

# CORE VALUES

## OF ST JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH (MANITOWOC, WI)

*Adopted by unanimous vote of the Vestry on 11/14/2019*

The Core Values of our congregation help answer the question: *Why do we do what we do around here?* They express what we stand for, what we're about, and what makes us different from other congregations.

Our Core Values express our congregation's unique culture, helping guests and newcomers quickly learn important things about us. They guide our decision making, goal setting, ministry priorities, budgeting, and best use of human and material resources

Our Core Values are deeply held by the congregation and have been demonstrated in actions. They are actual, not aspirational. The Vestry identified and articulated these Core Values through intentional study of the words and actions of our congregation from 2012 to present.

### WE VALUE ACCEPTANCE & OPEN-MINDEDNESS

All people need a place where they can feel safe and have a sense of belonging. We value differences, embrace brokenness, and see God in all who we encounter. We are an inclusive community of faith that welcomes and celebrates diversity in age, race, nation of origin, citizenship status, gender identity, sexual orientation, social status, political view, background, ability level, marital status, and anything else that makes us unique. We offer support, encouragement, and forgiveness to all people.

### WE VALUE CREATIVITY, FLEXIBILITY, & INNOVATION

As the world evolves, so do the ways we reach out to people. We learn from the ways Jesus challenged the status quo in encouraging others to love God and neighbor. We expect the unexpected and try to be open and agile in our responses. We are approachable and authentic in our worship, relationships, and ministries. We are all learning and growing, and we believe that leads to change. We seek to use all the unique skills, gifts, and passions God has given us to share.

### WE VALUE SHARING GOD'S LOVE

The Good News is that God loves all people, and we joyfully share that message with the world. We are broken people discovering healing together; we love people who are hurting and do what we can to help with physical, emotional, and spiritual pain. We listen for the needs of our community and respond with the resources God has entrusted to our care. We make a difference by serving our community and world.



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Nick Doszkewycz, Chris Eggert-Rosenthal (*Junior Warden*),  
Mary Green, Richard Hall, Tony Karl (*Clerk*), Kim Kaufmann,  
Tammy McVeigh (*Senior Warden*), & Peggy Turnbull (*Treasurer*).

November 1, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Blessings to you on this Feast of All Saints! This observance helps us remember that we are connected not just to the present, but to the past—and to the future! Episcopalians first gathered to worship in Manitowoc County **179 years ago**, in 1841. We are the oldest continually operating religious group in our county, and we formally organized in 1848. In 2020, we celebrate 172 years as a community of faith, and we celebrate 118 years in our present church building. Our building is receiving some much-needed nurture with replacement of our Sanctuary roof and other work that is expected to start this week.

As 2020 began, none of us anticipated the challenges: a pandemic with our county and state currently among the highest rates; the need for racial healing and justice becoming ever more evident, including in our community; increasing political divisiveness. Remaining physically apart to help slow the coronavirus spread has been difficult for all of us—even the introverts! We find ourselves in a position that Christians in other times and places have been, and it can be painful at times. But using the resources of our time and place, we've found ways to continue to be the hands, feet, and face of Christ to each other and to the world.

We have much to celebrate! On the center spread of this mailing, you'll see our St James Tree of Life, featuring our primary multi-year goals on the tree. On the sides of the tree are many of the sub-goals that we have made progress on throughout the past year, connected by arrows to their related major goal(s) on the tree. **We are grateful to you all** for the ways you have contributed your time, talents, and financial resources to make all of this happen. Some of our initial plans moving into 2020 got turned sideways, but the Holy Spirit used the pandemic to help us make progress on many other goals.

We invite you to continue to support our shared mission and ministry by making your financial commitment for 2021, as you are able. Your pledges help us develop our 2021 budget—please return your card by mail or drop in the church mail slot. Whether we're together in person soon, or remaining apart a while longer, we'll be working together to continue the legacy Episcopalians started building in Manitowoc 179 years ago.

And when the challenges of this year (or any year) sneak up and overwhelm you a bit, as they do all of us, remember who we are together. Remember our Mission ("Sharing God's love through action"), our Vision (to be "An inviting safe community for all"), and our Core Values (on the back page of this mailing). Those are wonderful things! We can invite more and more people to God's Table. We can include more and more of the forgotten and rejected "other", and share God's love in a hurting world. That's exciting! That's the Good News of Christ! We miss you, we love you, and we hold you in prayer.

Blessings to you all,  
The Vestry of St James, Manitowoc

*Celebrating the ways we've grown this year!*  
**The St James Tree of Life**

