

# **Redeemer Lutheran Church of Las Vegas Nevada**

## **Statement of belief on Gender, Sexual Orientation and Marriage**

Redeemer Lutheran Church of Las Vegas Nevada, as an associate member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (GEN. 1:26–27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. We believe that the term marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (GEN. 2:18–25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 COR. 6:18; 7:2–5; HEB. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (MATT. 15:18–20; 1 COR. 6:9–10). We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Redeemer Lutheran Church of Las Vegas Nevada, as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to Redeemer Lutheran Church of Las Vegas Nevada members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Redeemer Lutheran Church of Las Vegas Nevada in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (MATT. 5:16; PHIL. 2:14–16; 1 THESS. 5:22). We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (ACTS 3:19–21; ROM. 10:9–10; 1 COR. 6:9–11). We believe that 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 doctrines of Redeemer Lutheran Church of Las Vegas, Nevada.

The words of the LCMS first president, Dr. Walther ([1847-1850](#)) put it well: *The Lutheran church believes, teaches and confesses, in accordance with God's Word, that the secular government does not have the power to command its subjects to do anything that God has prohibited, nor does it have the power to prohibit anything that God has commanded, nor does the government have the power to force its subjects to do anything that violates their conscience* (All Glory to God, CPH, p. 467).