

# Wisecracks. . . .

*“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”* (Micah 6:8)

What does the Lord require of you? That question may not sit well with some people. We don't like “requirements.” We don't like to be told what to do. Yet we know that God has “expectations.” His expectations are so high that Jesus said to the crowds *“be perfect as your Father in heaven is perfect!”* (Matt. 5:48)

Obviously we've come up short of God's expectations. We call that “sin.” Fortunately for us Jesus Christ is our “perfect.” Jesus met all of God's expectations FOR US as the sinless Son of God. On the cross He exchanged His perfect for our imperfect. When we receive Jesus through baptism and faith we are clothed and covered in the “perfect/the righteousness of Jesus.” All of which is VERY GOOD NEWS.

**What's the point of this little sermonette?** God still has expectations. We don't try to meet those expectations to get something from God. He already loves and forgives us perfectly. We seek to live out God's expectations as an expression of faith and as thanksgiving to God.

At Trinity we're focused on being an **“Engaged Church.”** Engaged members have a heart connection to their church and church family which translates into a more deeply committed spiritual life. **So. . . .**

**One of the fundament aspects of being an “Engaged Member” of a church includes knowing what is expected of me.**

No one joins a church with the desire to be a “bad” member. When a member of the church doesn't know what is expected of them, however, it's difficult for them to be an effective church member. This is especially true if someone is new to the church.

**“Member Expectations,”** are not so much “rules” to follow but a “spiritual road map” for your growth in faith and for meaningful involvement in the life of the church.

Included in this mailing is a 1<sup>st</sup> step in teaching what is expected of members of Trinity. (*See Member Expectation Page*) We have also included what you should expect of your church and church family. This is just a first step as we talk about member expectations throughout the coming year. I hope this enables you to feel more fully a part of the ministry and more able to participate in meaningful ways.

**One more note:** As you read through the “member expectations” please, understand that these “expectations” have a *“transformational”* purpose. In other words, we don't do what we do in order to get something from God or to fulfill a requirement, or to appear more ‘Christian.’ Rather, when we are engaged in these activities **God** is at work transforming our lives; deepening our faith, developing our character, and forming us more and more into the image of Christ for the sake of others.

**Now. . . a couple of worship related items:**

## Member Expectations

Rooted in God's Word and in response to God's forgiveness and grace in Jesus Christ, we joyfully commit ourselves, as members of Trinity congregation, to live out our faith together in the following ways:

### What I Expect of My Church Family

### What My Church Family Expects of Me

Vibrant, engaging, relevant, diverse  
Christ Centered, Biblical Worship

#### **Worship**

To willingly join my church family in weekly worship, giving myself fully to the Lord so that he can impact my life and faith through His Word and Sacraments.

*“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.” Exodus 20:8*

Diverse opportunities to learn and to grow in faith. Assistance in developing my prayer life, my understanding and use of God's Word, and how to spiritually support and nurture my family and others.

#### **Grow**

To take responsibility for my own growth in faith. To participate in spiritual growth opportunities my church offers. To spend time regularly with God in prayer and by reading God's Word. To learn how to be a spiritual leader in my home.

*“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 3:18*

Opportunities to discover my gifts and talents and ways to use them to bless and serve others at home, church, in the community, and beyond. Financial integrity and good stewardship of my offerings.

#### **Serve**

To discover and use my talents & strengths to serve and bless others in some area of parish ministry and/or in mission toward others. To provide generous financial support of our ministry (Goal of Tithing/Giving 10%) so that lives can be impacted both here and for eternity.

*“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others. . .” 1 Peter 4:10*

Training and resources for sharing Jesus. Opportunities to invite others to experience our church community, encouragement to be an “inviter,” and mission opportunities beyond Trinity.

#### **Share**

To learn ways to share the good news of Jesus with others. To build relationships with the unchurched and to pray for opportunities to invite them to Trinity and/or to share Christ with them. To support mission work outside the walls of Trinity. (*Impact Missions*)

*“We are Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.” 2 Cor. 5:20*

A caring community where members and staff are all involved in meeting the spiritual needs of our church family and in supporting and encouraging one another in our life of faith.

#### **Love & Accept One Another**

To intentionally build caring Christian friendships within the church, individually, in small groups, and in ministry teams. To support, encourage, pray, and care for members of our church family. To reach out to others so that no one is a “stranger” and everyone is welcome and included.

*“Above all, love each other deeply. . .” 1 Peter 4:8*

Please refer to the announcer, website – [www.trinityct.org](http://www.trinityct.org), or the Mission and Ministry opportunities booklet (At the welcome center) for more information on how you can Worship, Grow, Serve, Share and Love One another