

RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEW MEMBER CLASS: 101

MEMBERSHIP IN OUR CHURCH



www.redhillchurch.org

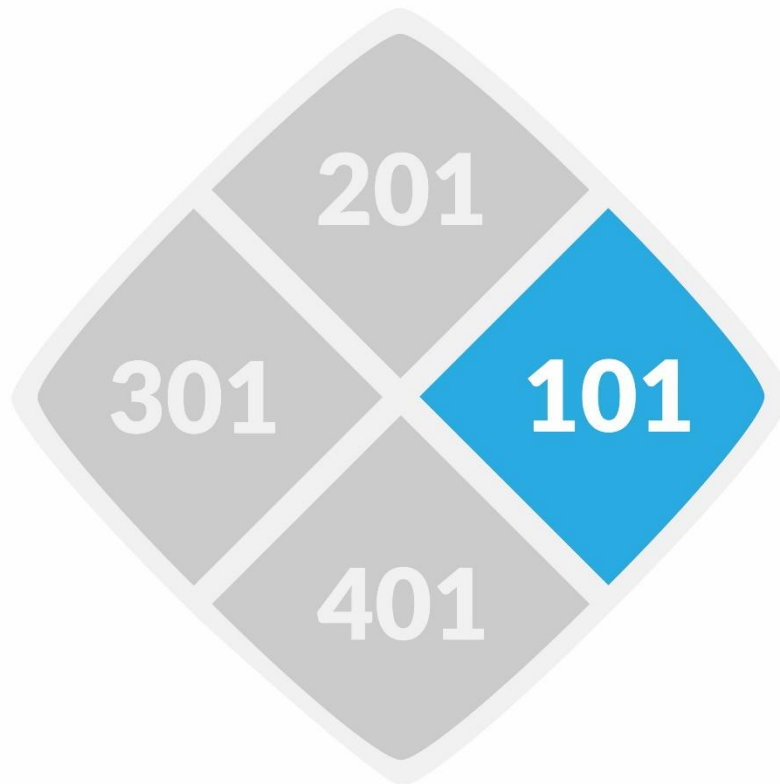
WELCOME

“New Member Class: 101” is the first of Red Hill’s foundational classes. We believe that God desires that we are part of a church family, and that’s what we hope to be—your family. A healthy family has common beliefs, purposes, and commitments. That’s why we want to share with you what we believe and where we’re going.

CLASS FOCUS

In this class we will explore what Red Hill Lutheran Church *believes* and who we seek *to be*, how we *make disciples* of Jesus, *the history* of our church, and how we are *structured*.

We will discuss why we need a church family and what it means to be a member.



YOU ARE HERE

SESSION ONE

WHAT WE BELIEVE...

WHO WE ARE...

Romans 12:2 “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH: THE BELIEFS OF CHRISTIANITY (THE *SOLAS*)

ABOUT THE TRIUNE GOD: FATHER, SON, HOLY SPIRIT (THE APOSTLES' CREED)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Genesis 1:1, 26, 27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; John 16:7-13, 14:16, 17; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2;

ABOUT THE BIBLE

The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired and inerrant Word of God. In the Bible, God addresses us through Law and Gospel, revealing judgment and mercy through word and deed, beginning with the Word in creation, continuing in the history of Israel, and centering in all its fullness in the person and work of Jesus Christ. The Bible is the authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith and life (*Sola Scriptura*).

Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119: 105, 160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

ABOUT HUMANITY

Humanity is created in the image and likeness of God. As such, humans are the supreme object of God's creation, endowed with worth and value. Human worth is dependent, not on accomplishments, but God's love. While created in God's image, sin distorts that image and results in corruption in all directions.

Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, redeemed, and reconciled to the Father! (*Solus Christus*)

Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Isaiah 59:1, 2; Romans 3:22-23; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12.

ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ can anyone be saved from sin, death, and powers of hell (*Sola Gratia, Sola Fide*).

