

LEaD Alaska Statement of Faith

God always has and always will exist as a single, unlimited, perfect and holy being, in three distinct and equal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 28:19).

Everything else in the universe was created by God, for the purpose of glorifying His name and demonstrating His goodness (Genesis 1:1). This includes both the spiritual world and the natural world (Colossians 1:16). Satan (formerly Lucifer) and his demons were originally created as good angelic beings, but later made the choice to oppose God and His plan (Ezekiel 28:11-17). They continue to exist today as real, personal beings who oppose God and His people (1 Peter 5:8), and will one day be judged by God forever (Revelation 20:10).

People, too, were created good and without sin, in God's image (Genesis 1:26-28). They chose to sin and became separated from God, condemned to die (Genesis 3, Romans 5:12).

Though people failed, God continued to reach out to them, and revealed Himself through His Word, the Bible. Every single word in the Bible was inspired by God and written down by human beings (Matthew 5:18, 2 Peter 1:19-21, 1 Timothy 3:16). The original writings contained no mistakes, and so the Bible provides the final authority in all of life (Proverbs 30:5).

To overcome sin once and for all, God sent His son Jesus, who is both fully God (John 1:1) and fully human (Luke 2:52), perfectly united in one person. Jesus was born to a virgin (Matthew 1:18-23), lived a perfect and sinless life (Hebrews 4:15), and then died on a cross as our substitute, taking the punishment for the sins of humanity (Isaiah 53:6). He then rose from the dead and ascended to heaven where He reigns today (Acts 1:9-11).

People can be saved from sin and death only by trusting in this work that Jesus has accomplished—it is a free gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9). Nothing else we can do can remove our guilt before God (Isaiah 64:6).

At the moment a person trusts in Jesus, God the Holy Spirit instantly and permanently indwells the believer (Romans 8:9). The Holy Spirit is God Himself, a person, not a "thing" or a "force" (John 16:7-15). The Holy Spirit gives the believer eternal life (Titus 3:5), as well as power to resist sin, live a godly life, and serve Him (Acts 1:8, Galatians 5:22-23). Though believers can still choose to sin and resist the day-to-day work of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:17-21), the Holy Spirit will convict and convince them of sin in their lives (John 16:8, 1 John 1:9). The Holy Spirit's presence in the life of the believer is a permanent seal that guarantees their eternal destiny (Ephesians 4:30).

The baptism of the Holy Spirit unites all believers everywhere into a worldwide entity called "the Church" or the "Body of Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:13). Jesus is the Church's leader (Ephesians 5:30), and He established it for the sole purpose of sharing the gospel and making disciples throughout the whole world in preparation for His return (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8).

When He does return, Jesus will judge the entire world (Revelation 20:11-12). Unbelievers will be sentenced to eternal separation from God and thrown into Hell for all eternity (Revelation 20:14-15). Believers' bodies will be resurrected and transformed to live with God forever in a perfectly renewed creation, free from all sin and suffering (1 Corinthians 15, Revelation 21:3-4).

Appendix

For comparison purposes, the statement of faith from each individual LEaD Alaska partner organization is listed below. Individual statements are broken down and grouped into the eight major categories of systematic theology.

Theology Proper

- In one holy God, Creator of all things, eternally existing in three different persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (ABC)
- THE ONE TRIUNE GOD: Existing eternally as three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:22; Matt.28:19; 2 Cor.13:14). (AMC)
- We believe there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 28:19; John 14:15, 26; 1 Peter 1:2 (AFJ))
- We believe in the triune Godhead, composed of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, coexistent, eternal, omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent. (Deut. 6:4; I Peter 1:2; John 1:1; Acts 5:3-4) (InterAct)

Angelology

- In the personality and eternal punishment of Satan. (ABC)
- SATAN: His existence and personality as the great adversary of God and His people (Rev.12:1-10), his judgment (John 12:31), and final doom (Rev.20:10). (AMC)
- We believe in the personality and reality of Satan as well as his present and ultimate judgment. (Rev. 12:9,19; Matt. 4:2-11; Isa. 14:12-17; John 8:44; 16:11; Rev. 20:10) (InterAct)

