

Vision of the Diocese of Lund, Church of Sweden

# **GROUNDED IN GRACE** CREATIVE IN THE WORLD

Inspire learning and teaching, gather around hope ...

... with baptism as the cornerstone ...

... to meet the challenges life and the world bring

# GROUNDED IN GRACE

## GROUNDED IN GRACE, CREATIVE IN THE WORLD

**We live by what we receive, more than by what we achieve. That is grace. To be grounded means to find one's footing, to feel a firm support under our feet even as we are buffeted by waves. As created co-creators we bear a responsibility for the world that God loves.**

### **INSPIRE LEARNING AND TEACHING, GATHER AROUND HOPE ...**

*Always be ready to make your defence to anyone who demands from you an account of the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence.*

*1 Peter 3:15-16*

Learning and renewal are the trademarks of the Holy Spirit. Learning has always had an important place in our Evangelical-Lutheran tradition.

We live in an age when secularisation is confronted by a revival of religion. For that very reason there is increased need for teaching, research, and reassessment of the Christian tradition and its cultural heritage. It is also important to promote dialogue with all persons of good will, irrespective of their faith.

The church is rich in knowledge and varied perspectives. The church is a place where all genuine questions are honoured.

The people of God are above all a people of hope. Every Sunday we celebrate the victory of life over death and express our joy at fellowship with God, each other and God's whole creation.

To nourish hope in the world is the vocation for all our parishes. Our parishes are places where we can raise our sights to look beyond our own boundaries and gain new perspectives. We are proud of the church and we are eager to tell people about it.

# CREATIVE IN THE WORLD

## ... WITH BAPTISM AS THE CORNERSTONE ...

*Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.* *Romans 6:4*

Baptism is the foundation of the Christian life. Here everything is given us freely, by grace. That is why we are generous in giving access to baptism. We welcome children, women and men who may be on their way to baptism.

Because of baptism we are called to live courageously, confidently and lovingly, with Jesus Christ as our role model. That is why we promote baptism as central to our own personal lives as well as to the life and work of the church.

The community of those who have been baptized expresses itself in the world-wide church and in relationships with link-dioceses and link-parishes. The church is always "glocal" – global and local. We hold each other in prayer and intercession. We recognise, affirm and develop each other's gifts. Active recruiting is part of the baptismal life.

Just as breathing in and breathing out sustains our bodily life, so the baptized life is both gathering and sending out. The mass is an expression of this dynamic: the gathering for communion in fellowship with Jesus Christ and each other, and the sending out from the altar into the life of the world.



### ... TO MEET THE CHALLENGES LIFE AND THE WORLD BRING

*... asking that we may be led and enabled, truly united to build new communities, worship and work must be one*

*(Worship the Lord, Text Fred Kaan, 1972)*

The deep ambiguity that lies at the core of all things human means that we all experience disappointments, failure and evil. Even the processes of nature confront us with questions of meaning and with a universal history of suffering and death. As Christians, we believe that this cosmic passion is penetrated and illuminated by an even greater passion – the love of God for the world.

We are challenged by the riches and the poverty in and around us and by the command to love God and our neighbour as ourselves, well knowing that the right love of ourselves can be the most difficult. We make use of the freedom to start afresh over and over again, for there is the possibility of forgiveness and reconciliation. It is quite an art to be human!

In diaconal service, prayer, conversation and action the church becomes through us an instrument of the Realm of God. What we do, or not do, has global consequences.

The answers of today are tested by the questions of tomorrow. That is why we must be profoundly and radically transparent. We must be pioneers in finding sustainable ways of meeting and living with each other in a multi-cultural society. This is one of the many ways in which the church can live in critical solidarity with our society.

Knowing that God is greater than our best achievements and our most terrible mistakes we liberate each other to work what is good.

*God, you continually call us into life and renewal of life  
You grant us the responsibility of being creators with you  
finding our footing in grace  
You have given your Son to show us the road to you  
and your Spirit to inspire us  
to a life of service and compassion,  
of challenge and growth  
Thank you that you **are**  
and give us life of your life  
Amen*