

Comprehensive Statement of Belief

Concordia Lutheran Church and School is part of the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod (L.C.M.S.). The LCMS is a mission-oriented and Bible-based denomination that confesses the historic, orthodox Christian faith in the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit a faith built on “the foundation of the apostles and prophets Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone” (Eph. 2:20). With the universal Christian Church, The LCMS teaches and responds to the love of the Triune God, who created all that exists; became man to suffer, die, and rise again for the world’s redemption; and brings people to faith and new life through His Word and Sacraments. The three persons of the Trinity- Father, Son and Holy Spirit- are coequal and coeternal, one God.

LCMS congregations voluntarily choose to belong to the Synod. All congregations hold to a shared confession of Jesus Christ as taught in Holy Scripture. We believe without reservation that the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament are the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice. In addition, the Synod accepts without reservation the writings contained in the Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Believing in the authority of Holy Scripture and that the Lutheran Confessions are a correct interpretation and presentation of Biblical doctrine, Concordia Lutheran Church agree to conform their teaching to the Scriptures and the Confessions.

The Synod “is not an ecclesiastical government, exercising legislative or coercive powers (LCMS Constitution, Article VII) concerning its member congregations and ministers. However, the voluntary association of member congregations and ministers includes their agreement to respect and honor and uphold (Bylaw 1.7.2, 1.8.1) decisions (resolutions) made by the Synod in its national conventions regarding the understanding of the teachings of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions and practices that are consistent with such teaching. The Synod in convention is the “principle legislative assembly” of the LCMS (Bylaw 3.1.1) and its resolutions and statements are the position of the Synod in matters of doctrine and life. The Constitution and Bylaws of the LCMS provide specific guidance for the implementation and supervision of the teaching and practice of its members (congregations and rostered church workers).

Congregations of the LCMS, while upholding teachings and practices that are consistent with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions and while honoring Synod convention resolutions, are self-governed and establish polices based on local circumstances and expediency. An LCMS congregation or ministry operates according to its own constitution and bylaws – which are required by the Synod Bylaws to be reviewed by the District through which the congregation holds membership in the Synod – and therein establishes an orderly way of making decisions and determines which individuals or entities in the congregation (e.g. Pastors, Board of Directors, Board of Elders) will have authority to act on behalf of the congregation in specific circumstances. The Constitution and bylaws of Concordia Lutheran Church and School govern our decision-making and policies. A copy is available upon request.

STATEMENT OF BELIEF Marriage, Gender, & Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male and female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18, 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Concordia Lutheran Church and School as the local body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to Concordia Lutheran Church and School members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Concordia Lutheran Church and School in any capacity or who serve as volunteers agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mk. 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Concordia Lutheran Church and School.

Statement on Final Authority

Concordia Lutheran Church and School recognizes the Bible, as the inspired and infallible Word of God which speaks with final authority concerning truth morality and the proper conduct of mankind and is the sole and final source of all that we believe. Since our statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of all our held beliefs and doctrines, the Senior Pastor of and called by Concordia Lutheran Church and School has final clarifying authority in all matters of church governance and doctrine, as set forth and described in Concordia Lutheran Church and School's statement of faith, doctrines, constitution, and bylaws.

In the absence/vacancy of a Senior Pastor, the final clarifying authority is assumed in the following order to:

1. Associate Pastor (if two or more associates are on staff, the Board of Directors will determine which holds this authority)
2. Board of Elders (only if a complete pastoral vacancy exists)

Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically and/or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Ps. 139)