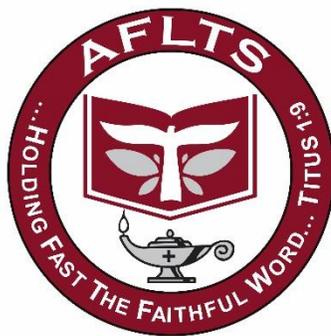


# AFLC Schools



## Francis W. Monseth Memorial Library

Library Catalog

8/2019

# Welcome!

## Welcome to the Francis W. Monseth Memorial Library!

This guide is designed to acquaint you with the purposes, provisions, and policies of the library so that you may use its resources profitably and productively. In order that you may better understand and appreciate the significant function the library has in the program of our schools, information regarding the history, the mission, the philosophy of education, and the academic purposes of our schools is included in the appendices. It is our prayer and goal that God will use the resources of this library to further establish you in the eternal and inspired Word of God for a life of faith in Jesus Christ and faithful service in His Kingdom.

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## Location

You can find the FW Monseth Library on the second floor of Heritage Hall on the AFLC Schools campus.

### MAILING ADDRESS

FW Monseth Library  
3134 E Medicine Lake Blvd  
Plymouth, MN 55441

## Contact Information

### LIBRARY

Phone (main desk): 763-412-2035

Email: [library@afbs.edu](mailto:library@afbs.edu)

### DIRECTOR OF LEARNING RESOURCES

Jerry Moan

Phone: 763-412-2037

Email: [jmoan@afbc.org](mailto:jmoan@afbc.org)

### ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN

Rachel Molstre

Phone: 763-412-2035

Email: [rachel.molstre@afbs.edu](mailto:rachel.molstre@afbs.edu)

## Hours of Operation

### SEMESTER HOURS

<b>Monday</b>	8 am – 10 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	8 am – 10 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	8 am – 5 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	8 am – 10 pm
<b>Friday</b>	8 am – 10 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	1 pm – 5 pm
<b>Sunday</b>	Closed

## SUMMER HOURS

<b>Monday</b>	9 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Tuesday</b>	9 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	9 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Thursday</b>	9 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Friday</b>	9 am – 4:30 pm
<b>Saturday</b>	Closed
<b>Sunday</b>	Closed

## Services

### LIBRARY STAFF

The library staff provides reference and instruction to current students, faculty, and staff of AFLC Schools. Support includes advising students with library services and information services. It also involves working with faculty to provide library and information resources for their courses. The services of the library staff include:

- Providing basic reference services and reader's services.
- Assisting patrons with specialized resources in all formats, including the library catalog, databases, and internet resources.
- Teaching patrons in the use of research sources.
- Cataloging library materials.
- Maintaining subject and technical expertise in a rapidly-evolving field through ongoing education, professional development, and/or scholarly activities.

### THE COLLECTION

The library holds a collection of almost 26,000 books and periodicals, as well as a small collection of video and audio materials. All books in the library are shelved according to the *Library of Congress Classification System*. This means the books are sorted according to call numbers. Letters from A through Z are used. The majority of the collection is filed under *Religion* and is found in sections B through BX. Most books on a subject will be located in the same area. Please ask the library staff for help whenever needed.

Patrons can search the library's holdings through the library catalog, which is available online at <https://fwmonseth.goalexandria.com/search>. Patrons can check out items through the self-checkout station located at the library front desk. Instructions on how to use the self-checkout station are posted beside the station.

## ONLINE RESOURCES

A collection of online resources can be found at <https://fwmonseth.goalexandria.com> under *Student Resources*. These resources include writing guides, digital library materials, and other helpful links.

## COMPUTERS AND PRINTERS

The computer workstations are located on the north side of the main library holdings and are available to all faculty, staff, and students who are currently enrolled at AFLC Schools. The computers are equipped with word processing, internet access, and printers.

