

PRINCIPLES OF BELIEF

As a member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Sturgeon Bay, WI, I understand that I am entitled to all the rights and privileges of such membership. At the same time, I know that I must accept the responsibility of such membership. Counting it a privilege and responsibility, I join my fellow members in subscribing to the following Principles of Belief.

1. **THE TRINITY** I believe in the Holy Trinity; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit [Matthew 28:19]. I believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of the Father [John 1:1,2,14]; That He died and rose for my sins [2 Corinthians 5:15]; and that through Him and Him alone I am forgiven, saved and made a child of God [John 14:6; Acts 4:12].
2. **GOD'S WORD** I accept the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the verbally inspired Word of God [2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21] in all their parts and words. They do not err but are true, also those portions which touch upon history (creation) or the things of nature [John 10:35]. The Bible is a dynamic, living word [Romans 1:16], to change people's hearts and lives and I agree to strive to follow its directives all my life.
3. **BAPTISM** I believe in Holy Baptism as a means whereby God makes me His own [Titus 3:5]. Infants, too, need re-birth in Christ and are to be baptized [Psalm 51:5; John 3:5,6]. I have been baptized in the _____ church.
4. **WORSHIP** I shall be faithful in my church attendance as a member of the body of Christ [Hebrews 10:24-26], realizing that only through the hearing of the Word of God can faith be created and maintained [Romans 10:17]. (We expect our members to worship with us every week except for excuses acceptable to God).
5. **LORD'S SUPPER** I believe in the Lord's Supper as a means whereby God strengthens my faith by giving me the true body and blood of the Lord Jesus under the bread and wine [1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-25]. I shall receive the Lord's Supper often. (We encourage our members to receive the sacrament whenever it is offered).
6. **STUDY** I shall lead a godly, decent life [Ephesians 2:10], in appreciation for God's gift of salvation in Christ [Galatians 2:20]; and I shall seek to grow in both faith and life through the study of God's Word [1 Peter 2:2]. (We expect our members to become involved in the Bible study program of our church).

7. **OFFERINGS** I shall give to my Lord willingly [2 Corinthians 9:7]; as God has prospered me [1 Corinthians 16:2]; liberally [Malachi 3:10 and Luke 6:38]; and from a grateful heart to Jesus, my Savior [2 Corinthians 8:8]. (We expect our members to give liberal, first-fruits, percentage gifts).

8. **EVANGELISM** I will show concern for all the needs of my fellow-men [Galatians 6:10] and I will especially seek to help bring them, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to faith in Jesus Christ [John 4:28-29].

9. **SERVICE** I shall join with my fellow members in serving my Lord and His people at Prince of Peace and in our community with the gifts He has given me [Romans 12:4-8]; [1 Corinthians 12:27-31]. When a call for assistance is issued, I will not wait to be asked, but will strive to make myself available for "the service of the saints." [1 Corinthians 16:15,16].

10. **LODGE** I do not and shall not belong to any organization or lodge that teaches a way of salvation by character and not by forgiveness in Jesus Christ [Galatians 2:16; 5:4], realizing that such membership compromises the very heart of the Gospel that I have confessed [2 Corinthians 6:14-17].

By my voluntary signature, I express my conviction concerning the above statements. Should Satan succeed in deceiving me into a life of sin, I earnestly desire my fellow Christians to give me brotherly admonition [Matthew 18:15-17].

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & State: _____