

Mission Statement of Christ the King Lutheran Church

We serve one Lord, Jesus Christ, who calls us through Word and sacrament
to reach out to all people, encourage growth in faith,
and nurture loving and caring relationships.

We believe, without reservation, that when we step out in faith,
the Lord will provide all that we need.

Our Commitment to Mission

Our Mission Statement inspires us to carry out a ministry of **welcome, worship, responsibility, support, education, and discipleship** (from our Vision Statement). Because there are many different ways to implement this ministry, we must be attentive to diverse ideas, and be innovative and cooperative with one another without abandoning our mission and vision. As we meet these challenges, we commit ourselves to these things which we hold to be true:

- The good news of Jesus Christ shall be proclaimed to all people, without exception, following Christ's commands to "*Go, and make disciples of all nations*" (Matthew 28:19), and "*love one another as I have loved you*" (John 13:34), and that we must persistently seek ways to include all people in the life of the church, denouncing every form of abuse inflicted upon them.
- Marriage is the uniquely personal-sexual-spiritual relationship, ordained by God, between a man and a woman (cf. Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6), and the divine example of Christ's covenantal relationship with his Church (cf. Isaiah 62:5; Jeremiah 31:31-33; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:28-30; Revelation 21:2-3, 9)*. All other loving and caring relationships outside of marriage share many of the vital features inherent in a marital relationship, such as loyalty, trust, and friendship, which are among the gifts from God that bind us in community with one another.**
- The Word of God, revealed in both the Old and New Testaments, is the Church's authority in all matters of faith and life ^, and has a two-fold purpose: To convict us of our sin while assuring us of forgiveness and redemption through faith in Jesus Christ. ^^ Though sinful, we are made right with God through faith in Christ alone, and thus are compelled to love as Christ loves us as we respond to the ethical and spiritual challenges that daily confront us.

* All Scripture texts in this paragraph are reprinted on the back page

** See reference to social statement, also printed on the back page

^ CTK Constitution, C2.03

^^ CTK Constitution, C2.02.b

***BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO MARRIAGE**

Genesis 2:24 (NRSV)

²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

Matthew 19:4-6 (NRSV)

⁴Jesus answered, “Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵and 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’? ⁶So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate (covenantal language).”

***BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO MARRIAGE AS DIVINE IMAGERY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD**

Isaiah 62:5 (NRSV)

⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Jeremiah 31:31-33 (NRSV)

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

2 Corinthians 11:2 (NRSV)

²I feel a divine jealousy for you(church of Corinth), for I promised you in marriage to one husband, to present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Ephesians 5:28-30 (NRSV)

²⁸In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body.

Revelation 21:2-3 (NRSV)

²And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them;

Revelation 21:9 (NRSV)

⁹Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the bride (God’s people, the church), the wife of the Lamb(Christ).”

****FROM “HUMAN SEXUALITY: GIFT AND TRUST”**

(Social statement passed by the 2009 ELCA churchwide assembly, Part IV, pages 14-15.)

“The historic Christian tradition and the Lutheran Confessions have recognized marriage as a covenant between a man and a woman...The public promises of marriage between a man and a woman, therefore, also protect the community by holding people accountable to their vows. Fidelity to promises blesses all who depend on this trust within and beyond the marriage.”