

## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

- A. We believe in one God, who is creator of all things, and eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
1. God the Father is perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of humanity, that He hears and answers prayers, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ.
  2. Jesus Christ is truly God and truly Man, who because of our sin and separation from God, and at the Father's bidding, took on flesh and was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He became like us in all things apart from sin. He died on the cross to pay for our sin and reconcile us to God, and on the third day rose bodily from the dead, and ascended to heaven to sit now at the right hand of God the Father. He is the King and sole head of the church, the Lord and Savior of us all, and will one day return in glory and power to judge all people and to usher in the Kingdom of God in its fullness.
  3. The Holy Spirit, whose ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, is our comforter. He dwells within all believers and continues to empower, strengthen, guide, convict us of sin, righteousness, and judgment and gives gifts for the common good. He is moving among us sovereignly and supernaturally, revealing His presence with outpourings of His Spirit. These outpourings of the Holy Spirit, His gifts and powers, are available to each believer; however, they are not our possessions but are sovereignly given by Him as we obey His direction.
- B. We believe that the Bible, the Holy Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments, to be the verbally inspired Word of God without error in the original writings, the infallible rule of faith and practice for the church of Jesus Christ. The scriptures have binding authority on all people. All other sources of knowing stand under the judgment of the Word of God.
- C. We believe that the central content of the Scriptures is the gospel of Jesus Christ which teaches:
1. That humanity was created in the image of God but fell into sin and is therefore lost and separated from God.
  2. That the good news is we are saved by the grace of God alone, the same grace revealed and fulfilled in the life and death of Jesus Christ. This grace of God is received only by faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior apart from any of our actions. Yet this faith does not remain alone but gives rise to works of love, mercy, and justice.
  3. That there is a bodily resurrection of all the dead: the believers to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord, and the unbelievers to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

- D. We believe in the church as a living body of believers of which Christ is the sole head and King.
1. The mission of the church is to bear witness to God's law and gospel through prayer, love, and worship, in honor and obedience to our King.
  2. We believe that the local church is to imitate Christ in a life of holiness, in prayer and meditation toward God, in praise and worship of God, in love and unity, in mercy, humility, and integrity.
  3. We also believe that the local church is to imitate Christ in ministry by observing the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper; preaching the Word; healing the sick, possessed, and dying; caring for the poor; and standing for righteousness and against evil, going into the world as disciples of Christ and bringing to all peoples the truth of the good news of Jesus Christ, baptizing those who believe in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
  4. We seek to obey this commission in the full assurance that our Lord and Savior is with us always, even to the end of the age.