastor Godfred's vacation.

Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> has been identified as the tentative date for the Fall Bazaar. Vendors need to be contacted for the event. Fair Stand will be open beginning Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup> - Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Stand preparation and set-up times will be announced. Date and time for chili making will be announced and contributions of cooked chicken and broth for gravy is welcomed. Watch the *Weekly Call* for updates.

Ron Luffy will complete the unexpired term as Deacon due to Betsy Haller's resignation. Thank you to Ron for serving on Church Council again. Nominating Committee has received several nominations for the 2026 Church Council. Boxes are on the shelf by the parking lot door and in the sanctuary. Current council members whose term ends in 2025 and are eligible to serve a second term are Demaree Deardorff, Susan Wenger and Ron Luffy. A meeting is scheduled following the worship service Sunday, June 25th.

Church Property reported that the lock on the balcony door has been installed; the Ladies' bathroom sink aerator has been fixed; and the wall dividing the Archives Room closet has been constructed. TKE has not returned our call regarding our elevator maintenance agreement. In the event of a power failure and the locking system needs to be reset, the computer in the Trustee's Office will need to be restarted. The Emergency and Safety Task Force reported that we do not have handicap accessibility at the Orange & Penn Streets entrance to the church.

Finance Ministry reported that checking accounts for the Fair Stand, Fellowship and Memorial Outreach will no longer receive monthly paper statements eliminating the \$2.00 fee for each statement for these accounts. The statements will be received online and will be printed out and given to those ministry committees. The committee members reviewed information from three of the Trusts for which Memorial is the beneficiary. Memorial is bound by the dictates of the trusts and has no control over those accounts management.

Karin Vargo and Jan Nichols presented a complete and comprehensive spreadsheet with the expected expenses for the Archives Room project and explained the needed items and the costs. Also shared was the information on donations already received and pledged toward the Archives. At this time, it is anticipated that there will be an approximate shortfall of \$3,000. On a motion presented by Finance and seconded by Beth Houser, the request for funding to move ahead with the project was approved.

With no further business to be brought to the table, the meeting was adjourned with the praying of the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting of the Church Council will be Monday, July 14, 2025.

Respectfully submitted, Mary Cox, Congregation President



Church Council met Monday, July 14, 2025.

The meeting was called to order and Concerns and Thanksgivings were shared. Thanksgiving from Pastor for the prayers for his safe trip to and from Ghana. Concern for Pastor's mother who is visibly weaker from her fight with cancer. Concerns for Jerry Lyons and the family.

Devotions were led by Susan Wenger. Reading from the Women of the ELCA devotional book, Susan read the *Parable of the Growing Seed* from the Gospel of Mark chapter 4; verses 26-29 followed by prayer.

Pastor asked how things went with Pastor Horn while he was on vacation. The responses were positive. Upcoming meetings will be had with the Altar Guild and the VBS planning group. The blessing of students, school supplies, and educational professionals will be included in the worship service on Sunday, August 17th. A 'Walk-in Community Christmas Caroling' sponsored by the Shippensburg Area Christian Ministries will be held on Friday, December 5th; more information will follow regarding this. Pastor Godfred shared that our conference manages and supports the "Furniture Shed" ministry for people who are in need of furniture and housing supplies. This is a ministry funded entirely by the donations and generosity of the congregations of our conference. Memorial was asked to give \$250 for this important outreach. Council unanimously agreed to give the requested donation which is sent to our conference Dean Christopher Frye. Pastor Godfred has been chosen by the Synod to be a part of the 2025-26 Lead Pastor Development Program.

It was with regret that Council accepted the resignation of Megan Shirk as Deacon from Church Council due to personal reasons. She expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve on Church Council and hopes to be able to help in other areas of the church. Council wished Megan God's blessings.

The safe for the Archives Room has been delivered and needs storage shelves built for the inside. Antonio Diaz is taking care of the floor stripping and polishing. New carpet will be installed after July 20<sup>th</sup>. The Stewardship Ministry's Fundraising committee will need to choose a date for the proposed Fall Bazaar. The date of Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> is already on the calendar for Katie's Place's *Better Together* community event. Jean Robinson will oversee the food for the bazaar. Bill Drake reported from the Nominating Committee that names are needed for the position of Elder.

Church Property reported that the church office's mini-split had coolant running down the wall. Wadel's came and repaired it on an emergency call. Lights out in the hallway to the kitchen/Fellowship Hall need to be taken care of.

