

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF FOLLOW THE STAR
MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT**

1. The Gift of Baptism

___ *I have been baptized in the name of the Triune God.*

___ *My minor children have been baptized in the name of the Triune God.*

___ *I have not been baptized and would like to arrange for my Baptism.*

___ *My minor child(ren) have not been baptized and I would like to arrange the Baptism(s).*

II. Statement of Personal Faith

1. I believe that the Bible is God's Word and is the only divine rule and standard for my Christian faith and life. (*2 Tim.3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21*)
2. I believe in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, not three Gods, but one, and am resolved to suffer all things, rather than fall away from Him. (*Matt.10:26-33*)
3. I believe that I am by nature sinful and need God's grace for the forgiveness of my sins. (*Psalm 51:5; 1 Corinthians 12:3; Rom.3:22-24,28*)
4. I believe that God took human form in the person of Jesus Christ, and gave Himself for the forgiveness of my sins on the cross of Calvary. (*John 1:14; John 3:16,17*)
5. I believe that God the Holy Spirit is given to us through the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper through which He extends to us the forgiveness of our sins.
 - a. Baptism is the application of water together with God's Word on an individual who is being discipled as Christ commanded in Matthew 28:18-20. Baptism is for **all** people of **all** ages, including infants. (*Acts 2:38,39; Matthew 28:19*).
 - b. The Lord's Supper is the eating and drinking of bread and wine in which we also actually receive Jesus' body and blood as He said. (*1 Corinthians 11:24, 25*)
6. I believe that I have eternal life as a free gift of grace through faith in Jesus Christ. (*Ephesians2:8-9*)
7. I accept the teachings of the Lutheran Church as summarized in **Martin Luther's Small Catechism**.

III. Commitment to the Mission of Bethlehem

Mission: “As ministers of the Gospel, we will together reach out and bring people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ through dynamic worship of God, vigorous study of His Word, loving care for one another and committed support of His Work throughout the world.”

As a forgiven child of God, relying on His grace and strength in all I do, I intend to participate in God’s mission through Bethlehem Lutheran Church & School in the following ways:

Dynamic Worship of God:

1. I intend, by the Grace of God, to attend worship services unless some unselfish reason prevents me.
2. I intend, by the Grace of God, to partake of the Lord’s Supper as often as it is offered.

Vigorous Study of His Word:

1. I intend, by the Grace of God, to read and study God’s Word on a regular basis.
2. I intend, by the Grace of God, to take time out daily for God in private prayer.
3. I intend, by the Grace of God, to raise my children in the Christian faith.

Loving Care for One Another:

1. I intend, by the Grace of God, to live a Christian life, guided by God’s Holy Spirit, as described in *Galatians 5:19-26*.
2. I intend, by the Grace of God, to receive spiritual admonition should Satan succeed in deceiving me into a life of sin. Likewise, I will give spiritual admonition should I see my fellow Christian being deceived into a life of sin. (*Galatians 6; Matthew 18*)
3. I intend, by the Grace of God, not to hold membership in any organization conflicting with the Word of God. (*2 Corinthians 4:1-6; Ephesians 5:8-21; 2 Peter 2:1-3*)

Committed Support of His Work Throughout the World:

1. I intend, by the Grace of God, to live my life as a witness to Jesus Christ. (*Acts 1:8*)
2. I intend, by the Grace of God, to find a satisfying place in ministry at Bethlehem where I am able to use my God given gifts for the benefit and encouragement of the Body of Christ and His glory. (*Romans 12:3-8*)
3. I intend, by the Grace of God, to financially support the Lord’s work through Bethlehem. I understand that *all* I have has been gifted to me by God—that I am its caretaker and responsible to give a portion of what God has given me back to Him to further His kingdom. In order to do so, I commit to practice “*firstfruit*” giving; i.e., setting aside a portion of my income on a regular basis for the Lord’s work. I know God in the Old Testament required 10% of all that you had, while Jesus in the New Testament frees us up to give so much more. I also recognize that whatever I choose to give back to God serves as a measure of my faith and trust in God (*2 Corinthians 8:8-9; Malachi 3:10*), therefore the percentage I choose to give will reflect that faith and trust. (*Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 6:38; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7*)

I have received instruction in Lutheran teachings. I understand what I can expect of Bethlehem and what is expected of me as a member of this congregation.

Signature

Date

Signature

Date