

What is Lutheran CORE?

Lutheran CORE is a Community of Confessing Lutherans who believe that the Bible is the only and final authority in matters of faith and life, and who accept the Lutheran Confessions as a faithful and trustworthy witness to the Word of God.

Lutheran CORE's members represent the vast theological middle of Lutheranism in North America — spanning geographical regions, church bodies, vocations, and political viewpoints. We are united by our common commitment to the authority of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions in the life of the Church.

Lutheran CORE is a community whose membership includes individuals, congregations, organized renewal groups and Lutheran churches.

Who provides leadership for Lutheran CORE?

Lutheran CORE is led by a Steering Committee with representatives of our partner reform movements. Bishop Paull Spring, the retired bishop of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod ELCA, chairs the Steering Committee. Pastor Mark Chavez is the director of Lutheran CORE.

An Advisory Council of pastors, scholars, and church leaders provides advice and direction to Lutheran CORE on important issues. Bishop Kenneth Sauer, the retired bishop of the ELCA's Southern Ohio Synod and former chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, chairs the Advisory Council.

An annual Convocation is our chief decision-making body.

Can we join Lutheran CORE if we remain in the ELCA?

Yes. Lutheran CORE is committed to serving both those congregations and individuals who choose to remain affiliated with the ELCA and those who choose to affiliate with other church bodies.

We are committed to helping all traditional Lutherans in North America to remain united in faith and mission. Lutheran CORE is a way for those who uphold traditional Christian teaching — both those who are leaving the ELCA and those who remain — to work together.

Why is Lutheran CORE forming a new church body?

Lutheran CORE is committed to serving those congregations that have determined that they are no longer able to remain in the ELCA. We will aid in the formation of a new church body — the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) — for those congregations. Lutheran CORE will assist those who desire to affiliate with the NALC by doing the work necessary for it to be constituted in August 2010.

The North American Lutheran Church will provide a way for congregations to work together in mission — a denomination with limited bureaucratic structure but with enough structure to enable our shared mission in the world. NALC will be a classical Lutheran denomination equipped for ministry in the modern world.

Lutheran CORE and the NALC will function cooperatively in shared ministry and mission.

Lutheran CORE Steering Committee

Please contact a member of Lutheran CORE's Steering Committee if you have any questions about Lutheran CORE or if we can be of assistance to you in any way.

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What are the Goals of Lutheran CORE?

The over-arching goal of Lutheran CORE is to be a voice for the Word of God within the Church. We are a confessing movement within the Church. We seek the renewal of Lutheran churches according to Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, and we endorse the Common Confession as a summary of Lutheran convictions for our time and place.

Lutheran CORE's work is focused on four key attributes: Christ-Centered; Mission-Driven; Traditionally-Grounded; and Congregationally-Focused.

Lutheran CORE has four goals for our work together:

✚ To uphold the authority of the Bible as the final authority, source and norm of the Church's proclamation, faith, and life, in conformity with the Lutheran Confessions.

✚ To reassert Christ's Great Commission to make disciples of all nations as a priority in the life of the Church through emphases on congregational renewal, launching new congregations, and global missions.

✚ To insist upon the priority of the revealed Name of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in worship and educational materials produced by and for the Church.

✚ To uphold traditional Christian teaching on marriage — as a lifelong covenant of faithfulness between one man and one woman — as taught in Scripture and maintained by the Church throughout the centuries.

How can I support the work of Lutheran CORE?

Lutheran CORE is thankful for your prayers and words of encouragement. We are constantly looking to grow our network of supporters in all areas of North America. If you have not joined Lutheran CORE, do so online. Encourage your congregation to join. Participate in an organized group in your area or help form one if none exists. Contact any Steering Committee member if you would like more information about how to connect with Lutheran CORE.

We also appreciate financial support. Lutheran CORE needs this support to carry out its work as a Community of Confessing Lutherans. We are committed to using ten percent of all gifts to Lutheran CORE to support mission congregations and missionaries.

You may give online at www.lutherancore.org or send gifts to the address below.



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LUTHERAN CORE

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