

LUTHERAN CORE TEACHINGS

The Centrality of Christ and the Gospel

When we speak of our school as 'Christ-centered' we refer to our fundamental belief that we are saved from our sins through the person and work of Jesus Christ, namely, by his sacrificial death on the cross and by his triumphant resurrection. This good news, or Gospel, is at the very center all that we teach and do. "I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2). Our primary mission is to proclaim the Gospel to all our students, parents, and families.

<http://www.lcms.org/whoisjesus>

<http://www.lcms.org/document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=1080>

The Authority of Scripture

We believe that the Bible is perfect, without error or contradiction, and verbally inspired by God (John 17:17; 2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16). We disagree with those who teach that the Bible contains the Word of God. This suggests that parts of the Bible are God's Word, while other parts are merely stories, myths, teachings, and traditions, that do not need to be followed. On the contrary, the entire Bible is the Word of God and should be taught in its truth and purity.

<http://www.lcms.org/document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=1081>

The Triune God

On the basis of the Holy Scriptures we teach that the One true God has revealed Himself to us as the Holy Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three distinct persons, yet one God (Matthew 28:19). The Christian Church has always affirmed this truth as witnessed in the formation and proclamation of the three historic creeds of the Church: The Apostles' Creed (150 A.D.), The Nicene Creed (325 A.D.), and the Athanasian Creed (500 A.D.).

Creation

We teach that God is the creator of "all things visible and invisible" (Nicene Creed). Genesis 1 and 2 affirm that God created all things in six, twenty-four hour, days (see also Exodus 20:11). The age of the earth is measured in thousands of years, not millions. Adam and Eve were real, historical human beings, the first two people in the world. We reject the teachings of evolution, in particular the Darwinian view that suggest that life forms started out at a very simple level and then, by natural selection, eventually became more and more complex as changes occurred, including species changing into other species (macro-evolution).

<http://lcms.org/document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=1103>

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Mankind

On the sixth day of creation, God created mankind. "...male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27). God created only two genders. Both men and women are divinely designed by God with many similarities, as well as many differences. We rejoice at the complementary nature of the genders which reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26). We believe that God wonderfully and intentionally creates each person as male or female. While we believe that each person should be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity, we reject transgenderism, since it contradicts God's design for humanity.

<http://www.lcms.org/docs/3012>

Humanity and Sin

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God and ate from the forbidden fruit, sin came into the world and tarnished all of creation. All people are conceived and born with a desire to sin (Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12-14). Though Christ has redeemed us from sin, by Himself becoming sin for us on the cross (2 Corinthians 5:21), we still sin in our thoughts, words, and deeds, and therefore need to daily repent. Repentance means: 1) acknowledging and confessing our sins, 2) believing that Christ died and rose to forgive our sins, and 3) plan with the help of the Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives (1 John 1:8-9, 3:6).

Salvation by Grace Alone through Faith Alone

We believe that the Holy Scriptures clearly teach that we are saved solely by God's grace, namely, His unmerited, undeserved mercy and favor. We are not saved by our own efforts or works. Jesus purchased and won forgiveness and eternal life for us through His death and resurrection. Those who hear this Good News and believe it have the eternal life. God creates faith in Christ and gives people forgiveness through Him. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

The Means of Grace

The Holy Spirit works to bring us to faith in the Gospel and keep us in the one true faith. To do this, the Spirit works in specific ways, namely through the Word of God (Bible) and the Sacraments (Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper).

Holy Baptism, which is water combined with God's word (Matthew 28:19), connects people with Jesus' death and resurrection (Romans 6) and promises, offers, and bestows forgiveness (1 Peter 3:21). We believe that all people, including children, need to be baptized (Psalm 51:5; Acts 2:8-9). As Lutheran Christians, we accept all methods of baptism as valid, as long as water is applied in the name of the Triune God.

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The Lord's Supper is not only a celebration of all that Jesus has done for our salvation, it is also the reception of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine, which is received for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-29). The Scriptures also teach that reception of the Lord's Supper expresses our unity in Christ and with each other (1 Corinthians 10:17).

<http://lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=1086>

<http://lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=1088>

<http://lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=1097>

Marriage and Sex

The Bible teaches that marriage is a divine institution, a blessing created by God for the good and welfare of humanity. Marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-6). Within the safe, committed confines of the marital union, a couple joyfully expresses their love for one another through sexual intimacy. There are many sins that contradict God's design for marriage and sexuality, including, pre-marital or extra-marital sexual activity (1 Corinthians 6:13; Ephesians 5:3), cohabitation (John 4:16-17), lust (Matthew 5:27-28), divorce (Matthew 19:4-6; Malachi 2:13-16), and homosexual behavior (Romans 1:24-27, Leviticus 18:22; 20:13). Though these sins are common, and even approved by society, we stand firm on the truth of God's Word, knowing that it is better to obey God, rather than man (Acts 5:29).

<http://www.lcms.org/socialissues/marriage>

The Value of All Human Life

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

<http://lcms.org/Document.fdoc?src=lcm&id=1101>