

St. John's Lutheran Church and School

Statement of Beliefs

Thank you for enrolling your son/daughter at St. John's! We are pleased and feel privileged to serve your family as part of our ministry. We are passionate about our mission and thrilled to share our faith and joy in Jesus with our students.

Our mission is very spiritual in nature. In addition to offering an education, we want every one of our students to learn more about God's Word and Jesus Christ. At St. John's, spiritual matters are more than a class or a daily devotion. Lessons from God's Word are an integral part of everything we teach and do.

To that end, we realize that you might not be familiar with who we are or the spiritual nature of what we will teach your son/daughter. Therefore, please read the following basic outline of what we believe and teach. It is important to us that you have a clear understanding of how we will minister to your son/daughter with the truths of God's Word.

We believe...

The Bible is the true word of God. It clearly teaches all we need to obtain our eternal life. (2 Peter 1:21, I Corinthians 2:13, 2 Timothy 3:16, John 10:35, Luke 11:28, John 5:39)

There is only one true God. In the Bible God reveals himself as three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is "Triune." These three persons in one God are all God. They are equal in power, glory, and in every quality. To deny or ignore one person is to deny all of them. It is God who created, redeemed, and sanctified us. (Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28: 1-9, John 5:23, Genesis 1:1, I John 2:2, Romans 15:13)

At the beginning of time **God created heaven and earth and all creatures.** He did this in six days—he spoke his almighty word to create all things. He made everything out of nothing. Man and woman are God's special creation, (Genesis 1:1, Genesis 1:31, Exodus 20:11, Psalm 33:6,9, Psalm 124:8, Mark 10:6, Hebrews 11:3)

The first man and woman, **Adam and Eve, lost the image of God** when they gave in to the temptation of Satan and disobeyed God's command. This brought on them the judgment of God. Since that time all people are conceived and born in sin, they desire to do what is evil, and are dead spiritually. Therefore, we are unable to reconcile ourselves to God by our own efforts and deeds. (Genesis 2:17, Psalm 51, Ephesians 2:1, John 3:6, Psalm 5:4, Romans 5:12, I John 3:4)

The message of **the gospel is the good news that a loving God sent Jesus Christ to take away the sins of all people.** The gospel freely offers to all sinners the righteousness that is found in Jesus. God offers and gives eternal life and salvation to all those who believe in the gospel promises of a Savior, Jesus Christ. (John 1:17, Romans 1:16, John 3:16, Colossians 2:13, Luke 2:10-11, Ezekiel 33:11)

Jesus Christ is the Savior of everyone. He is the eternal Son of God, equal to the Father and the Holy Spirit. He is also the son of the virgin Mary. He became man to redeem all people. Taking our place, he lived a perfect life keeping the law of God for us. He also died as our innocent substitute on the cross to pay the price sufficient for every one's salvation. After rising from the dead, Jesus ascended into heaven. On the Last Day he will return to raise all the dead and judge all people who are still living. (I John 5:20, Matthew 1:23, Ephesians 1:7, Galatians 3:13, Hebrews 4:15, Romans 1:4, Acts 10:42)

God judged all sinners righteous in his sight when Jesus Christ died on the cross for us. God declared everyone free from the guilt and punishment owed for our sins. The sinner receives this free gift of forgiveness, not by doing good deeds, but only through faith in Christ. A person is justified when he or she believes in Christ and his redemptive work. It is a gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Corinthians 5:19, Romans 3:22-24, Romans 3:28, Romans 4:5, Mark 16:16)

Baptism is a holy act instituted by God. Using water and God's Word, it offers and gives the forgiveness of sins, spiritual life, and eternal salvation. It is meant for young and old, including children. Infants are also sinful and therefore need the spiritual rebirth given through baptism. (Matthew 28:19, John 3:6, Titus 3:5, Mark 10:14, Acts 22:16, Mark 16:16)

Holy Communion is a holy act instituted by Christ. Together with bread and wine we receive Jesus' true body and blood. In this special meal Jesus gives the forgiveness of sins, strengthens our faith, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe. (Matthew 26:26-28, I Corinthians 10:16, I Corinthians 11:27-28, I Corinthians 10:17)

God wonderfully 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)

The term "marriage" has only one proper meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that 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, I Corinthians 6:18, I Corinthians 7:2-5, Hebrews 13:4)

Any form of sexual immorality (including premarital and extramarital sex, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matthew 15:18-20, I Corinthians 6:9-10, Hebrews 13:4)

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, Romans 10:9-10, I Corinthians 6:9-11)

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, the 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. (Psalms 139)

Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of St. John's Church and School our administration will represent faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline until the congregation determines final interpretation of issues based on the Bible's meaning and application.

If you would like more information regarding what we believe, please refer to the website of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod at www.wels.net and click on the link to WhatAboutJesus.com to find out more about our specific faith.