

FELC Mission Statement

**The Fellowship of
Evangelical Lutheran Churches
strives:**

- to witness to the love, power, and justice of God's Word in law and gospel as revealed and personified in Jesus Christ
- to reject corruption of this Word by human tradition and devices
- to network for mission those churches whose confession is thus according to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions
- to preserve and promote the Lutheran theological heritage and witness for the sake of the whole of Christianity on earth

Incorporated in 2000, the new millennium, FELC offers a genuinely Lutheran church home to those seeking to serve God in accordance with Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. If you and your church desire to serve Christ solely on this foundation, then FELC may be just the fellowship for you!



Overview of FELC

FELC is a fellowship of member churches. In Lutheran theology, the church as the body of Christ is the assembly of believers among whom the gospel is purely proclaimed in word and sacrament. In that light, every FELC member church is both *a* and *the* church.

FELC differentiates between law and gospel. God's word as gospel in its spoken, written, and sacramental forms is essential for faith and salvation. Human laws and traditions, like those relating to church polity, though helpful for good order, must serve the gospel as God's power to save those who believe.

FELC believes that the true unity of Christ's church already and always exists wherever the gospel is purely proclaimed, regardless of denomination. In other words, Christian unity happens whenever Christ makes himself present in word and sacrament. FELC makes a unique contribution to ecumenism by trusting the gospel to realize its own unity in Christ.

FELC oversees ministry (*episkopé*) through councils of visitors. Oversight by visitation is a biblical concept and practice restored at the Reformation. Through visitors elected by and accountable to FELC member churches, FELC works to develop, support, and enhance the ministries and missions of its member churches.

FELC believes that the principles embodied in its organizational documents will serve, strengthen, and support its member churches to participate in Christ's mission of justifying sinful human beings by faith alone apart from works of the law.



Fellowship of Evangelical Lutheran Churches

Come,
Join the Freedom

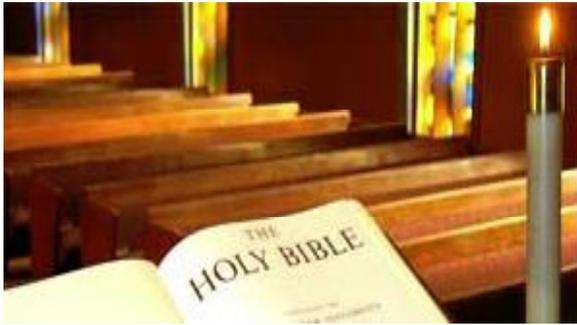
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**FELC Website:
www.f-e-l-c.org**

Designed for Mission

The Fellowship of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (FELC) exists solely for the purpose of Christian mission. Mission happens where member churches engage the world with the Word of God. FELC views its chief mission as proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in word, sacrament, and action.



Built on Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions

FELC stands solidly upon God's Word as recorded in Holy Scripture (Bible) and as accurately interpreted through the Lutheran statements of faith (called Confessions or confessional writings). From this foundation, FELC seeks to teach and preach a pure understanding of the gospel for a living faith in Jesus Christ who is the sole salvation of the world.

Reformation Approach to Church Oversight (*episkopé*)

The 16th century Lutheran Reformers valued effective oversight (*episkopé*) of parish ministries. In fact, they considered such oversight to be not only useful but necessary. The need for parish oversight did not, however, equate with a need for bishops. In fact, when the papal bishops refused parish oversight, the Lutheran Reformers assumed this responsibility by setting up teams of church experts charged with parish visitation. FELC has adopted and adapted this Reformation practice through the creation of democratically elected Councils of Visitors.



Prudent with Declarations and Statements

FELC maintains that Scripture and the Lutheran confessions are sufficient for addressing almost all matters of the Christian faith and life. Areas of human existence not addressed by Scripture are not essential to Christian mission. Supplemental church statements and declarations often sound promising. Sadly, however, they also signal a loss of faith in Scripture's sufficiency. FELC only issues statements or declarations when the gospel is at stake.



Member Church Equality and Mutual Accountability

FELC is a fellowship of member churches. Church happens when the gospel is purely proclaimed in word and sacrament. Thus, each congregation is the church. FELC member churches have equal voice in all matters of the fellowship. FELC member churches also have the final say in the adoption of any national church policies.