

Lutheran Church of the Cross

Vision and Priorities at the Crossroads

2023-2025

As inclusive Christians living at the crossroads of faith and service on the unceded territory of the ʔəḡəḡən peoples, Lutheran Church of the Cross aspires to be a spiritual community committed to the liberating message of Jesus Christ for all peoples by:

Valuing Spiritual Growth Through:

1. Inspiring, creative worship
 - Try innovative and new forms of worship as well as traditional worship resources
 - Ongoing support for in person and livestream worship
 - Upgrade in-church and livestream video, audio and hearing device equipment
 - Intentional engagement opportunities before worship
 - Orient members to assist in various capacities at worship
 - Welcome ideas from the congregation regarding worship
 - Look at posting sermons in other languages besides English
2. Personal spiritual practices
 - Provide resources for renewal and healing from the pandemic's impact
 - Tuesday morning prayer
 - Special bible and spiritual nurturing groups
 - Ensure the Memorial Gardens remain a comforting place for spiritual reflection
 - Host guest speakers on spiritual topics
 - Support praying friends across all generations
 - Create a small sacred space in the sanctuary that can be used by anyone outside of worship
3. Learning opportunities for all ages
 - Make use of “dessert and dialogue” formats for a variety of issues
 - Advent and Lent special projects
 - Provide opportunities to learn or practice languages other than English
4. Celebrating Indigenous, Queer and Racialized communities
 - Include social justice issues in planning worship and small group learning times
 - Intentional and continuous renewal of the Reconciling in Christ commitment

Honouring Each Other In Every Stage of Life Through:

- 1 Care of elders and homebound friends
 - Train members on visitation of one another
 - Support pastoral and congregational care of seniors
- 2 Nurturing youth, solo people and families in their many forms
 - Find creative ways to engage children and youth in the life of the community
 - Update the Church of the Cross website

- Provide opportunities for all ages to meet each other as we build community
 - Outreach to families with children to find out how to include and support them
 - Offering free childcare to parents who they would like to attend meetings or be hospitality hosts
- 3 Compassionate support in an ever-changing world
- Regular updates to the congregation from council, boards and committees
 - Responding to the changing needs of the congregation
 - Engaging with and supporting our pastors in their evolving roles and ministries
 - Understand and respond to the diverse needs of everyone at Church of the Cross
 - Promote small groups at Church of the Cross
 - Activities of the Women in Faith (stitch & chat, book club, random acts of kindness)
 - Supporting the “beyond grief” ministry to those experiencing personal grief
- 4 Affirming gifts of gender diversity

Practicing Inclusivity Through:

1. Putting our theology into practice for social justice and Truth and Reconciliation
 - Learn about the challenges faced by marginalized groups
 - Respond to the worship, spiritual and social needs of differently abled peoples
 - Engage in learning about and responding to social justice issues such as reconciliation with First Nations, racism, gender diversity, poverty, homelessness, addiction and mental health
 - Welcoming and supporting refugees
 - Ongoing support for Harrison Place, Victoria Women’s Transition House Society, Our Place and Anawim House
 - Activities of the Women in Faith (social gatherings for various and all ages)
 - Consider the needs of seniors and the challenge of ageism when thinking about isolated and marginalized people
2. Orienting newcomers to Church of the Cross
 - Informing newcomers of activities and inviting them to join
 - Welcome newcomers at worship and other events
 - Update the church directory with photos both in paper and online formats
 - Offer an annual community dinner in the fall
3. Engagement in Campus Ministry
 - Inform the congregation of activities and opportunities to involve students
 - Support the involvement of Luther House residents at LCC
 - Ensure sufficient funding for campus ministry
 - Support and participate in events with Inclusive Christians at University of Victoria
4. Action on food security together with Shelbourne Community Kitchen
 - Continued support of the Kitchen
 - Engaging wherever possible staff and people who access the Kitchen

Sharing Our Resources Through:

1. Contributing our finances, time and abilities
 - Keep congregation informed of our financial needs
 - Invite members with all kinds of attributes to be involved in specific activities
 - Engage all ages in caring for the building and grounds of the church
 - Mentoring each other's skills for maintenance activities
 - Enlist members and friends to be hospitality hosts after worship and at other events
 - Communicating using multiple media tools to make it easier to stay informed
 - Activities of the Women in Faith (fundraising, trunk sale)
 - Support for Karren Stinson Bursary
2. Engaging in work with other denominations and faiths
 - Continuing the council-level connection with St Luke Anglican
 - Joint worship and other events with St Luke Anglican and other ecumenical partners
 - Joint Refugee sponsorship with Congregation Emanu-El
3. Making our facility available for use by the greater community
 - Ongoing maintenance of the building and property for safe usage by the congregation and renters
 - Consider converting the Upper Hall servery into a full kitchen
 - Offering subsidized housing to students at Luther House
 - Collaborating with Shelbourne Community Kitchen to offer a weekly drop-in for its participants
4. Caring for creation and the environment
 - Upgrade and maintain our facility to reduce our environmental footprint
 - Participate in events to learn how to live in harmony with Creation
 - Stay informed on actions to prevent harm to the environment and end the climate crisis
5. Collaborating with Luther Court on an intergenerational housing development
 - Keep congregation informed on developments related to the expansion of Luther Court
 - Cooperate with Luther Court when our maintenance projects coincide with their efforts and needs
 - Consider sale of Luther House and adjacent property to Luther Court and if approved, engage congregation on the best use of the proceeds.