

Christ Lutheran Church
A Covenant of Understanding with Parents Whose Children Attend
Christ Lutheran School

Preliminary Comments

Because of our affiliation with The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Christ Lutheran takes upon ourselves certain ‘givens’ in our understanding of faith and life. We believe that all statements, policies, and procedures of the Lutheran Church must be Christ centered, biblically based, and in concert with both the Great Commission (Go and make disciples of all nations... Matthew 28:16-20) and the Great Command (A new command I give you: Love one another. John 13:34) given to us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

With those non-negotiable principles solidly in place, we gladly face the challenges that come to those who bring the Holy Son of God to a sin filled world and thankfully communicate that the Mission Statement of this congregation is: “Connecting People to Jesus.”

The Congregation’s Covenant Commitments

Christ Lutheran believes that all children benefit from a Christian education. Following Jesus’ direction in Mark 10:14, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these,” we promise to provide this education to the best of our ability --- God enabling and empowering us to do so.

Christ Lutheran recognizes that the home is the God-ordained primary source of student learning and living. Therefore, we believe that the highest and most enduring benefits are achieved when parents, their children, and the school are devoted to the same beliefs of Christ Lutheran Church.

To that end, we promise that our pastors, teachers, and staff will teach, embody, and live in a manner consistent with the Christ-centered, biblically-based beliefs of Christ Lutheran Church.

We understand that not all families whom we serve in our preschool and school share our faith or desire to live the lifestyles to which we believe our Lord saves and calls us. However, we believe that the opportunity to minister to the children of these families is of paramount importance and an integral part of our reason for being. Therefore, we welcome children from these families as God’s gifts to us. We are listing below our fundamental beliefs as Lutheran Christians so that it will be clear if there is a difference between what children are instructed in church and home.

Our beliefs include but are not limited to:

- ❖ God is the creator of all things. (Genesis 1,2)
- ❖ The Bible is God's infallible and inerrant Word and the means by which we come to faith in the Triune God. (1 Timothy 3: 16-17)
- ❖ Jesus is our Savior and the only way to heaven. He came to earth to restore our separation from God caused by sin. As both God and man, he lived a perfect life, suffered, died on a cross and was resurrected so we can have forgiveness of our sins, peace with God and life eternal. (John 3:16)
- ❖ Saving faith is a gift brought to us through the Holy Spirit. It is not our working or decision; it is God's. (Ephesians 2: 8-9)
- ❖ The Ten Commandments reveal God's will to us regarding our relationships between God and man and our relationships with each other. No one keeps God's law perfectly, so we all depend on his undeserved grace. (Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:8-9)
- ❖ For freedom Christ has set us free; therefore we do not burden people's consciences with issues God has neither commanded nor forbidden in his Word. (Galatians 5:1)
- ❖ God's people respond to his love by worshipping him regularly and supporting the church with their time, talents, and treasure. (Exodus 20:8; Acts 2: 42,46; Ephesians 2:10; 2 Corinthians 9:7-15)
- ❖ Marriage is a life-long relationship between a man and a woman. We believe in abstinence before marriage and fidelity in marriage. (Mark 10: 6-9)
- ❖ We affirm Holy Scripture when it declares that because of our sinful desires people have and do exchange natural relations between men and women for unnatural ones. (Romans 1: 24-27)
- ❖ Furthermore we affirm the words of Scripture that declare to all of us in this sinful world that; "you have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things." (Romans 2:1-3)
- ❖ Sanctity is to be afforded to human life, which begins at conception and is valued throughout all stages and conditions – including those who are in the womb, disabled, or elderly. (Jeremiah 1: 5; Acts 17:25)
- ❖ The sacraments are to be administered in accordance with God's Word. WE believe in infant baptism and in Christ's real presence in Holy Communion. (Acts 8:28; Acts 2:38-39; Matthew 26: 26,28; 1 Corinthians 11:23-24)

Again, we understand that not all of our families share our beliefs and may live in ways that are not in full harmony with these beliefs. However responding to Christ's desire for all people, including ourselves, to come to an ever deepening and growing knowledge of the Son of God, we welcome the opportunity to minister to these families and make all the resources of the church, including dialog and prayer with our pastors, available to all families whose children attend Christ Lutheran School.

Covenant Commitments Expected of School Families

- ❖ When differences between the beliefs of the church and families exist, families acknowledge that the church will not compromise our biblically-based teachings, whether the subject is religion, science, ethics, sex education, or any other topic.
- ❖ Families agree to not promote behavior or doctrinal positions contrary to the confession of Christ Lutheran Church and School at any school function or at any event to which Christ Lutheran students and families are invited.
- ❖ Families who have strong differences with these doctrinal and moral issues agree to communicate their concerns in personal dialog with our pastor(s) as opposed to involving themselves in conversations with other school families in ways that could lead to division and disruption in our school community.

Covenant Commitments Expected of our School Families

- ❖ When differences between the beliefs of the church and families exist, families acknowledge that the church will not compromise our biblically-based teachings, whether the subject is religion, science, ethics, sex education, or any other topic.
- ❖ Families agree to not promote behavior or doctrinal positions contrary to the confession of Christ Lutheran Church and School at any school function or at any event to which Christ Lutheran students and families are invited.
- ❖ Families who have strong differences with these doctrinal and moral issues agree to communicate their concerns in personal dialog with our pastor(s) as opposed to involving themselves in conversations with other school families in ways that could lead to division and disruption in our school community.

I agree to abide by the above commitments in support of my covenant with Christ Lutheran Church and School.