Library staff is available to provide basic help in the use of computers, printers, and software and answer questions about computer policy.

## COPIER

The cost for self-service use of the copy machine is \$.10 per copy and is available for all library patrons. All photocopies are printed in black and white; color options are not available.

**Copyright Compliance:** Photocopying may not violate copyright law. For information on copyright law, see the following link: <http://fairuse.stanford.edu/Copyright>

## LIBRARY TOURS

Our information/circulation desk can assist students with most basic research questions. However, if there is need for additional help with using the library resources, one may schedule individual or small group library tours by contacting the Librarian by phone, email, or in person. A staff member will:

- Provide a tour of the library.
- Teach you how to find books and other documents.
- Teach you how to access and utilize the GoAlexandria library system.
- Teach you research strategies that can help make the best use of your time.

## Policies

### LIBRARY COMMITTEE

The library committee meets several times each academic year. The committee consists of the Director of Learning Resources, the Librarian, one or more faculty and administration members, and one student from each program of the institution. A regular focus of this committee is how effectively both the learning resources and the facility serve our student body.

### GENERAL POLICIES

The library is provided to students and faculty as the primary means of finding access to materials for research. There are certain general guidelines in library decorum and usage that library patrons are requested to respect while using resources in the library.

## **Quiet Atmosphere**

Please maintain an atmosphere conducive to study by being as quiet as possible. Please turn off ringer on your cellphone and set it on vibrate mode. Cellphone conversations should be conducted outside of the library.

## **Clean Environment**

Please discard unwanted papers, etc., upon exiting the library. No food, juice, or pop are allowed in the library outside the student's bag or backpack. Beverages are permitted in closed containers. There is a snack area on the lower level of Heritage Hall.

## **An Orderly Process**

Do not attempt to re-shelve books after browsing and/or usage. Leave them on the study tables or check out desk so they can be included in the recording of internal usage statistics.

## **CIRCULATION POLICIES**

### **Limits of Availability**

While the majority of the library resources are available for check out, included among the resources are some items that are not to be removed from the library premises, such as: the reference collection, periodical collection, and archival material.

### **Borrowing Materials**

Students may check out any item not limited by library policy. Up to ten items may be checked out at one time. Students must use their library barcode, located on their student identification card, to borrow materials.

### **Due Dates and Late Fees**

Books and materials may be checked out for a two-week period.

Special "Reserve Book" collections are assembled each semester and are available as designated either for check out for two days or for use on the library premises. There are no renewals on Reserve Books. There is a fine of 25 cents per day (per book) for overdue books. The fine is 50 cents per day (per book) for overdue books from the "Reserve Book" collections. Students with overdue books or fines will not be allowed to check out additional books or renew any materials until all books have been returned and the fines have been paid. Lost books result in an automatic minimum fine of \$20.00 per book (depending on actual replacement cost).

An item becomes overdue once the library closes on the date an item was to be returned. The student will be notified by email and/or Populi for any materials that are outstanding. Fines are generally not assessed during academic breaks, but all borrowed materials are due before library closing on the last day of classes in any term. There is an after-hours book drop.

## **COMPUTER ACCESS POLICIES**

The following section reviews the policy created to facilitate the best use of available computing resources while promoting an atmosphere of learning consistent with the stated mission of AFLC Schools.

## **Time Limits on Usage**

Computers are on a first-come, first-served usage but at peak times, users will limit their time at the workstations to no more than two hours for writing papers or fifteen minutes for all other uses.

## **Hours of Operation**

The computer workstations open and close with the library.

## **Acceptable Use**

The following represents a guide to acceptable use of the computer workstations and electronic resources. It is not intended to identify all acceptable uses, but to indicate those uses which are clearly consistent with the purposes of these resources available in the library.

- Accessing online or web-based databases that the library has either purchased or which the library has obtained site licenses.
- Using CD-ROM resources purchased by the library.
- Accessing online catalogs of other libraries.
- Accessing internet resources for research and the preparation of bibliographies, class papers, and presentations.
- Writing papers or preparing presentations for classes.
- Checking web-based email and writing such email.
- Use of web browsers to search the internet.

