



**Lutheran High School Association**  
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## Statement of Beliefs

The Lutheran High School Association (Association) is a member of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS or Synod). The LCMS is a mission-oriented and Bible-based denomination that confesses the 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” (Eph. 2:20). With the universal Christian Church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 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.

The Lutheran High School Association voluntarily chooses to belong to the Synod, and, holds to a confession of Jesus Christ as taught in Holy Scripture. We believe without reservation that the Scriptures of the Old and the New Testament are the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice. In addition, the Synod accepts without reservation the writings contained in the *Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*.

Believing in the authority of Holy Scripture and that the Lutheran Confessions are a correct interpretation and presentation of biblical doctrine, the Association agrees to conform all our teaching and practice to the Scriptures and the Confessions.

The Synod “is not an ecclesiastical government, exercising legislative or coercive powers” (LCMS Constitution, Article VII) concerning its member congregations and ministers. However, the voluntary association of member congregations and ministers includes their agreement to respect and honor and uphold (Bylaw 1.7.2, 1.8.1) decisions (resolutions) made by the Synod in its national conventions regarding the understanding of the teachings of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions and practices that are consistent with such teaching. The Synod in convention is the “principle legislative assembly” of the LCMS (Bylaw 3.1.1) and its resolutions and statements are the position of the Synod in matters of doctrine and life. The Constitution and Bylaws of the LCMS provide specific guidance for the implementation and supervision of the teaching and practice of its members (congregations and rostered church workers).

The Lutheran High School Association teachings and practices are consistent with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions and while honoring Synod convention resolutions, is self-governed and establishes policies based on local circumstance and expediency. The Association operates according to its own constitution and bylaws – which are required by the Synod Bylaws to be reviewed by the Synod and Michigan District LCMS which it resides in – and therein establishes an orderly way of making decisions and determines which individuals or entities will have authority to act on behalf of the Church/School in specific circumstances. The Constitution and bylaws of the Association govern our decision-making and policies. A copy is available upon request.

## **Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality**

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). 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 (Gen. 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 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).

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).

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 policies of the Association.

## **Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life**

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, 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 (Ps. 139).

## **Statement of Expectations**

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Association as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to our members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Association in any capacity, agree to and abide by the "Statement of Beliefs" which includes; statements on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality and the Sanctity of Human Life (Matt. 5:16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22, Ps 139). We expect students, parents, and volunteers to respect and support our right to determine our Statement of Beliefs. Additionally, students, family members, and volunteers may not, in a way that may affect the school, promote beliefs/behaviors that are contrary to those of the Association or LCMS or otherwise weaken the LCMS Christian atmosphere at the school. If a student, family member of a student, or applicant for enrollment challenges the Association or LCMS teachings, the school may exercise its religious freedom that could result in the suspension, expulsion, or refusal of enrollment of a student.

As an employee/volunteer of the Lutheran High School Association, I have read and understood this **Statement of Beliefs**. I agree to abide by it in its entirety in all my activities associated with the Association, including the teaching of these beliefs if my position requires it.

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Signature                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name