Anthropology

- Man was created sinless. He willfully sinned which rendered him hopelessly lost before God. (ABC)
- MAN: His direct creation in the image of God (Gen.1:26-28), his subsequent fall into sin resulting in spiritual death (Gen.3:1-24; Rom.5:12), and the necessity of the new birth for his salvation (John 3:3-5). (AMC)
- We believe that man was created in the image of God, but because of sin, was alienated from God. (AFJ)
- We believe that man was created in the image of God. Man chose to sin and thus became totally lost and absolutely incapable of saving himself by his own works. Therefore, apart from Jesus Christ, all human beings incur physical, spiritual and everlasting death. (Gen. 1:26; Gen. 3; Isa. 64:6; Rom. 5:12,19; Eph. 2:1,8-9; Rom. 6:23) (InterAct)

Bibliology

- The Bible is verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and is the supreme and final authority in faith and life. (ABC)
- The Word of God, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, verbally inspired in all parts, and therefore wholly without error as originally given by God (2 Tim.3: 16; 2 Pet.1: 21). (AMC)
- We believe that the Bible is God's written revelation to man, and that it is verbally inspired, authoritative, and without error in the original manuscripts. (2 Timothy 3:16) (AFJ)
- We affirm the centrality of the word of God. (ECCAK)

- We believe the Bible is the verbally inspired Word, revelation of God, inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed. It shall be our guide in all matters of faith and conduct. (Psa. 19:7-11; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; Matt. 5:18) (InterAct)

Christology

- In the virgin birth, in the complete deity and complete humanity of Jesus Christ uniquely joined together in one person, and in the bodily resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. (ABC)
- THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: His pre-existence and deity (John 1:1-3), incarnation by virgin birth (John 1:14; Matt.1:18-23), sinless life (Heb.4:15), substitutionary death (2 Cor.5:21), bodily resurrection (Luke 24:36-43), ascension into heaven and present ministry (Heb.4:14-16), and coming again (Acts 1:11). (AMC)
- We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, His death on the cross to provide for our redemption, bodily resurrection, and ascension into heaven, present ministry of intercession for us, and His return to earth in power and glory. (Colossians 2:9; Matthew 1:23; 23:37-39, 24:1-25: 46; [Romans 3:24, 25; Ephesians 1:7, 11, 14;] Revelation 19:11-22) (AFJ)
- We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, his virgin birth and sinless life, that he is God incarnate, very God of very God, for whom and by whom all things were created, and that he is the head of his body, the true church. (John 1:1-14; II Cor. 5:21; Col. 1:18) (InterAct)
- We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born of the virgin Mary, and was fully God and fully man. We believe in his sinless life, his miracles, his death for sin, his bodily resurrection, his ascension to the right hand of the Father, his ministry on behalf of true believers, and his personal return in power and glory. (Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:27; Phil. 2:5-7; Heb. 4:15; John 19:30; Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:6; Col. 3:1; Heb. 7:25; I Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 19:11-16) (InterAct)

Soteriology

- That man's salvation is by grace through faith based solely on the substitutionary atonement of Christ. (ABC)
- SALVATION: A complete and eternal salvation by God's grace alone, received as the gift of God through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work (Eph.2:8-9; Tit.3:5-7; 1 Pet.1:18-19). (AMC)
- CHRISTIAN LIFE: A life of righteousness, good works and separation unto God from the evil ways of the world (Rom.12:1-2), manifested by speaking the truth (James 5:12), maintaining the sanctity of the home (Eph.5:22-6:4), settling differences between Christians in accordance with the Word of God (1 Cor.6:1-8), showing a Christ-like attitude toward all men (Rom.12:17-21), exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:22-23), and maintaining a life of prayer (Eph.6:18; Phil.4:6). (AMC)
- Only through faith, trusting in Christ alone for salvation, which was made possible by His death and resurrection, can that alienation be removed. (Colossians 1:15, 16; Romans 8:38, 39) (AFJ)
- We affirm the necessity of the new birth. (ECCAK)
- We affirm the reality of freedom in Christ. (ECCAK)
- We believe that because of the very nature of the gift of eternal life, because of the present intercessory ministry of Jesus Christ, and because of the sealing of the Holy Spirit, all true believers once saved, will be kept saved by the power of God forever. (John 5:24; 10:28; Rom. 8:29; Eph. 4:30; Heb. 7:25; Jude 24) (InterAct)