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

ABOUT ETERNITY

At the end of human history, God will make all things new! Human beings will either exist eternally with God through the reconciliation and redemption offered through Jesus Christ, or separated from God by the human desire to live independent from God's sovereignty. To be eternally in union with God is heaven. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Cor. 2:7-9

RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL—WHO WE ARE

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 love.*"

CORE VALUES (COMMITMENTS THAT GUIDE US)

- Worship through Word and Sacrament – We believe the heart of the church’s ministry is the corporate Worship of the Triune God through Word and Sacrament. Through the corporate Worship services, God meets us and serves us through His means of grace. Our commitment is to preach the Gospel in its purity and truth, and administer the Sacraments as prescribed by Scripture. (*Deuteronomy 6.4-5; John 4.23-24*)
- Biblically Faithful – We believe the Bible to be the inspired and inerrant Word of God and His Word is the basis for all we do. (*John 8.31-32; 2 Timothy 3.16*)
- Lutheran Theological Identity – We believe that the Lutheran Confessions, as explicated in the Book of Concord, are a pure exposition of the Word of God. As such the Confessions ground us in the Gospel: “*Grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, revealed through Scripture alone, for the glory of God alone.*” (*John 10.27-30; Romans 3.21-26*)
- Christ Centered – We believe the church is called through the Gospel of God’s grace received through faith; we are saved and justified through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. Everything we do must flow from our relationship with Jesus Christ. (*Mark 1.14-15; Luke 9.23-25*)
- Emotionally Healthy – We believe that spiritual maturity and emotional health are inseparable. Emotionally Healthy Spirituality (EHD) is a commitment to the whole person—body, mind, and soul, through every stage of life. Emotional health involves our relationships with God and others, focusing on how our needs, vulnerabilities, patterns of communication, and ways of understanding our emotions impact those relationships. Emotional Health flows from one’s identity in Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit transforming the deep places in the soul, where our true self, as created in the image of God, exists. (*Matthew 5.21-48; Ephesians 2.11-22*)
- Disciples – We believe a disciple is a “student,” an “apprentice,” of Jesus—we are learning how to live our lives as Jesus would live them. We grow and deepen our discipleship through specific, spiritual disciplines (Worship, Bible Study, Biblical Community, Prayer, and Servanthood). As we grow as disciples of Jesus (Christ-Centered), and experience the Spirit’s transforming power in our emotional lives (emotional health), we will be equipped to love God and others to the glory of God. (*Matthew 28.19-20; Mark 12.28-31*)
- Christian Maturity – We believe in fostering spiritual growth through Worship, Bible study, Biblical Community, Prayer, and Servanthood/Evangelism. (*Acts 2.42-43; Philippians 2.12-13*)
- Mission Driven – We believe in helping members achieve their highest potential to fulfill God’s calling to reach out boldly to others. (*Matthew 28.18-20; Matthew 25.31-46*)
- Accountability to God and Others – We believe that God blesses us with abundant spiritual and material gifts and resources. It is out of love and gratitude that we use them effectively in service to Him and to each other. (*Romans 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9*)

SESSION TWO

THE CHURCH AND DISCIPLESHIP

Ephesians 4.11-13 "It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ."

WHAT IS *THE CHURCH*?

A Community of Jesus followers (disciples) who are learning to love and serve God and others to the glory of God!

Matthew 28.18-20 “And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Mark 12.28b-31 “Which commandment is the most important of all?” ²⁹ Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ ³¹ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

“It is also taught among us that one holy Christian church will be and remain forever. This is the assembly of all believers, among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel.... It is as Paul says in Eph. 4:4-5 “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” (*Augsburg Confession*: Article VII)

WHAT IS A DISCIPLE?

“A person, who day by day surrenders to the divine call through Christ, and through the Holy Spirit, is learning to live his or her life as Jesus would live it.”

2 Timothy 3.14-15 “But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, ¹⁵ and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

WHAT IS DISCIPLESHIP?

Christian discipleship is about continual change and conversion in our lives. The goal of this church is to be a community of *real people* who follow a *real God* who transforms and equips us to serve Him and others *through our lives*.

Acts 2:42 “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

OUR DISCIPLESHIP PROCESS—THE *MEANS* AND *MARKS*...

THE MEANS: CORE SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES AND EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY DISCIPLESHIP

Biblically and historically, there are five foundational spiritual disciplines that the Holy Spirit uses to transform people individually and corporately to be disciples of Jesus. They are:

- **WORSHIP** (Word and Sacrament)
- **BIBLE STUDY** (Reading and Applying God’s Word)
- **BIBLICAL COMMUNITY** (Life Groups)

- **DAILY PRAYER** (Solitude and Silence)
- **SERVANTHOOD** (At and Beyond the Church)

EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY DISCIPLESHIP (EHD)

A key belief of EHD is that “Emotional health and spiritual health are inseparable. It is not possible to be spiritually mature while remaining emotionally immature.”¹ EHD leads us to integrate our discipleship, our theologies, and our Biblical worldview with every aspect of our lives, particularly the everyday relationships common to all: our families of origin, our nuclear family, our friendships, work relationships, and neighborhood. Through EHD, we learn how to:

- Rest in the grace and love of Jesus.
- Be honest and clear in our communications with one another.
- Resolve conflict in a Biblically healthy way.
- "Fight fair."
- Affirm one's limits and the limits of others.
- Understand, celebrate, grieve, forgive, and be healed from, family of origin issues.

