



## **Faith Lutheran School Statement of Belief**

Faith Lutheran School (FLS) is part of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS or Synod) and owned and operated by Faith Lutheran Church (FLC). 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” (Ephesians 2:20). With the universal Christian Church, the LCMS 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.

LCMS congregations, including FLC that owns and operates FLS, voluntarily choose to belong to the Synod, and, although diverse in many ways, all hold to a shared confession of Jesus Christ as taught in Holy Scripture. We believe without reservation that the Scripture of the Old and New Testament are the written Word of God and the only rule, source, and norm of faith and practice. In addition, the Synod accepts without reservation the writings that make up The Three Ecumenical Creeds, *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church* (1580), *The Augsburg Confession* (1530), *The Apology to the Augsburg Confession* (1531), *The Smalcald Articles* (1537), *The Power and Primacy of the Pope* (1537), *Luther’s Small Catechism* (1529), and *Luther’s Large Catechism* (1529). Believing in the authority of Holy Scripture and that the Lutheran Confessions are a correct interpretation and presentation of Biblical doctrine, our congregations and Faith Lutheran School agree to conform all their 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, their schools, and their 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, their schools, and rostered church workers).

Congregations of the LCMS, while upholding teachings and practices that are consistent with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions and while honoring Synod convention resolutions, are self-governed and establish policies based on local circumstance and expediency. An LCMS congregation, school, or ministry operates according to its own constitution and bylaws – which are required by the Synod Bylaws to be reviewed by the District through which the congregation, school, or ministry holds membership in the Synod – and therein establishes an orderly way of making decisions and determines which individuals

or entities in the congregation (e.g. pastor, church council, board of elders) or school (e.g. principal, Christian Board of Education) will have the authority to act on behalf of the congregation or school in specific circumstances. The Constitution and Bylaws of Faith Lutheran Church & School govern our decision making and policies.

For more information on LCMS beliefs on societal issues and relations between church and world, interested parties are encouraged to browse the articles produced by the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations at: [Documents - Commission on Theology and Church Relations - The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod \(lcms.org\)](https://www.lcms.org/documents-and-reports/theological-statement/2017/01/01/documents-commission-on-theology-and-church-relations)