



<b>Title: Statement of Faith with Regard to Marriage, Gender and Sexuality</b>
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<b>Policy #: 43</b>
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<b>EXPIRES: When Replaced</b>
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<b>ISSUED BY: Church Council</b>
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<b>SIGNED:</b>
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## 1 History

VERSION	DATE APPROVED	UPDATED BY	PURPOSE FOR CREATION/UPDATE
1.0	9/27/16	ELDER TEAM	TO FORMALLY STATE THE POSITION OF ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH REGARDING THESE TOPICS BASED ON THE BIBLE

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## 2 Scope

This policy is part of St. Paul Lutheran Church's organizational policies.

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## 3 Policy

God, in creating the world, created humanity in His image, as male and female, and gave marriage to be a lifelong union of one man and one woman (Gen. 2:24), a gift to be held in honor and kept pure (Heb. 13:4; 1 Thess. 4:2-5). We believe that God gave marriage as a picture of the relationship between Christ and His bride the Church (Eph. 5:32) and believe that, "on the basis of Scripture, marriage [is] the lifelong union of one man and one woman" (Gen. 2:2-24; Matt. 19:5-6).

In creating humanity as male and female, God enables sexual expression to serve His purposes. Sexual intercourse and all genital sexual activity, the most intimate gifts of human sexual expression, are intended by God to be enacted only within marriage, the lifelong union of man and woman. Because of these truths, we do not accept or condone marriages between people of the same sex and believe that homosexual behavior is prohibited in the Old and New Testaments as contrary to the Creator's design (Lev. 18:22, 24, 20:13; 1 Cor. 6: 9-20; 1 Tim. 1:10; Rom. 1: 26-27). In addition, we believe other forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, fornication, bisexual

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contact, bestiality, incest and the use of pornography are sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15: 18-20; 1 Cor. 6: 9-10).

Gender likewise matters. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female and these distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1: 26-27). Any individual who rejects their biological sex and presents themselves as the opposite sex (transgender) is sinning by rejecting God's design and the person He created them to be. Therefore, bathroom usage is to conform to an individual's gender as created by God.

In light of these policies, based on our beliefs, we believe God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake these sins, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3: 19-21; Rom. 10: 9-10; 1 Cor. 6: 9-11). We believe every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity (Mark 12: 28-31; Luke 6: 31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the policies of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

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#### **4 Procedure**

None

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#### **5 Forms**

None