THE MEANS OF GRACE—GOD'S WORD AND SACRAMENTS

The Means of Grace (*Sacraments*): “The divinely instituted means by which God offers, bestows, and seals to people forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.”

Romans 1.16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

(GOD'S WORD: (THE BIBLE): LAW AND GOSPEL

THE *HOLY SACRAMENTS* (LATIN: *SACRAMENTUM*: LIT., “MYSTERY”/“SACRED RITE” “OATH/PLEDGE”)

In the Lutheran Church we have two Sacraments: **BAPTISM** and **HOLY COMMUNION**.

A SACRAMENT is _____ by JESUS.

A SACRAMENT contains GOD'S _____ “attached” to a physical _____.

A SACRAMENT promises the _____ of sins.

BAPTISM

Romans 6.3-4 Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

¹ Pete Scazzero. *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* (Nashville: Integrity Publishers, 2006).

Baptism is God coming to us through His promises (God's Word) and ordinary water, to love, care, and nurture us. In Holy Baptism, God "washes" away our sins and establishes a relationship with us, and with other believers, promising to be with us in our lives.

As a church we Baptize infants and adults. We Baptize children as a sign that God's grace is not dependent on our age or the ability to "accept" this grace, as well as reflecting the covenantal nature of God's grace within the Christian family.

HOLY COMMUNION

1 Corinthians 11:23-26 For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ²⁵ In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." ²⁶ For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We believe in the **real presence** of Christ *in, with, and under* the _____ and _____ of the meal.

How Do I Prepare Myself for the Lord's Supper?

- **Confession of My Sins** (*1 John 1:9*)
- **Self-Examination/Meditation** (*1 Corinthians 11:27*)
- **Recommitment** (*Romans 12:1*)
- **Restoring Relationships** (*Matthew 5:23-24*)

Other descriptions of HOLY COMMUNION are: "THE LORD'S SUPPER", the "EUCCHARIST" (Greek for "thanksgiving") "THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR," and "THE TABLE OF THE LORD."

THE "MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP" (WHAT DOES A DISCIPLE LOOK LIKE?)

"The Fruit of the Spirit"

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law."

LOVE (In response to God's love for me, I sacrificially and intentionally extend myself for another's spiritual growth and well-being).

JOY (Trusting in God's grace and promises, I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances).

PEACE (I am free from anxiety because I am reconciled in Christ, find my identity in Christ, and seek healthy relationships with others).

PATIENCE (I take time to prayerfully consider circumstances, seeking God's direction, while integrating head and heart, under the unavoidable pressures of life).

