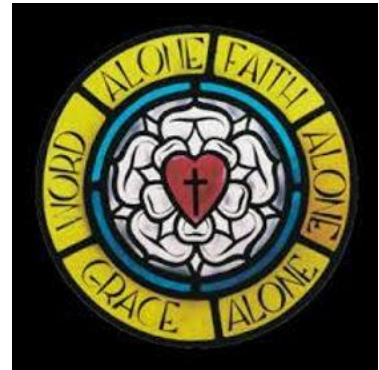


## What We Believe

We believe in the one true God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – revealed to us in Holy Scripture as one eternal God in three distinct persons.

We believe we are by nature spiritually dead and that we actively rebel against God's commands in thought, word, and action. All of us have sinned against God and deserve His wrath and condemnation (Romans 3:23-24, Romans 6:23).



We believe salvation is a free gift of God in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, whom He sent into the world to rescue us from sin, so that all who believe in Him have life everlasting (John 3:16-17). The good news of Jesus, the gospel, is the foundation of our faith and the centerpiece of who we are. As we trust in Him as our Savior, believing that His death upon the cross and His resurrection from the grave make us right with God, we have the certainty of forgiveness of sins and eternal life with Him (Romans 1:16-17, Ephesians 2:8-10).

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit, speaking through their authors, the 66 books of the Holy Bible announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through the Bible, God's Spirit speaks to us and creates in us lives that honor Him in worship and serve our neighbor in love (Matthew 22:34-40). The Word of God reveals God's will for us in both the "law," which shows us our sin, and the "gospel," which shows us our Savior. Scripture alone is the authoritative source and standard for our lives of faith (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

We believe the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion are fundamental to our life in Christ. Through Baptism, we are washed of our sin, gifted with the Holy Spirit, and made members of God's family (Matthew 28:18-20, John 3:3-6, Titus 3:5, 1 Peter 3:18-22). Through Communion (the Lord's Supper) we receive the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, in and with the bread and wine, for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith in Jesus (Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:22-26, Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

We believe, along with the whole Christian Church on earth, the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds are true declarations of our scriptural faith and summaries of what the Bible reveals about our Triune God.



We believe, along with Lutheran Christians throughout the world, the Augsburg Confession (1530) and the Small Catechism of Martin Luther (1529) are true witnesses to the Word of God, normative for our teaching and practice. Additionally, we hold the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord – namely the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord – to also be faithful expositions of the Holy Scriptures.

We believe the gospel of Christ is not only the power of God to deliver us from sin, death, and the power of the devil, but also the cornerstone of our preaching, teaching, and working together as the people of God. The Holy Spirit works through the gospel to enable every baptized believer in Christ to live their lives, to give God glory, and to extend Christ's love to their neighbor.

We believe our purpose and mission is to share the message of Jesus with all people of His world until the Day He comes again. On that Day, every eye will behold Him and every knee bow before Him. As King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ will judge both the living and the dead and give eternal life to all who believe in Him (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8).

## Core Values

- **Core Value 1:** Jesus Christ is the only way to everlasting life with God (John 14:6). The good news of Jesus – the gospel – is the power of God for the salvation of all who trust in Him (Romans 1:16-17).
- **Core Value 2:** All people matter to God; therefore, they matter to Mount Olive Lutheran Church (1 Timothy 2:3-6).
- **Core Value 3:** Every member of Mount Olive Lutheran Church will pursue ongoing spiritual growth through the Word and sacraments, prayer and worship (2 Peter 3:18).
- **Core Value 4:** Forgiving, loving relationships will permeate every aspect of our fellowship with one another (Colossians 3:13).
- **Core Value 5:** Families play a vital role in building the foundation of a lifelong relationship with Christ (Proverbs 22:6).
- **Core Value 6:** God wants every believer to identify and to use their gifts and talents to make a difference in their church, their families, and their communities (Colossians 3:17).
- **Core Value 7:** Life-change happens when people are connected to one another in Christ (Hebrews 10:24-25).