

## WHAT DOES LUTHERAN CORE DO? – JULY 2023

Lutheran CORE defines its mission as being a Voice for Biblical Truth and a Network for Confessing Lutherans.

**As a Voice for Biblical Truth we alert people to ways in which the authority of the Bible, the historic, orthodox Christian faith, and traditional, Biblical moral values are being compromised and even rejected.**

1.

We offer guidance in evaluating ELCA communications and decisions. We will monitor the process as the ELCA prepares to vote in 2025 on a plan to reconstitute the ELCA and a possible (probable?) elimination of “bound conscience,” a provision within the 2009 human sexuality social statement which provides a place of honor and respect for traditional views and those who hold them. We reveal ways in which the ELCA misrepresents and misuses its own social statements.

2.

We challenge the ELCA to keep its promise to honor also the traditional view of marriage and human sexuality. We confront the ELCA over their complete lack of support for traditional views.

3.

We provide assistance for pastors and church leaders who want to gather examples to communicate to their congregations ways in which orthodoxy is being threatened within the ELCA.

4.

We include articles in our bi-monthly newsletter, CORE Voice, on such topics as the ways in which the ELCA has rejected the historic Christian faith and has made advancing a radical leftist agenda the main mission of the church.

**As a Network for Confessing Lutherans we assure confessing persons that they are not alone. We provide connection for them with many others who share their concerns and are engaged in the same struggles.**

1.

We provide Facebook groups in which orthodox pastors, seminarians, and lay people can engage in conversation with like-minded people.

We have a private and visible (Facebook terminology) Facebook group that includes pastors, seminarians, and lay people with several different church body affiliations.

We have a private and hidden (again Facebook terminology) Facebook group that is only for orthodox ELCA pastors and seminarians.

We have a third Facebook group, Lutheran CORE Worship, where people can post worship services and Bible studies.

2.

We also communicate through other forms of social media, including You Tube, Instagram, MeWe, and Twitter.

3.

We have a support network for young adults, including seminarians and college students who are planning on attending seminary. We also provide financial assistance for those attending seminary. This group provides support for young adults as they seek to live out their faith and share their faith with their peers.

4.

Through the Clergy Connect page on our website, we help Biblically faithful, confessional congregations and Biblically faithful, confessional pastors find each other.

5.

As requested, we work with congregations that are reviewing their church body affiliation and walk with them through the process.

6.

Through our Congregations in Transition (CiT) ministry we work primarily with call committees that are actively searching for a new pastor. Through our Congregational Lay Leadership Initiative (CLI) we help churches that have not been able to find a new pastor explore the possibility of transitioning to a long-term, lay-led congregational leadership model.

7.

We are one of the sponsors of the NEXUS program at Grand View University in Des Moines, Iowa. This annual event provides a week for high school youth of Bible study, theological reflection, fellowship, involvement in ministry, and vocational discernment.

8.

We support the multi-generational, multi-denominational mission projects of River's Edge Ministries, based in Mt. Airy, Maryland.

Cross Country Mission involves travel to other parts of the country to help communities rebuild from natural disasters like Hurricane Ian.

City Mission involves travel to local sites near Baltimore, Maryland, providing urban relief that includes networking with community organizations and leaders that are already immersed in the mission field.

9.

We hold an annual Encuentro festival in the Chicago area – a day of support, connection, fellowship, inspiration, and resources for pastors, lay leaders, and congregations that are already involved in or are considering becoming involved in Spanish language and/or bi-lingual (English-Spanish) ministry.

10.

We provide on our website two sets of daily devotions (written and podcast), weekly Bible studies based upon the lectionary readings, and worship resources, including prayers and hymn suggestions.

11.

We also provide on our website a page of resources - [Resources - Lutheran Coalition for Renewal \(CORE\) \(lutherancore.website\)](#). This page includes books, magazines, ministries, and other resources recommended by confessional pastors; an annotated [List of Resources for Youth and Young Adults](#); and resources for ministry to LGBTQ+ identified persons.

12.

Through our video ministry we provide a monthly video book review recorded by various Lutheran pastors and theologians on books of interest and importance as well as a series of CORE Convictions videos on various topics related to the Christian faith and life.

13.

We provide a listening ear for pastors who want to talk about such things as congregational dynamics, personal health issues, and/or are anticipating retirement or transitioning to life after retirement.

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