

Statement of Faith 2007
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I believe in God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I believe that I am a sinner saved by God's grace, which has come to me through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I believe the Holy Spirit confronts and calls me to repentance, reconciles me to God, brings me into obedience to God's will, and calls me to a life of joyous purpose.

I believe the Holy Scriptures to be the Word of God. They are a testimony to Jesus Christ and they have authority in themselves. By the Holy Spirit they continue to speak to us today as they are read, heard and proclaimed. Scripture teaches us that we have a God, who despite the willful disobedience of humans, has from the beginning of creation been reaching out with reconciliation to humanity.

God loved the world so much that God's only Son, Jesus was sent to set the captives free, to give life abundantly and to forgive sin through the pouring out of his blood by his death on the cross. Through his death we have been forgiven, through his resurrection we have been justified (Romans 4:25).

I believe that I belong to a community of faith brought and held together by Christ who is the head of the Church, not just the local body of believers but the body of Christ that stretches beyond all human borders. While we are unified in Christ by foundational principals in the Church Universal, we are also distinct in our protestant tradition relying on Scripture's authority to guide us in our understanding of grace, faith, and polity.

We are called together by God in community to worship. In worship we acknowledge God present in the world and in human activities, we respond gratefully to what God has given us, worship is not for us but for God. In worship the gathered community of believers sing, praise, hear God's word, baptize, join in the Lord's Supper, pray in intercession, are renewed, reformed, and are sent out into the world. In the celebration of the Sacraments, Christ's presence and power is made evident; God's action of grace in human history is declared, and the Holy Spirit unifies us, nourishes us, and motivates us.

Our baptism signifies that God is the initiator of love. Grace comes first. Before we could even utter God's name we have been claimed by God to be children of God. In Baptism through the sign of the water we are washed clean of our sin, we are buried with Christ and we are raised up to new life in Christ through Christ's resurrection. Baptism is not the end of faith but the beginning, which is made complete when we pass from this life into glory. Our Baptism calls us into active participation in a life of service and empowers us to be a witness to God's love, justice and mercy.

As we gather around the Table for the Lord's Supper we are reminded of the gathering of Christ and his disciples and that as often as we partake we remember the Lord's death until he comes again. We joyously break the bread and drink the cup as we celebrate his body and blood as signs of the new covenant. Christ makes himself known to us in the breaking of the bread; and thus nourishes and strengthens us by his Spirit through this meal. This celebration equips us to be able to live out our calling in the world.

We are given freedom to express our love for God through our actions and through our relationships with other human beings. Faith ultimately does not seek its own way; the Way itself has come to thee. Arise and walk...