



## WESTLAKE Lutheran Academy

### Statement of Faith

Each day, God gives us the opportunity to live, to learn and to love. He challenges those of us who follow Christ to do that by developing a Biblical worldview and to put our faith into action. These statements act as a template through which we strive to become everything God calls us to be.

- **THE BIBLE:** The Bible is the true Word of God without error or contradiction and therefore, is the final authority in all matters of faith and life. Through the eyes of God's Word, we seek to develop a Biblical worldview that compels us to love and action. (Psalm 139:13-16; Mark 10:5-9; Romans 1:21-27; 2 Corinthians 5:16; 2 Timothy 3:15-17)
- **GOD:** There is only one true God, who has revealed Himself in three persons (Triune) – God the Father who created us, God the Son (Jesus Christ) who saved us, and God the Holy Spirit who brings us to Jesus and is our help throughout our journey here on earth. (Matthew 28:19; Romans 5:5-6)
- **HUMAN BEINGS:** Human beings are the crown of God's creation. Adam and Eve, the first man and woman created in God's image, chose to sin in the Garden of Eden. As a result, all people are conceived and born sinful and are completely incapable of saving themselves by good living. (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 3; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:10-12, 23)
- **JESUS CHRIST:** Jesus Christ is entirely God and at the same time entirely man, He was born of the Virgin Mary, lived a perfect life, died on the cross, rose from the dead, and now rules at the right hand of God. All of this, He did for us. One day He will come again to bring us home to heaven. (John 1:1-3; 14:1, Timothy 2:5-6; Luke 1:26-38; Hebrews 4:15; Romans 5:6-8; 1 Corinthians 15:12-24; Ephesian 1:20-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:14, 17)
- **GRACE:** God, motivated by His unconditional love for us, provided for our salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ. This action of love is a gift called Grace, and by it we are saved through faith in Jesus Christ. (John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9)
- **FAITH:** Faith in Jesus Christ comes by the power of the Holy Spirit. He works through the means of Grace – His Word and Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper – through which we receive the blessings and benefits of Jesus' saving death and resurrection. These blessings are the restoring of our relationship with God, forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation. Because we see faith as a journey, change is assumed, innovation is expected, and rebirth is welcomed. (John 6:63; Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 28:19-20)
- **BAPTISM:** Baptism is water applied in the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit according to Jesus' command and promise. This sacrament gives salvation to all people who receive it through faith, delivers and applies to the forgiveness of sins, and makes us members of God's family. (Matthew 28:19-20; John 3:5; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 5:25-26; Romans 6:4; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 2:11-12; 1 Peter 3:21)
- **THE LORD'S SUPPER:** The Lord's Supper is the true body and blood of Jesus Christ present in with and under the bread and wine. Based on Jesus' command, we eat and drink this supper for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. (Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)
- **THE CHRISTIAN LIFE:** Good works, prayer and holiness of the life are the fruit of faith in Jesus Christ, not the cause of faith or salvation. It is a privilege to live for Jesus, seeking to serve and honor Him in all facets of life. We believe that all life is spiritual and through a relationship with Jesus Christ, all our fears, failures, and brokenness can be restored and made whole. (John 15:5; Colossians 2:5-7; Ephesians 5:1-8; Galatians 5:16-25; Hebrews 11:16)
- **MISSION:** We take great joy in partnering with God to change the world. We do this by sharing His message of salvation, embracing the truth that all of life is sacred, knowing that hope is real, and that tomorrow can be better than today. (Psalm 139; Jonah 3:4-9; Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 4:6)
- **MARRIAGE:** 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).
- **GENDER IDENTITY:** We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27).
- **RACISM:** God's Word rejects racism. We are all created by God (Psalm 139:13-14). "We have all sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). All are equally accountable to God (Romans 3:19). The sins of all are equally atoned for by Christ (2 Corinthians 5:15). All are equally precious to God (John 3:16). Racial animosity is the result of sin and is sin itself. Racism is not acceptable in the Church. Jesus Himself bids us love our neighbors as ourselves (Mark 12:31) and did so precisely while rejecting racial preference (Good Samaritan account in Luke 10:25-37).