

Identity, Mission, and Values

Our Lutheran heritage is grounded in the conviction of God's faithfulness to his promise of forgiveness and salvation realized by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This gift of grace comes unmerited and the consequence is freedom to be wholly human. That heritage expresses itself in our mission:

Concordia College-New York, a college of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, engages and nurtures a diverse student body in a Christ-centered, value-oriented, liberal arts education for lives of service to church and community.

The mission and purpose of Concordia College is realized through *The Concordia Experience*—an holistic academic endeavor which embraces the intentionality of integrating faith and learning in students' lives. The foundational tenet of *The Concordia Experience* is Luther's concept of *vocation*—that each person has a calling from God to which he or she must respond.

At the core of *The Concordia Experience*, the following values are embraced:

- **Faith:** *The Concordia Experience* engages students with the Christian faith and its implications for contemporary life, promoting an understanding of the relation of God, through Christ, to the world along with an appreciation for God's creation.
- **Learning:** *The Concordia Experience* enables students to appreciate the breadth of the liberal arts and develop depth in chosen disciplines while equipping students with skills and knowledge that enable vocational decisions and promote independent and lifelong learning necessary for faithful service and leadership.
- **Community:** *The Concordia Experience* fosters a living-learning community that welcomes individuals from widely diverse backgrounds and varying levels of faith commitment.
- **Relationship:** *The Concordia Experience* seeks to take advantage of our small size to enable the development of meaningful relationships that extend the learning environment to all phases of community life and foster mutual respect between all members of the community.
- **Service:** *The Concordia Experience* challenges students to put theory, faith, and values into practice by fostering social responsibility and embracing the Biblical teaching that true leadership is expressed in service to others.

These values find practical expression throughout the learning environment as well as through daily chapel services, volunteer service, Bible study, helping the homeless, and myriad other faith-centered activities. The values-based education provided by Concordia produces graduates who are able to fully develop and utilize their God-given talents leading to lives of purpose, significance, and service.