

## Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations Confession of Faith and Statement Purpose

The congregations of CALC find our unity in our common Confession of Faith and Purpose as set forth in Articles Three and Five of our Constitution:

### ARTICLE THREE - CONFESSION OF FAITH

1. [The Bible](#): The Association accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as a whole and in all their parts as the divinely inspired, revealed, and inerrant Word of God, and joyfully submits to this as the only infallible authority in all matters of life and faith.
2. [Faith in the Triune God](#): The Association is built upon faith in the ever-living Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as revealed in the Holy Scriptures to Whom be the glory for ever and ever (see the three Ecumenical Creeds).
  3. [God the Father](#).
    - 3.1. Almighty God, Creator of the universe, Who formed man in His own image, Who from the beginning loved goodness and hated evil, desires that the children of His creation live in eternal fellowship with Him. We hold to the creation and fall of humanity as described in the first chapters of Genesis, not as myth, but as historic facts.
    - 3.2. Therefore, the Creator gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16) to be the Savior of the world, that people might be set free from the bondage of sin, and become joint heirs with Jesus Christ of eternal life.
4. [Jesus Christ, God's only Son and our Savior](#).
  - 4.1. At the heart and centre of this faith is confidence in Jesus Christ and love for Him, the Eternal Word of God, true God (only Son of the Father from eternity), and true man (born of the Virgin Mary), and the only Savior of the world.
  - 4.2. The reason for our being the Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregations is to proclaim salvation solely by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ.
5. [Dependence upon the Holy Spirit](#). We also acknowledge dependence upon the Holy Spirit working solely through the Means of Grace to call unbelievers into saving faith in Jesus Christ, to empower believers to grow in faith, to bestow His gifts for the ministry of the Church locally and universally, to inspire love for one another, and to bring glory to the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Head of the Church.
6. [Symbols: Basic and Required](#): As brief and true statements of the doctrines of the Word of God, this Association accepts and confesses the following Symbols, subscription to which shall be required of all its members, both congregations and individuals:
  - 6.1. The ancient Ecumenical Creeds: The Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian;
  - 6.2. The Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism.
7. [Book of Concord: Normative](#): As further elaboration of and in accordance with these Lutheran Symbols, this Association also receives the other documents in the Book of Concord of 1580: the Apology, Luther's Large Catechism, the Smalcald Articles (including the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope) and the Formula of Concord; and recognizes them as normative for its theology.
8. [Pure Doctrine](#): The Association accepts without reservation these symbolic books of the Lutheran Church not insofar as but because they are the presentation and explanation of the pure doctrine of the Word of God and a summary of the faith of the evangelical Lutheran Church.

## ARTICLE FIVE - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

1. [Witness to the Christian Faith](#). The Canadian Association of Lutheran Congregation is a fellowship of congregations to which the Gospel of reconciliation has been given. It seeks to focus and coordinate the purposes and resources of these Congregations so that the Triune God may be more fully known among all people through a faithful ministry of God's Word and the Sacraments. The Association dedicates itself to bear witness to the eternal Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in its fullness and purity, and to preserve and extend the unity of that faith as revealed in God's Holy Word.
2. [Proclamation and Propagation](#). Through the Means of Grace, the Association specifically purposes to proclaim and propagate this eternal Gospel to the lost and weary of this world, and to provide for daily renewal and sanctification of the members of its congregations.
3. [Emphases](#). The emphases of the Association shall be evangelism, missions, prayer, the study of the Holy Scriptures, and the application of these to daily living within congregations and caring ministries.
4. [Statement of Mission](#): The mission of this Association is to:
  - 4.1. Assist Associate and Member Congregations and Individual members in coordinating joint efforts for the sake of Jesus Christ and His Church.
    - 4.1.1. These shall include the emphases of the Association. These may also include (but are not limited to) other areas such as: conferences and seminars; exchange visits; lay activities; distribution of Bibles and other literature; children's homes, Bible camps, Bible schools, ministries to women, men, youth, singles, families; chaplaincy work; and other caring ministries.
    - 4.1.2. Assist the congregations involved with the Association in the nurture of the children, youth, and adults in the covenant of their Baptism that they may grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ and in their life of loving and obedient faith in Him.
    - 4.1.3 Study the problems of contemporary life and society in the light provided by the sacred Scriptures in order to bring to bear as Christian understanding of human nature, Law and Gospel, and Dr. Martin Luther's insight concerning the two kingdoms, in order to enter effectively into society and government to help in dealing justly and mercifully with such problems.
    - 4.1.4. Develop, produce, and broadcast programs to communicate the Gospel using various communication media such as radio, television, audio and video tapes, motion pictures, etc.
    - 4.1.5. Establish pension, medical, and disability plans in order to provide assistance for the pastors, eligible laity, and their families.
  - 4.2 Assist Member Congregations on the roster of this Association to:
    - 4.2.1. Establish congregations and missions throughout the world as centres for the proclamation of God's Word and proper administration of the Sacraments, Christian evangelism, ministries of outreach and mercy, and Christian fellowship and growth.
    - 4.2.2. Train and discipline an ordained ministry for the administration of the Means of Grace.
    - 4.2.3. Provide theological and parish education and ministry to those involved in higher education.
    - 4.2.4. Establish and maintain cooperative relationships and support with other denominations, groups, and independent movements, who are in doctrinal agreement, so that together we may effectively minister the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the whole world.