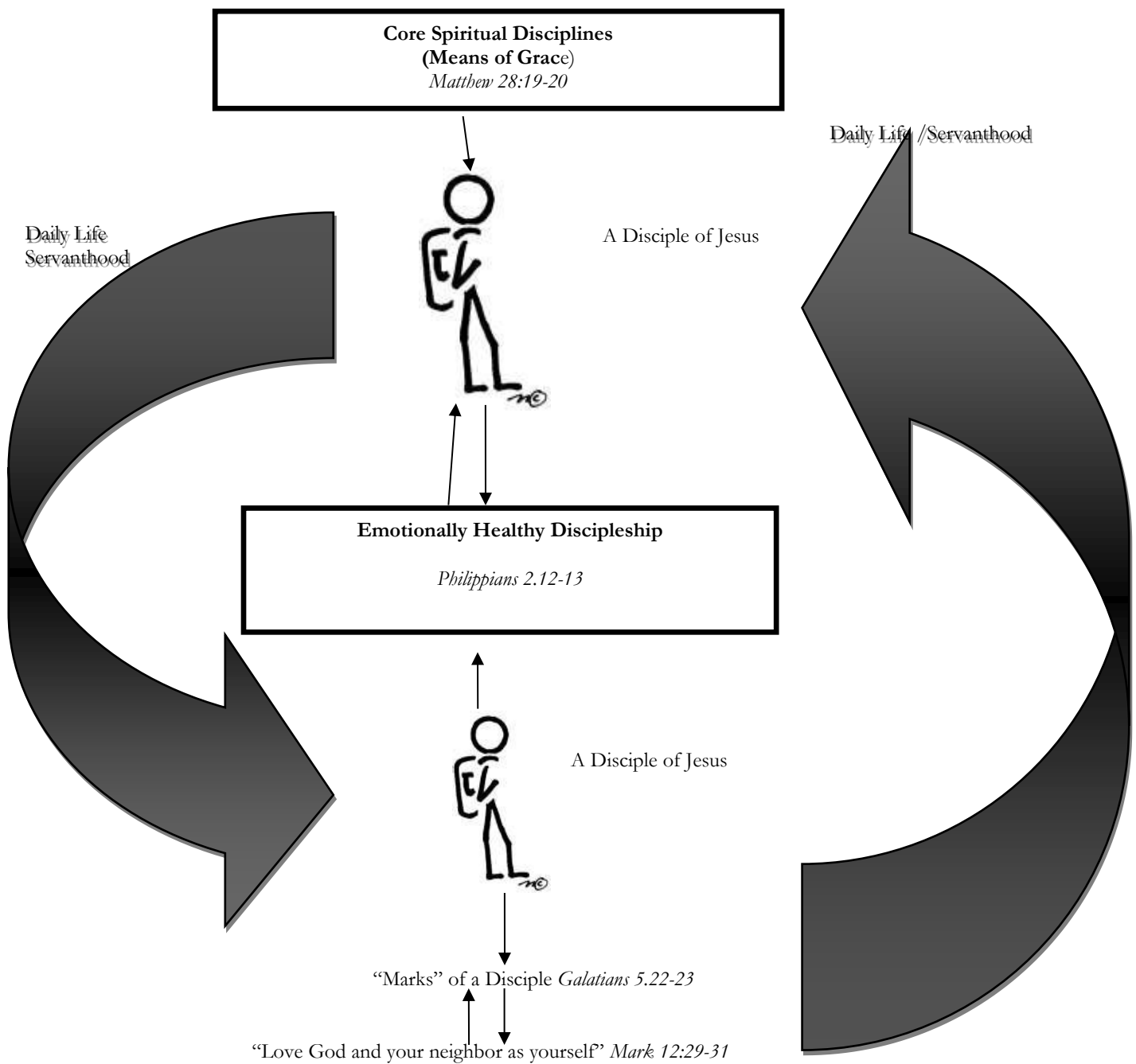
KINDNESS/ GOODNESS (I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others).

FAITHFULNESS (I trust in God's faithfulness, seeking to honor God in words and deeds, particularly through establishing relationships where I can be relied upon).

GENTLENESS (I seek to be thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others, as God has dealt gently with me).

SELF-CONTROL (I have the power, through Christ, to control/regulate myself).

Below is a graphic that “pictures” our disciple-making journey...



RED HILL *LUTHERAN* CHURCH?

WHAT IS A *LUTHERAN*? MARTIN LUTHER AND THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

HIS LIFE

Luther was born on November 10th, 1483. In July 1505 Martin Luther was caught in a thunderstorm and was afraid he was going to die. Luther asked St. Ann for help and if saved he would become a monk. He was spared and entered the monastery two weeks later.

HIS FAITH

Luther (and the world during the time of Luther) believed in an angry and vengeful God. Luther believed that his sin was too great to be forgiven and depended upon his efforts to be right with God. After studying the Scriptures, Luther “discovered” that people are *forgiven* and *justified* by God through the death and resurrection of Jesus—received through *faith*.

THE REST IS HISTORY...

On October 31, 1517 Luther posted his *95 Theses* on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. He protested many points of theology yet the one that truly began the controversy was the sale of “indulgences.” This was the system of essentially paying for forgiveness. Luther hoped to reform the church, not to separate from it.

Red Hill belongs to *Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ* (LCMC), an association of biblically and confessionally orthodox Lutheran churches (lcmc.net).

As an historically Lutheran Church, Red Hill affirms, confesses and teaches the Biblical *solus* (Latin: “Alone”)

Grace alone...

Faith alone...

Scripture alone...

Our congregation believes *The Lutheran Confessions*, contained in *The Book of Concord*, are a correct interpretation and presentation of biblical doctrine. These statements of belief were transcribed and shared broadly by church leaders during the 16th century Reformation.

SESSION THREE

MISSION, MINISTRY, AND COMMITMENT

Romans 12.4-5 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

HOW OUR CHURCH IS STRUCTURED...