- We believe that Christ died for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice; and that all who receive him as personal Savior and Lord are declared righteous by faith on the basis of his shed blood. (Isa. 53:6; Heb. 10:14; Eph. 5:2; John 1:12; Rom. 19:9; Rom. 5:1,18-19; Eph. 1:7) (InterAct)
- We believe that all followers of the Lord Jesus Christ have eternal life and are expected to maintain good works. This involves separation from the sinful pleasures of the world system. (I John 2:15-17; Titus 2:1-15; John 10:27-29; Rom. 5:10; John 3:16) (InterAct)

Pneumatology

- In the deity and personality of God, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit regenerates, indwells, seals, and baptizes the believer into the body of Christ at conversion. The fruit of the Spirit is evidence of His presence. The gifts of the Spirit are for the edification of the body of Christ, His Church. (ABC)
- THE HOLY SPIRIT: His personality (John 16:7-15), deity (John 1:1-3), and His work in every believer: baptism and indwelling at the moment of regeneration (1 Cor.12:13; Rom.8:9); and filling (Eph.5:18), to empower for Christian life and service (Eph.3:16; Acts 1:8; Gal.5:22-23). (AMC)
- We believe in the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit, that He performs the miracle of the new eternal birth in unbelievers and indwells believers, empowering them to serve. (John 3:3, 5-7; 14:15, 16, 26) (AFJ)
- We affirm a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit. (ECCAK)
- We believe in the power of the Holy Spirit to give unbelievers a new life in Christ. The Holy Spirit baptizes all believers into the Body of Christ and permanently indwells them at the time of salvation. The filling of the Spirit enables believers to live a godly life and empowers them for service. (Titus 3:5-6; I Cor. 12:13; 6:19-20; Eph. 5:18) (InterAct)

Ecclesiology

- That the Church of Jesus Christ is composed solely of those who have been redeemed by the blood of Christ. (ABC)
- THE CHURCH: One true church, the body and bride of Christ (Eph.1:22-23; 5:25-32), composed of all true believers of the present age (1 Cor.12:12-13); and the organization of its members in local churches for worship, for edification of believers and for worldwide gospel witness, each church being autonomous but cooperating in fellowship and work (Eph.4:11-16). (AMC)
- That the two ordinances of the local church are the Lord's supper and believers' baptism. (ABC)
- ORDINANCES: The Christian should observe the ordinances of our Lord Jesus Christ, which are (1) baptism of believers (Matt.28:19) and (2) the communion service (1 Cor.11:23-26). (AMC)
- We affirm a commitment to the whole mission of the church. (ECCAK)
- We affirm the church as a fellowship of believers. (ECCAK)
- I would only add a simple statement about baptism. To work with our various brothers who have very different opinions on baptism, submerge, sprinkle, Holy Ghost and Fire, I think the simplest statement is to quote Jesus from Matthew 28:19. (ECCAK)
- We believe that the true church is one body composed of all believers with Jesus Christ as the head. We further believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are scriptural ordinances and are to be observed by the church today. (Eph. 5:23; Acts 2:41; Matt. 28:19; 26:26-29; I Cor. 11:17-34) (InterAct)

- We believe in the great Evangelistic Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost.” (Matt. 28:16-20; Acts 1:8) (InterAct)

Eschatology

- In the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the eternal punishment of all who reject our Lord Jesus Christ. (ABC)
- FUTURE LIFE: The conscious existence of the dead (Phil.1:21-23; Luke 16:19-31), the resurrection of the body (John 5:28-29), the judgment and reward of believers (Rom.14:10-14; 2 Cor.5:10), the judgment and condemnation of unbelievers (Rev.20:11-15), the eternal life of the saved (John 3:16), and the eternal punishment of the lost (Matt.25:46; Rev.20:15). (AMC)
- In the personal, imminent, and premillennial return of Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones. (ABC)
- SECOND COMING: The personal, visible and imminent return of Christ to remove His Church from the earth (1 Thess.4:16-17) and afterward to descend with the Church to establish His millennial kingdom upon the earth (Rev.19:11-20:6). (AMC)
- We believe in the personal, bodily, imminent, visible return of our Lord Jesus Christ to complete His work as Messiah and to judge all people. We believe in the bodily resurrection of believers and unbelievers. Those who accepted Christ as Lord and Savior will be with him in heaven forever, and those who have rejected him will be separated from him in the lake of fire forever. (I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:50-59; Rev. 19:19-20; 20:1-6; Matt. 25:41) (InterAct)