

Draft new Statement of Faith

The Lutheran Church in Great Britain confesses one Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.

1. This church confesses Jesus Christ, truly God and truly human, as Lord of the Church and Saviour of the world. In Christ, God's Word Incarnate, God reveals His divine love to all sinful humankind. The proclamation of God's gracious action in Jesus Christ towards all of creation is Gospel or Good News to all humanity. This Church holds that through the Gospel, God's Holy Spirit calls and sustains the Church through the gift of faith. In this gift of faith God reconciles us to Himself and frees believers to live in love towards God, one another and all people.
2. This Church acknowledges the Holy Scriptures as the sole norm for the faith and the life of the Church. The Holy Scriptures are the divinely inspired record of God's redemptive act in Christ, for which the Old Testament prepared the way and which the New Testament proclaims. In the continuation of this proclamation in the Church, God still speaks through the Holy Scriptures and realises His redemptive purpose generation after generation.
3. This Church accepts the Three Ecumenical Creeds and the Lutheran Confessions, especially the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, and Luther's Small Catechism, as pure expositions of the Word of God, and acknowledges as one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teaching of these symbols.
4. This Church accepts the other symbolical books of the evangelical Lutheran faith; i.e. The Apology of the Augsburg Confession, The Smalcald Articles, Luther's Large Catechism and the Formula of Concord as further valid interpretations of the confession of this Church.
5. This Church affirms that the Gospel is transmitted by the Holy Scriptures, to which the creeds and confessions bear witness. It is the true treasure of the Church, the substance of its proclamation and the basis of its unity and continuity. In both Word and Sacraments Christ comes to us, and the Holy Spirit creates and sustains Christian faith and life; in Baptism we are incorporated into Christ, and in Holy Communion Christ comes to us most personally and gives us forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.
6. This Church affirms that as baptized Christians we are all children of God, at once sinners and saints. We welcome each other as worshippers and servants of Christ. We encourage all Christian people, having thus been incorporated into the priesthood of all believers, to express their faith in the Church and in daily life.

7. This Church affirms the special ministry of proclamation of the Gospel in the Apostolic tradition and administration of the Sacraments. Through the ministry of Word and Sacraments, exercised together with diaconal service, the Church fulfils its divine mission and purpose.
8. This Church affirms the call of the Gospel to unity, reconciliation and healing. We therefore commit ourselves to the pursuit of all that makes for unity within the One Body of Christ.
9. This Church affirms the God-given human dignity of all people, rejoicing in the diversity of God's creation. We commit ourselves to always struggle for justice, peace and the integrity of creation.