

## **Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life**

*Adopted at Voter's Meeting 11/20/2016*

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. The worth of human life is beyond our ability to calculate in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Ps. 139).

## **Wedding Policy**

*Adopted at Voter's Meeting 11/20/2016*

The marriage policy of Faith Lutheran Church, Branson, a member congregation of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod, is and always has been consistent with the Synod's beliefs on marriage. We believe that marriage is a sacred union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24-25), and that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph. 5:32). The official position of The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod, as set forth in 1998 Res. 3-21 ("To Affirm the Sanctity of Marriage and to Reject Same-Sex Unions"), is that homosexual unions come under categorical prohibition in the Old and New Testaments (Lev. 18:22, 24; 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:9-10) as contrary to the Creator's design (Rom. 1:26-27). These positions and beliefs can be found on the LCMS website, along with other statements, papers and reports on the subject of homosexuality and same-sex civil unions and marriage. Our pastors will not officiate over any weddings inconsistent with these beliefs, and our church property may not be used for any wedding ceremony, reception or other activity that would be inconsistent with our beliefs and this policy. No wedding service may be performed at Faith unless officiated solely by ordained members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. The pastor of Faith must review the form and content of such services in advance to confirm that they are in accordance with Holy Scripture and the confessional and doctrinal position of the Synod.

## **Religious Employment Criteria**

*Adopted at Voter's Meeting 11/20/2016*

According to its constitution (Article 2.0), Faith Lutheran Church, Branson, MO, exists

- (1) to give honor and glory to God and to carry out His will.
- (2) to assist in the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the entire world.
- (3) to manifest the unity of our faith in Jesus Christ as God and Savior.
- (4) to foster Christian fellowship and love.
- (5) to extend a helping hand in human need.
- (6) to achieve our objective by the preaching of the Word of God, the administration of the sacraments, and the religious instruction of all its members according to the confessional standards identified in Article 3 of its constitution.

Faith Lutheran Church may employ or call full- and part-time employees in order to assist in fulfilling these stated outcomes. Ministerial employees are individuals who are tasked with performing the church's rituals or teaching and explaining its beliefs (pastors, teachers, commissioned ministers, etc). Non-ministerial employees may also be hired to perform other duties (example: custodian).

Ministerial employees and volunteers are required to profess and adhere to the confessional standard set forth in Article 3 of Faith's constitution.

Ministerial employees and all volunteers who are responsible for handling money, supervising youth and elderly will submit to a background check.

All employees will sign a statement affirming that they will not act contrary to Faith's statements of belief and practice. Acting contrary to the organizations statements of beliefs and practice constitutes good cause to terminate employment.