

Developing Redeemer's Guiding Principles

Thirty people participated in a Guiding Principles workshop following the example in *Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation* by Dave Daubert. The group reviewed Scripture (Acts chapters 2, 10, and 16), prayed individually, then held dialog, both in small groups and as the whole assembly. The output included a list of key lessons the church should learn. Reference the three chapters from Acts.

A smaller group met to distill these ideas into five draft Guiding Principles. The five draft principles are presented with the key lessons, actions, and values seen in the Scripture. These will be refined into five Principles with an accompanying paragraph defining what that should look like at Redeemer. These Principles will be reviewed by Council and a resolution presented in the Congregation Meeting for a vote.

The next Council will come up with a purpose statement.

Change happens when behaviors change. If we really expect Redeemer to look like the Principles described, each person must adopt behaviors that will bring about change. We need to be intentional about these new behaviors for transformation to take place. Falling back to old behaviors will cause the transformation to falter. We've said the words before; now we need to put behaviors and actions behind the words and cause transformation.

Guiding Principles

1. *Jesus is Lord and Savior*

The entire Christian World knows this to be the center of our Faith. We recognize and honor Jesus Christ as the Son of God sent to us in human form to give us grace. He paid for our sins on the Cross, there is nothing We can do to earn our salvation.

John 3:16 tells us “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.”

And from Mark 1:1, “This is the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”

“You are my own dear Son, I am pleased with you” This was the voice of the Holy Spirit the baptism of Jesus by John (Luke 3:21)

2. *Everyone is welcome and invited*

We believe that everyone is welcome at Redeemer no matter who they are or where they are on life’s journey. Galatians 3:28 says, “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male or female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” This means we strive to make Redeemer a community of grace where people do not have to be afraid of being rejected or excluded because of who they are.

3. *We are passionate disciples, being equipped and equipping others*

Nourished through Word and Sacraments, encouraged through discernment, and equipped through training and service, we are called to be God's people as passionate disciples for the transformation of the world.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. (1 Peter 2:9)

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:2)

4. *We treat each other with grace and forgiveness*

As Christians, we recognize that we are saved by grace and not through any merit out own. Remembering this gift we are excited by, and challenged to, spread that grace and love to others.

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves in love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.(Colossians 3:13-14)

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:31-32)

5. *We are the voice and hands of Christ for the world*

Our heartfelt response to the gift of grace and salvation is to speak God's Word and do Christ's work in the world. We pray and strive to bring the Kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, we faithfully and joyfully help and defend our neighbors everywhere and support them in all of their needs.

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation".
(Mark 16:8)

"So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet". "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (John 13:14, 34)