Questions as to what is or is not an acceptable use should be directed to the library staff. Library staff may at any time make a determination as to whether or not a particular use is or is not consistent with the purposes of the computer workstations. Staff may issue warnings and temporarily suspend use privileges if unacceptable use occurs.

## **Unacceptable Use**

The following list characterizes unacceptable use. It is not intended to identify all unacceptable uses, but to indicate the types of uses that are clearly inconsistent with the purposes of these resources in the library. Such is subject to consequences:

1. Behavior that is disruptive, abusive, or that obstructs others in their use of computer workstations.
2. Attempts to fix or repair hardware and software problems.
3. Deliberately altering any files or modifying the configuration of any library PC or peripheral.
4. Violations of security or network integrity including attempts to bypass network security, obtain passwords, share passwords with others, or the unauthorized use of passwords.
5. Destruction or damage of equipment.
6. Removal of any part of the computer workstations.
7. Use of computer workstations by minors or non-authorized persons.
8. Removal of any computer workstation resources without permission.

## **User Responsibilities**

By using the computer equipment and/or their resources, you are agreeing as a condition of use to accept personal responsibility for considerate, ethical, and responsible behavior in your use of the available resources. This includes:

1. Honoring our Lord Jesus Christ in your computer usage.
2. Reading and complying with all computer policies and regulations.
3. Using the computer workstation resources only for their intended applications.
4. Following the instructions and directives of the library staff.
5. Seeking to develop research skills that will enable you to continue your research during unanticipated system malfunctions, equipment failure, and peak usage times.
6. Following all applicable library regulations when using a computer including rules on closing times and the prohibition of open food and beverages.
7. Saving all created and/or downloaded files to a personal thumb drive, not leaving any on the hard drive.

## **Consequences of Misuse**

Misuse of the computer workstations and electronic resources may result in one or more of the following consequences:

1. Oral warnings to the misuser.
2. A suspension for restriction of computer privileges and/or library privileges and/or database use privileges.
3. A revocation of computer privileges in the library.

## **Responsibilities and Rights**

1. The library is not responsible for the theft of personal laptop computers and other devices, personal property loss or damage, or the loss or corruption of data contained on personal computer disks.
2. The library reserves and intends to exercise its right to inspect, monitor, read, retrieve, and/or disclose all messages created, received, or sent over its resources. AFLC Schools may provide the results of the exercise of this right to appropriate civil authorities. The contents of communications may also be disclosed with or without notice or the permission of the user.
3. AFLC Schools reserves the right to change this policy at any time without advance notice, to install software to enforce this policy, and suspend computer usage privileges.

# Library Floor Plan

## LOCATING MATERIALS

When browsing the library or looking for a specific item, students must know where each type of item is located. If you have any difficulty in locating materials, a library staff person will be glad to assist you. This section will review the various material types and their location within the library.

### **Circulating Books**

Books that can be checked out of the library can be found on the shelves in the center of the library. This space is labelled as “Main Library” on the map on page 11.

### **Monseth Collection**

The Monseth Collection is a memorial to Francis W. Monseth. It includes books taken from Monseth’s personal library. This collection is located on the north side of the library next to the computer station.

### **Media**

Audio and video materials, such as movies, documentaries, audiobooks, etc., can be found on the shelves following the last of the circulating books. In other words, if you walk all the way to the bay windows on the west side of the library, turn your back to the windows, and look at the bookshelves in the middle of the library, you will find the audio and visual materials. These materials are labelled as “Media” on the map on page 11.

### **Periodicals**

Periodicals include academic journals, magazines, newsletters, and newspapers. They are available toward the west end of the library on the south wall.

### **Reference Books**

Reference books must be used within the library. They cannot be checked out. These are found on two tiers of clearly marked shelves along the south side of the library.

