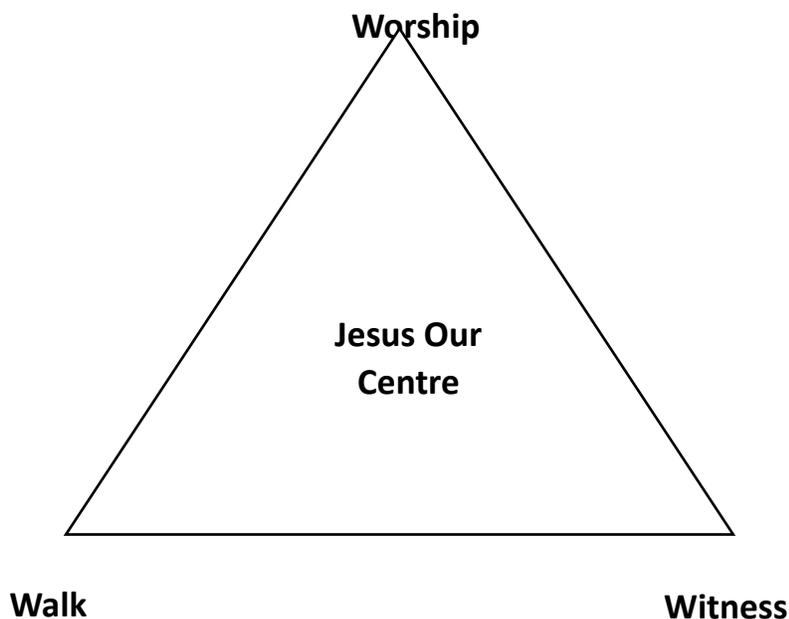


LUMC Vision Statement

January 2018



Our Centre

As a Church, ***we have one reference point: the person of Jesus. We claim him as both Savior and Lord.***

Jesus is the center of our faith and the cross stands at the center of who Jesus is.

The Cross encompasses the life and teachings of Jesus and is the event that frees us and reconciles us with God and neighbour.

The Cross reveals that God is love – co-suffering, transforming, never-ending love.

The sin, brokenness and death of the world are absorbed by the love of God and transformed into grace, mercy and new life for the world.

The Cross serves as the pattern of life that we seek to follow. We seek to live a “cross-shaped” life for our community; learning to love others in the way of Jesus, existing to bless others, sewing peace where there is enmity, and sharing hope, healing and the good news of God’s kingdom.

Our Mission

To worship God, walk in the way of Jesus and witness in the power of the Spirit.

Our Vision

A worshipping community of God's people,
called to be disciples under the Lordship of Jesus,
sent to share God's love in word and deed with the world
through the power of the Spirit.

Our Roots

Our church is a Christian church rooted in the Anabaptist tradition. The original Anabaptists were known as radical disciples of Jesus Christ.

They were zealous in sharing their faith, demonstrating God’s love in daily life, and extending forgiveness to those who persecuted them. We seek to continue this tradition by being a community of hope and healing for our neighbors.

Our church was founded by Russian Mennonite immigrants in 1929 and has always had a strong tradition of uniting together to serve both God and neighbor.

The Church is a member of the Mennonite World Conference, Mennonite Church Canada, and Mennonite Church Eastern Canada.

As a Church, we accept the 24 Articles of the Confession of Faith (1995) as a summary statement of our faith for teaching and nurture in the church.

Worship

Worship

The reason we exist as a Church is to give worship to God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Worship is the act in which we seek to re-center our lives around Jesus, telling God's story and shaping our hearts to love God and others. Our worship incorporates the practices of prayer, scripture, testimony, preaching, singing, communion, baptism, and the arts.

We value worship that is *diverse, participatory, and intergenerational* inviting all to use their gifts and creativity whatever their skill level.

Our worship is both public and personal; it is more than our Sunday morning gathering, but it is not less. By Worshipping together, the Holy Spirit reveals God's will for us and binds us together as a community preparing us to be sent as God's priests and witnesses in the world.

