

✠OUR LIFE AS THE BAPTIZED UNTIL JESUS COMES✠

THE DIVINE SERVICE

*God's Fervent Love to Us—God's Mercy (Compassion) to Us—God Gives Faith To Us
(People Involved: Pastor, Organist, Choir, Elders, Ushers, Acolytes, Altar Guild)*

Word [Instruction (Catechesis)]

Within the Divine Service: Scripture Readings and Sermon; Extending outside the Divine Service: Adult Bible Classes, Cradle Roll, Sunday School, Youth and Adult Catechesis, VBS, Special Seminars, Personal Study
(People Involved: Pastor, Board of Education, Sunday School, Stewardship, Margaret)

Sacrament Lord's Supper

RESPONSE: PRAY, PRAISE, GOOD WORKS, THANKS

*Our Fervent Love For One Another—Our Reflective Mercy (Compassion) to Others—Fruits of Faith
(Done by Members as a Congregation and as Individuals)*

Congregation

Mercy/Compassion to Our Members

- Health Resources
- Organized Meals for Families During Time of Sickness/Death
- Carnation for Families at Times of Death
- Audio Tapes for Homebound
- Visits to Homebound
- Visits to Hospitalized Members
- Quilts for Homebound Members
- Ongoing Encouragement to Our Inactive Members
- Rides to church
- Calling to Repentance Members Engaged in Unrepentant Sin
- Prayer Chain
- _____
- _____

Mercy/Compassion to Our Neighbors (NON MEMBERS)

- Quilts for Nursing Homes and Victims of Tragedies
- Dorothy Day House Meals
- Voting Precinct
- LWML Mites
- Monetary Disaster Relief (
- Intentional Outreach to Hispanics
- Monetary Collections for Community Organizations
- Food Collections for Needy
- Seminary Support
- Sunday School/VBS Mission Project
- Welcome Gift to First Time Visitors
- Promotion of Our Church in Community
- Encourage Members to Build Relationships with Unchurched Neighbors
- _____
- _____

Administration: Voters' Assembly, Council, Office Secretary, Officers, Trustees, Stewardship/Gift-Memorial/Decorating/Budget/Nominating Committees, Janitors, and Offering Counters support the congregation's mercy/compassion response (indicated above) according to Constitution and By-laws by financial/ property/employee management as well as by daily office management and other organizational management issues.

Individual

- Participate in Congregation's Mercy/Compassion Opportunities (Left Column)
- Invite to Church Activities (for example, annual rummage sale, hymn festival, Vacation Bible School, Rally Day Picnic, Sunday School Christmas Service, etc.)
- Live and Distribute Christ's mercy received at Divine Service within vocations as husbands, wives, parents, children, employees, employers, citizens, church members, etc. ("May the lives my life touches see Jesus through me as I broadcast His love in thoughts, words, and deeds," LSB 835:4)

For example:

- Volunteering at local charities
- Contributing to community activities
- Living honestly in workplace
- Helping neighbors (close or distant) in need
- Proclaiming Christ's forgiveness to those who repent of committing a sin against you
- Telling the good news of Jesus

EXPLANATION

In Holy Baptism, God—through his Holy Spirit—gave us forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and eternal salvation. Because of our baptism, we are now made part of God’s family, a unique community of faith. This family is also known as the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints, and as the body of Christ. This Holy Christian Church—a Church which spans time and place—manifests itself in local congregations like ours where God’s Word is purely preached and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel.

For various reasons, we all have chosen to make Christ Lutheran Church our church home. Though we come from different social and economic backgrounds, we all regularly gather as one body of baptized Christians united by a particular confession of faith. This confession of faith is based on the Lord’s teachings. It is a confession centered on our crucified and resurrected Savior who came down from heaven to save us from our sins and who is coming again. On the Lord’s Day—the Day of Resurrection (Sunday)—and on other appointed times, we assemble with our brothers and sisters in Christ to receive the Lord’s gifts of forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation in Word and Sacrament which he imparts to his Church. These gifts, in turn, cause us to respond by our sacrifices of praise—our good works. These good works are performed within the remaining 167 hours per week God gives us. Some of these good works can be accomplished through Christ Lutheran Church. Other good works are also accomplished in our own personal lives as we help and serve the people God places in our lives.

The chart on the front page graphically depicts a framework on how our congregation operates—both as an organized group of like-minded people and as individuals—in terms of why and how we share God’s mercy with others. In other words, the chart illustrates how our life together stems from God’s Word and Sacrament, given to us within the Divine Service, and then how it develops outward into various opportunities for Christian service toward our neighbor.

MISSION: RECEIVING CHRIST’S MERCY FOR US...SHARING CHRIST’S MERCY WITH OTHERS