

Linda Reffert

My Faith Statement as of May 4, 2023

I believe in God, creator of the universe and everything in it. God is sovereign over all things. God is loving and just, merciful to all. God is greater than anything the human mind can fathom, and it is pure foolishness to claim understanding. Yet somehow, God chooses us for relationship and for revelation.

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I believe Jesus was both human and divine. Jesus came into the world to teach, to heal and to show us through word and deed who God is and what God wishes for God's people. I believe that Jesus suffered and died for our sins.

I believe in the Holy Spirit. I believe that Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into the disciples on Easter and into the world at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is alive in all of us who believe and invite. I believe that the Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible and that the Holy Spirit inspires us as we read.

I believe that God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit make up the Trinity. The entities of the Trinity are fully equal, mysterious, necessary and deserving of our worship and praise.

I believe that the Bible is Holy Scripture as the inspired Word of God. I believe that the Word is alive and that it speaks to us as we read. We are called to read, study and live out the Word throughout our lives. We are called to study the Word alone and in groups. The interpretations of others help us to discern more clearly the will of God.

I believe God created us in God's image and that we are called to see each other, all others, as God's beloved children. God created us for a purpose and loves us dearly.

I believe that I and all other humans sin. Sin acts as a barrier between us and God, and weakens our relationship. We are called to recognize our sins and to repent. Through our faith in Christ, we are forgiven and we are saved.

I believe in church – as a community of believers who support, nurture, challenge and grow with each other as a church family. I believe that family must always be open to new members, and new ideas; while working to glorify God and to share God's love with those who do not know God.

I believe in personal responsibility, as well as personal joy and personal growth. I believe I am called to learn and to grow, to participate and to lead as my gifts and talents allow, with my faith community and in my life beyond that community.