

ARTICLE II – Statement of Faith

2.1 The Bible – The congregation accepts all the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as a whole and in all their parts as the divinely inspired, revealed, and inerrant Word of God, and joyfully submits to this as the only infallible authority in all matters of life and faith.

2.2 Faith in the Triune God – The congregation is built upon faith in the ever-living Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, to whom be the glory for ever and ever.

2.3 God the Father

2.3.1 Almighty God, Creator of the universe, who formed man in His own image, who from the beginning loved goodness and hated evil, desires that all the children of His creation live in eternal fellowship with Him. We hold to the creation and fall of humanity as described in the first chapters of Genesis, not as a myth, but as historical facts.

2.3.2 Therefore, the Creator gave His only begotten Son (John 3:16) to be the Saviour of the world, that people might be set free from the bondage of sin and become joint heirs with Jesus Christ of eternal life.

2.4 Jesus Christ, God's Only Son and Our Saviour

2.4.1 At the heart and centre of this faith is confidence in Jesus Christ and love for Him, the Eternal Word of God, true God (only Son of the Father from Eternity) and true man (born of the virgin Mary), and the only Saviour of the world.

2.4.2 The reason for our being as the Valhalla Evangelical Lutheran Church is to proclaim salvation solely by grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ.

2.5 Dependence Upon the Holy Spirit – We also acknowledge dependence upon the Holy Spirit working solely through the means of grace to call unbelievers into saving faith in Jesus Christ, to empower believers to grow in faith, to bestow His gifts for the ministry of the church locally and universally, to inspire love for one another, and to bring glory to the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ, the only Head of the Church.

2.6 Symbols: Basic and Required – As brief and true statements of the Word of God, this congregation accepts and confesses the following symbols, subscription to which shall be required of all its members:

2.6.1 The ancient ecumenical Creeds: the Apostolic, the Nicene, and the Athanasian

2.6.2 The Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism

2.7 Book of Concord: Normative – As further elaboration of and in accordance with these Lutheran symbols, this congregation also receives the other documents in the Book of Concord of 1580: the Apology, Luther's Large Catechism, the Smalcald Articles (including the Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope), and the Formula of

Concord, and recognizes them as normative for its theology.

2.8 Pure Doctrine – The congregation accepts without reservation these symbolic books of the Lutheran Church, not insofar as but because they are the presentation and explanation of the pure doctrine of the Word of God and a summary of the faith of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.