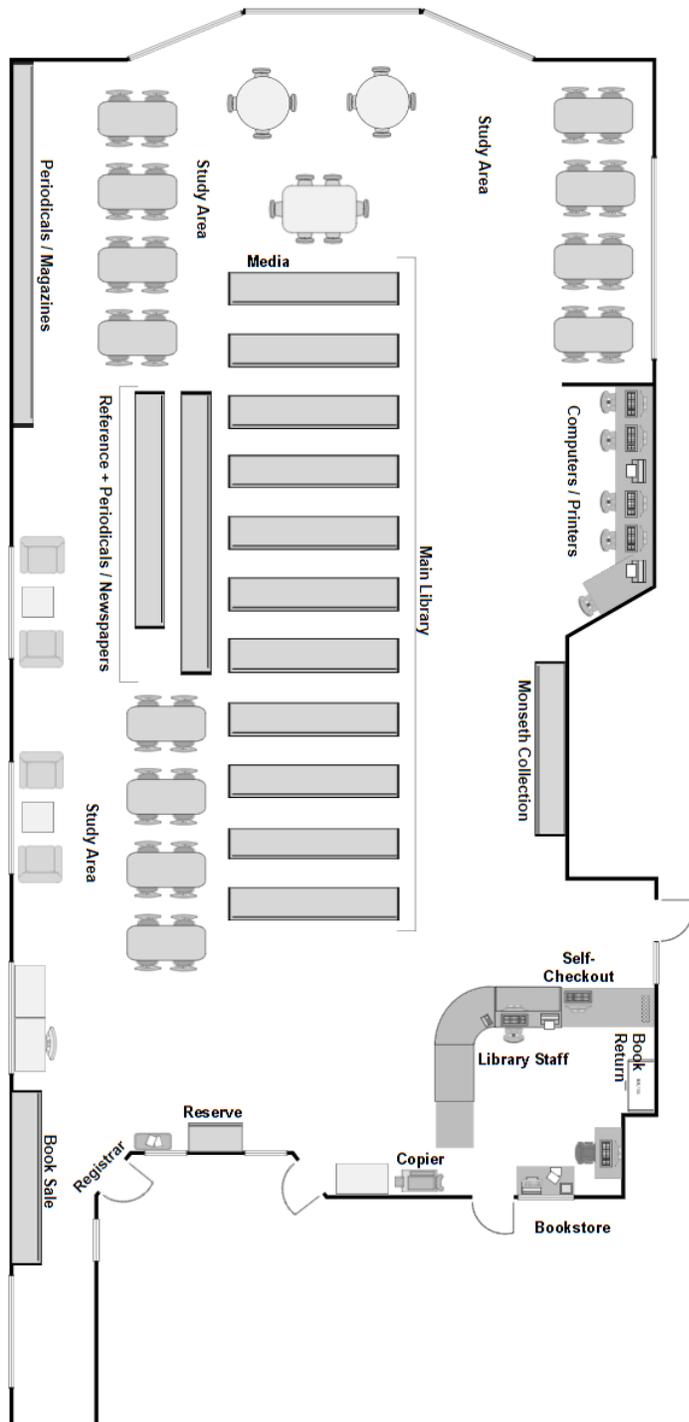
### **Reserve Books**

Reserve books are books that have temporarily restricted use: either they cannot be taken from the library at all, or they can only be checked out for two days. Normally, these books are textbooks and other required reading for classes and have been placed on reserve to reduce the time a student must wait for another student to return the book to the library. These are located by the registrar’s office.

### **Archives**

Think of the archives as the museum portion of the library. This is where all the old, rare, and fragile books and periodicals are kept. Archival materials are located at the rear of the library beyond the Director of Learning Resource’s office. This portion of the collection requires a library staff member for access. You must be a faculty member or have permission from the library staff to check out these materials.

