

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
Discipled by Grace for Grace

The Mission of God... The Mission of God's People.

A Study for the Mission of Grace Lutheran Church & School

A RATIONALE FOR “CHANGE”

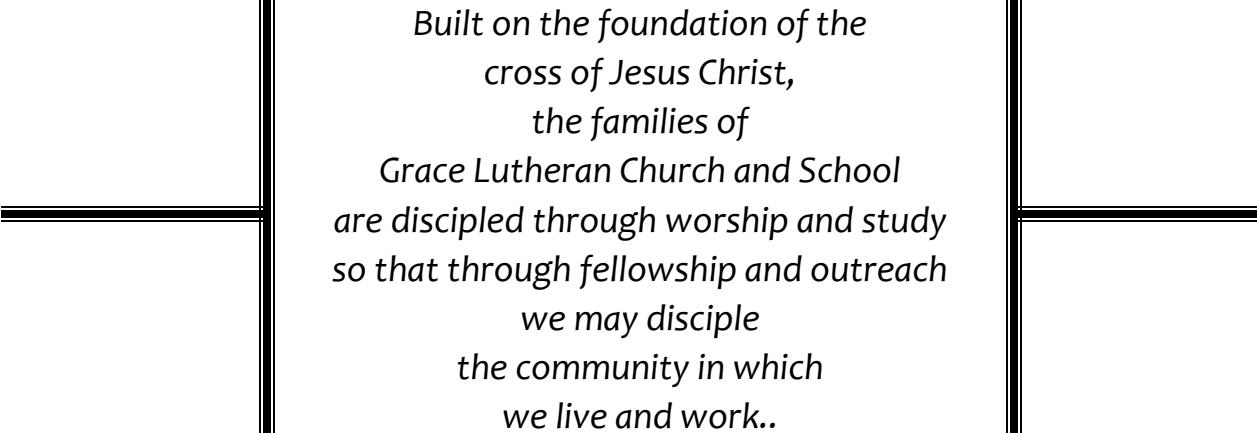
Philosophically (that is, theologically), the mission of the church and school will fundamentally remain the same – to proclaim the Gospel and serve God’s people so as to promote the work of the Holy Spirit, that is, to instill and strengthen faith in Jesus Christ. However, it is important for any organization to evaluate how those fundamental purposes are communicated so as to promote continued zeal and support of the mission.

Grace is at a place where such an evaluation is critical, not in terms of an imminent failure of the ministry but in terms of the changes that have taken place over the last three to five years. Although slow, a transform has taken place within the congregation to be missionally conscious about the activities in the church and school. Couple this with the staffing changes that have taken place, namely the retirement and subsequent replacement of the School Administrator, and it is clear that such an evaluation is necessary in order to promote the partnership in and the ministry of the church and school.

To achieve that partnership, it is important that we identify the core activities that best reflect a Biblical mission of a church and school. Again, fundamentally, that mission is to proclaim the Gospel and promote the faith of Jesus Christ. The question is what are the actual components of that mission that will guide and shape the activities which take place in the sanctuary, the classrooms, the parish hall, and even the community of the greater Ft. Hood area.

Applying the theology of the Doctrine of Sanctification, the ministry of the church and school is one of formation. Sanctification is biblically described as the process by which the Holy Spirit forms a person in faith and holy living, guiding and directing that person on that path of salvation. The activities of the ministry are to allow and promote that work of the Spirit. Thus, one image that readily comes to mind is that of building blocks. Scripture speaks of God’s people being built on the one cornerstone that is Christ Jesus. Likewise, much (if not all) that is done in a church and school is to form people, to lay foundations and build the person up. The key is determining the right balance of components in building each block. As an actual brick is made up of just the right components, so a person’s faith is made up of a balance of activities. Faith is not formed just through worship or just through Bible class or just through fellowship. A solid faith is formed through a balance of all components – worship, education/instruction, fellowship and outreach. It is these core components that guided the formation of the new mission and vision of Grace Lutheran Church AND School.

EXPLANATION OF THE MISSION STATEMENT OF
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL



*Built on the foundation of the cross of Jesus Christ,
the families of Grace Lutheran Church and School
are discipled through worship and study
so that through fellowship and outreach
we may disciple the community in which
we live and work..*

∞ **BUILT ON THE FOUNDATION OF THE CROSS OF JESUS CHRIST**

Upon Jesus' resurrection, He commissioned the disciples to be witnesses of "these things" (Luke 24:48). "These things" are a clear reference to the cross and the empty tomb. This was to be the heart of the disciples' message as they were dispersed to make disciples of the nations. Among the nations they were to preach a message of repentance and forgiveness, a message that could be proclaimed only because of Jesus' death and resurrection. It is because of this that Paul boldly proclaimed that he preached only Christ and Him crucified (I Cor. 2:2), a preaching that would have been futile if Christ had not been raised from the dead (I Cor. 15:17).

Matthew 16:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

I Peter 2:6 (ESV)

⁶ For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

I Corinthians 3:11 (ESV)

¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

∞ THE FAMILIES OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

One of the core spiritual needs of all Christians is the assurance of their calling to be God's chosen people. This part of the mission statement is designed to hold up the affirmation that despite the sinfulness of His people God continues to call people from their guilt and shame and claim them as His people.

