



## Core Values

We exist to help people discover God's love and to reach their full potentials as Christ followers.

This vision statement helps us direct our attention to the areas of importance. The vision of North Shore Assembly of God incorporates the following six core values.

### 1. Spreading the good news

Since God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son we want to proclaim him in our community. It is our strong desire to give everyone an opportunity to respond to the message of God's love. (John 3:16; Matthew 28:19,20). To help make Jesus relative in our world we will encourage people to use the tools necessary to share their faith. Helping people cross the line of faith is a process and we not only want to make him known through our personal testimonies but also strategically pray for people who have not yet decided to follow Christ.

### 2. Prayer

One of the strong components to the ministry of our church is the high priority we give to prayer. Prayer is a way of life throughout our church. Rather than being seen as an isolated program, prayer permeates every

ministry within the church and every outreach of the church. It is given value by the constant mention and practice through the leadership of our church. We are aware that nothing can be accomplished without prayer so our goal is that prayer saturate every aspect of the individual and corporate life of the church. Prayer saturated churches are capable of transforming their communities. The early church gave emphasis to this important component. (Acts 6:4; 12:5; Romans 1:9-10; Colossians 1:9) We believe that this is a legitimate tool for effecting God's plan and we know that God answers prayer.

### **3. Connection enhances growth.**

One of the things we value is connection and community. Through growth groups people are given the opportunity for connection and spiritual enhancement. Each growth group ministers to a specific area of interest for people wanting to follow Jesus more wholeheartedly and even those wanting to investigate faith matters. Growth happens in community. The first century faith community modeled this by devoting themselves to learning, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer. (Acts 2:42)

### **4. Serving.**

Helping believers to be fruitful and fulfilled in a meaningful place of service. In Galatians 5:13 we read, "*You my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.*" The word serve indicates not a suggestion but a command for every true follower of Jesus Christ to be serving. We believe every person is a valuable piece to God's strategic plan and can make a significant contribution. The real purpose for serving is to Glorify God and others. (Matt. 22:37-40). North Shore Assembly encourages and promotes service not only to the church community but to the community at large. Our model for service is the life and ministry of Jesus Christ who did not come to be served but to serve. (Philippians 2:5-8).

We believe that Spiritual Gifts are distributed to every Believer according to God's Design and Grace. Every believer has at least one Spiritual Gift and has a place of service in the body of Christ. Every believer is a minister and therefore has a God-ordained ministry. (1 Cor. 12:7; 1 Peter 4:10)

### **5. All people matter to God.**

The Skokie community has a broad range of ethnic diversity. North Shore Assembly represents our community with over 30 nationalities represented. We celebrate this diversity, and rejoice on how it has enriched our lives.

## **6. We need to continue to grow in our faith.**

To help people reach their full potential as Christ followers is such an important value for us as a church. Growing is a natural process for healthy human beings, the same is true in our faith walk as well. We help provide spiritual nourishment through growth groups, relative teaching, Bible groups, and basic discipleship opportunities for people who want to grow in their faith. There are specific groups that help men, women, youth, and children grow in their understanding of God. To grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ is fundamental to our existence as a true Christ follower.