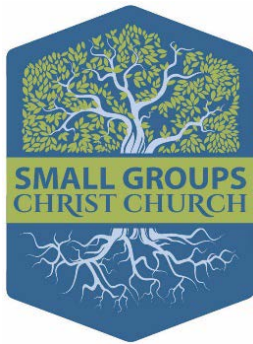


## CHRIST CHURCH SMALL GROUPS

The Third Sunday after the Epiphany – The Week beginning January 26, 2025



### Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 18-31a:

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many...God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

### Background:

1 Corinthians 12:12-30 uses the image of a body to explain unity in the Church. Paul teaches that, just as a body has many parts with different roles, each member of the Church has unique gifts and responsibilities. This passage reminds the Corinthians that every person is needed, no matter their role. It fits with the larger theme of unity in 1 Corinthians, where Paul encourages believers to work together as one. Each member is essential, and by valuing everyone’s contributions, the Church can grow stronger and more united in faith and purpose.

### Talking Points:

- What does Paul mean by the “Body of Christ”?
- How can we be like the parts of the body?
- The kingdom of heaven is very different from the human idea of Utopia. For example, gifts are apportioned unequally; indeed, many people have more gifts than they know what to do with, while others seem to have only a meager portion. How do we understand these differences? In what way do we benefit from an unequal distribution of gifts?

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.