

Faith Rootedness Statement

At the heart of the Christian faith that inspires and sustains Peace Community Center, is a deep respect for the uniqueness, dignity and gifts of each individual. The Christian faith and Lutheran Social Ministry teach that healthy community is an irreplaceable asset to every individual's well-being.

Peace focuses on education and life-long learning because those elements are vital to healthy individuals and strong communities. Education equips and shapes each individual and new generation with the wisdom, knowledge and abilities needed for a hopeful future. "When the Christian Church talks about education, it does so in light of its faith in God" [from the ELCA's *A Social Statement: Our Calling in Education*].

The faith in God evident in Peace Lutheran Church, which founded, nurtured and loved *Peace Community Center* into existence, is based on an understanding that God directs us to love, nurture and serve all people, without respect to their background or faith tradition. This is made clear in the commandment of Jesus to love God and neighbor. We seek to pursue such love without imposing doctrine or tenets on others.

Love compels us to a decision to care, to risk and to take action for the sake of the welfare of others. Love compels us to a reciprocal relationship of learning and growth between teachers and learners where all are blessed. Love compels us to act with kindness and humility. Love compels us to a capacity for forgiveness, compassion, honesty, and self-sacrifice. Love compels us to boldness in our work for justice, and courage as we seek to be peacemakers. We believe these capacities and attributes are gifts of God to all people.

We desire for all the children, youth, adults of our neighborhood, as well as ourselves, the Shalom (Peace) God desires for all people – joy in the goodness of life, confidence in their God-given potential, safety and security, health and wholeness, and ultimately the capacity to extend to others the love God so graciously gives all of us.

Our biblical vision is of a vibrant community where justice flourishes and peace prevails, where everyone shares in the bounty of creation and where each child, as intended by God, has a chance to grow and live out his or her life. This gives us hope as we pursue our ministry of Shalom under the guidance of God's Spirit.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for; the conviction of things unseen (Hebrews 1:1). By faith we seek to make the vision of Peace Community Center visible in the lives of every child we serve.

The following scriptures inform and capture the essence of our gospel faith: Genesis 1; Isaiah 58: 6-12 and 65: 17-25; Jeremiah 29: 5-14; Micah 6: 8; Zechariah 8: 1-8; Mark 12: 28-34; Luke 4: 16-21; Romans 12; I Corinthians 12; Hebrews 11: 1; Revelation 21: 1-6.