

# What Our Church Believes

Word of God Evangelical Lutheran Church  
406 W. Dewitt Street  
Pana, IL 62557

- 1) We believe that the 66 canonical books of the Bible differ from all other books in the world in that they are the **Word of God** (II Tim. 3:16).
- 2) We believe regarding the Bible that it is given by God to the Christian Church for the **foundation of faith** (Eph. 2:20).
- 3) We believe that the Bible is in all its parts, the infallible Word of God, and hence, does not contain error.
- 4) On the basis of the Bible we believe that the **one true God** is the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost, three distinct persons, but of one and the same divine essence (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19).
- 5) We believe that God has **created the entire universe** in the manner and in the space of time recorded in the Bible, namely, by His almighty creative word, and in six days (Gen. 1 & 2).
- 6) We believe that the first man was not brute like nor merely capable of intellectual development, but that God **created man in His own image** (Gen 1:25-27).
- 7) We believe that **sin came into the world** by the fall of the first man (Gen. 3).
- 8) We believe that **God the Son**, the second person of the Godhead, was made man by assuming, from the Virgin Mary through the operation of the Holy Ghost, a human nature like unto ours, yet without sin.
- 9) We believe that God has **reconciled the whole world** unto Himself through the substitutionary life and death of Jesus Christ (God the Son become also true man). (Gal. 4:4-5)
- 10) We believe that the **reconciliation effected by Christ** must be proclaimed to people in the Gospel, to the end that they may believe it (II Cor. 5:18-19).
- 11) We believe that faith in Christ is the only way for people to obtain personal reconciliation with God, that is, **forgiveness of sins** (John 3:16-18,36).
- 12) We believe that all people, since the Fall into sin of the first man, are **dead in sins** and inclined only to evil (Ephesians 2:1-3).

- 13) We believe that all **people by nature regard the Gospel of Christ**, crucified for the sins of the world, as foolishness (I Corinthians 2:14).
- 14) We believe that **faith in the Gospel** is neither wholly nor in the least part the work of man, but the work of God's almighty power alone (Phil. 1:29; I Cor. 12:3).
- 15) We do NOT believe that faith in Jesus as God and Savior is worked by people making a "**decision for Christ**" (Phil 2:13; Ezek 36:26).
- 16) We believe that God has already declared the whole world to be righteous in Jesus Christ, and that therefore, not for the sake of their **good works**, but without the works of the Law, by grace, for Christ's sake, He justifies all those who believe in Christ, that is believe, accept and rely on, the fact that for Christ's sake their sins are forgiven (Roman 3:23-24; II Cor 5:19).
- 17) We do NOT believe that **good works** are necessary to obtain salvation (Eph. 2:8-9).
- 18) We believe that **good works** in the eyes of God can only be performed by people who first believe, by God's power, that God has forgiven them their sins and has given them eternal life by grace, for Christ's sake (John 15: 4-5).
- 19) We believe that God offers to people the spiritual blessings purchased by Christ, namely, the **forgiveness of sins and the eternal life** connected therewith, only through the Word of the Gospel, Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Romans 10:17; Acts 22:16; I Cor 11:23-30).
- 20) We believe that the **members of the Christian Church** are the all those who have despaired of their own righteousness before God and believe that God forgives their sins for Christ's sake (Acts 5:14).
- 21) We believe that God ordained that **His Word only**, without the admixture of human doctrine, be taught and believed in the Christian Church (I Peter 4:11; John 8:31-32; I Tim 6: 3-4).
- 22) We believe that all Christians are required by God to discriminate between orthodox (those teaching all of the Bible, and nothing but the Bible) and heterodox (those teaching only part of the Bible, and adding non-Biblical teachings) church groups, and to have **fellowship only with orthodox groups** (Matt 7:15; Rom 16:17; II John 9-11; II Tim 2:17-21).
- 23) We believe that Christians of a certain locality must make provision that the Word of God be publicly preached in their midst, and Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper be administered according to the institution of Christ in their midst, by **persons qualified for such work** (Titus 1:5; Acts 14:23; 20:28; II Tim 2:2).

24) We believe that both **Church and State** are ordinances of God, yet they must not be commingled (I Tim 2:2; John 18:11,36; II Cor 10:4; Rom 13:1-4).

25) We believe that in the New Testament era God has **abrogated the Sabbath and all the holy days** prescribed for the Church of the Old Testament era (Col 2:16; Rom 14:5; Gal 4:10-11).

26) We do NOT believe any type of **Millennialism**, the opinions that Christ will return visibly to this earth a thousand years before the end of the world and establish a dominion of the Church of the world.

27) We believe that the **Church and Kingdom of Christ** on earth will remain under the cross until the end of the world (Acts 14:22; John 16:33; 18:36; Luke 9:23; 14:27; 17:20-37).

28) We believe that the **second visible coming** of the Lord Jesus Christ will be His final coming, His coming to judge the quick and the dead (Matt. 24:29-30; 25:31-46; II Tim 4:1; II Thess 2:8; Heb 9:26-28).

29) We believe that there will be but one **resurrection of the dead** (John 5:28; 6:39-40).

30) We believe that the **time of the Last Day** is, and will remain, unknown (Matt 24:42; 25:13; Mark 13:32-37; Acts 1:7).

31) We believe that there will be no general conversion, a conversion *en masse*, of the **Jewish nation** (Rom 11:7,25; II Cor 3:14; I Thes 2:14-16; Rom 9:6).

32) We believe that the prophecies of the Holy Scriptures concerning the **Antichrist** have been fulfilled in the Pope of Rome and his dominion (II Thes 2:3-12; I John 2:18).