

## Thanksgiving Lutheran Church Relational Covenant

*"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other, and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." (Col. 3:12-14)*

1. We surround our gatherings with prayer and reflection, and invite God into each encounter.
2. We cherish and respect everyone and actively listen with an open heart to each person's concerns, feelings and/or opinions.
3. We each express ourselves in a loving, honest, and respectful manner.
4. We are a forgiven people. We each strive to forgive ourselves, offer forgiveness, and take the first steps toward reconciliation.
5. With humility we embrace conflict as a source of creativity, improvement and progress. We persevere in resolving difficult issues in a loving supportive manner.
6. Our unity is not in our "agreeing to disagree" but is found in our baptism. We each take responsibility for our part in the decision making process, and uphold the mutual decisions of TLC made for the common good.
7. We engage all into the life of the church, encouraging the use of their unique gifts and talents. We prayerfully support and trust those in leadership roles.
8. We each take responsibility to share and seek out information regarding the life and work of our church. The channels for communication and decision making are continually updated and publicized.

O Lord, make me an instrument of Your Peace!  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is discord, harmony;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light, and  
Where there is sorrow, joy.

Oh Divine Master, grant that I may not  
so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love;  
for it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.  
Amen