

PRINCIPLES FOR FUTURE MINISTRY
OF THE ELCA IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

As the corporate expression of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in Santa Clara County, California, the Santa Clara Valley Lutheran Parish will embody the following ten principles in the development of its future ministry.

The Santa Clara Valley Lutheran Parish will be:

1. Evangelical. As an expression of the body of Christ in the world, this parish will seek to reach people with the good news of the gospel wherever they are.
2. Lutheran. As a part of the church catholic (universal), we have a unique and special contribution to make to society with our special emphasis upon the grace of God and we will seek, in all we do, to make that contribution.
3. Ecumenical. As a part of the world-wide family of churches, we have a distinctive role to play in the establishment of intentional ecumenical partnerships in the community and we will seek to foster and increase those partnerships.
4. Inclusive. As a part of the whole family of God in the community, we will seek to reflect the racial, ethnic, and socio-economic diversities of the community and be responsive to the changes that occur.
5. Relational. As a part of the communities in which we live and work and play, we will seek to assist both members and non-members of the congregations of our parish to develop and to enhance their relationships with God and one another.
6. Environmentally-responsible. As inhabitants of God's created order, we will strive to be responsible caretakers of the sensitive environment in which we live and work and play.
7. Interconnected. As a parish with--at present, 25 organized congregations, one developing congregation, and a variety of special ministries--we will seek to encourage and enable each one to fulfill its mission and to see itself as a part of the whole, defining for itself--in partnership with all--which areas of ministry it can do best, aware that others are equipped for other ministries.
8. Educational. As a parish we will seek to provide and encourage appropriate training programs to affirm, motivate, and equip people for ministry in their daily lives.
9. Community-oriented. As a part of this parish, each congregation is encouraged to identify, nurture, and utilize the gifts of all its members for service in its community.
10. An advocate. As a voice and a force for good in the community, this parish--through its various expressions--will communicate with local, state, and national decision-makers in regard to policies that have an ethical or moral dimension.