

Greater Milwaukee Synod  
Vision, Mission, Values, Practices statement:

Vision: Communities that reflect God's vision for life: justice, peace, and hope for everyone, regardless of race, gender, identity, or social status.

Mission: We invite people to follow Jesus in communities shaped by radical neighbor-love.

Values: The Greater Milwaukee Synod encourages its leaders and congregations to shape their work around the following core values:

- Curiosity. We believe that God is always up to something new, working to bring people together from diverse contexts to embrace life out of death, hope out of despair, and community over isolation. Our task is to wonder and explore, being open to the winds of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:1-24)
- Courage. We believe that God is inviting us to let go of the familiar structures, beliefs, and practices that may be preventing us from experiencing the rich and full life that God intends for all creation. (Isaiah 42:5-9)
- Compassion. We believe that Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves needs to guide everything we do. (Luke 10:25-37)
- Collaboration. We believe that, just as God walks with us in our journey of faith, God invites us to walk with and work with each other and with our neighbors in relationships of authentic mutuality. (Ephesians 4:1-16)

Practices: We share the following practices that grow out of our values and give shape to our mission:

- Worship. We regularly gather around Word and Sacrament to remember and celebrate God's saving action in Christ and to renew our commitment to loving our neighbor.
- Listening. We regularly seek to listen to and learn from God's Word, each other, our neighbors near and far, and the world around us, asking deep questions and being open to new voices and new perspectives.
- Truth-telling. We recognize that truth is shaped through communal discernment and that everyone's voice and perspective needs to be heard and valued.
- Generosity. We regularly open our lives to the free sharing of ideas and resources with all, recognizing that everything belongs to God.
- Risk-taking. We know that the Church and our world is changing, and we need to explore new ways of being faithful, building relationships, and organizing our life together.
- Leadership development. We support and encourage new people into leadership roles, focusing on those who have often been overlooked and undervalued.
- Showing up. We live out our faith by engaging in action and advocacy around issues of poverty, violence, racial inequality, gender and gender identity, and injustice of all kinds.