

The Leadership of Stanwood recognizes four key purposes of church life. These purposes are the foundation and driving force behind our decisions and direction. The large bold phrases below each combine to form the ‘Purpose Statement’ of Stanwood Community Church.

Four Key Purposes:

- (D)iscipleship
- (W)orship
- (M)inistry
- (E)vangelism

\*Fellowship is ultimately a byproduct of each area

## **To know Christ**

(D)

Paul Speaks in Phil. 3:10 that his heart is ‘to know Christ and the power of His resurrection.’ We hold that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose on the third day (1 Cor. 15). He is the way, the truth, and the life and no one comes to the Father except through Him. Repenting of sin and accepting the free gift of salvation (Jesus’s life instead of death) renews a right-relationship with the creator God. (Col. 1:15, John 14:5-7).

## **Glorify the Father**

(W)

God, the I AM, is the sole entity deserving praise, honor, and majesty from all of creation. He has full right to jealousy toward His creation (Exodus 34:10-16). As God’s created children we find our fulfillment and purpose in the glorification of our King. God is pleased to accept the sweet aroma of our offering of praise. (Psalm 100) We will express and experience this praise in endless worship for all of eternity (1 Peter 4:11, Rev. 5:13)

## **Serve in the Spirit**

(M)

Jesus’ life was lived in service to others. We are to be the salt and light of the earth and it is our ‘good works’ that people will see and glorify the Father (Matt 5:13-16). The church, through its unity-in-diversity (1 Cor. 12:12-26), is called to be a display of the gospel it preaches (Gal. 5:16-26; Matt 5:16). The Holy Spirit empowers as He convicts the world of sin (Jn 16:4-15), comforts His people (Jn 14), Guides them in truth (Jn 16), helps them pray (Rom. 8:26), and displays the fruit of God (Gal. 5:22,23).

## **Make Him known**

(E)

Paul calls the church a pillar and buttress of the truth (1 Tim. 3:15). The church is charged with the task of preserving the true gospel throughout the ages (1 Tim. 1:3-4; 2 Tim. 1:13; Tit. 1:9).

It does this through faithfully preaching the gospel, refuting false teaching, and maintaining doctrinal and moral purity among its members.

Jesus charged the apostles with proclaiming the gospel to all nations (Matt. 28:18-20), and he established the church to carry out that task. Preaching the gospel is central to the church’s mission (2 Tim. 2:15, 4:2)