

A Statement of Core Values for the International Lutheran Laymen's League and its Lutheran Hour Ministries.

As an auxiliary of both The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Lutheran Church—Canada, we, the Board, Staff, Volunteers and the other Constituency of the International Lutheran Layman's League and its Lutheran Hour Ministries, will align ourselves and seek collaboration with these church bodies and their affiliated church bodies worldwide, to fulfill our mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*. We will also hold to the true and changeless word of Scripture and to the faithful interpretation of that Scripture as expounded upon in the Lutheran Confessions and presented in the Book of Concord. Further, we will guide and limit our activities as an organization in accordance with the following longstanding Christian culture of traditional and aspirational beliefs and values.

We are guided by:

Christian Love:

In that we practice and support Servanthood, Inclusiveness, Mutual Respect and Reconciliation.

Christian Leadership:

In that we practice and encourage Integrity, Honesty, Excellence and Teamwork.

Christian Faith:

In that we are Mission-Focused, Bible-Based, Prayerful and Courageous.

Christian Stewardship:

In that we practice and promote Transparency, Accountability and Innovation.

CHRISTIAN LOVE

Servanthood:

We believe it is our honor and privilege to reflect God's love for us by serving the Family of Christ, by reaching out to the lost and by engaging both of them through prayer, proclamation and programs.

⁴ rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him. ...¹⁴ If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you. John 13:14-15 ESV

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Galatians 5:13 ESV

Inclusiveness:

We believe that all people are equally loved and cherished by God. Because of this, we will treat each member of the Priesthood of Believers as our dear brother or sister in Christ and we will proclaim the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to the entire world as the Holy Spirit opens paths for proclamation.

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matt. 28:19-20 ESV

² Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³ For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me." ⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:2-6 ESV

Mutual Respect:

We hold that we are to treat each other with respect and kindness in all matters. This is not to say we will not disagree at times, but when we disagree, we will do so with the respect, tolerance and love that God expects of His children.

For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died. Rom. 14:15 ESV

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. Matt. 18:21-22 ESV

You shall not be partial in judgment. You shall hear the small and the great alike. You shall not be intimidated by anyone, for the judgment is God's. And the case that is too hard for you, you shall bring to me, and I will hear it.' Deut. 1:17 ESV

Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor. 1 Peter 2:17 ESV

¹ My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ² For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," ⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? James 2:1-4 ESV

Reconciliation:

We believe in the need to practice reconciliation with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Because of our sinful nature, disagreements and opposing views will arise even as we strive for the Unity of Spirit spoken of by St. Paul in Romans 15:5. When these differences arise, we will reach out with respect and with Christian love to try to understand the differences and to make peace with our brother or sister as guided by Matthew 18.

²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶ Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. Matthew 5:23-26 ESV

that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:19ESV

⁵ May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, Matthew 5:23-26 ESV

¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses

to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Matthew 18:15-17ESV

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

Integrity:

We believe that we are to be honest and fair in our interactions with our entire constituency. With the help of God, we will do what we say we will do; we will not attempt to deceive in any way; and we will take responsibility for our actions.

And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. Luke 6:31

"One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. Luke 16:10

Far be it from me to say that you are right; till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.

Job 27:5

May integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for you. Ps.25:21

With upright heart he (David) shepherded them and guided them with his skillful hand. Ps. 78:72

⁷ Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and in your teaching show integrity, dignity, ⁸ and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us. Titus 2:7-8

Honesty:

We believe that we are to be fair and truthful in all of our words and actions. We will not speak or act with any intentional deceit. If we find we have spoken or acted improperly, we will, with Christian love, take whatever actions are necessary to correct the error. We take seriously the bond of faith established with our constituency and will strive to protect and preserve that bond as well as the reputation of each constituent.

Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit. Prov. 12:17 ESV

"You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.'" Mark 10:19 ESV

Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, Eph 4:15

Excellence:

In response to His love for us, we will give God and His children our very best by striving for excellence in all we attempt and all we do. By the Grace of God we have each been given talents which we share. Further, we willingly and joyfully use those talents to further the Kingdom of God here on earth, trusting that the Lord will perfect our imperfections.

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Cor. 12:9 ESV

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Phil. 4:8 ESV

Teamwork:

We recognize the value of working together and will act to maintain a culture in which we develop, empower and support teams to accomplish those goals that cannot be achieved by individuals. Further, we actively seek to develop Christian leadership and servanthood through teambuilding activities.

*¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³ bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.
Col. 3:12-14 (ESV)*

And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. Mark 6:7 ESV

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go. Luke 10:1 ESV

CHRISTIAN FAITH

Mission-Focused:

In response to God's love for us, we believe it is our privilege to proclaim God's message of salvation through Jesus Christ to all the peoples in all the world. By the Grace of God, we shall continue to "Bring Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church."

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8 ESV

Bible-Based:

We believe the Bible to be the complete and inerrant Word of God; written by man, but inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is one of the means by which God has chosen to teach, inform and admonish this sinful world. Because of this, the Bible, which contains the Law and Gospel, is both the source and the final word for all programs and publications produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Ps. 119:105 ESV

¹⁴ I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, ¹⁵ if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. 2 Timothy 3:14-15

Prayerful:

We believe that through prayer the Holy Spirit can bring us into an intimate relationship with God and His Son Jesus. God wants us to come to Him with all of our requests and has promised to answer our prayers for the sake of His Son Jesus.

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart.

Luke 18:1 ESV

do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Phil. 4:6 ESV

Courageous:

Courage has been defined as the quality that lets one move forward in the face of adversity. We believe that with the example of courage demonstrated in the life and death of Jesus Christ and with the never-failing power of the Holy Spirit Christ showed us the true meaning of courage

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13 ESV

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

Transparency:

We believe trust is a critically important attribute for any individual or organization trying to develop relationships. We also believe that to build trust among our constituency we must clearly present our values, goals and decision-making processes. In that regard, we will operate in an open and public manner, with clearly stated Vision and Mission Statements, Core Values and Strategic Goals. [Further we will be open in all aspects of how, why and what we do.]

And they did not ask an accounting from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to pay out to the workmen, for they dealt honestly. 2 Kings 12:15 ESV

I know, my God, that you test the heart and have pleasure in uprightness. In the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people, who are present here, offering freely and joyously to you. 1 Ch. 29:17 ESV

If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? Luke 16:11 ESV

But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

James 5:12 ESV

Accountability:

We believe that an open and trustworthy organization should be accountable to its stakeholders. We will review and evaluate programs and strategies, holding ourselves accountable for performance and outcomes.

"If anyone sins in that he hears a public adjuration to testify, and though he is a witness, whether he has seen or come to know the matter, yet does not speak, he shall bear his iniquity;

Lev.5:1 ESV

Thus says the Lord GOD, Behold, I am against the shepherds, and I will require my sheep at their hand and put a stop to their feeding the sheep. No longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, that they may not be food for them.

Eze 34:10 ESV

Let what you say be simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything more than this comes from evil. Matt 5:37 ESV

Innovation:

From early in the history of the International Lutheran Layman's League, the message has been constant, The Proclamation of the saving Gospel Message to All People. Over the years, this has been accomplished in many ways and in many languages. We believe that by taking advantage of current and future technologies we will have the best opportunity to reach the greatest number of people who do not know Christ or His Gospel message.

Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men. Prov. 22:29 ESV

⁸ The master commended the dishonest manager for his shrewdness. For the sons of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than the sons of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of unrighteous wealth, so that when it fails they may receive you into the eternal dwellings. Luke 16:8-9 ESV

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:
1Peter 4:10 ESV*