The squeaky organ bench has been lubricated but still needs fixed. The Finance Ministry met Tuesday, July 8th. Financial statements for June 30, 2025 were reviewed. The anticipated cash flow for the summer months and various situations that would be impacted were discussed. Treasurer Bob Snyder reported that Portico, the company that provides pastoral benefits, will be adding more options for 2026. Further details will be shared as they are available. The members of the committee will meet with the financial advisors at TruNorth/Fidelity on Thursday, July 24th to discuss various aspects of our investment account recently transferred from Orrstown Bank. Costs for elevator maintenance were discussed and the Trustees are to follow up with this. The real estate tax bill for the parking lot behind the South Penn Street property once owned by MLC was received. The committee will pursue attaining an exemption from this tax.

SPO operations are now completely computerized. Katie's Place property have installed security lights. The Preschool donated their LifeVAc Choking Rescue Device to the church. A permanent location for this important device will be identified; currently, it is by the AED unit. Preschool room items will be gone through. The Preschool Task Force will meet in August.

With no further business to be brought to the table, the meeting was adjourned with the praying of the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting of the Church Council will be Monday, August 11, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cox, Congregation President



The blessing of students, school supplies, and educational professionals will be included in the worship service on Sunday, August 17th.

# KEEP IN PRAYER

Gordon Chen Jerry Cramer Rachel Diaz Debias Brad Drake David Eves Nancy Fogelsanger Betsy Haller Pamela Hamilton Gary Hawbaker Alberto Llanes Pat Maun Renee Meyer Mary Mensah Mindy Earl Nollenberger Ed Pearson

MAN & HINE 202E

Chris Pivnickny Dylan Ramsey Sarah Francine Ritter Bill Robinson Jill Rotz Ron Shuey Lynn Slowey Tony Stoops Wayne Widney Sue Williams



CANCER PATIENTS & RESEARCHERS



Please pray for the family of Bernita Killian in her death on June 11, 2025.

Please pray for Vera Reber and family in the death of Vera's husband, John Offner, on July 10th. Please pray for Susan Lyons and family in the death of Susan's husband, Jerry Lyons, on July 29th.

<u>Memorial's Prayer Chain</u> - To have your prayer request placed on the prayer chain, please contact Jean Goldthorpe (717-532-9482), or you may give your request to the church office.

# FINANCES



IVIAT & JUNE 2025	-			
FUND	INCOME	EXPENSES	DIFFERENCE	YTD
CURRENT	\$45,378	\$54,570	\$9,192	\$6,305
	Income	Paid		Needed to be paid
BENEVOLENCE	\$6,959	\$0.00	(\$6,959)	\$6,959

# AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- Michael White 1 Demaree Deardorff 1 Kyle Hilbinger 2 Scott Smith 2 James Robinson 3 Amelia Welsh 5 Gerilee Davis 8 Tanner Robinson 8 Craig Perdew 8 Mackenzie Alosi
- 8 Ciera Booz9 Diane Shenton12 Kaitlynn Frater14 Sofia Kyle
- 14 Sofia Kyle15 Mary Pearson17 Kory Alspaugh17 Fran Horst
- 21 Linda Eves21 James Freeman
- 21 Leah Cox

- 21 Amanda Cloud
- 24 Jane Motter
- 24 Katy Murr
- 24 Susan Lyons24 Marlin Gruver
- 24 Marlin Gruver
- 25 Mark Buterbaugh25 Jennifer Andelin
- 29 Rick Foust
- 30 Kevin Clooud

# AD 2025 YEAR OF PRAYER

### **Prayer as our Sacred Duty**

Luther understood prayer first and foremost as a duty, because God has commanded us to do it. The second commandment not only forbids us from using God's name in an empty and meaningless way – it also requires us to praise the holy name of God and call upon it for all our needs. Prayer is just as clearly and solemnly commanded as having no other gods, not murdering or stealing, and we need to have a greater sense of that than we do. Luther said, from the fact that prayer is so urgently commanded, we ought to conclude that we should by no means despise our prayers but

rather prize them highly. Even more strongly, 'He/she who does not pray should know that he is no Christian and does not belong in the kingdom of God.' This quote is attributed to Martin Luther. I wonder if we take this seriously. Most of us don't have much time for duty. People often prefer to do what they want, rather than what they are told to do. But I wonder if that isn't quite a modern notion — a luxury that the previous generation of Christians was unfamiliar with. I'm not for a moment suggesting (or rather, Luther isn't) that duty is the only factor in our praying, but on those days when we have little or no desire to pray, surely this consideration should be enough to bring us to our knees. "God has infinite attention to spare for each one of us. He does not have to deal with us in the mass. You are as much alone with him as if you were the only being he had ever created." C.S. Lewis.

#### THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

### In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The sign of the cross is not simply a way to begin prayer. It is itself a powerful prayer that can bring tremendous blessings into our lives. Whenever we make the sign of the cross in either our private or public devotions, we enter a sacred tradition that dates back to the early centuries of Christianity, when this ritual was understood to be a source of divine power and protection.

In making the Sign of the Cross, we invoke God's presence and invite him to bless us, assist us, and guard us from all harm. It is not surprising that early Christians made the sign of the cross frequently in their daily lives, seeking to tap into the power that lay within it. The sign of the cross has two principal aspects

- The actual tracing of the cross over our bodies
- The words we recite while doing it.

The tracing of the sign on our bodies is a ritual with roots in scripture. In the book of Ezekiel, there is an account of a mysterious mark on the forehead of believers. This mark was a sign of divine protection and a mark distinguishing the faithful from the (continued on next page)

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wicked. When most of the people in Jerusalem turned to worshiping the sun and other idols in the Temple, filling the land with violence (Ezekiel 8). The righteous people received a mysterious mark on their foreheads (the Hebrew letter Tav- which at the time had the shape of an X or a cross). This spiritual mark (Ezekiel 9:4-6) is similar to the blood on the doorposts that protected and distinguished the Israelites from the Egyptians during the Passover in Egypt.

Drawing on the imagery of Ezekiel, the New Testament, in the book of Revelation, depicts saints in heaven as having a seal upon their foreheads (Revelation 7:3). As in Ezekiel's time, this seal separates the faithful people of God from the wicked and protects them from the coming judgments (Revelation 9:4).

The theologian Tertullian (c. AD 160-225), for example, described the common practice of believers who marked themselves with the Sign of the Cross throughout the day as something he observed as he traveled around witnessing to the faith.

Martin Luther and the other reformers recognized the great benefit of the Sign of the Cross to the faith and devotion of the people and encouraged us to make the Sign of the Cross. Luther urged its use in both the Large and Small Catechisms. The sign of the cross is a confession of faith. To trace the sign of the cross upon our bodies is to confess faith in Christ the crucified. In so signing oneself, the Christian says with St. Paul, "May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world" Galatians 6:14. By this sign we confess that all that we have and are, is through the cross of Christ alone. The Sign of the Cross is an acted-out prayer; and no less a prayer even when no words are used.

Martin Luther says in his Small Catechism, "In the morning and in the evening, you shall bless yourself with the sign of the Holy Cross and, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." It is a Christian custom to make the Sign of the Cross at the invocation, after receiving communion, and at the Benediction. The Sign of the Cross belongs to all who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The sign of the cross, whether traced over the body or on the forehead, is a sign and remembrance of Baptism.

In our Lutheran Worship Books (LBW, WOV, etc.) and bulletins, we are expected to make the Sign of the Cross whenever we see the Cross marked. Let us try to nurture the action of making the Sign of the Cross. Let the Cross as our seal be boldly signed with our fingers upon our bodies and foreheads as we meditate on the words we recite.





# Vacation Bible School Friday, August 8, 2025 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Preschool to Youth

### Register by using one of these options:

- 1. Calling the church office at 717-532-4614.
- 2. Using the following online registration link: https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/10294810
- 3. Completing a paper form and placing it into the VBS box across from the church office.

# GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

### Coming Sunday, September 7th, God's Work. Our Hands.

"God's Work, Our Hands"

God's work, our hands: working together.
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.

# Watch for more details coming soon!





Memorial Members, we are committed to the Hound Packs Program to provide cereal bowl packs, granola/fruit bars and individual oatmeal packs. Currently the program is filling 200 bags every Wednesday. When you are shopping, think HOUND PACKS.



More information on these activities can be found at www.lutherancamping.org

<u>Kirchenwald Camp-K-tion</u> (Family Camp)

August 3-8, 2025

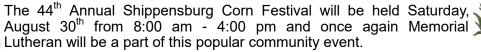
<u>Dinner Church</u> August 3, 2025 at 5:00 pm The Wittel Farm

Saturday Eco-Education Day August 9, 2025 at 10:00 am The Wittel Farm <u>August Family Camp at Nawakwa</u> August 3-8, 2025

Tuesday AM Work Day at Nawakwa August 5, 2025 at 9:00 am

LSS Picnic to Celebrate Bishop Dunlop at Camp Nawakwa August 23rd at 11:00 am

# **OUTREACH**



We will make our church parking lot available for festival goers again as a fund raiser. Also, we will have a table with free cold bottled water to give to those passing by our church's corner.

