



## STATEMENT OF BELIEF

Salem Lutheran Church and School are part of the Lutheran Church- Missouri Synod (LC-MS.)

LC-MS is a mission-focused and Bible-based denomination that confesses 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" Ephesians 2:20. With the universal Christian Church, the LC-MS 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.

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

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as one gender, either male or female. These two distinct, complimentary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 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 (Genesis 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 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including 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.)

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, physically 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 (Psalm 139.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 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 Salem.

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)

***Although Salem Lutheran School does not require parents or families to personally agree with Salem's foundational statements of belief regarding marriage, gender, and sexuality, because Salem comes together as a community to communicate, affirm, practice, and live out the Christian faith according to Scripture, Salem Lutheran School does require parents and families to agree that their children may be taught according to Salem's foundational statements and avoid being vocally or openly in opposition to Salem's foundational statements.***

**PARENT SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_