

Trinity Reformed Church / Statement of Christian Belief

We believe in the Christian gospel. The gospel is the royal announcement that the incarnated, crucified and risen Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and rose again according to the Scriptures, has been enthroned as the true Lord of the world. When this gospel is preached, God calls people to salvation, out of sheer grace, leading them to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as the risen Lord. At the return of Jesus, God will restore creation and make a new world in which we can enjoy our new life together with him forever. (*Luke 4:16-21; Romans 1:2-6; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8*)

We believe the triune God of the gospel is a being of unimaginably wonderful power, goodness, and love. We confess the mystery of the Holy Trinity—that there is one God alone, infinite and eternal, Creator of all things, the greatest good, who is one in nature, yet who exists in a plurality of three distinct persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is the caring Father and sovereign ruler of creation, working all things according to the counsel of his omnipotent and righteous will. (*Psalm 118:1; Psalm 145:1-9; Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 1:3-14; 2 Corinthians 13:14*)

We believe in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, the eternal Son of God uniquely entered human history and became a real human being, fully God and fully human. Through his incarnation, life, death, and resurrection, Jesus is a redemption from slavery; payment of a debt; vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty; victory over the powers of evil; a sacrificial substitution; Jesus opened a way for human beings to be reconciled with God and neighbor; a way in which sins are covered, forgiven, and removed. (*John 14:6-7; Mark 10:45; Acts 2:32; Colossians 1:15-20; Philippians 2:5-11*)

We believe that on the sole basis of Christ's incarnation, life, death, and resurrection, sinners who confess Jesus as Lord are reconciled to a holy God and are participants in the resurrection of Christ, set free to live for God in holiness and joy. The risen Lord Jesus Christ has been exalted to the place of honor beside God the Father. Jesus Christ, the eternal Son, is now Lord of heaven and earth, advocating and interceding on behalf of the church. (*1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 2:13; 1 Timothy 2:5-6*)

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, is the power of God that makes faith real in our lives. The Spirit awakens from spiritual death those whom God has chosen, convicts them of sin, comforts them with the hope of the gospel, seals their faith, unites them with Christ and with the church, the Body of Christ. The Spirit leads the church and distributes spiritual gifts that empower believers to love God and neighbor. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in the individual and collective life of believers in Jesus effects real transformation, holiness, and Christlikeness. (*John 14:26; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:26; Romans 12:3-7; Galatians 3:14; Ephesians 1:13-14*)

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be God's unique, infallible, revealed and written Word, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and are the church's first and final authority in all areas of faith and life for all people in every age. The Bible speaks to us with the authority of God himself. We seek to understand, love, follow, and submit to God's Word—both Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, and the Scriptures, the written Word of God, which bear true and faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ. (*Matthew 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17*)

We believe that God created human beings good, but instead of worshiping and obeying God, we rebel and bring sin and death upon ourselves and all creation. Humans were created in God's own image to know, love, and obey God, to love one another, and to be righteous cultivators of creation. But no human remedy can repair the radical brokenness, corruption, and injustice sin has wrought upon humanity. Humans are in bondage to sin and subject to God's holy judgment, which results in eternal separation from God. Without God's intervening grace and salvation, we are lost and condemned. (*Genesis 1:27, 31; Psalm 8:3-6; John 3:16; Romans 3:9-23; Romans 5:8*)

We believe salvation is God's gracious work through Jesus Christ to reclaim humankind and all creation from sin and its consequences. Salvation is a gift of God's grace received by faith. Faith is the fruit and effect of the inner work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of human beings. Integral to this faith is repentance, where we turn away from sin and turn toward God, relying upon Christ alone for our reconciliation. Our salvation and sanctification are based entirely on God's initiative and God's grace, and it is for God's glory. (Acts 2:38-39; Ephesians 2:8-9)

We believe Jesus Christ is Lord of all creation and human life—our spiritual life and our physical life; our social life including marriage, politics, justice, and culture; our intellectual life; our work life and our recreational life; the use of our bodies, our possessions, our resources, and our money. We are to be stewards of all of these things to manifest and participate in the emerging kingdom of God, and to bring glory to the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. While our obedience in these things does not save us, when we turn to God in faith he renews us, changes our hearts and sets us apart for his purposes. (Colossians 1:15-16; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:12-13; Philippians 1:6; Romans 12:1-3)

We believe that as God's people, we are therefore called to turn from any practice which Scripture describes as sin, including gossip, slander, idolization of wealth, racism, injustice, sexual immorality, conceit, and abuse of others; and to live in ways that honor God. We uphold the responsibility of the whole church including its officers and leaders, to "lead a life worthy of the calling you have received" (Ephesians 4:1), including fidelity in marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness. (Genesis 2:24; Exodus 19:3-6; Luke 16:13; Romans 8:29-30; 1 Timothy 3:2-12; 1 Peter 2:9-10)

We believe that believers become members of the covenant community called the church, and enjoy the covenant promises of eternal life and blessing. In our covenant life together, our church celebrates two sacraments, baptism and the Lord's Supper. The sacraments point to and remind us of the holy sacrifice of Christ for us. The Holy Spirit uses these sacraments to convey grace, salvation, and the real presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, which are received in faith by the believing community in their worship together. (Luke 22:20; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Romans 6:1-4)

We believe that Jesus Christ, as the Lord of the church, calls the church into being, declares its mission, and equips it for its work until he returns. The church's mission is: To proclaim to all the world, in word and in action, the good news of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ; to embody, tangibly yet imperfectly, the new reality God intends for humanity through its love for one another and the quality of its common life together—sharing in worship, community, nurture, compassion, justice, prayer and service; and to participate in God's redemptive activity in our homes, communities, and world. As we do mission we live in hope, because one day Jesus will return, love and justice will prevail, and God will set the world right. Eventually the whole world will be renewed: death, decay, injustice, and suffering will all be defeated, and God's reconciled community will take their seats at Christ's eternal wedding feast. (Micah 6:8; Matthew 24:30-31; Romans 8:37-39; Revelation 21:1-5)