Sunday, November 8th, 2026
Sermon Series: "Hope is Here!"
"Christlikeness." Text(s): *John 17.1-21*; *Various Texts.*

Our Mission…Making Disciples.

"*Reach* and serve our local community, *Equip* their hearts, minds, and souls, and *Release* them into the world to share God's love."

"Reach"… Christ *to* Us.

John 17.1-3 When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, 2 since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

Lutheran Tradition…Word and Sacrament

Psalm 146.1-2, 3 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul! 2 I will praise the LORD as long as I live…3 Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

"Equip"… Christ *in* Us.

John 17.14-17 I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 15 I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. 16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Philippians 2.12-13 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

"Release" … Christ *through* Us

John 17.18-21 As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth. 20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 21 that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

Galatians 5.1, 13-14 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery…13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

The *Mission…Discipleship…*

Our Purpose (Why We Exist):
"*Know Christ. Make Christ known*."

Vision Statement (What We Aim to Achieve):
"*Making Christ Centered, Emotionally Healthy Disciples of Jesus, One life at a time*."

Mission Statement (How We Will Achieve Our Vision):
"Reach and serve our local community, Equip their hearts, minds, and souls, and Release them into the world to share God's

The *Means* of Discipleship…

How Are Disciples Made? Disciples need disciplines! Biblically and historically, there are five, core, spiritual disciplines through which the Holy Spirit transforms people individually and corporately to be like Jesus:

- **Worship** (Word and Sacrament)
- **Bible Study** (Reading and Applying God's Word)
- **Biblical Community** (Emotionally healthy connecting with others in groups and daily life)
- **Daily Prayer** (Solitude and Silence)
- **Servanthood** (Serving God and others at and beyond the church)