

# Statement of Core Beliefs

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (AFLC)

Beulah, ND

Adopted November 21, 2010

Ratified November 20, 2011

## ***Statement of Mission:***

***Reaching an Ever - Changing World  
With God's Never - Changing Word.***

**This means bringing the message of salvation in Jesus Christ to the lost, through the Word as revealed by the Holy Spirit, through personal and congregational outreach to the community and through world missions.**

**2 Samuel 22:31** “As for God, His way *is* perfect; The word of the LORD *is* proven; He *is* a shield to all who trust in Him.”

**Psalm 12:6** “The words of the LORD *are* pure words, *Like* silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.”

**Psalm 119:160** “The entirety of Your word *is* truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments *endures* forever.”

**Matthew 28:19** Jesus said: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,”

**Mark 16:15–16** “And [Jesus] said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup> He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.’”

**2 Corinthians 2:14–16** “Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. <sup>15</sup> For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. <sup>16</sup> To the one *we are* the aroma of death *leading* to death, and to the other the aroma of life *leading* to life. And who *is* sufficient for these things?”

**2 Corinthians 3:17** “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.”

**2 Corinthians 5:20** “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.”

## ***Statement of Authority***

- We accept and believe in the Holy Bible as the complete written Word of God, preserved to us by the Holy Spirit for our salvation and instruction. We endorse the statement on the Word as found in the United Testimony on Faith and Life and would quote here the following: "We bear witness that the Bible is our only authentic and infallible source of God's revelation to us and all men, and that it is the only inerrant and completely adequate source and norm of Christian doctrine and life. We hold that the Bible, as a whole and in all its parts, is the Word of God under all circumstances regardless of man's attitude toward it."***

**Proverbs 30:5–6** “Every word of God *is* pure; He *is* a shield to those who put their trust in Him. <sup>6</sup> Do not add to His words, Lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.”

**Psalm 119:105** “Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.”

**Matthew 5:17–18** Jesus said: “Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”

**John 17:17** Jesus said: “Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”

**2 Timothy 3:16** “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

**2 Peter 1:19–21** “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; <sup>20</sup> knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, <sup>21</sup> for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.”

2. ***The gospel of Jesus Christ is the central message of the Bible. This declares that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation for all of humankind.***

**John 3:16** Jesus said: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

**John 14:6** “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’”

**Acts 4:12** “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

**Romans 10:9–10** “That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

**Ephesians 2:8–9** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

3. ***The whole of Scripture is vitally important to and directly supportive of this central message of the Bible.***

**Isaiah 7:14** “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

**Zechariah 9:9** “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your King is coming to you;

He *is* just and having salvation,

Lowly and riding on a donkey,

A colt, the foal of a donkey.”

**John 8:31–32** “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”

**John 10:35b** Jesus said: “the Scripture cannot be broken.”

**2 Timothy 3:16–17** “All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

**Hebrews 4:12–13** “For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. <sup>13</sup> And there is no creature

hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.”

## ***Statement of Purpose*** ***“...To Plant a Tree” – Martin Luther***

**This is part of a quotation from Martin Luther. The whole quotation is: “When asked, ‘What would you do if you knew the world was going to end tomorrow?’ Martin Luther replied, ‘I’d plant a tree.’” This is a statement of hope and trust in the providence of God. It is also statement of obedience to preach and live the gospel to the very end. We live in a world that challenges, tests, and frustrates us and the church of Jesus Christ. But God gives us the hope to continue to trust him. At times we may want to rage against this world, or we may want to curl up in a ball to shut out the world. But we need to calmly trust in God and take some positive and hopeful action. For Martin Luther, it was "to plant a tree". For some Beulah Christians in 1993, it was to form an AFLC church.**

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church’s uniqueness is that we believe God’s Word is unchanging, without error, and is for today’s world. On this we wait upon the Holy Spirit to accomplish these purposes. We exist to bring Jesus Christ into the lives of people in our community such that:**

### ***1. We each have a personal relationship with the Son of God.***

**John 1:12–13** “But as many as received [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

**John 3:1–8** “There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, ‘Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.’ Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

**Acts 4:12** “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

**Romans 10:9–10** “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

**Ephesians 5:1–2** “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”

**Revelation 3:20** “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

### ***2. We honor and glorify the creator in worship.***

**John 1:1–3** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

**John 1:14** “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

**John 4:23–24** Jesus said: ““But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.””

**2 Corinthians 3:17** “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.”

**Revelation 4:11** “You are worthy, O Lord,  
To receive glory and honor and power;  
For You created all things,  
And by Your will they exist and were created.”

3. ***We experience caring support and teaching in the congregation to bring us each to be more like Jesus Christ.***

**1 Timothy 4:6** “If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed.”

**2 Timothy 4:2** “Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”

**Titus 1:9** “holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.”

4. ***We serve our neighbors as Jesus would.***

**Matthew 20:28** “just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

**Matthew 25:35–40** Jesus said: “<sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; <sup>36</sup> I *was* naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’

<sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed *You*, or thirsty and give *You* drink? <sup>38</sup> When did we see You a stranger and take *You* in, or naked and clothe *You*? <sup>39</sup> Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ <sup>40</sup> And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these My brethren, you did *it* to Me.’”

**Galatians 6:10** “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

**Ephesians 2:8–10** “<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”

## *Statement on the Family*

1. ***God has ordained marriage between one adult man and one adult woman until parted by death. He blesses this intimate union.***

**Genesis 2:21–24** “And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. <sup>22</sup> Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.

<sup>23</sup> And Adam said:

‘This *is* now bone of my bones  
And flesh of my flesh;  
She shall be called Woman,  
Because she was taken out of Man.’

