



Our Core Values

Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg on October 31, 1517. These historical doctrinal challenges were introduced by Luther with the following words, “*Out of love for the truth and the desire to bring it to light, the following propositions will be discussed ...*” And, so, the conversation began and the Reformation was born!

We would say, along with Luther, *out of love for the truth and the desire to bring it to light*, the following 9.5 propositions are here presented as they reflect some of our core beliefs:

1. We believe, teach, and confess the Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit;
2. We believe, teach and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and the gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe in Him;
3. We believe, teach and accept the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God, and the sole authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith and fellowship;
4. We believe, teach and uphold the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman. As part of the Body of Christ, we also uphold the idea of family as an extended family, or a *family on mission*;
5. We believe, teach and proclaim that Jesus Christ is “...the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father...” except through Him;
6. We believe, teach and propose that Lutheranism is a movement, flowing out of the wellspring of a confessional faith and is postured historically to help bring another reformation within the Church and a greater unity to the whole Body of Christ; thereby posturing ourselves as Kingdom movement;
7. We believe, teach and confess the Gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the orthodox/historical creeds as the power of God to create and sustain the priesthood of all believers for God's mission in the world;

8. We believe in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit and believe, teach and support the idea that every Christian is called and empowered to be a minister of Jesus Christ; and, thus, operate in the fullness of his or her gifts;
9. We believe, teach and encourage the development of missional communities/small groups to equip disciples for the good work of the ministry as they experience the joy of what it means to be the Church;
- 9.5. We believe, teach and boldly state that the only viable and lasting hope for the survival of our nation is for the Church to be *His Church*. May the Holy Spirit bring about another Great Awakening—through His Church—for such a time as this!