# MAP OF FRANCIS W. MONSETH MEMORIAL LIBRARY



# Appendix A

## AFLC SCHOOLS ACCREDITATION STATEMENT

Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and Bible School is a member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) [15935 Forest Road, Forest, VA 24551; Telephone: (434) 525-9539; e-mail: info@tracs.org]. having been awarded Accredited Status as a Category III institution by the TRACS Accreditation Commission on October 30, 2018. This status is effective for a period of up to five years. TRACS is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDOE), the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), and the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).

Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and Bible School is also a member of the Association for Biblical Higher Education in Canada and the United States (ABHE) [5850 T G Lee Blvd, Suite 130, Orlando, FL 32822; Telephone: (407)207-0808; e-mail: info@abhe.org].

## AFLBS MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Association Free Lutheran Bible School is to establish students in the eternal and inerrant Word of God for a life of faith in Jesus Christ and faithful service in His Kingdom.

## INSTITUTIONAL OBJECTIVES

Our objectives are that graduates of the Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and Bible School will:

- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of Scripture, subscribing to its inspiration, infallibility, and inerrancy without reservation, confessing its authority and demonstrating the ability to accurately interpret it.
- Grow in spiritual maturity informed by the Law and motivated and empowered by the Gospel.
- Understand the function of the local congregation and the place of the individual believer in its fellowship and ministry as guided by the AFLC Fundamental Principles.
- Participate in making disciples of all nations, especially through involvement in the local congregation.

## FACILITIES

The Seminary and Bible School are located in the city of Plymouth, Minnesota and comprise a 25-acre campus shared with the central offices of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Buildings serving the needs of the schools include the Seminary and Chapel Building, Heritage Hall which houses the campus library, three seminary apartment buildings, and two dormitories, Trygve Dahle Hall and John Strand Hall.

## Appendix B

### HISTORY OF AFLC SCHOOLS

The AFLC Seminary and Bible School are educational institutions of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. Begun in 1962, the AFLC is a conservative Lutheran church fellowship with congregations in North America as well as mission work in South America, Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe.

Affirming the local congregation as “the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth,” the prayerful aim of the AFLC in dependence upon the Holy Spirit and the inspired and inerrant Word of God is to recover not only the form but also the fervor of the New Testament congregation; indeed, the renewal and resurgence of “free and living” congregations. The training of students for effective service in and through local congregations is seen as fundamental in the realization of this God-given goal.

Plans for beginning a seminary were made in the earliest moments of the AFLC’s existence with a soon-to-follow decision to start a Bible school as well. The Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary (AFLTS) opened its doors for its first class in 1964 and the Association Free Lutheran Bible School (AFLBS) welcomed its first students in 1966.

# Appendix C

## BIBLICAL FOUNDATION STATEMENT

**The Bible:** *We bear witness that the Bible is the only authentic and infallible source of God's revelation to mankind [Revelation 22:18, 19], and that it is the only inerrant and completely adequate source and norm of Christian doctrine and life [2 Peter 1:20, 21; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17]. We hold that the Bible is inerrant in its original manuscripts, and as a whole and in all its parts, the Word of God under all circumstances regardless of one's attitude toward it. (AFLC "Declaration of Faith")* Isaiah 40:8; John 5:39; John 10:35; John 14:26; John 15:26, 27; Ephesians 2:20; Hebrews 1:1, 2.

**The Triune God:** *We bear witness that God is one divine essence [Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17], and that there are three persons in this one divine essence, equal in power and alike eternal [Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:4]: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. All three are one divine essence, eternal, without division, without end, of infinite power, holiness, wisdom, and goodness. (Augsburg Confession, Art. I)* Isaiah 44:6; Matthew 3:16-17; John 10:30; John 5:32 & 14:16-17.

