

Appendix

Lutheran schools and early childhood services are communities that reflect the Christian values of love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, service, humility, courage, hope and gratitude.

The following is an expansion of each value; brackets are purposely open to indicate that the meanings can be added to and further refined as appropriate.

The Bible verses are just some that further define the values, and you may well want to add or substitute other texts. Correlations between the values and Bible verses have been made using the NIV translation of the Bible.

Other translations may vary slightly in their wording and perspective.

The Lutheran education values

Love

Adore, worship, care for, devotion to, kindness, resilience, happiness, have esteem for, honour...

For Christians, the expression of love is always a response to God's love. It is a way of being that leads to inner peace. Love flows from the heart and manifests itself in caring, kind and respectful thoughts, words and actions.

Psalm 136, John 15:12-13, John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 13, Ephesians 5:1-2, 1 John 3:18, Romans 12:9-11

Justice

Integrity, honesty, truthfulness, honour, veracity, uprightness, fairness...

Through genuine concern, and the developing of a conscience for the rights and wellbeing of everyone in the human family, justice focuses as much on understanding and responding to the reasons for suffering and injustices as it does on responding to unjust conditions. It requires integrity between beliefs, words, and actions. It may necessitate taking a stand and acting with courage.

Isaiah 26:7-8, Romans 12, Matthew 5:7, Ephesians 2:1-5, Jeremiah 23:5-6,

Compassion

Empathy, sympathy, concern, kindness, consideration, gentleness, care...

Having compassion is being loving and attending to people's innermost needs. It is exercising the ability to reach out, to walk in another's shoes, to be open and responsive to the needs and concerns of others and being active in caring for others.

Philippians 2:1, Hosea 11:4, Matthew 5:44, John 15:17, Romans 12:9-13, Colossians 3:12-15

Forgiveness

Grace, reconciliation, mercy, amnesty, pardon, understanding, absolve, acquit, reprieve...

Forgiveness is breaking the cycle of un-grace, pardoning the wrongs others have done to us and seeking pardon for the wrongs we have done to others. Forgiveness often comes with pain and can involve stepping over our hurt. Forgiveness releases both ourselves and others, enabling new starts and new beginnings, another chance.

Matthew 18:21-22, Luke 17:3-4, Romans 4, Colossians 3:13, Matthew 5:7, Ephesians 4:32

Service

Help, assistance, benefit, good turn, support, faithfulness, aid, good deed, charitable act...

Service involves selfless giving, loving others and making a difference in their lives by identifying and responding to their needs, individually and collectively, and carrying out that service without expecting recognition or reward.

Luke 12:35-37, Matthew 20:28, John 12:26, John 13:12-17

Humility

Humbleness, modesty, unassuming nature, meekness, gentleness...

Acting with humility involves recognizing and valuing one's own gifts/abilities and the gifts/abilities of others as being equally valid but of no lesser or greater importance. It is using those gifts/abilities in service to others with an attitude of selflessness. It is being thankful rather than boastful and willing to respect and learn from the experience of others.

Proverbs 22:4, Matthew 5:5, Matthew 20:20-28, Mark 9:35, Philippians 2:3-4

Courage

Valour, bravery, nerve, pluck, daring, boldness, fearlessness, fortitude, perseverance, intrepid...

Courage is the strength of heart that enables people to stand up for their convictions to do the right thing, even when it is hard or fearful. It involves being firm of spirit despite the ups and downs of life and it means 'having a go' even when success is uncertain.

Psalm 112:8, Luke 21:19, Acts 20:24, Philippians 1:27-30, 2 Timothy 1:7

Hope

Expectation, trust in, faith in, anticipation, look forward to, expect, desire, aspire, optimism...

Hope enables us to look forward with expectation and confidence, placing our trust and faith in God's provision of the things we need to handle all kinds of situations and events that occur. Hope is open-ended, open to all possibilities and not limited by what we might wish for. Hope allows God to define our lives.

Psalm 31:14-15, John 6:20, Romans 8:38-39, Ephesians 3:11-12, Philippians 4:6-7

Gratitude

Appreciation, enjoyment of, thankfulness, value, recognition, wonder and awe, respect...

Appreciation is recognising and valuing highly the gifts and blessings given to us and surrounding us. It is an attitude of thankfulness for learning, loving and being. It is a positive attitude that responds in wonder and awe to, and with respect for, the created world – its fragility and its potential.

Psalm 148, Habakkuk 2:20, Philippians 4:4-9, 1 Thessalonians 5:18, 1 Pet 2:17

Useful links



Visit the Growing Deep website
growingdeep.lutheran.edu.au



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