



Welcome Statement

At Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church, we believe God's grace is for **everyone**. No matter who you are, where you come from, what questions you carry, or where you are on your faith journey, you are welcome here.

We are a community centered in Jesus Christ, seeking to love God and love our neighbors with compassion, curiosity, humility, and joy. We celebrate the diversity of God's creation and strive to be a church where all God's children experience belonging, dignity, and care.

We welcome people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, family structure, political perspective, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic background, and life experience. Whether you have been part of church your whole life, are returning after time away, or are exploring faith for the very first time, there is a place for you here.

At Shepherd of the Prairie, we are committed to:

- **Growing together in faith and understanding**
- **Extending hospitality without judgment**
- **Serving our community with compassion**
- **Walking alongside one another through life's joys and struggles**
- **Reflecting the radically welcoming spirit of Jesus**

You do not need to have everything figured out to belong here. Together, we seek to grow in grace, deepen in faith, and share the hope and love of Christ with the world.

Growing Together in Faith and Understanding

"We should keep on encouraging each other to be thoughtful and to do helpful things. Some people have given up the habit of meeting for worship, but we must not do that. We should keep on encouraging each other."

Hebrews 10:24-25

Faith is a journey, not a destination. We believe no one has all the answers, and we grow best when we learn, worship, question, and pray together. This commitment invites us to remain open to God's ongoing work in our lives and in the lives of others.

Living this out every day might look like:

- Participating in worship, Bible study, or small groups
- Listening respectfully to perspectives different from our own
- Asking honest questions about faith and life
- Encouraging one another in spiritual growth
- Practicing prayer, grace, and forgiveness in daily relationships

Extending Hospitality Without Judgment

*"Honor God by accepting each other,
as Christ has accepted you."*

Romans 15:7

Jesus consistently welcomed people who were overlooked or excluded by others. We seek to create a church culture where people feel seen, valued, and safe.

Living this out every day might look like:

- Greeting newcomers warmly and sincerely
- Learning someone's name and story
- Choosing curiosity and kindness over assumptions
- Making room for people who feel uncertain, different, or disconnected
- Offering acceptance rather than criticism

Serving Our Community with Compassion

“Children, you show love for others by truly helping them, and not merely by talking about it.”

1 John 3:18

Faith calls us beyond ourselves. We believe God’s love becomes visible when we care for neighbors in practical, generous, and meaningful ways.

Living this out every day might look like:

- Volunteering time to help others
- Supporting local ministries, food pantries, and outreach efforts
- Checking in on someone who is lonely or struggling
- Offering encouragement, meals, or assistance during difficult times
- Seeking justice and dignity for all people

Walking Alongside One Another Through Life’s Joys and Struggles

If one part of our body hurts, we hurt all over. If one part of our body is honored, the whole body will be happy. Together you are the body of Christ. Each one of you is part of his body.

1 Corinthians 12:26-27

Church is not simply a place to attend — it is a community where we carry one another through every season of life. We celebrate together, grieve together, and remind one another that no one walks alone.

Living this out every day might look like:

- Praying for and with one another
- Showing up during times of illness, grief, or transition
- Celebrating milestones, births, graduations, and anniversaries
- Listening with empathy instead of trying to “fix” everything
- Being present and dependable in relationships

Reflecting the Radically Welcoming Spirit of Jesus

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.

Matthew 25:40

Jesus crossed boundaries, embraced outsiders, and loved people fully and deeply. His welcome was transformational and grace-filled. We seek to mirror that same spirit in our congregation and community.

Living this out every day might look like:

- Treating every person with dignity and respect
- Choosing love over fear and grace over exclusion
- Standing with those who feel marginalized or unseen
- Speaking and acting with humility and compassion
- Remembering that every person is created and beloved by God

Together, these commitments help shape Shepherd of the Prairie into a community where people can encounter God's grace, experience authentic belonging, and grow in faith together.

8/10/26

Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church
A Place to Belong Even Before You Believe