**The Creation:** *We bear witness that God is the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth [Genesis 1:1-31; Revelation 4:11]. We bear witness that the Genesis account of human origins is a faithful historical record in which God created the universe including Adam and Eve in six literal days [Exodus 31:17-18]. (Free Lutheran Seminary Corporation, June 13, 2007)* Psalm 33:6, 9; Colossians 1:16.

**The Lord Jesus Christ:** *We bear witness that God the Son became man [John 1:1,14], born of the Virgin Mary [Matthew 25:31-33; Luke 1:35], and that the two natures, divine and human, are so inseparably united in one person that there is one Christ, true God and true man, who was truly born, suffered, was crucified, died, and was buried in order to be a sacrifice not only for original sin but also for all other sins and to propitiate God's wrath [Romans 5:9; Philippians 2:5-11]. The same Christ also descended into hell, truly rose from the dead on the third day [1 Peter 3:18-20; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4], ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God that he may eternally rule and have dominion over all creatures [Ephesians 4:10]. The same Lord Jesus Christ will return openly to judge the living and the dead [1 Thessalonians 4:15-18]. (Augsburg Confession, Art. III)* Romans 3:24, 25; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

**The Holy Spirit:** *We bear witness that the Holy Spirit is true God together with the God the Father and the God the Son [John 15:26; Acts 5:3-4]. Through the Word of God, the Holy Spirit uses the Law to awaken in our hearts a deep sense of sin and He uses the Gospel in Word and Sacrament to cause us to receive the grace of God in Christ [Matthew 16:19; Acts 2:38-39; Ephesians 1:13-14]. Through the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, one's knowledge of the Gospel becomes a true and living faith as a repentant sinner lays hold of Christ as his only Savior from sin, death, and the power of Satan. We bear witness that the Holy Spirit graciously sanctifies a believer in which He day by day renews him more and more after the image of God [2 Corinthians 3:5,6]. Through the Word of God and the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit graciously preserves the believer through all temptations in the true and living faith until the end. (Luther's Small Catechism and Explanation, Questions 199, 202, 203, 210, 212, 229, 233)* Ephesians 6:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14.

**The Human Race:** *We bear witness that although Adam and Eve were created in the image of God [Genesis 1:27], because of the temptation of Satan and their fall into sin, every person propagated according to nature is born in sin [Romans 3:10-18; 5:12]. We bear witness that this hereditary sin is truly sin and condemns to the eternal wrath of God all those who are not born again through Baptism and the Holy Spirit [John 3:3,5; Ephesians 2:1-3]. (Augsburg Confession, Art. II);* Psalm 39:4-5.

**The Way of Salvation:** *We bear witness that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions, but that in justification, we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ's sake, through faith [Romans 3:21-24; Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:8,9], when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. We bear witness that God regards and reckons this faith as righteousness. (Augsburg Confession, Art. IV) 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:16.*

**The Christian Life:** *We bear witness that sanctification is the gracious work of the Holy Spirit whereby He day by day renews the believer more and more after the image of God [2 Corinthians 4:16]. Empowered and motivated by the Holy Spirit and the Gospel of grace, the believer denies himself, strives against the devil, the world, and his own flesh and grows in love toward God and man and seeks to do the will of God in all things. (Luther's Small Catechism and Explanation, Questions 229, 231) Matthew 16:24; Galatians 5:22-25;; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 John 3:9.*

**The Means of Grace:** *We bear witness that the Means of Grace, Gospel-Word and Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), are the instruments through which the saving and sanctifying benefits of Christ's death on the cross are conveyed to a repentant and believing sinner [Matthew 26:27; Galatians 3:27; Romans 10:17]. Through these means, God gives the Holy Spirit who creates faith in those who hear the Gospel. We bear witness that the Sacraments are holy ordinances made by God Himself, in which He gives and confirms His invisible grace through outward and visible means [Romans 1:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; 1 Peter 3:21]. We bear witness that since Baptism is offered to all and since all are born in a state of sin, infants too should be baptized, receiving therein the regeneration conveyed through water and the Spirit [Matthew 16:3-6 ;Acts 2:38-39; 2 Timothy 3:14-15]. We bear witness that the Lord's Supper is for true Christians wherein the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation are given through believing reception of the true Body and true Blood of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine. (Augsburg Confession, Art.'s IX, X, XIII; Luther's Small Catechism and Explanation, Questions 333-357) Matthew 16:19; John 20:22-23; 1 Peter 1:23.*

