

Community Covenant

As members of the Christian community of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Fort Morgan we commit, with the help of God, to relate to each other through Christ, and thus hold ourselves and each other to:

- 1. Listen to each other.** *“Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak...”* James 1:19. Dietrich Bonhoeffer stated: *“The first service that one owes to others in the fellowship consists of listening to them.”* *Life Together* p. 97
- 2. Respect the privacy of those who confide.** *“A gossip goes about telling secrets, but one who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a confidence.”* Proverbs 11:13
- 3. Challenge each other with the truth.** Be willing to confront when it is important. *“Rather speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.”* Ephesians 4:15-16
- 4. Deal with people directly. Don’t complain to others.** *“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone”* Matthew 18:15. If someone complains to you about another member, help that person follow this principle.
- 5. Strengthen each other.** *“[Speak] only what is useful for building up ... so that your words may give grace to those who hear”* Ephesians 4:29. *“The test of true ... Christian community is that it serves to make the individual free, strong and mature,”* not *“weak and dependent.”* Bonhoeffer, p. 88
- 6. Be gentle with one another.** *“My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.”* Galatians 6:1
- 7. Do not speak ill of others in the fellowship.** *“Beloved, do not grumble against one another so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors!”* James 5:9
- 8. Do not judge each other.** *“Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others; for in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things.”* Romans 2:1
- 9. Pray for one another.** *“Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.”* James 5:16
- 10. Confess your sins to one another.** James 5:16
- 11. Forgive one another.** *“Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give and it will be given to you.”* Luke 6:37b-38a
- 12. Freely participate in the Body of Christ according to your gifts and talents.** *“As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’”* Matthew 10:7

Source and Work Cited for Community Covenant: *Behavioral Covenants in Congregations: A Handbook for Honoring Differences*, Gilbert R. Rendle, Alban Institute Publication, 1999. *Life Together*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1954. Translated, and with an Introduction by John D. Doberstein, Harper San Francisco.