

CORE VALUES

devotional for congregation councils



North Carolina Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

CHRIST-CENTERED

GENEROSITY RELATIONSHIP RECONCILIATION

Core Values

Core Values reveal our DNA together as synod. They are values that will guide our work together—values that have been in our DNA for generations and will be in our DNA into the future. Today, we explore our value:

Christ-Centered *The living Word, Jesus the Christ, is the very center of all we do. In Jesus Christ, we experience God's grace and are set free to be God's beloved in this world.*

Prayer

Gracious God, we give thanks for the ways that you are continually drawing us together as a community anchored in your death and resurrection, set free to love and serve this world. When we stray, draw us back to you. When our efforts block the move of your spirit, draw us back to you. When our business for you replaces being in your presence, center us again. Center us again, O God. Amen.

Read Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Meditation on the Scripture Hold a moment of silence as a group.

Exploring Our Values More Deeply

This video conversation features Bishop Tim Smith and Deacon Tammy Jones West sharing what it means for them and our synod to be Christ-Centered.

Questions to Consider

Turn to a neighbor seated near you and share your thoughts on these three questions. After you have had a chance to share in small group, share as a larger council for several minutes.

*Is Jesus the center of your own life?

*Is Jesus the center of your congregation?

*In what ways is God calling you more deeply into God's presence, centered in life with Jesus?

Closing Prayer

Direct us, Lord God, in all our doings with your most gracious favor, and extend to us your continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.