JESUS CHRIST

THE CONGREGATION

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)

The Board of Directors ensures policy alignment and supervision of the Senior Pastor. The BoD represent the Members of the congregation, who invest service, time, dollars and emotion to enhance and expand the spread of the Gospel through the congregation's mission and ministry.

THE SENIOR PASTOR

MINISTRY STAFF/MINISTRIES

RED HILL LUTHERAN SCHOOL (RHLS)

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

BIBLICAL COMMUNITY AND HOSPITALITY (SMALL GROUPS)

YOUTH AND FAMILY

MISSION AND OUTREACH

ADMINISTRATION/BUDGET/FINANCE

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY:

8:00 a.m. Classical Worship

10:15 a.m. Contemporary Worship

9:15 a.m. "DiscipleU"

Adult classes/groups and Children's Ministry

Seasonal Worship Services

Christmas Eve/Day

Ash Wednesday

Maundy (Holy Thursday)

Good Friday

WEEKLY AND MONTHLY BIBLE STUDIES AND SMALL GROUPS

“Wednesdays in the Word.” Wednesday Mornings 7:00 a.m. to 7:45 a.m.
(In person/Livestreamed/Recorded)

Wednesday Evenings 7:00 p.m. (Seasonal)

“Men’s Day” (Men’s group) Weekly on Mondays

Women’s “Circle” Bible Studies (Weekly/Monthly)

SMALL GROUPS.

In addition to our Bible studies, we offer (and are developing) small group opportunities for purpose of deepening our faith and relationships with one another.

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

(“DiscipleU”) Children’s Ministry (Kindergartne-5th grades). Sundays: 9:15 to 11:00 am

Confirmation (6th -8th grade). Sundays: 11:30 a.m.- 1:00 pm. (Fall-Spring)

Middle School Ministry (6th -8th grade). Sundays, 9:15 a.m.; Wednesdays: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

High School Ministry (9th -12th grade). Sundays, 9:15 a.m.; Tuesdays: 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE. We seek to offer counsel, spiritual direction, prayer, visitation, and personal resources during seasons of challenge and transition.

ON GOING MINISTRY TEAMS (DEVELOPING)

- Worship and Music
- Youth and Family Ministry
- RHLS School Board
- Missions and Outreach
- Deacon Team

Where would you like to be involved?

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP—PARTNERSHIP IN THE MISSION...

Joshua 24:14-15 "...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

WHAT A DISCIPLE (CHURCH MEMBER) LOOKS LIKE...

I WORSHIP WEEKLY (WORSHIP)

Deuteronomy 10:12 "...what does the Lord your God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul..."

I READ, STUDY AND APPLY GOD'S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)

2 Timothy 3:16-17 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

I CONNECT WITH OTHER BELIEVERS (BIBLICAL COMMUNITY)

Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them."

I TALK WITH GOD DAILY (PRAYER)

Philippians 4:6 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God..."

I AM GIVING BACK TO GOD THROUGH MY TIME, TALENTS, AND TREASURES (SERVANTHOOD)

John 13:35 "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

GIVING TO GOD'S MISSION...

- Regularly
- Proportionally
- Sacrificially

4 WAYS TO GIVE AT @ RED HILL...

- On-line @ www.redhillchurch.org/give
- Automated Bank Debit
- Give at the Sunday service
- Mail your gift to the Red Hill Church Office

OUR COVENANT WITH THE MEMBERS OF RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH:

With the help and power of the Holy Spirit, Red Hill Lutheran Church covenants to do the following for you...:

1. We commit to lovingly caring for you and seeking your growth in Jesus. (*1 Thessalonians 5:12*)
2. We commit to provide preaching, teaching, and direction from God's Word. (*1 Timothy 5:17-18*)
3. We commit to helping you become equipped to serve. (*Ephesians 4:11-13*)
4. We commit to helping you in times of need. (*James 2:14-17*)
5. We commit to pray for you regularly, especially when you are sick. (*James 5:14*)
6. We commit to the continual seeking of God's desires for our church and school to the best of our ability and as we gather together for Worship, Bible study, Biblical Community, Prayer, and Servanthood, for the purpose of glorifying God and serving others. (*Acts 20:28*)
9. We commit to being a partner with you as we fulfill our mission to be a church that seeks to reach people with the love of Jesus Christ. (*Matthew 28:18-20*)

Next Steps: Worship weekly; Join a Bible study and/or a Small Group/Ministry Team; Attend Class 201: Growing Deeper." (Day/Time TBD).