

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:

Relationship *Just as we belong to one body in Christ, we beloved to each other. Inspired by the Gospel, we will choose to live and work together for the sake of the world.*

Prayer

Triune God, whose will it is that humans live in community, bless our life together. Fill homes and faith communities with respect, joy, laughter, and prayer. Strengthen our commitment to one another reflecting your faithfulness to us. With wonderful diversity of languages and cultures, you created all people in your image. Free us from prejudice and fear, that we may see your face in the faces of people across our dinner tables and around the world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Read 1 Peter 2:9

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 marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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 the Rev. Danielle DeNise sharing what it means for them and our synod to be in Relationship.

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.

- *What does it mean for you to belong to this faith community?
- *What are challenges of being church together? What are the blessings?
- *What is one way have you experienced *synod*—which means "walking together"—as a congregation?

Closing Prayer

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in the bonds of love; and, through our struggle and confusion, work to accomplish your purposes on earth; so that, in your good time, every people and nation may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.