

# What We Believe:

## ABOUT 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. We believe that the Bible gives clear direction on critical issues such as homosexuality, abortion, and the sanctity of marriage. 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).

## ABOUT 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)

## ABOUT 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)

## ABOUT JESUS CHRIST:

Jesus Christ is entirely God and at the same time entirely man. He was born of the Virgin Mary and 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; Ephesians 1:20-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:14,17)

## ABOUT 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)

## ABOUT FAITH:

Faith in Jesus Christ comes by the power of the Holy Spirit. He works through the Means of Grace – His Word, and the 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 welcome. (John 6:63; Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 28:19-20)

## ABOUT 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 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)

## ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER:

The Lord's Supper is the real body and blood of Jesus Christ present with 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)

## ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE:

Good works, prayer, and the holiness of 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 to spiritual and through a relationship with Jesus Christ, all our fears, failures, and brokenness can be restored and made whole. (John 15:5; Colossians 2:6-7; Ephesians 5:1-8; Galatians 5:16-25; Hebrews 11:16)

## ABOUT MARRIAGE:

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

## ABOUT GENDER IDENTITY:

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

## ABOUT SEXUALITY:

Any form of sexual immorality (including but not limited to adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and the use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

## ABOUT TOLERANCE/NON-HARASSMENT:

Every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the beliefs of Lutheran South Academy. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31)

## ABOUT 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 we can be better than today. (Psalm 139; Jonah 3:4-9; Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 4:6)



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