

What We Believe, Teach, & Confess

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Watertown, South Dakota Adopted by the Church Council - January 2010

Welcome – We believe, teach and confess that in love, God created all people to be in a faithful relationship with him. Responding to Jesus' command to love both God and the neighbor (Matthew 22: 37-39), we welcome all people to join us in Christian fellowship.

The Bible - We believe, teach and confess that the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Bible remains the only judge, rule and norm according to which all doctrines should and must be understood and judged as good or evil, right or wrong (Formula of Concord).

The Holy Trinity - We believe, teach and confess that there is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), alive in three persons since the beginning of time. God has been revealed to us as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17).

Jesus Christ - We believe, teach and confess that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is both fully God and fully human. His life, death and resurrection proclaim God's redeeming grace for all people (Romans 3:23-25).

The Holy Spirit - We believe, teach and confess that the Holy Spirit is God, alive and at work in the world; strengthening our faith, meeting us in our prayers, guiding our daily lives, and enabling us to witness to the world the Good News of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8).

Human Nature - We believe, teach, and confess that our human nature is sinful, and because of that sin, we are separated from God's perfect will. The death of Jesus is the redeeming sacrifice for our sin. In faith, we seek to turn from our sin (repentance), to live in the new life to which Christ has called us (Titus 2:14).

Salvation - We believe, teach and confess that only through Jesus Christ can we be brought to eternal life (John 14:6). This salvation is a free gift, which we claim through faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (John 3:16-17).

Practicing our Faith

Holy Baptism and Holy Communion - We believe, teach and confess that Jesus instituted the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, and that our faith in Jesus is essential to receive their life-giving gifts (Mark 16:16 & 1st Corinthians 11:27-29).

Christian Growth - We believe, teach and confess that we are made right (justified) by God, through God's sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ. In response to this, we follow the call of God into a lifelong process of growth and change (sanctification) in accordance with God's will (Romans 12:1-2).

Church - We believe teach and confess that the church is the body of Christ, gathered for worship of God, and the instruction and encouragement of fellow believers. Bound by our common confession, and strengthened for witness and service, we are sent out into the world to make Jesus Christ known through word and deed (Hebrew 10:23-26 & Matthew 28:19-20).

Marriage & Sexuality - We believe, teach and confess that marriage is a covenant relationship between one man and one woman and that sexual activity belongs exclusively within the biblical boundaries of a publicly committed and faithful marriage between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24, Exodus 20:14 & Romans 1:26-28).

Scriptural References from our Belief Statement

Matthew 22:37-39.....He (Jesus) said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' **38** This is the greatest and first commandment. **39** And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

2 Timothy 3:16-17..... All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, **17** so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Deuteronomy 6:4..... Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone.

Matthew 3:16-17..... And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. **17** And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Romans 3:23-25..... since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; **24** they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **25** whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith.

Acts 1:8..... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Titus 2:14..... He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

John 14:6..... Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 3:16-17..... "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. **17** "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Mark 16:16..... The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned.

1st Corinthians 11:27-29..... Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be answerable for the body and blood of the Lord. **28** Examine yourselves, and only then eat of the bread and drink of the cup. **29** For all who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves.

Romans 12:1-2..... I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Hebrew 10:23-26..... Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. **24** And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, **25** not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. **26** For if we willfully persist in sin after having received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

Matthew 28:19-20..... Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Genesis 2:24....Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Exodus 20:14..... You shall not commit adultery.

Romans 1:26-27..... For this reason God gave them up to degrading passions. Their women exchanged natural intercourse for unnatural, **27** and in the same way also the men, giving up natural intercourse with women, were consumed with passion for one another. Men committed shameless acts with men and received in their own persons the due penalty for their error. **28** And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind and to things that should not be done.