



## The Common Confession

### The Lord Jesus Christ

We are people who believe and confess our faith in the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We trust and believe in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.

### The Gospel of Salvation

We believe and confess that all human beings are sinners, and that sinners are redeemed by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God alone justifies human beings by faith in Christ – a faith that God creates through the message of the Gospel. As ambassadors for Christ, God uses us to speak his Word and build his kingdom

### The Authority of Scripture

We believe and confess that the Bible is God's revealed Word to us, spoken in Law and Gospel. The Bible is the final authority for us in all matters of our faith and life.

### A Common Confession of Faith

We accept and uphold that the Lutheran Confessions reliably guide us as faithful interpretations of Scripture, and that we share a unity and fellowship in faith with others among whom the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the sacraments are administered in accordance with the Gospel.

### The Priesthood of All Believers

We believe and confess that the Holy Spirit makes all who believe in Jesus Christ to be priests for service to others in Jesus' name, and that God desires to make use of the spiritual gifts he has given through the priesthood of all believers.

### Marriage and Family

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.

### The Mission and Ministry of the Congregation

We believe and confess that the church is the assembly of believers called and gathered by God around Word and Sacrament, and that the mission and ministry of the church is carried out within the context of individual congregations, which are able to work together locally and globally.

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# Lutheran CORE



A voice for  
the Word of God  
and for the  
Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

[www.lutherancore.org](http://www.lutherancore.org)



**Lutheran CORE - Coalition for Reform**  
*Working Together for Positive Reform in the ELCA*

**What is Lutheran CORE?**

Lutheran CORE is a reform movement within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which intends to serve as an effective coalition of individuals, congregations, and reform groups.

**What Is the Purpose of Lutheran CORE?**

Growing out of a commitment to the Common Confession (see outside panel), we have identified four emphases for our movement:

1. To uphold the authority of the Bible as the primary source and norm of faith and practice, in conformity with the Lutheran Confessions and the Constitution of the ELCA.
2. To insist upon the priority of the revealed Name of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in worship and educational materials produced by and for the ELCA.
3. To uphold the doctrine of marriage of one man and one woman for life, as maintained by the Church throughout the centuries.
4. To encourage and recruit leaders in congregations, synods, and the churchwide organization, including bishops, who will commit themselves to these goals.

**Why Lutheran CORE?**

Since the formation of the ELCA in 1988, many faithful members of the ELCA have been concerned about its

direction and decline. In 1990 at an independent theological conference, 1,000 ELCA members expressed their concern that the Word of God was being silenced in the ELCA. Organized groups of concerned ELCA members began to form. Most of them came together in 2003 in the coalition, Solid Rock Lutherans, to oppose the recommendations of the ELCA Sexuality Task Force that were presented in 2005. The groups that formed Solid Rock decided in 2005 that they needed to continue their work and deal with the deeper issue in the ELCA – the authority of the Word of God in all matters of faith and life. Lutheran CORE is the voice of the solid, faithful core that is the majority of ELCA members, pastors and churches.

**How is Lutheran CORE related to the ELCA?**

We are ELCA members who are committed to work within the ELCA for its reform. We believe that in answer to many prayers of faithful saints, God has not abandoned the ELCA and is calling us to work for its reform and renewal.

**How is Lutheran CORE related to the WordAlone Network?**

WordAlone is one of the member groups of Lutheran CORE. Most members of the Steering Committee are not members of WordAlone. Lutheran CORE relies on WordAlone for administrative services.

**How is Lutheran CORE organized?**

Lutheran CORE intends to be a grassroots movement with minimum structure. We reimburse the WordAlone Network for a portion of the time of our Director, who is also Director of WordAlone. Most of our work across the ELCA will be done by a network of CORE contacts in synods and by constituent renewal groups. Our goal is to coordinate these efforts by providing communication tools and information. Lutheran CORE will be what its members make it.

**How do I join Lutheran CORE?**

Any individual Lutheran, ELCA congregation, or reform group can join Lutheran CORE by sending us a letter or an email stating that you accept the Common Confession and want to join with us to pray and work for reform in the ELCA.

**How do I contribute financially to Lutheran CORE?**

Make your donations payable to “WordAlone Network” and marked “Lutheran CORE” on the memo line. Mail your donation to: WordAlone Network, 2299 Palmer Drive, Suite 220, New Brighton, MN 55112. Your donations are tax-deductible.