

Camp Concordia *Statement of Faith* – Approved March 25, 2017

In 1957, Camp Concordia (CC) was formed to support the mission and ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), particularly as a children's and youth ministry, both in guiding faith and helping kids (and their families) to know Jesus Christ for the first time. CC sees itself as an arm of the mission field, and as such, adheres to the teachings of the LCMS as expressed in the Bible, the Book of Concord, and the clarifications produced by the LCMS conventions. More specifically, it asks all its staff and representatives to teach the following beliefs in speech, action and example. As adherents to *experiential learning* philosophy, leaders of CC know that children grow in their faith through tacit experiences as well as direct verbal communication.



We believe that Jesus is our Savior and Lord.

Therefore, we also believe, proclaim and seek to live lives that...

Honor

1. **Honor God:** There is one God, as understood in the writings of the Bible, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three, yet one, a mystery. We should not set up other things, people or places to compete with God. God is above all and over all. This means we seek to listen to God first as we hear Him in Scripture and in other arenas compared to Scripture. [John 15.26](#); [Galatians 4.6](#); [Matthew 28.19](#); [1 Corinthians 8.4](#); [Matthew 3.16-17](#); [1 Corinthians 4.20](#)
2. **Honor God's Name:** The names and character of God should be respected in prayer, in song, in all areas of life. We should avoid using it in careless ways and seek God's forgiveness in Jesus so that we are empowered to use it rightly. Worship should ultimately lead to knowing and honoring God's name. [Philippians 2.1-11](#); [Exodus 3.14 \(Yahweh\)](#); [Isaiah 9.6](#); [John 1.1](#); [Matthew 15.9](#)
3. **Honor Sabbath:** We should set aside certain times to rest in God's love, to honor Jesus name, and to trust that the Holy Spirit will take care of us and that we celebrate the Sabbath in many ways, one pointed out by Jesus includes caring for others. [Mark 2.23-28](#); [Matthew 11.28](#); [Colossians 2.16-17](#); [Hebrews 4.9-10](#)
4. **Honor Authority:** We should honor those who have been set up as authority figures in our life, especially parents as long as they do not ask us to turn away from following Jesus. This includes government officials (and laws) as long as they do not ask us to live against the expectations of the God's Word. [1 Peter 2.13-17](#); [Romans 13.2, 7](#); [Titus 3.1](#)

Protect

1. **Protect Life:** We should affirm all humanity at all stages of life, from conception through death, because all humanity is made in the image God at all stages. That we should seek to support the spiritual, physical, intellectual, emotional and social aspects that make up each individual's life as it is lived out in connection to their faith community and interaction with all people in the local community. [Psalm 139.1-16](#); [Jeremiah 1.5](#)
2. **Protect Marriage and Relationships:** That we should guard and protect marriages between a man and a woman. That intimate sexual relations should be expressed within that committed marriage. That the line of what is wrong and right is not sought out, but instead that we would live above the law. That sexuality (not the act of sex) and the attraction between a man and a woman is good (actually VERY good), appreciated, and lived out as God's holy relationship for them to carefully unwrap. That relationships (outside of marriage) in community are very good and are to be part of the Christian church. Encouragement and the need for close friendship as well. That dating and

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courting, however, should reflect God's intent for marriage: between one man and one woman, committed, and holy. [1 Peter 1.13-16](#); [Romans 1.24, 26-27](#); [Hebrews 13.4](#); [1 Corinthians 6.18](#); [Matthew 5.28](#)

3. **Protect Possessions:** That as Jesus followers we should protect the possessions of others. We would go out of our way to be sure other's possessions stay theirs. That we would be good caregivers of other's possessions and organization's equipment. That we would respect the law when it comes to ownership of all material to the best of our ability and awareness. [Romans 13.8-10](#); [Philippians 2.4](#); [Hebrews 13.16](#); [1 Corinthians 13.7](#)
4. **Protect Other's Names:** That we would always work hard to protect the name and reputation of those around us, at all levels of friendship, relationship or authority, so that people would think well of those others. That we would speak directly and privately with others about all matters of concern and disagreement, trusting first that they have good intent (no matter how marred we may be in selfishness and shortsightedness at the time). [James 4.11](#); [Matthew 18.15](#); [Proverbs 31.8-9](#); [1 Corinthians 13.7](#)

Submit

1. **Submit to Contentedness:** That we do our best to live contented with what we have been given to use in this life. This includes physical possessions, skills, talents and financial standings. [Philippians 4.10-14](#); [Hebrews 13.1-7](#); [1 Timothy 6.6-11](#)
2. **Submit in Forgiveness:** That when all else fails, when we have accidentally, and possibly even deliberately, failed to live out these beliefs; we can stand before God and our faith community honestly confessing that failure knowing that we live in the forgiveness that was won for us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah (Christ). [Romans 1.20-32, 7.21-25, 8.31-39](#); [Ephesians 2.1-22](#); [1 Corinthians 1.18](#); [2 Corinthians 12.9](#)

Above all, we believe our behavior should be honorable. [Ephesians 5.3-4](#) and [Philippians 4.8-9](#) help to guide our overall behavior...

³But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. ⁴Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.

