

RIC Welcome Statement

We at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church are **called to love God, Family and Neighbor through Prayer, Teaching and Action**. We welcome **All** because God welcomes **All**, regardless of race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to physical or mental health, socio-economic circumstances, imprisonment by bars, addiction or depression, or any of the many other things that too often divide us. In our promise to welcome all, we commit ourselves to the work of anti-racism, in institutions and internally; interpersonally and structurally. Our unity is in Christ.

We commit to honor and uplift the voices and lived experiences of all God's children and welcome their leadership, knowing it will bring growth. We hold ourselves accountable, individually and collectively, to love our neighbor through ongoing education and the intentional pursuit of physical, emotional, and spiritual safety for those in our community. We recognize that we, individually and as a community, have room to grow in living out God's radical love, trusting that God is guiding us through this journey of welcoming and working for justice and equity for All.

Galatians 3:23-29: "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for All of you are one in Christ Jesus."