



Parent / Guardian Acknowledgement of Faith Formation Foundations

St. John Lutheran School is a ministry of St. John Lutheran Church, a congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) as well as a part of the network, Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC). The congregation and school uphold the confession of faith described in the NALC constitution and the 2005 Common Confession. A summary of our belief in the Bible is reprinted below and can be found at <https://thenalc.org/nalc-statements/> The foundation of a healthy relationship between the school, and the student's family begins with shared values and goals. It is in this spirit that we share the following statements of faith.

The Church of God in this present age is not exempt from conflict, confusion and temptation. The way of discipleship is a narrow way, and from the time of the apostles it has been known that we must enter the kingdom of God "through many tribulations" (Acts 14:22 ESV). Amidst these trials and troubles, however, the promise endures: "The word of our God will stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8 ESV). This utterly reliable and unshakeable Word of God is not hidden from us. By God's merciful gift, by the work of His Spirit, the Word of God abides in our midst in stable, written form. God's powerful and life-giving Word accompanies us on our pilgrimage, and through it His Holy Spirit continually stirs up faithful witness and faithful worship. Making Christ known, the Bible makes known God's commandments and His promises, His judgments and His mercies. Instructed by Scripture, we are equipped to be Christ's witnesses in the world. From the Bible, we begin to appreciate the glory and goodness of the Lord, so that we may worship Him. In this way, through the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit fulfills the promise of Christ: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12 ESV). (Reprinted from the conclusion of "The Bible as the Word of God," NALC Commission on Theology and Doctrine)

Furthermore, a significant aspect of the school's mission is to teach students to live in accordance with our faith. This requires that teachers and other school employees model the church's teachings in their daily lives to the best of their ability, and we expect those teachings to be honored and lived out within our students lives as well. We all are broken/sinners, needing the grace and mercy of God revealed by His love for us in the death and resurrection of Jesus. (Romans 3:23-26 & John 3:16) By the power of the Holy Spirit we seek to live our lives in accordance to His will and seek repentance when we stray. Though sin is sin, no matter what variety, our current cultural leanings implore us to clarify that this school specifically embraces the NALC's & LCMC's teachings regarding marriage and sexual activity which in turn reflects our

belief in gender* understanding. The following comes from the NALC's "Doctrine on Marriage and Sexuality."

In the words of the Common Confession: We believe and confess that the marriage of male and female is an institution created and blessed by God. From marriage, God forms families to serve as the building blocks of all human civilization and community.

We teach and practice that sexual activity belongs exclusively within the Biblical boundaries of a faithful marriage between one man and one woman.

As a parent/guardian of a student or students of this school, I/we acknowledge that the school has a genuine interest in maintaining a consistent witness to our students and to the community, that I/we play a role in the religious education of the student by modeling the beliefs, norms and expectations of this religious community in my/our individual life/lives, and that the school reasonably expects me/us to act in accordance with its behavioral norms and expectations in my/our life/lives. Conduct deemed detrimental to, or inconsistent with the religious beliefs, teaching and practice of the school, including without limitation its beliefs, teaching and practice regarding marriage and sexual activity (including gender* understandings) constitutes grounds for possible dismissal from the school. The congregation's Pastor and the School Administrator are the final arbiters on questions of conduct consistent with the school's beliefs.

I/we understand and acknowledge the importance of this to our faith community and understand that my/ our agreement with these principles as declared in the Scriptures & discerning documents of the NALC & LCMC is a necessary condition of my/our student/s enrollment and participation with St. John Lutheran School.

**"God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them;" "He (Jesus) answered, "Have you not read that he who created them from the beginning made them male and female." (Genesis 1:27 & Matthew 19:4)*