

The church is the place to be...

To _____ growth.

For they keep talking about the wonderful welcome you gave us and how you turned away from idols to serve the living and true God.

I Thessalonians 1:9 (NLT)

We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you in your faith. I Thessalonians 3:2 (NIV)

And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.

Colossians 1:6-7 (NLT)

Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.

I John 2:6 (NLT)

Experiencing God comes through believing.

Equipping and empowerment comes through belonging.

Encouraging growth leads to becoming the person God created you to be.

**Concordia Wesleyan Church
is the place to be...
to believe, to belong and to become!**

Sermons are available online
@www.concordiawesleyan.com



We are writing to the church in Thessalonica, to you who belong to God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³Dear brothers and sisters, we can't help but thank God for you, because your faith is flourishing and your love for one another is growing. II Thessalonians 1:1b, 3 (NLT)

The church is the place to be...

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. Romans 15:7 (NIV)

To _____ faith.

And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, "This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."

Acts 17:2, 3 (NASB)

Large crowds followed him wherever he went— people from Galilee, the Ten Towns, Jerusalem, from all over Judea, and from east of the Jordan River. Matthew 4:25 (NLT)

*"The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others."
(Dietrich Bonhoeffer)*

When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were confused and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷He said to his disciples, *"The harvest is great, but the workers are few. ³⁸So pray to the Lord who is in charge of the harvest; ask him to send more workers into his fields."* Matthew 9:36-38 (NLT)

Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. ²This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them! Luke 15:1-2 (NLT)

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.
Luke 19:10 (NIV)

"The Church is the only institution that exists primarily for the benefit of those who are not its members." (William Temple)

The church is the place to be...

To _____ God.

...Our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. ⁶You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. I Thessalonians 1:5-8 (NIV)

All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. ⁴³A deep sense of awe came over them all, and the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders. ⁴⁴And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had.⁴⁵ They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need. ⁴⁶They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity— ⁴⁷all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people. And each day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved. Acts 2:42-47 (NLT)

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being,¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love,¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. Ephesians 3:18-21 (NIV)

The church is the place to be...

To be _____ and empowered.

And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore, we do not need to say anything about it.
I Thessalonians 1:7-8 (NIV)

Why is it that he gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people will be equipped to do better work for him, building up the Church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity. Ephesians 4:12 (TLB)

They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world." John 4:42 (NIV)

Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20-21 (NIV)
