

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Leadership Covenant

Preamble

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world . . . But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions. . . For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph. 2, selected verses)

So succinctly our God describes how He rescued us from our sin and made us alive with Christ in His Church. He calls each and every one of us to follow Him and to join our efforts with those of fellow Christians to accomplish His purposes. His call to each of us is, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23)

Individually each of us has the responsibility to answer Jesus' call. Our individual actions taken together then accomplish His will as we, working together as His Church, live out what the Lord calls us to be, namely the body of Christ.

Covenant Promises

As a leader or staff member of Christ's Church, here represented by the congregation known as St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church I commit myself, together with all members of John's, to the accomplishment of its mission "Connecting, Caring and Sharing in Christ."

As such I commit myself to the following promises of St. John's members:

1. Celebrate joyfully the gifts of forgiveness of sins and eternal life, which God gave me in my baptism,
2. Proclaim daily to others my God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, as expressed in the words of the Apostles Creed,
3. Be steadfast in prayer,
4. Oppose the devil and all sinful influences around me and within me,
5. Examine myself faithfully to ensure that I have repented for my sins to God and others, my daily life reflects my faith in Jesus Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit.
6. Be loyal to my church family and her teachings,
7. Declare the Scriptures to be the inerrant inspired Word of God,
8. Grow spiritually through regular/faithful worship, reception of Holy Communion and Bible Study,
9. Serve my Lord with the time, talents and resources He gives me within my church family and His church at large.

Aware of the prominence and significance of the call of leadership in Christ's Body, the church, I will conduct my personal life and public ministry in such a manner that honors the Lord who states,

As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."
1 Peter 1:14-16

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.
1 Peter 2:12

If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.
1 Peter 4:11

Therefore I promise to:

1. Be a godly team member.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.
Philippians 2:3-4

2. Obey those in authority unless required to do something contrary to God's Word.

Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority,
1 Peter 2:13

Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.
Hebrews 13:17

3. Recognize and respect what the Lord is doing through fellow Christians and refrain from unnecessary criticism.

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.
1 Peter 3:8, 9

4. Speak the truth in love.

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every

supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
Ephesians 4:15-16

5. Seek to forgive others and be forgiven by them and the Lord.

*But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to his brother, 'Raca,' is answerable to the Sanhedrin. But anyone who says, 'You fool!' will be in danger of the fire of hell. "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift. *Matthew 5:22-24**

*If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense— Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. *1 John 1:8-2:1**

*Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. *James 5:16**

6. Care sacrificially for my family members.

*A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. *1 Timothy 3:12**

*If anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. *1 Timothy 5:8**

7. Honor the Lord with all my resources and practice systematic, proportionate, first-fruit giving to my church home.

*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it. *Malachi 3:10**

*Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income, saving it up, so that when I come no collections will have to be made. *1 Corinthians 16:1-2**

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in

his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8

8. Resist the temptation to seek salvation through good deeds thereby robbing my Lord's honor.

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin. But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.
Romans 3:19-24

9. Take seriously His call of discipleship to accomplish His mission work through my life.

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.
Matthew 5:14-16

I make this commitment depending fully upon the strength God gives me daily through His means of Grace (Word and Sacrament) and trusting in His forgiveness when I fall short.

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____ Date: _____

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Leadership Board