

- a. St. Paul said of himself: “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God...” (NAS Galatians 2:20)
- b. St. Paul also explained what *should happen* to all who are alive in Christ: They “*should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf.*” (NAS 2 Corinthians 5:15)
- c. St. Paul further explained how to live for Christ: “...*be imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love...*” (NAS Ephesians 5:1-2)

3. It assures us of our eternal home: Through Christ we will certainly be with the Triune God, the holy angels, and all believers in Christ forevermore!
4. It shows us how to care for others: By helping them *know* Christ, *grow* in the Word, and *live* for Christ!

### Conclusion

Therefore, *by God’s grace*, let us *✦ know*, *✦ understand*, and *✦ daily live* our mission statement! And all God’s people said: *Amen!*

*This sermon was given by Pastor Green on the celebration of Bethlehem’s 103<sup>rd</sup> church anniversary, November 13, 2007.*

### A Standing Offer

*Pastor would welcome the opportunity to discuss your questions or needs!* Please contact him using the information in the block below.



### Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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[Last Update: 11-13]

## How Is Our Mission Statement Intended to Carry Us All the Way to Heaven?

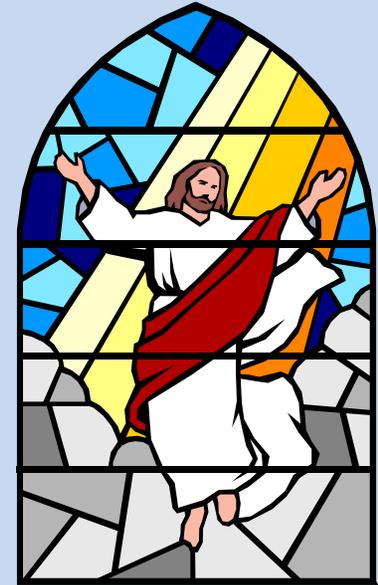
1. It tells us who we are: *Forgiven children of God!*



2. It identifies our top priorities: *Know* Christ, *grow* in the Word, and *live* for Christ!

# Our Mission Statement

→ One Part Leads → to the Next



### Introduction

Dear friends in Christ, *the Triune God established our congregation in 1904. Then, over the past 103 years, the Triune God has continued to keep our members in Christ and use us to be an eternal blessing to many others!*

*Now, as we enter our 104<sup>th</sup> year of existence, let us move forward with ✦ power from the Spirit, ✦ guidance from the Word, and ✦ purpose from our Bible-based mission statement!*

Our mission statement should not only be *known* by all of our members, but it should be *understood* and *lived* on a daily basis! As we focus on our statement today, may we *better learn* ✦ what it is, ✦ what it means, and ✦ how it is intended to carry us and others all the way to heaven!

## What Is Our Mission Statement?

Our mission is to help *all people* ✦ **know** Jesus Christ, ✦ **grow** in their knowledge of God's Word, and ✦ **excel** in Christ-like living! *Please memorize it, understand it, live it, and share it!*

## What Is the Meaning of Our Mission Statement?

Our mission is to help all people...

### 1. Part 1: **Know**

*Jesus Christ!*  
All who know Him are aware of their total helplessness to save

*themselves and trust in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life.*



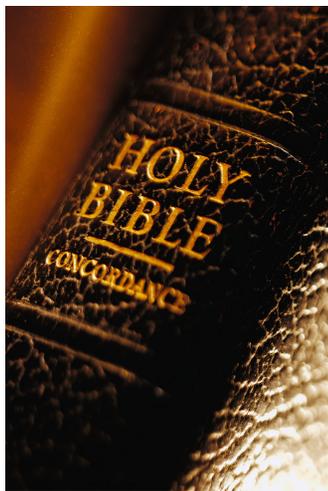
a. Having eternal life and knowing Jesus Christ are one in the same. Jesus stated that reality as He prayed to His Father in heaven: *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”* (NIV John 17:3)

Those who *know Jesus Christ* also ✦ know the Father, ✦ have the Holy Spirit, and ✦ have the gift of eternal life!

b. Furthermore, those who know Jesus Christ are alive both physically and spiritually!

Therefore, they desire ✦ bread for their bodies and ✦ the Word for their souls! (Matthew 4:4) That reality leads us into the next part of our mission statement.

2. Part 2: **Grow** in their knowledge of God's Word! When two people enter into a relationship with each other, they naturally want to learn more about each other.



Think about a guy and a girl in high school: ✦ Their eyes meet, ✦ they get acquainted, ✦ they talk on the phone, and ✦ they spend time together.

a. In a similar way, when we really know Jesus Christ, we naturally want to know more about Him; therefore, we *dig into the Word in various ways* (daily devotion, Bible class, etc.)! The Bible speaks of this *natural progression* with these words: *“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, having been firmly rooted and now being built up in Him and established in your faith...”* (NAS Colossians 2:6-7)

b. When trying to determine if someone is dead or alive, you check for a pulse! When trying to determine if someone knows Jesus Christ or not, *you check into their use of God's Word!* (John 8:31)

3. Part 3: **Excel** in Christ-like living!

Those who really know Jesus Christ will be



drawn to the Word – *not just to know it, but to live it!*