Watch for more information closer to the date. If you would like to be a part of this outreach of Christian friendship to our town, you may contact Mary Cox or leave your name with the church office. Thank you. +

"Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:20)

CORN FESTIVAL OUTREACH: Donations of bottled water are appreciated for Memorial's Corn Festival Free Water handout. You may bring your donations any day during office hours water and leave them in Fellowship Hall by Friday, August 29th. A sign-up sheet to assist with this community outreach will be on the Office Door. Thank you! †







Thanks to all who helped in anyway at the fair from cooking chicken, to helping make gravy and chili and working a shift or 2 or more during the week. The weather was great except a few brief storms. We did a little better than last year so all was good. What a great community event for us to get the word out

about our church. Special thanks to the men who set up the stand and closed it up.









# PRESCHOOL



The graduation ceremony and celebration for the Memorial Lutheran Preschool class of 2025 was held Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and the last day of school was held on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Over the many years of the Memorial Lutheran Church Preschool outreach program, the church has appreciated the support and involvement of the parents and families of the young students of the school, and the members of the congregation.

As you know, Miss Shirley and Miss Hope retired at the end of this school year. Miss Shirley and Miss Hope and the teachers that have led the program over these years presented a wonderful example of Christian values to the children, sharing their own commitment to their faith and love of Christ. The lessons and teachings the children learned through their preschool experience cannot be measured. It is as a seed planted deep within the heart and soul, ready to sprout and contribute when called upon in the years to come.

Memorial still values the opportunity to introduce young children to the love of God and to learn about Christ Jesus. In an effort to offer a continued positive and encouraging experience to preschool age children, at this time, we are not able to offer preschool classes for the beginning of the 2025 school year. We pray that a preschool will be part of God's plan for the future. A Preschool Task Force has been formed. Updates as available will be shared with you. Your continued prayers and support are appreciated.

# SHIPPENSBURG PRODUCE and OUTREACH

#### SPO Mission Statement:

Called by the grace of God to love one another, we reach out to those in need with food and/or services.

SPO continues to be grateful for the summer growing season and the blessings that have come our way. Otterbein United Methodist Church is delivering 400 bags of corn that they have grown and harvested for us. If you or someone you know has extra vegetables or fruit, we invite you to drop them off at SPO any Tuesday before noon to be distributed later in the day. We are so blessed to be able to share this abundance with our eligible neighbors.



The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints donated 28 pallets of shelf stable food and sent a crew to help us unload and organize for distribution. Parx Casino conducted a fundraiser and presented SPO with a check for over \$5,000.

Our biggest news will be announced later this month. With a grant from Partnership for Better Health, SPO will hire a full-time director. As we serve 400 or more families every week and continue to grow, the demands we face increase weekly. That person will be responsible for achieving SPO's mission daily by executing our sustainability plan, ensuring the safety and welfare of SPO volunteers, writing much needed grants, and representing SPO throughout the community and with our partners and donors. This person will work closely with the Board of Directors and lead and manage an all-volunteer staff. It's a huge and exciting step for us.

SPO will participate in the Back-to-School event on August 9th at the fairgrounds. Mark your calendars for the Better Together event on September 20th here in the parking lot from 9:00 am to Noon and the Annual Faerie Festival fundraiser on September 27th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.



### Save the Date!

**Church** The Annual Church Picnic will be held on **Picnic!** Sunday, September 14th at the Shippensburg Township Park on Britton Road.

# GOOD & FAITHFUL SERVANTS

### Please keep our homebound in your prayers.

Evelyn Fuller 630 Brenton St Shippensburg, PA 17257

Karen Larson Celebration Villa of Shippensburg 129 Walnut Bottom Road Shippensburg, PA 17257 Doug & Pat Maun 211 S. Washington Street Shippensburg, PA 17257

Jeanne Naugle 442 Walnut Bottom Road, F2 Carlisle, PA 17013 Dorothy Railing 117 Cleversburg Road Shippensburg, PA 17257

Trina Ruth 509 Westover Road Shippensburg, PA 17257



"You who answer prayer, to you all people will come." Psalm 65:2

Join us as we Pray at the Shippensburg Area Community Prayer Gathering Sunday, August 17th 2:00 - 4:00 pm Cora I. Grove Spiritual Center

(54 Spiritual Center Drive, Shippensburg University).

Hosted by Shippensburg
Association of Christian
Ministries. Prayer will be
led by representatives of
Shippensburg area churches.
Open to the public.

"Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you." Jeremiah 29:12

MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 34 E ORANGE ST SHIPPENSBURG PA 17257-1993

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED** 

**TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL** 

Welcoming all.

Reaching out in love.

Growing together in Christ.

Worshipping and serving in Jesus' name.

