

# **Volunteer Ministry Statement**

**of**

## **St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin**

The goal of this Ministry Statement is to keep the ministries of St. Paul Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, united in focus on our mission of “Connecting People to Christ.”

### **Statement of Faith**

We believe that the Holy Bible, both the Old Testament and New Testament, in all its words, is the inspired Word of God and, consequently, true and trustworthy; and that it is the only source for the proclamation of the Gospel through which the Holy Spirit creates saving faith in Jesus Christ.

We believe in a triune God who has existed for all time and eternity. He has revealed Himself as Father, Son and Holy Spirit – three distinct persons in one divine essence or being. The Triune God is the embodiment of love and desires that all people be saved by coming to repentant faith in Jesus Christ.

We believe in Jesus Christ as true God and true man. We believe in his virgin birth, in his sinless life, in his teaching, in his death as payment for our sins, in his resurrection and bodily ascension to the Father and in His return in power, glory and judgment on the last day.

We believe that all people are born into this world as sinful and lost human beings and that it is only through faith in Jesus Christ that we can be saved. Such faith is created in sinners when the Holy Spirit works powerfully through the Gospel to miraculously cause spiritual rebirth in a person’s heart.

We believe in the physical resurrection of the dead on Judgment Day. Those who trust in Jesus Christ will rise to eternal life in heaven with God. Those who reject Christ will be condemned to eternal damnation in hell.

We believe that within every believer there is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit who enables us to live a godly life and who empowers us to be His witnesses to other people about the hope that can be found only in Jesus Christ. This same Holy Spirit gathers Christian believers together into His one, holy Church for spiritual fellowship, nurturing, growing in faith and sharing the faith with others.

The ministries of St. Paul Lutheran Church exist in order to share this Christian faith through word and action everywhere we are.

*The above statements do not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible, as the inspired and true Word of God, is the final authority on truth, morality and proper conduct of Christian believers. It is, therefore, the final source of all that we believe. For the purposes of this church’s faith, doctrine, policy and discipline, our pastors, elders and church council, following the Bible and the Confessions of the Lutheran Church, provide the final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and interpretation.*

### **Religious Character**

We are a Christian organization existing for the purpose of “Connecting People to Christ”. All of our ministries strive to exemplify our beliefs. These beliefs should be evident in our ministry efforts when they occur at our facility and also off site. None of our ministry efforts should conflict with our beliefs or promote individuals or organizations which do not respect our beliefs. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity.

**Code of Christian Conduct**

We believe in the law as written in the Bible, including adherence to the Ten Commandments and the guidance of Jesus Christ. Included in the Code of Christian Conduct are respecting the sanctity of human life and avoiding cheating, stealing and disrespecting authority. Also included in the Code of Christian Conduct are sexual codes, including abstaining from sexual contact outside of the marital union of one man and one woman and conforming to one’s biological sex. (See policies #30 and #43).

**Criteria for Working in the Ministries of St. Paul Lutheran Church**

All employees must sign this document affirming their agreement with this Ministry Statement. All employment positions must have a job description which clearly defines the qualities we seek in that particular job and how the job helps fulfill our church’s mission. Volunteers affirm that they respect our beliefs and will not work to disparage or undermine them. This document will be good for three years and then must be resigned to continue service.

**Facility Use Policy**

Our buildings exist through God’s benevolence and the generosity and efforts of our membership of Christian believers. They were created to promote these beliefs through our activities. All activities at our facilities should support the congregation’s discipleship and outreach priorities. Our facilities may not be used by people or groups to spread, advance or practice beliefs in conflict with our faith and moral teachings.

In the event that we enter into agreements to expand our ministries to sites outside our own buildings, the owners or administrators of those buildings must agree to respect our beliefs and not work to disparage, change or undermine our beliefs.

<u>Volunteer</u>	
I, _____, as a volunteer of St. Paul Lutheran Church, affirm that I respect the beliefs of St. Paul and will not work to disparage or undermine those beliefs.	
_____	_____
Signature	Date