1 Peter 2:9–10 (ESV)

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ 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.

Deuteronomy 14:2 (ESV)

² For you are a people holy to the LORD your God, and the LORD has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

∞ ARE DISCIPLED

When Jesus called Peter, James and John to follow Him, he told them that doing so would change them, that they would not remain the same. The very term used to identify those who did follow (and those that do so today) reflects the inherent change that comes when one answers the call to follow. That term is “disciple” and refers to a life-long process of training and formation of the new life that comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

Matthew 4:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Romans 12:1–2 (ESV)

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

II Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

∞ **THROUGH WORSHIP AND STUDY**

Discipleship is not an automatic thing. There are activities which promote discipleship, namely, the Word of God and the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Through these means, God works in His people the forgiveness of sin and a strengthening to live according to the Word of God.

II Timothy 3:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ And how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Acts 2:42 (ESV)

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 2:38 (ESV)

³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

I Corinthians 11:23–25 (ESV)

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Romans 6:3–5 (ESV)

³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Romans 8:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

∞ **SO THAT THROUGH FELLOWSHIP AND OUTREACH**

God said to Adam, “It is not good for man to be alone” (Gen. 2:18). Although there is a specific context to these words, there is a lesson that can be applied to the mission of the church. The church exists to be a community of people who are united by the grace and mercy of Jesus. It is a community where mutual encouragement is promoted and compassionate servanthood is fostered.

II Corinthians 1:3–4 (ESV)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Hebrews 10:25 (ESV)

²⁵ Do not neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Matthew 9:35–36 (ESV)

³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction.

³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Philippians 2:1–3 (ESV)

¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

∞ **WE MAY DISCIPLE THE COMMUNITY IN WHICH WE LIVE AND WORK**

When Jesus called the disciples, He told them that following Him would change them. He also said there would be a purpose to this change – that they would become “fishers of men” (Matt. 4:19). When Jesus ascended into heaven, He reminded them of that purpose telling them to “Go, make disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:19). This purpose remains the core of the mission church.

I Peter 4:10–11 (ESV)

¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace: ¹¹ whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 2:8–10 (ESV)

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Romans 12:3–8 (ESV)

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

EXPLANATION OF THE VISION STATEMENT OF **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL *Discipled BY Grace FOR Grace*

**BY
Grace**

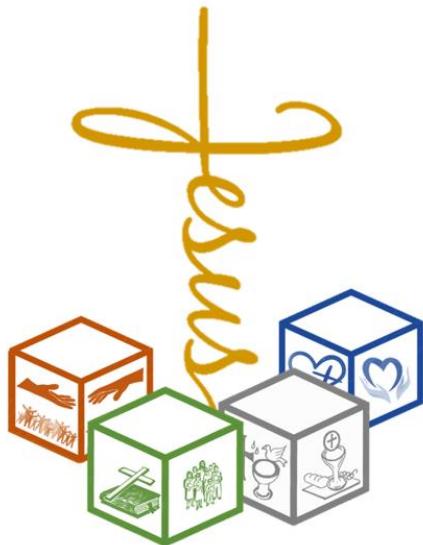
As the people of God gather, they are discipled (formed, strengthened, equipped) through the “Means of Grace” (activities that convey the forgiveness and new life in Christ). These means are the Word of God, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. In the wording of the Mission Statement, “the people/families of GLCS are discipled through worship and study.”

**FOR
Grace**

The purpose of gathering around and engaging in these activities of God’s grace is to fulfill Jesus’ command to the Church to make disciples of all nations. Thus, the mission statement states, “so that through fellowship and outreach we may disciple the community in which we live and work.”

The Holy Spirit calls and gathers people to be disciples (followers) of Jesus and builds Jesus’ church on the foundation of the cross, the Gospel proclamation of forgiveness through Jesus’ death and resurrection. Thus, the mission statement begins with, “built on the foundation of...” and promotes the idea of building blocks to convey the meaning of the activities which promote discipleship.

EXPLANATION OF THE LOGO OF **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**



Drawing from the themes of the mission statement, the logo conveys the Biblical imagery of being built on the foundation of the cross of Jesus through the discipleship by Grace (worship and study) for Grace (fellowship and outreach). The individual blocks represent each of these activities using icons which highlight key parts of those activities.



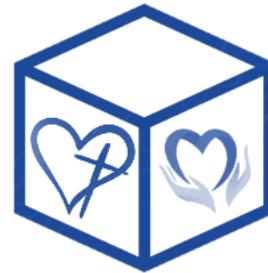
Worship



Study



Fellowship



Outreach

The Goal of Discipleship

Deuteronomy 8:1–3 (ESV)

² “The whole commandment that I command you today you shall be careful to do, that you may live and multiply, and go in and possess the land that the LORD swore to give to your fathers. ² And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. ³ And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.

Luke 24:44–45 (ESV)

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”
⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.

**Train people to remember their true identity
and to join Jesus every day.**

BY Grace ◆ FOR Grace

WHAT AM I
DOING TO BE
DISCIPLED BY
JESUS?

WHAT AM I
DOING TO
DISCIPLE
OTHERS?

Ephesians 5:1-2 (ESV)

- ² Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.
- ² And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

BY Grace ◆ FOR Grace

LIVING GRACIOUSLY