

## **What We Believe**

### **...about God.**

We believe in the God who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is the author of all life and creator of the universe. We believe Jesus' life, death, and resurrection to be historically accurate and that his personal return in power and glory represents the hope for the world. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by who's indwelling the Christian is enabled to follow Jesus in the world.

### **...about Salvation**

We believe that salvation is a gift given to us as a result of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. We can do nothing to earn salvation, but instead we receive it as gift through faith, or by placing our trust in Christ. The purpose of salvation is not to condemn but to call all people to the coming Kingdom of God on earth.

### **...about the Bible**

We believe that the bible is the inspired Word of God, accurate in its teaching, contextual in its origins and interpreted through the life and message of Jesus Christ. We believe that the authority of Scripture reveals God's providential will in matters of faith and life.

### **...about Communion**

We teach that Holy Communion is a sacrament, or a means of grace by which God promises to forgive, restore, and share the provision of the Holy Spirit. All who believe that Christ is present in the Holy Meal are welcome to receive communion at Bethany regardless of their church or religious affiliation.

### **...about Baptism (infant and adult)**

We teach that Baptism is a sacrament, or a means of grace by which God adopts us, calls us, and promises the gift of the Holy Spirit. We believe scripture supports infant baptism not as a means of salvation, but as a means of grace. Upon the affirmation of faith in the promises of baptism, adults are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life.

**.... about the Church** We believe the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the Church for God's mission in the world. Above all we are called to love others like Jesus Christ loves us.

**....about women in leadership.** We believe God created both man and women to share roles of leadership in family, church, and life. Passages in scripture which limit leadership for women are viewed as inspired but timebound in their cultural context and therefore not to be a universal teaching.