

What is Important at Tallmadge Lutheran Church?

We are CHRISTIAN

At Tallmadge Lutheran Church, we teach and respond to the love of the Triune God: the Father, creator of all that exists; Jesus Christ, the Son, who became human to suffer and die for the sins of all human beings and who rose to life again in the ultimate victory over death and Satan; and the Holy Spirit, who creates faith through God's Word and Sacraments and brings people to Jesus. The three persons of the Trinity are all equal and are one God.

We are LUTHERAN

We draw from the teachings of Martin Luther and the reformers emphasizing these three teachings: Grace alone, Faith alone, Scripture alone.

Grace Alone - God loves all the people of the world, even though they are sinful, rebel against Him and do not deserve His love. The Lord sent Jesus, His Son, to love the unlovable and save the ungodly.

Faith Alone - By His suffering and death as the substitute for all people of all time, Jesus purchased and won forgiveness and eternal life for all people. Those who hear this Good News and believe in Jesus receive forgiveness, life and salvation. God alone creates faith in Christ and gives people forgiveness through Jesus.

Scripture Alone - The Bible is God's Word, written by men inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Bible reveals God's Law (God's expectations for living that all people fall short of keeping) and His Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ (God has fully accomplished our salvation through the life, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.) God's Word is our source for what it means and what it looks like to follow Jesus.

We are SACRAMENTAL

We believe that God is truly present forgiving sins, creating and strengthening faith in the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion. We practice the baptism of infants because 1) Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." 2) We believe that all people are born into sin and sinful from birth—so infants need what Baptism offers, namely, forgiveness of sins. 3) We believe that just as an infant forms a trusting bond with a parent, God can foster that same trust relationship with an infant. And 4) Jesus told his followers to make disciples of "all nations"—infants are included in this command. We also desire that all who participate in Holy Communion believe in Jesus Christ, repent of his/her sins, recognize that Jesus' body and blood are truly present in, with, and under the bread and the wine, and truly seek God's help to live a godly life (i.e. loving the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and loving our neighbor as ourselves).

We are MISSIONAL & INCARNATIONAL

We know that God loves all people and desires that all people be saved by faith in Jesus. We seek to live with compassion for those who do not follow Jesus, loving them just as Jesus loved all people. In this regard, worship is a time to equip and strengthen our members to be Jesus in the world. Wherever we see the hurting and broken, we seek to offer healing and hope through our service and our presence. We desire to join Jesus on his mission of seeking and saving the lost.

We are LITURGICAL

We believe that worship is a time/place where God imparts His gifts to us through Word and Sacrament. Worship is also a time for God's people to use their gifts to honor and give glory to God—especially through music and service (i.e. greeting, reading scripture, ushering, lighting candles, and serving communion). In our worship life, we follow the liturgical church year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost) frequently using a three-year lectionary cycle of assigned readings for Sunday morning worship. Our worship service will typically contain the following liturgical elements in one form or another: Invocation, Confession and Absolution, Scripture Readings, Message, Prayer & Lord's Prayer, Benediction. The style of our 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning worship is more traditional with hymns typically led by an organ. The style of our 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship is a blend of traditional hymns and newer songs. There may be some organ at this second service, but the majority of music is led by our praise team (keyboard, guitars, bass, drums, and vocalists). On a typical Sunday, the only difference between the 8:00 and 10:30 services are the songs selected and instrumentation leading the congregation in signing.