California Lutheran Academy
Statement of Beliefs

Thank you for enrolling your son/daughter at California Lutheran Academy! We are pleased and privileged to serve your family. We are passionate about our mission and thrilled to share the joy of Jesus with our students!

The mission of California Lutheran Academy is spiritual in nature. In addition to offering a well-rounded education, we want every one of our students to learn more about God's Word and Jesus Christ. At CLA, spiritual matters are more than a class or a daily devotion. Lessons from God's Word are an integral part of everything we teach and do.

To that end, we realize that you might not be familiar with who we are or the spiritual nature of what we will teach your son/daughter. Therefore, please read the following basic outline of what we at CLA and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod believe and teach. It is important to us that you have a clear understanding of how we will spiritually serve your son/daughter with the truths of God's Word.

We believe…

The Bible is the true word of God. It clearly teaches all we need to know in order to obtain our eternal life. The Holy Spirit uses the Word of God to give and strengthen Christian faith; therefore, we want to hear, learn, and believe its message. (2 Peter 1:21, I Corinthians 2:13, 2 Timothy 3:16, John 10:35, Luke 11:28, John 5:39, Rom. 10:17)

There is only one true God. In the Bible God reveals himself as three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is why he is called "Triune." These three persons in one God are all God. They are equal in power, glory, and in every quality. To deny or ignore one person is to deny all of them. It is God who created, redeemed, and sanctified us.(Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, John 5:23, Genesis 1:1, I John 2:2, Romans 15:13)

At the beginning of time God created heaven and earth and all creatures. He did this in six regular days—he spoke his almighty word to create all things. He made everything out of nothing. Man and woman are God's special creation. (Genesis 1:1, Genesis 1:31, Exodus 20:11, Psalm 33: 6, 9, Psalm 124:8, Mark 10:6, Hebrews 11:3)

The first man and woman, Adam and Eve, lost the image of God when they gave in to the temptation of Satan and disobeyed God's command. This brought on them the judgment of God. Since that time all people are conceived and born in sin, desire to do what is evil, and are dead spiritually. Therefore, we are unable to reconcile ourselves to God by our own efforts and deeds. (Genesis 2:17, Psalm 51:5, Ephesians 2:1, John 3:6, Psalm 5:4, Romans 5:12, I John 3:4, Romans 8: 7-8)

The message of the gospel is the good news that a loving God sent Jesus Christ to take away the sins of all people. The gospel freely offers to all sinners the righteousness that is found in Jesus. God offers and gives eternal life and salvation to all those who believe in the gospel promises.
(John 1:17, Romans 1:16, John 3:16, Colossians 2:13, Luke 2: 10-11, Ezekiel 33:11)

Jesus Christ is the Savior of everyone. He is the eternal Son of God, equal to the Father and the Holy Spirit. He is also the son of the Virgin Mary. He became man to redeem all people. Taking our place, he

lived a perfect life keeping the law of God for us. He also died as our innocent substitute on the cross to pay a price sufficient for everyone's sin. After rising from the dead, Jesus ascended into heaven. On the Last Day he will judge all the people who are still living and those whom he will raise from the dead. (I John 5:20, Matthew 1:23, Ephesians 1:7, Galatians 3:13, Hebrews 4:15, Romans 1:4, Acts 10:42)

God judged all sinners righteous in his sight when Jesus Christ died on the cross for us. God declared everyone free from the guilt and punishment owed for our sins. The sinner receives this free gift of forgiveness, not by doing good deeds, but only by faith. A person is justified when he or she believes in Christ and his redemptive work. It is a gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8-9, 2 Corinthians 5:19, Romans 3:22-24, Romans 3:28, Romans 4:5, Mark 16:16)

Baptism is a holy act instituted by God. Using water and God's Word, it offers and gives the forgiveness of sins, spiritual life, and eternal salvation. It is meant for young and old, including children. Infants are also sinful and therefore need the spiritual rebirth brought through baptism. (Matthew 28:19, John 3:5-6, Titus 3:5, Mark 10:14, Acts 22:16, Mark 16:16)

Holy Communion is a holy act instituted by Christ. Together with bread and wine we receive Jesus' true body and blood. In this special meal Jesus gives the forgiveness of sins, strengthens our faith, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe. (Matthew 26: 26-28, I Corinthians 10:16, I Corinthians 11:27-28, I Corinthians 10:17)

Christians, empowered and guided by the Holy Spirit, will conform their lives to the Word and will of God, out of love and thanks to God for salvation and all blessings, and to witness their faith to others. (I Thessalonians 4:7, Gal. 5:16, I Corinthians 10:31, I Peter 2: 9-10)

Human life is the gift of a gracious God. Our life is a time of grace during which we have opportunity to learn the way of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Only God has the right to take the life he has given. Life begins at conception and ends when the soul leaves the body. (Acts 17:25,26; Isaiah 55:6; 2 Corinthians 6:1,2; Psalm 31:15; Exodus 20:13; Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5)

Marriage is the union of one man and one woman. It is a partnership in which the man is the loving head. Marriage is established by God. It is a holy relationship not to be broken. A married person sins if he or she divorces without a biblical reason. Before God, no divorce is valid except in cases of fornication or desertion. The tendency to consider marriage as unimportant results in great harm to the family, the church, and the nation. (Genesis 2:18; Ephesians 5:24,25; Hebrews 13:4; Matthew 19:9; 1 Corinthians 7:15; Psalm 51:10)

God clearly teaches us to have compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity with others (Colossians 3:12-14). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture or the doctrines of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and California Lutheran Academy.

God created human sexuality and gender at creation when he tells us that "male and female he created them" (Genesis 1:27). These two distinct, complementary genders are God's design for people as they relate to one another in matters dealing with human sexuality, marriage, and gender (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of God's creative action and design for the individual (Psalm 139:13-14; Jeremiah 1:5).

God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5). We believe that any form of intimate sexual activity outside of God's prescribed marriage bond is sinful and offensive to God (I Corinthians 6:9-10; Heb 13:4).

God forgives all who confess and turn away from their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-20; 1 John 1:9).

If you would like more information regarding what we believe, please refer to the website of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod at www.wels.net.

By enrolling your son/daughter in our school, you understand that the aforementioned will be taught, and you are giving us permission to spiritually serve your son/daughter in this way. It is also understood that your son/daughter is expected to worship with our campus family as we come together daily for chapel. How blessed we are to openly and boldly give thanks and praise to God as we worship him.

It is also understood that your son/daughter will abide by the Christian and moral standards as prescribed to us in God's Word and outlined in our most recent student handbook.

Again, we are so appreciative to be able to serve your family. We thank you for partnering with us as we carry out our mission to you—we are here to provide an exceptional education, preserve a Christ-focused school culture, promote spiritual growth and Christian service, and prepare life-long disciples of Jesus Christ. May God bless our partnership!

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(Signature of Parent) (Signature of Student)

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(Date)