<sup>24</sup> Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.”

**Matthew 19:4–5** “And [Jesus] answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning *‘made them male and female,’* and said, *‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’* ?”

2. ***Children are a gift of God and are to be nurtured within the family circle. The primary responsibilities for teaching children the Word of God belongs to the parents. The church assists the parents with this important task.***

**Psalms 127:3–5a**

<sup>3</sup> Behold, children *are* a heritage from the LORD,  
The fruit of the womb *is* a reward.

<sup>4</sup> Like arrows in the hand of a warrior,  
So *are* the children of one’s youth.

<sup>5</sup> Happy *is* the man who has his quiver full of them;

**Psalms 139:13–14** For You formed my inward parts;

You covered me in my mother’s womb.

<sup>14</sup> I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made;

Marvelous are Your works,

And *that* my soul knows very well.”

**Deuteronomy 11:18–21** “Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>19</sup> You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. <sup>20</sup> And you shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, <sup>21</sup> that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, like the days of the heavens above the earth.”

**Mark 10:14–16** “But when Jesus saw *it*, He was greatly displeased and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.’”

<sup>15</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.’ <sup>16</sup> And He took them up in His arms, laid *His* hands on them, and blessed them.”

**Ephesians 6:4** “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

## ***Statement on Social Concerns***

### ***1. Sexual relationships:***

#### ***A. Outside of marriage are hurtful and destructive and are forbidden by the Word of God.***

**Exodus 20:14** “You shall not commit adultery.” [The 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment]

**Matthew 15:19–20** Jesus said: ““For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. <sup>20</sup> These are *the things* which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man.””

**1 Corinthians 6:15–20** <sup>15</sup> Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make *them* members of a harlot? Certainly not! <sup>16</sup> Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body *with her*? For ‘*the two*,’ He says, ‘*shall become one flesh*.’ <sup>17</sup> But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit *with Him*. <sup>18</sup> Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. <sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.’

**Galatians 5:19–21** “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, <sup>21</sup> envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

#### ***B. Between people of the same sex [gender] are against the natural order and are forbidden by the Word of God.***

**Leviticus 18:22** “You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It *is* an abomination.”

**Leviticus 20:13** “If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood *shall be* upon them.”

**Romans 1:26–27** “For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. <sup>27</sup> Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.”

**Matthew 19:4–6** “And [Jesus] answered and said to them, ‘Have you not read that He who made *them* at the beginning ‘*made them male and female*,’ <sup>5</sup> and said, ‘*For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh*’? <sup>6</sup> So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.””

**1 Corinthians 6:9–10** “Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor

homosexuals, nor sodomites,<sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.”

**C. *The use of pornography is destructive and is contrary to the Creator’s purpose for human sexuality.***

**Matthew 5:27–28** “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘*You shall not commit adultery.*’<sup>28</sup> But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

**Philippians 4:8** “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things *are* noble, whatever things *are* just, whatever things *are* pure, whatever things *are* lovely, whatever things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.”

**2. Sanctity of life:**

**A. *The unborn child is a human being, possessing the right to life.***

**Exodus 20:13** “You shall not murder.” [The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment]

**Jeremiah 1:5** “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;  
Before you were born I sanctified you;  
I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

**Luke 18:20** Jesus said: ““You know the commandments: ‘*Do not commit adultery,*’ ‘*Do not murder,*’ ‘*Do not steal,*’ ‘*Do not bear false witness,*’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’” ”

**1 Corinthians 3:16** “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

**B. *All human life is protected from the practices of abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia by the commandment of God not to murder.***

**Exodus 20:13** “You shall not murder.” [The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment]

**Psalms 139:13–15** “For You formed my inward parts;

You covered me in my mother’s womb.

<sup>14</sup>I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made;

Marvelous are Your works,

And *that* my soul knows very well.

<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from You,

When I was made in secret,

*And* skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.”

**Jeremiah 1:5** “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;

Before you were born I sanctified you;

I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

**Luke 18:20** Jesus said: ““You know the commandments: ‘*Do not commit adultery,*’ ‘*Do not murder,*’ ‘*Do not steal,*’ ‘*Do not bear false witness,*’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’” ”

**C. *Emotional and physical abuse of children or adults is contrary to Scripture.***

**1 Corinthians 10:23–24** “All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify.<sup>24</sup> Let no one seek his own, but each one the other’s *well-being.*”

**1 Corinthians 15:33** “Do not be deceived: ‘Evil company corrupts good habits.’”

**Ephesians 6:4** “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”

### **3. *Living in a Fallen World:***

**A. *Our fellowship recognizes that Christians are vulnerable to all the struggles common to humanity and provides, under the guidance of God’s Word and His Holy Spirit, a counseling ministry, lay and professional, to bring healing to hurting people.***

**Galatians 6:1–2** “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who *are* spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

<sup>2</sup> Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

**B. *Recognizing our own shortcomings it is our desire to extend God’s grace, mercy, and love through our Lord, Jesus Christ to all people.***

**Luke 1:77–79** “To give knowledge of salvation to His people

By the remission of their sins,

<sup>78</sup>Through the tender mercy of our God,

With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;

<sup>79</sup>To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,

To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

**Galatians 6:10** “Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

**Ephesians 4:32** “And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”

## **Procedure to change the Statement of Core Beliefs**

**This Statement of Core Beliefs may be amended through the following procedure: A resolution to amend this Statement of Core Beliefs must be made in writing at a meeting of the congregation. If the resolution is passed, it will not be enacted until said amendment has been considered again at the next annual meeting, at which a quorum of eligible voting members shall be present and shall be passed by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast by eligible voting members.**

(All Scripture references in this document are taken from the NKJV translation)