

**Stephen J. Weber**  
**Statement of Faith**

I believe in the one true and living God who is revealed in the Trinity – God, whom Jesus called Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. A loving God who is both Creator and Sustainer of the universe, God created humankind for the purpose of relationship. However, humankind turned away from God and because of this rebellion faces certain death and separation from God.

I believe in Jesus Christ who is the living Son of God. Being both fully human and fully God, Jesus lived a perfect life free from sin. It is through his sacrificial death upon a cross that Christ took all of humankind's sin upon himself. Through the power of God, Jesus was resurrected to life and victory over sin and death. There is no other means by which humankind can be redeemed and gain an eternal relationship with God except through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This free gift of grace has been offered to all. Those who confess in faith that Jesus is Savior and Lord and turn from their sin shall receive eternal salvation.

I believe in the Holy Spirit whom God sent to dwell in the hearts of believers. The Spirit convicts us of our sin, teaches and comforts us, and gives us assurance that we have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. The Spirit further imparts gifts to the community of believers that together, as children of God, we might build up the body of Christ and be empowered to minister in the world.

I trust in the Bible as the authoritative Word of God. The Scriptures in which God is revealed are inspired by the Holy Spirit, communicated to humankind through human words, and bear reliable witness to God's actions in human history. Scripture is the revelation of God to humankind and exists as the authoritative guide for living a life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Through the Scriptures the Holy Spirit continues to instruct and teach us how to live out our lives in Christ. It is our responsibility to seek God's truth while relying on the Spirit to teach us that truth. Our preaching and teaching must be grounded in God's revelatory Word to the church and world.

I believe the worldwide community of believers is called to manifest to the world the living body of Christ in the form of the Church. As Christ's Church, we have been gifted by the Holy Spirit and empowered to live lives in service to God and in nurture of one another. Both individually and corporately it is the Church's responsibility to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and deed in a world that is broken and separated from God because of sin. The Church is called to be God's hands and feet in ministering to this world through prayer and action. The Church is commissioned to make disciples and to carry on Christ's concern for social justice and peace in a world that is plagued by sin and oppression.

God has given the Church the sacraments of baptism, which includes infant baptism, and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is a sign of the Covenant that God makes with us through Jesus. Baptism is an act of God and affirms that believers and their children are heirs of the promise of grace. In baptism believers symbolize their participation with Christ in his death and resurrection, the cleansing and washing of their souls from all sin, the coming gift of the Holy Spirit into their lives, and their incorporation into the community of believers. The Lord's Supper is the ongoing affirmation of our commitment to Jesus individually and as a community, remembering his sacrificial love for us.

I believe in a time only God knows, Jesus will come again in all glory and power resulting in the culmination of history. At this time all humanity will face judgment bringing either eternal life or eternal separation from God. For those who have placed their faith in Jesus, there is confidence in facing judgment for they have received the assurance of eternal life from Jesus, our Great Redeemer, who reigns victorious over sin and death.