



Draft Welcome Statement: an adaptation of our Core Values

Jesus said, “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.” (John 13:34 (NSRV))

This is a safe place to be who you are. **God’s love** accepts **us** and invites each of us to bring all of ourselves: our thoughts, beliefs, questions, age, ethnicity, gender identity, **gender expression**, abilities and disabilities, sexual orientation, cultures, **immigration status**, **relationships**, and life experiences.

We find joy and purpose when multiple generations **and cultures** together are:
Experiencing the living presence of Christ as **preaching, Bible study**, music, and other creative arts bring the scriptures to life when we gather and worship;
Exploring the spiritual journey, rooted in the Lutheran perspective;
Engaging with our neighbors to support God’s mission of grace, healing and abundant life for all.

As followers of Christ, compelled by the gospel and **Jesus’ commandment**, we seek reconciliation and wholeness through God’s love. We invite and welcome you to be part of **this inclusive and loving** community of faith.

Questions still to resolve:

2nd paragraph: Add race, political views?

2nd paragraph: Need to find a better way to discuss immigration - maybe "immigration story." It should fit with something one can be "invited to bring."

2nd paragraph: Should "immigration status" and "political views" be in a different sentence altogether?

4th paragraph: Chris P found that "Jesus' " is the correct punctuation to use (rather than "Jesus's"). Should we leave this or change to "the commandment of Jesus"?

4th paragraph: "this/our/Advent's" in last line. Also, is it redundant or a good conclusion sentence to state "inclusive and loving?" Should it read, "We invite and welcome you to be part of (this/our/Advent's) community of faith?"