⁸Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. ⁹The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

*These 10 points are based purposefully and primarily on the meanings of the 10 commandments as written in the **Small Catechism** in the **Book of Concord**. God makes it clear through His Word that anyone who is a follower of Jesus is called to live for Him. He indicates that we can encourage and correct each other in brotherly and sisterly love. [Romans 15.15](#); [2 Timothy 3.16-17](#)

Paradox of Faith – Staff Training Document

What else makes one uniquely Lutheran in faith? We agree to several “Paradoxes” which we can probe but never fully fathom. Here are a few.



1. **Saint/Sinner:** We agree, even if we do not fully understand, that we are at the same time 100% sinner and 100% saint. We need God to even function due to our depravity, but we are fully forgiven and redeemed. So, our “saintness” does not come because we became better people, but it comes because we have a good God who sent His son, Jesus, to die for our sinful “depravity.”

Paul helps us see this struggle and paradox when he writes: ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.” Romans 7

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹not a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2

²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians

2. **Baptism:** We agree that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that somehow, through Baptism – water with God’s Word – God claims us as His own. This is not of our own doing. It is a gift from God, commanded by God and He uses his hands and feet on earth, the body of Christ, to make this moment happen.

³Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. Romans 6

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. Matthew 28

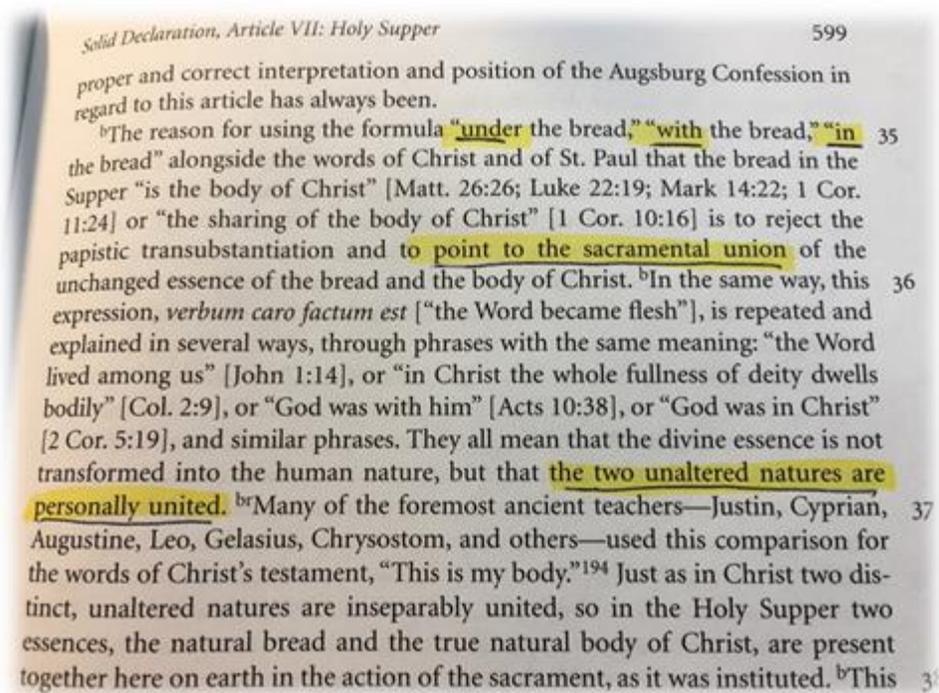
And regarding infant Baptism, Paul is very clear when he contrasts circumcision (done on the 8th day of an infants life in the Jewish culture) to Baptism through water and the Word: ⁹For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, ¹⁰and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. ¹¹In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. Colossians 2 (Read Colossians 2.1-15)

3. **Communion:** We agree that “in, with and under” the bread and wine, even though it is a mystery, Jesus body and blood are present. And that a person needs to come to communion understanding they need it (100% Sinner), but know they leave communion with one more incredibly special moment of forgiveness (100% Saint). The fact that somehow in the bread and wine is also Jesus body and blood is the paradox.

²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons. 1 Corinthians 10

²³For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, ²⁴and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” 1 Corinthians 11

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4. **Freedom:** We agree that we are fully free and fully bound.

“The fruits of the Spirit, however, are the works that the Spirit of God, who dwells in believers, effects through the reborn; they are done by believers (insofar as they are reborn) as if they knew of no command, threat or reward.” (Book of Concord, Formula of Concord, Epitome, Article VI: Concerning the Third Use of the Law)

⁸*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.* Philippians 4

²³*All things are lawful,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful,” but not all things build up.* 1 Corinthians 10

³¹*So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.* 1 Corinthians 10

“For we do not abolish the law, Paul says [Romans 3.31], but we establish it, because when we receive the Holy Spirit by faith the fulfillment of the law necessarily follow, through which love, patience, chastity, and other fruits of the Spirit continually grow.” (Book of Concord, Apology of the Augsburg Confessions, Article XX: Good Works)

Regarding the Apostles Creed

We agree with all the parts of the Apostles Creed.

“But the Creed brings pure grace and makes us righteous and acceptable to God. Through this knowledge we come to love and delight in all the commandments of God because we see here in the Creed how God gives himself completely to us, with all his gifts and power, to help us keep the Ten Commandments; the Father gives us all creation, Christ all his works, the Holy Spirit all his gifts.” (The Book of Concord, The Large Catechism, The Creed)