



PHILOSOPHY

Who I am and what I am all about.

Glorifying God

My life is centered on glorifying God in all my words and actions. My purpose is to worship Jesus Christ and to guide others to do the same. Through God's saving grace in Jesus, I have been redeemed from sin, death, and the devil, enabling me to live as a transformed person. As the Apostle Paul writes, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Therefore, my calling arises from God's mercy and the new life bestowed upon me through His Son.

Authority of Holy Scripture

The authority governing my life and ministry is rooted in the Holy Bible. I confess that the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired and inerrant Word of God, serving as the authoritative source and standard for proclamation, faith, conduct, and ministry, "according to which all doctrines should and must be judged" (Formula of Concord, Epitome, Part I). Holy Scripture is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path (Psalm 119:105). It remains the foundation for all my teaching, pastoral care, counseling, and ministerial efforts. Accordingly, I endeavor to serve under the authority of God's Word with humility, fidelity, and holy reverence.

Christ at the Center

Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of my beliefs, values, and convictions, and of my proclamation of God's saving Word. I acknowledge that Jesus is the Church's foundation and that all aspects of life and ministry must be conducted under His authority. The essence of my preaching and teaching centers on Christ, crucified for sinners, risen for our justification, and reigning for the benefit of His Church. The Gospel is the Church's life, treasure, and message to the world. As Christ has borne the sin of the world and triumphed over death and the grave, my ministry aims to direct individuals away from themselves and toward God's saving mercy revealed in Jesus.

God's Saving Desire for the World

I believe God's heart is to save all people. Scripture reveals that God wants everyone to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4) and that He is patient, desiring repentance rather than punishment (2 Peter 3:9). From the beginning, God's goal has been to rescue humanity from the eternal destruction caused by sin. He achieved this by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for the life of the world. Therefore, I view ministry as participating in God's divine mission: to share repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Jesus' name with all people, trusting that the Gospel is destined for every nation, tribe, and language.



Means of Grace

My philosophy of ministry is deeply rooted in the Lutheran confessions, which hold that God accomplishes His saving work through His appointed means of grace. Through the written and proclaimed Word, the Holy Spirit creates and sustains faith. Through Holy Baptism, Absolution, and the Lord's Supper, Christ Himself comes to forgive sins, strengthen faith, and grants life and salvation to all who believe. These gifts are God's own instruments by which He delivers the benefits of Christ's death and resurrection to His people. In this way, ministry must always remain focused on what God gives rather than on what humanity offers Him.

Theology of the Cross

At the heart of faithful ministry lies the theology of the cross. The divine power of salvation is most fully revealed in the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Consequently, I do not regard ministry as the pursuit of spiritual success, self-improvement, or religious performance, but as the proclamation of the crucified and risen Lord who encounters sinners in their need with grace and truth. The cross provides the fundamental interpretation of both the Christian life and the pastoral vocation. It teaches us where to find God and how He operates: concealed in humility, suffering, weakness, and grace.

Care of Souls

Pastoral ministry primarily entails the stewardship of souls. I am convinced that each person is created in the divine image of God and is inherently deserving of dignity, compassion, and attentive care. In keeping with Christ's sacrifice for all, the Church must be a sanctuary where people are received with sincerity, kindness, honesty, and the compassion and loving embrace of Jesus. My vocation is to serve as an under-shepherd to the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, by providing consistent, faithful preaching, a pastoral presence, spiritual counsel, and compassionate support to those entrusted to my care. Whether preaching from the pulpit, presiding at the altar, engaging in pastoral counseling, or participating in personal dialogue, I aim to exemplify both theological accuracy and pastoral tenderness for all I have the opportunity to serve.

Mental Health and Pastoral Care

I believe faithful pastoral care recognizes mental and emotional health as an essential part of caring for the whole person. Mental health concerns call for compassion, patience, attentive listening, and the grace of Christ. The Church can offer a meaningful place of spiritual support, encouragement, prayer, and community, while affirming the valuable role of qualified mental health professionals. I seek to walk alongside those experiencing emotional or psychological distress with wisdom, sensitivity, and respect, encouraging appropriate care and supportive relationships. In all such care, my desire is to uphold each person's dignity and bear witness to the hope, mercy, and presence of Jesus Christ.

Discipleship and the Christian Life

Those who receive saving faith in Jesus Christ are called to follow Him as His disciples. Discipleship is the lifelong journey of repentance and faith, of dying and rising, and of being conformed more and more to Christ's likeness. As Jesus calls us to follow Him, He also sends us to help others do the same. Therefore, my ministry aims not only to inform minds but also to shape lives according to the Word of God. Discipleship involves loving as Christ has loved us, serving as He has served us, and walking in the vocations to which He



has called us. It is the daily walk of Baptism, in which the old Adam is drowned and the new creation rises again to live before God in righteousness, purity, and truth.

Community, Honesty, and Grace

I believe the Church should be a sanctuary where individuals can live authentically before God and one another. A Christian community is built on confession, forgiveness, reconciliation, mercy, prayer, and mutual comfort within the framework of Word and Sacrament. Its foundation rests on the grace of Christ, which frees sinners to step into the light of God's glory. My goal is to create environments where people are received with genuine sincerity, supported in their struggles, and encouraged to grow in faith through God's eternal promises. Such a community embodies the heart of the Gospel and testifies to the reconciliatory love of Jesus.

Pastoral Leadership

I understand pastoral leadership as a form of servant leadership exercised under Christ's authority and for the benefit of His Church. Central to the pastoral office is the faithful proclamation of the Word of God and the right administration of the Sacraments, through which the risen Christ continues to forgive sins, impart grace, and nourish His people in faith. The pastor is neither called to dominate nor merely to perform tasks; rather, he is called to serve faithfully, lead with Christ's humility, and steward the mysteries of God well (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:1-2). This requires theological fidelity, integrity of character, pastoral wisdom, and a readiness to assume responsibility for the care of souls. In all aspects of ministry, I endeavor to lead with both courage and compassion, with the constant aim of exalting Christ and strengthening His Church.

The Mission of Making Disciples

The mission of making and multiplying disciples is perpetual; it never ceases. It is the Church's ongoing responsibility to follow Jesus Christ, heed His command, and follow the Holy Spirit's guidance. My objective is to engage in this mission with joy by proclaiming the Gospel, administering the Sacraments, caring for souls, equipping the saints for the work of the ministry (cf. Ephesians 4:11-13), and inviting others to the path of repentance and faith. This divine work belongs to Christ; however, He generously allows His Church to participate in it. Accordingly, I endeavor to serve with gratitude, confidence, joy, and hope, trusting that the Lord will continue to gather, enlighten, and sanctify His people through His saving Word.

Conclusion

My philosophy of ministry is to serve the Lord and His Church as an under-shepherd of the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, by faithfully proclaiming His Gospel in Word and Sacrament and by joyfully participating in His mission to make disciples of all nations. I seek a ministry rooted in Holy Scripture, centered on Christ, shaped by the means of grace, attentive to the care of souls, and marked by theological depth, pastoral tenderness, and evangelical hope. Above all, my desire is that Jesus Christ be glorified, His people strengthened, sinners brought to repentance and faith, and the mercy of God made known throughout the Church and the world.