



## Statement of Belief

*St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Edina, Hennepin County, Minnesota*

### ST. PETER'S BIBLICAL PURPOSE

Meeting families at the intersection of faith and real life.

### ST. PETER'S VALUES

- ⊕ Biblical Living
- ⊕ Relationships
- ⊕ Selflessness
- ⊕ Compassion
- ⊕ Faith

### INTRODUCTION

St. Peter's believes God calls us to meet families at the intersection of faith and real life, encouraging each other to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. Our response to God's incredible love and saving grace includes the realization that Biblical principles are God's truth and His design for how we live our lives as His children.

St. Peter's leadership has added specific Statements of Belief to bring clarity on ageless Biblical teachings in a time of rapid cultural change.

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## STATEMENT OF BELIEF – BIBLICAL TEACHING

### **We believe that:**

- The Bible is the source and basis for all our beliefs. (2 Timothy 3:15-17)
- All people and all faiths are to be shown respect. (Matthew 22:39)
- Only through faith in Jesus Christ can people be saved. (John 3:16-17)

### **We teach about God. We believe that:**

- God is the Almighty, loving creator of everything and everyone. (Genesis 1:1)
- God is one God, but three equal persons (Triune). He is God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit – not three gods but one God. (Matthew 28:19)
- God is the Judge before whom all people will give an account for the lives they lead. (2 Corinthians 5:10)
- God is our Savior (Christ) who died for our sins and rose from the dead. (Acts 4:11-12)
- God is the Author of the Bible who, through the Holy Spirit, inspired men to write what He wanted to communicate to humankind – especially who He is, His truths, and how He rescues humankind through the work of Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 3:16)
- God is Love. He loves all people perfectly and completely. (1 John 4:9-10)

### **We teach about people. We believe that:**

- People are created equally, yet individually and specially by God. (Psalms 139:13-16)
- People are loved always and completely by God. (John 3:16)
- People are expected by God to live lives of holiness and perfection. (Matthew 5:48)
- People are unable to obey God perfectly (everyone sins). (Ecclesiastes 7:20)
- People are forgiven their sins and given the gift of everlasting life in heaven only through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Romans 6:23)
- People are unable to earn God's favor or forgiveness; rather we receive faith and forgiveness through the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8-9) It breaks our hearts that people will be condemned to eternal suffering if they do not have faith in Christ. (Matthew 13:49-50; John 14:6)

### **We teach about relationships. We believe that:**

- God desires to restore our relationships with Him through Jesus Christ. (John 3:16)
- People are to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:21)
- People are to tell others how much the Lord has done for them and how he has had mercy on them. (Mark 5:19)
- All human life is sacred and created by God in His image. (Psalms 139)
- Marriage is a holy union, created by God, for the purpose of procreation, and is intended to be between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; Genesis 9:7; Mark 10:7; Ephesians 5:31; 1 Corinthians 7:2)

St. Peter's Early Childhood Education Center (ECEC) is a ministry of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, where we help children grow in faith and love in Jesus. Our Church and ECEC is known for serving the people of our community through loving care in a Christian educational environment. We gather with students for weekly chapel and morning prayer. As a Christian school, our curriculum includes in-class daily teachings from God's Holy Word. We integrate our Christian beliefs into everything we teach. Simply stated, we teach about the Bible, faith, and salvation through Jesus.

*Adopted 3/8/2020*

## STATEMENT OF BELIEF - MARRIAGE

### We believe that:

- God wonderfully creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Genesis 1:27)
- Every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31)
- The term marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:18-25) thus we do not accept or condone marriage between people of the same sex, nor polygamy. (1 Corinthians 6:9-20; 1 Timothy 1:10)
- God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Corinthians 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Timothy 4:12)
- God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. (1 Corinthians 7:2; Hebrews 13:4)
- Any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God who created our bodies. (Galatians 5:19-21; Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)
- Divorce is contrary to God's original design and intention for marriage. While divorce can be justified scripturally in certain situations (adultery or desertion), it is always preferable for couples to forgive and work toward healing and strengthening their marriage. (Matthew 19:3-9)
- 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; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
- In order to preserve the function and integrity of St. Peter's as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to those we serve and the community, we must strive to abide by the Bible's teaching on marriage. (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the teaching of St. Peter's Lutheran Church (1 John 4:7-21).

Recognizing that we all struggle with sin, St. Peter's will provide an environment that welcomes people who struggle in any way. We will seek to love all people in Jesus' name, pointing them towards Christ's power to forgive and heal. We also recognize that there is a difference between temptation and behavior and while temptation is sometimes unavoidable, we are responsible for our behavior.

While the Bible teaches that those who engage in sexual sin do so against their own body (1 Corinthians 6:18), we also recognize that sexual sin is not characterized in Scripture as being more severe than other forms of sin. We will seek God to discern ways that we can directly and indirectly minister and share God's love with those who struggle with every kind of sin. (1 John 3:1-10)

*Adopted 3/8/2020*

## STATEMENT OF BELIEF – SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

### We believe

- 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. ([Genesis 1:26-28](#); [Jeremiah 1:4-5](#))
- All people are to be welcomed to participate in our ministries and worship – regardless of physical, mental, or developmental ability or spiritual views. ([1 Corinthians 12:27](#))
- We are to care for all people. ([Matthew 25:40](#))
- All people are created and redeemed by God who intends they bear His image for time and for eternity. ([John 10:10](#))
- God takes life so seriously and personally because He made humanity to reflect Him. We are His earthly representatives, made in His image. To bring harm to another person is to mount an attack on the One who created him. ([Genesis 1:26-28](#); [Matthew 5:21-22](#))
- As Christians, our relationship with Christ should be a witness to those who believe that their life is not worth living, at any age, and we need to share answers of hope found in God’s grace. We must be alert to those around us—in our family, at school, work, in the hospital, and even in church—who might be entertaining suicidal thoughts, showing signs of depression or anxiety, isolating themselves, or exhibiting other suicidal tendencies and seek help. ([Psalm 71](#); [1 Peter 5:7](#); [Romans 12:2](#))
- All life is sacred; human life is especially so. Protecting it is of utmost importance to God. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. ([Psalm 139](#))

*Adopted 3/8/2020*

## LINKS TO RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[lcms.org/social-issues](https://lcms.org/social-issues)

[a Christian view of homosexuality](#)

[focusonthefamily.com](https://focusonthefamily.com)

[lutheransforlife.org](https://lutheransforlife.org)

[answersingenesis.org](https://answersingenesis.org)

[Minnesota Family Council](#)