



Stanwood's Purpose:

To know Christ, glorify the Father, serve through the Spirit, and make Him known.

Community Group Key Scriptures:

Hebrews 3:12-14 (ESV)

"Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God. But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end."

Ephesians 4:1-7; 15-16 (ESV)

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift... Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Our Primary Purpose for CommUnity Groups:

To *consistently commit* as brothers and sisters on an *intimate level* for growth as *Disciples* of Christ.

We will seek a greater level of relational intimacy with God and church family through:

- The Gospel

- This is our heartbeat and sole place of unification
 - Believing It
 - John 3:16 & Romans 10:9,10
 - Proclaiming It
 - Matt. 28:18-20
 - Preserving It
 - 1 Timothy 3:15

- The Word

- Depth of discipleship will only occur as we take time in God's Truth together.
 - We pursue it faithfully and expectantly
 - Psalm 119:9-16 & Deut. 6:4-9
 - We pursue it expectantly
 - John 17:15-18 & Isaiah 55:10,11

- Prayer

- Expressing our hearts together to the Father exposes hearts and aligns priorities
 - We will pray for
 - God's Will, Glory, & provision
 - Matt. 6:5-15
 - Group-specific needs & the congregation of Stanwood
 - James 5:14-16
 - The surrounding community & the world
 - Matt. 5:44 & 1 Tim. 2:1-2

- **Accountability**
 - Being companions and not competitors we help each other toward the goal of Christ
 - In 'Taking up our cross' daily
 - Luke 9:23-27
 - In confession of sin
 - James 5:16 & 1 John 1:9
 - In resistance of sin
 - Galatians 6:1
- **Service**
 - As Jesus taught us, those in His Kingdom love by serving others
 - We will serve in these capacities:
 - An opportunity for grace each week among brothers & sisters
 - Gal. 5:13
 - To fulfill needs in the body of Stanwood, surrounding community, and the world (Physical & Spiritual)
 - Phil. 2:1-11 & Rom.12:9-21 & Peter 4:10

Guidelines of a CommUnity Group:

- Meet year round with no designated stopping point
 - We will have the freedom to take short breaks when needed (i.e. Summer vacations, Holidays)
 - It is recommended and encouraged to meet weekly
 - Meet on a day of the week decided by each group individually
- Have 8-12 members
 - A concise group that allows for openness and intimacy through interpersonal relationships.
- Provide childcare for the children of the group (See childcare guidelines)
- Plan an opportunity to serve at least once a quarter as a group
 - This can take the place of a weekly meeting time for a given week
- Strive to keep a vision of multiplication among the group members.
 - Our goal is to multiply and grow these groups as Stanwood grows. This multiplication will bring the need for new leaders from within. The need for splitting a group and planting afresh is a goal.

Member Expectations:

As a member of this group, I will commit to the following values:

Participation

I will make the group meeting a priority and will notify the leader if I will be absent.

I will spend time weekly preparing for the group lesson.

I will participate in the group discussion on a regular basis.

I will pray about how God wants to use my gifts in this group.

Caring

I will keep confidential information within the group.

I will be sensitive about offering advice during group discussion and prayer time.

I will provide care, encouragement, and prayer for those in the group.

Spiritual Authority

I recognize this group is a ministry of Stanwood Community Church.

As an SCC group, I realize the group is under the authority of the church and it's Elder Leadership.

I recognize that the group leader is responsible for the direction of the group.

Growing

I recognize the relational bonds formed in this group will help me to grow spiritually.

I will let the group leader know if/when I've asked someone else to join the group (Gives opportunity to prepare)

I will keep the vision of multiplication in mind and realize that my group may be called on to plant new relationships when the time comes.

Fellowship

I will interact with this group with openness to developing relationship.

Outreach

I will do my best to participate in service opportunities, in conjunction with the church or as decided by the group

CommUnity Group Shared Roles & Responsibilities:

- Host(ess)/Hospitality: This falls underneath the hosts home owners
 - : _____
 - Backup House: _____
- Serving Coordinator: The lead on planning serving opportunities with group
 - _____
- Prayer Coordinator: Leads prayer times, may keep prayer journal
 - _____
- Timekeeper: Helps group stay on track with time
 - _____
- Information Keeper: Keeps group information up-to-date (administrative)
 - _____
- Group Communications Expert: Communicates with the group about meetings, cancellations, etc.
 - _____

Community Group Childcare

Teenage girls may be used as childcare providers. Teenage boys should only be used if another female is also responsible for the care of the children. No teenage boys should be authorized to care for children alone. Teens under the age of 14 should not be the primary (1st) caregivers for the children.

The caregiver's main responsibility is the safety of the children. She may provide a planned "lesson" time for the children, but this is not required. Children's activities, including television or video viewing, must be compatible with our Christian beliefs and morality standards.

Parents' Responsibilities

Infants may remain with their parents in the group, but all mobile children are encouraged to be with the caregiver in the childcare room. Children may be included in prayer, social and outreach times when deemed appropriate by the group leader.

Parents are encouraged to make sure their child(ren) have diapering and toileting needs met before leaving them with the childcare provider. If the childcare provider is not able to supervise the other children in the group then a parent may be called upon for assistance.

Please do not bring children who are ill with fever, diarrhea, vomiting, eye redness/seepage, or nose drainage other than clear or have had these symptoms within the past 24 hours. Parents should give childcare providers any necessary special instructions for their children.

Childcare Payment

To ensure that no unnecessary burden is placed on an individual, Stanwood will be paying our Childcare providers \$10 an hour. Funds can be given to supplement these funds if desired, but it is not required. If you desire to give, please give on Sunday morning in the offering and mark 'Community Group babysitting.'

Teaching: Instruction vs. Groups (This is not Sunday School 2.0)

