

Congregation Survey Results

- 1. Imagine that YOU ARE GOD and you are listening to two people FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD talk about our congregation. The ministry of the church is vibrant and has a strong relationship with and significant impact on the neighborhood. Remember this is what God wants us to be when we are at our best. What words does God want to hear the neighbors say about our congregation as they say, "I love Grace Lutheran Church. Those people there are so _____." Enter 5 words or phrases that complete the statement, describing us at our best from the perspective of our neighbors.**

Welcoming (3); Warm and welcoming; Musical; Caring (5); Spiritual; Sharing (3); Thoughtful; Joyful, Empathetic/sympathetic; Benevolent; Forward-thinking; Dynamic; Feed me throughout the year and sometimes a picnic too; Willing to feed the hungry; Clothe me in the cold of winter; Inclusive (2); Share unconditional love; I feel the love and I am at peace there; I am accepted and can feel so in the joy of singing; They know my name and invite me to share my feelings; They listen; They offer me opportunities to work with them; Great architecture; Good location; Good part of the neighborhood; Full of Christ, Aware, Reconciling, Witness of God's word, through modeling and examples (2), Forgiving (2); washed anew; non-judging (2); Trusting, not worrying; Helpful; Serving as a living example of God's word; Unselfish; Gracious; Loving (2); Helpful; Kind; Engaging to all in the neighborhood; young and old, rich or poor, brown, black or white; Friendly to all (2); Great neighbors; Serving the community; Dedicated to improving the neighborhood; We are so fortunate to have caring neighbors; Busy doing good Godly work; On the right side of history; Interested in our neighborhood and in us; Willing to help their neighbors; Godly; Generous (2); Accepting; Available; Willing to try

- 2. Imagine that YOU ARE GOD and you are listening to two people FROM THE CONGREGATION talk about our congregation. The ministry of the church is vibrant and people are glad to be there, growing as disciples and finding involvement meaningful. What words does God want to hear the members say about our congregation as they say, "I love Grace Church. This congregation is so _____." Enter 5 words that complete the statement, describing us at our best from the perspective of our members.**

Diverse; Sharing; Loving (2); Spiritual; Joyful (2); Caring (5); Forgiving (2); Helpful; Charitable, sharing monies and talents (2); Caring, for our youth, elders, neighbors, and neighborhood, and in mission at large; Witness to God's word through outreach to the marginalized and embrace of one another through our musical strength; Renewal and growth through programs, book reviews and continued study of the scripture as related to today's world; Commitment to serve as called or needed; Strong pastor; Great music; Good community partner; Beautiful church; Doing God's work; Full of Christ and Holy Spirit and Light; Discipleship; Reconciling; Full of witness to the Gospel; Prayerful (2); Friendly (2); Welcoming (3); Traditional in service; Conscious of improving the neighborhood by getting people familiar with their neighbor; Offering clean and affordable housing; Helps feed the community and the homeless; Supports low income families to provide day care through CAP; Involves its parishioners to volunteer in many capacities; Nurturing; Guided by the Holy Spirit; Observant of the traditions and sacraments; Holy Spirit is on us; Live the Christian life and teach it to others; Welcoming, friendly and engaging to all; Live the Gospel by making things right between us; Generous (2); All for one and one for all; Patient in hard times; In tune with my plan; Dedicated to outreach; Helping the needy; Open minded; Centered on praying and seeking God's will; Active, both in the congregation and the neighborhood; Creative and open to change, if change is needed; Supportive; Open to ideas; Dedicated to outreach; Open to learning; Willing to try

R3
GUIDING PRINCIPLES
TAKE TWO

Based on the value statements I developed earlier, I have proposed Guiding Principles for Grace Church. They have been gleaned from the words and phrases leaders and members have submitted in response to questions about what God would want to hear said about our congregation.

Guiding Principles in a nutshell

Loving and Praising Christ God, Teaching and Practicing Discipleship, Serving Family and Community.

EXTERNAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES - Our ministry to the world

JOYFULLY SHOW GOD'S LOVE to all we meet – a living sacrifice – through caring, asking forgiveness,
being gracious and kind

BE INCLUSIVE, look for Christ in our neighbors, regardless of their race, religion, gender, gender orientation,
education, status or political affiliation

Foster an AWARENESS OF SPECIFIC NEEDS in the community and of needs throughout the world

Invite PARTICIPATION of our IN SOCIAL MINISTRIES to benefit the neighborhood

Create OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIALOG AND SOCIALIZING within the neighborhood. Be a center for
community gatherings

Openly and graciously WELCOME ALL who enter our BUILDING and our FELLOWSHIP

Be invitational – INVITE OTHERS to participate in our FELLOWSHIP and WORSHIP

FEED the hungry, COMFORT the lonely, EMPOWER the poor, BEFRIEND the marginalized, VISIT the sick,
the imprisoned and the dying

INTERNAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES – our ministry to each other

TEACH DISCIPLESHIP and empower parishioners to SHARE GOD'S LOVE with patience and kindness, in
all aspects of their lives

TEACH KNOWLEDGE AND OBEDIENCE TO GOD, praying and discerning God's will for us

Provide OPPORTUNITIES for LEARNING and GROWTH IN FAITH in ways that encourage participants to
openly express their faith experiences with others

PREACH the GOOD NEWS of forgiveness and of God's Kingdom

BE INSPIRED – WORSHIP God in joy, gratitude, humility and to the glory of God

DEVELOP, train and empower SERVANT LEADERS within the congregation to expand the work of the
Gospel

PROVIDE FOR the INTERESTS AND social and spiritual NEEDS of ALL age groups – youth, single adults,
families and the elderly

In all we do, approach our tasks and live our lives with a spirit of ABUNDANT GENEROSITY, rather than
scarcity

BE CHANGE AGENTS, changing lives for Christ

J. Saeger 1/26/2021

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