

Rev. Kyle Delhagen  
Statement of faith

Christian life and faith begins, for me, at the table. When we gather for communion, we meet God in the body and blood of Christ, made visible in the bread and the cup. At the same time, it is a community gathering that affirms the Spirit's presence among us.

Communion, the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, is not something we can *take*, but something we must be given. When we are invited to partake of the body and blood of Christ, we are taking part in something that is both known *and* mystery; present with us *and* beyond our understanding.

Christian life and faith finds its fullness in our baptism. When we are baptized, we are marked with the sign and seal of God's love and mercy. While baptism is appropriate for anyone of any age, I love infant baptism precisely because it demonstrates that baptism is not something we do or ask for ourselves, but something that is done to and for us. It is God's action of claiming us as His own, as well as the community's commitment to raise and grow the child in the faith.

Finally, Christian life and faith is expressed in community worship and service. Deuteronomy 11:18-19 says, "You shall put these words in your heart and soul... Teach them to your children, talking about them when you are home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise." We are called to live with the Word of God on our lips, but also in our every action. We are called to walk hand in hand with our brothers and sisters, serving those in need: the widow, the orphan, the immigrant, and so on. When we put our faith into action, coupled with worship and study of God's word, we find the fullness of our life together.

I believe that God loved humanity so fully and so deeply, that He sent Jesus Christ to us, to walk with us, to struggle with us, to love us so passionately, that he was willing to die a very human death, that we might be forgiven. I believe that Jesus Christ was resurrected that we might rise with him into new life. I believe that the Spirit of God continues to bind us together with our brothers and sisters around the world, working in and through us to actively bring God's kingdom to earth. I believe that the Church is a vehicle of hope, bringing the good news of Jesus Christ to all who need it most, inspiring us to greater faithfulness and hope in God.