
CORE VALUES:

❶ Follow Jesus as the Model – because the way of Jesus and the work of Jesus go hand in hand

Jesus is not only the One who died on the cross for our sins, but also the One who lived a perfect human life of loving obedience to God the Father. He shows us not only what to live for, but how to live in intimacy with God, others in community, and service to the world as God's just and gracious kingdom is extended by the power of God's Spirit. We cannot truly do the work of Jesus without living his way and by the power of the same Spirit.

❷ Be Guided by God's Word and Spirit – because becoming like Jesus is a journey of both Spirit and Truth

We follow Jesus, listening and obeying his Word to us in scripture, whose truth is made alive to us by the Holy Spirit. By the same Spirit we are enabled to increasingly hear God in prayer, meditation, worship, and all those practices that put us in a place that allows God to transform our hearts, the source of our thoughts, words and actions.

❸ Value the Worth of Each Person – because all people are God's creation and have eternal value

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb, I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." – Psalm 139:13-14

"If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?...In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish." – Matthew 18:12,14


❹ Represent Jesus Everywhere – because Jesus was sent to us and now he sends us to our world

We continue the triune God's mission, sent by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit individually and corporately as Christ's living Body to represent and extend God's just, gracious, and life-giving rule in individuals, communities and systems throughout society (Matthew 28:18-20).

vision for St. Andrew's

Encouraging
each other daily
to FOLLOW Jesus
and LOVE 
the WORLD.

our identity statement

We are
a community
of broken people
 LEARNING to be
LOVED by Jesus
so we can
LOVE like Jesus.

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 - ❹ Represent Jesus Everywhere
-

Encouraging each other daily to follow Jesus and love the world.

Encouraging each other daily

We affirm that faith is not an "elective" whose expression is reserved for Sunday mornings, but a way of living every day and moment in growing trust in Jesus. Trusting in Jesus by definition includes community with others who also belong to him, and those relationships give encouragement, accountability and consistency in following Christ.

to follow Jesus

A follower of Jesus is someone who is entrusting his or her life to Jesus as Savior and Lord. Jesus, whose name means "The Lord Saves," saves us from our sins, from death, and from meaninglessness for a life of forgiveness, grace, peace and purpose that never ends. As we increasingly acknowledge Jesus' right to be in charge of our lives because of his redeeming life, death and resurrection, we progressively put all we are and have in his gracious hands. To follow Jesus is to learn as apprentices to his words, works, and way of life how to live as God intended.

and love the world.

Jesus came to restore all people to a loving relationship with God, (John 3:16), and we who follow him inherit his mission to love the world by extending his just and gracious rule, or kingdom, wherever we go.

We are a community of broken people learning to be loved by Jesus so that we can love like Jesus.

We are a community of broken people

God knows we are imperfect, flawed, broken people with no part of our lives untouched by the consequences of sinful attitudes and actions opposed to God's will for us. We gather together knowing that by ourselves no one is right with God, not even one (Romans 3:23). We also know that God created us good and in God's image, which is ultimately restored to wholeness through his Son, and God accepts us as right with God through what Jesus has done for us. So we have no basis for pride or pretence, and every reason to be humble and authentic before one another, because we are all received and become whole only by God's grace (Ephesians 2:8, Galatians 2:20-21).

learning to be loved by Jesus

In following Jesus, we learn to receive continually God's forgiveness and grace through him. We cannot truly live apart from the renewing, identity-changing power of his Spirit filling us to overflowing (John 4:14, 7:37-38). Apart from Jesus we can do nothing (John 15:5). All those practices that put us in a place to be renewed in our relationship with God as God's adopted, beloved children, to receive God's love directly and through others in community remind us of who we truly are. Being God's people comes before doing God's work. We cannot give or live out what we are not regularly receiving.

so that we can love like Jesus.

This is the mark of being followers or disciples of Jesus, that we love with the same tenderness, compassion, "toughness" and intensity with which Jesus loved his disciples and the world (John 15:12-13). We give our lives away to love, serve, and restore people and systems in the world to God. We extend the reach of God's just and gracious rule in the lives of people as we notice and join in what the Spirit is doing to make "your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).