Authenticity, Trust & Mystery

As a worshipping community, we are characterized by ***authenticity, trust, and mystery.***

We choose to be a community of people who refuse to hide from the truth for fear of shame. The way things really are is far more important than the way things appear. People are invited to come as they are and let the truth revealed in God set them free and transform them.

We choose trust over suspicion, self-protection, and judgment. We choose peace through, not around, conflict. We commit to extending to each other the benefit of the doubt, to speaking truthfully and to submitting to one another in love.

We believe that our faith is a sacred mystery, a confession, with plenty of room for questions and seekers. As a community, we are always seeking to learn more – but we will always confess and believe more than what we can explain. ***Belief is a journey to greater trust in God rather than facts and certitude. Our faith is not a destination but a journey deeper into God's love.***

Walk

Community

We experience Jesus through the lives of others in community, learning what it means to follow him together.

The God we worship is a God of relationships – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ***We believe that every human was designed for community and that faith is practiced as a community. God is revealed to the world in flesh and blood, word and deed, as a church we seek to reveal God to the world through our lives.***

Community at LUMC is about learning to love and welcome people who are different than you, serving and living side-by-side with people we have very little in common with except for Jesus. In this work of love, we seek to be a church shaped by the beatitudes of Jesus.

We are a community that loves and welcomes all; overcoming the many divisions and barriers our world creates and reconciling with one another. We embrace those the world excludes or deems to be weak: the poor, children, the aged and the disabled; for in them, the strength of God is revealed. ***At LUMC we practice a wide embrace gathering many people with diverse perspectives under a "big tent" with the Lordship of Jesus as the source of our unity.***

We are a community that is rooted in the Anabaptist tradition while embracing the broad diversity of the great Christian tradition; rejecting the sectarianism that has fragmented and divided the followers of Jesus.

Discipleship

We value the practice of discipleship: ***the work of transforming and re-orienting our hearts, minds, and lives around Jesus through the power of God's Spirit.***

Our response to the love of God shown to us in Jesus compels to follow him, learning the rhythms of grace he taught in word and action; learning to love the way God loves us.

The Cross of Jesus is our pattern of discipleship, his teachings are our way of life. Through them we learn to practice self-giving others centered love.

The work of discipleship is an ongoing, daily work which people of all ages need to engage in.

LUMC offers many ways for people of all ages to join in the Spirit's ongoing work of transformation:

Nursery, Sunday School, Adult Education, Small Groups, and Youth Ministry.

Witness

The Priesthood of All Believers

We are all called and sent by God to be God's representatives and join in his work empowered by his Spirit.

We are called to intercede for our world in prayer, offering a prophetic witness against evil, reflecting God's presence, and being joyful witnesses to the work that God has done and is doing.

We are called to walk the world extending the mercy of God, and standing alongside others in their brokenness handing out grace, love, hope and healing to those we meet.

We are called to make disciples, sharing the good news of Jesus, calling for repentance and teaching Jesus' new way of being human.

God speaks and works through all of us – using our individual gifts and personalities to bear witness to the work God is doing.

Service & Mission

As a church we are committed to serving Jesus by serving those around us – across the street and around the world.

In the kingdom of God, greatness is not found in elevating yourself but in doing something for someone else. We are a community that serves the needs of the poor, the broken, and the vulnerable.

As a Church, we are called to work against the sinful systems and structures of idolatry, division, injustice and oppression in our community. We instead work for God's Kingdom seeking the good of all, working to right what is wrong, bring healing to what is broken, and sharing hope where there is despair. In this work of service and mission we do not serve alone. Our Church works with many partners to witness to God's kingdom to our community both globally and locally.

Reconciliation

We share in God's work of reconciliation. As a Church we look outward, bearing witness to God's work of reconciliation; bringing heaven down to earth, reuniting God and people through the power of God's grace and love in Jesus.

In a divided and hostile world, we work at being a community where the walls of division and hostility have come down, working for reconciliation and peacemaking where there is conflict in our relationships, our neighbourhoods, and around the world.

The work of reconciliation is not ours but is made possible only by the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us.