**The Christian Church:** *We bear witness that the one holy Christian Church is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the Sacraments are administered according to the Gospel [Matthew 16:17-18; Ephesians 4:4-6]. We bear witness that the holy Christian Church is found in the congregation which is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth. We bear witness that the congregation consists of believers who, by using the Means of Grace and the spiritual gifts as directed by the Word of God, seek salvation and eternal blessedness for themselves and for their fellow men [Acts 13:1-3; 2 Corinthians 3:17]. We bear witness that the congregation is subject to the Word and Spirit of God, and acknowledges no other ecclesiastical authority or government above itself. (Augsburg Confession, Art. VII; AFLC Fundamental Principles, Nos. 1, 2, and 5) Psalm 32:1,2; Galatians 3:26; 1 Peter 2:9.*

**The Pastoral Office:** *We bear witness that although every believer is a member of the "priesthood of all believers," the office of pastoral ministry has been instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ for the preaching and teaching of God's Word and the administration of the Sacraments [2 Timothy 4:1-4; 1 Peter 5:1-4]. A pastor is first of all, a servant of Christ and His Word, and also a servant of the congregation as he administers these Means of Grace [1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:12-14]. We bear witness further that the order of Creation and the testimony of Scripture, together with the example of Christ and His apostles, teach that women should not hold the pastoral office. (Augsburg Confession, Art. V) Matthew 16:19; Ephesians 4:11-12.*

**The Return of Christ:** *We bear witness that the Lord Jesus Christ will return on the last day for judgment and will raise up all the dead, to give eternal life and everlasting joy to those who believe and are elect but to condemn the ungodly and the devil to hell and eternal punishment [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; John*

5:28,29]. *We bear witness that eternal life is the blessed state in which believers are free from all evil and live forever in fellowship with their God and Savior, praising God in the company of the holy angels, in everlasting peace and joy [Revelation 20:11-15]. We bear witness that eternal punishment is the dreadful state of separation from God, and everlasting anguish and suffering in hell. (Augsburg Confession, Art. XVII; Luther's Small Catechism and Explanation, Questions 259, 260); Acts 1:11; 1 Corinthians 15:23-24.*

**The Lutheran Confessions:** *We bear witness that the Apostolic, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds, the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, and Luther's Small Catechism are faithful expositions of the truths of Scripture.*

**The Fundamental Principles:** *We bear witness that the "Fundamental Principles" of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations are a faithful exposition of the truths of Scripture regarding the nature and mission of the Christian congregation.*

# Appendix D

## PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and Bible School, in fellowship with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, is committed to lifting up the standard of God's infallible and inerrant Word, the Scriptures. The Seminary and Bible School are without reservation:

**Conservative:** In teaching the Word of God, the schools employ the historical-grammatical method of interpretation with the presupposition of faith in the internal testimony of Scripture regarding its complete veracity. The Schools believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the original manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments.

**Confessional.** They subscribe without reservation to the ancient ecumenical creeds (Apostolic, Nicene, and Athanasian) and the sixteenth-century documents of the Lutheran Reformation (Luther's Small Catechism and the Unaltered Augsburg Confession). The schools regard these creeds and confessions as faithful expositions of the truths of Scripture and seek to foster in students a fuller understanding and appreciation of the distinctives of orthodox Lutheranism.

**Congregational.** In consonance with the Word of God, the Schools affirm the local church as "the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth," and aim to equip students for effective service in and through local congregations through classroom instruction and practical training. It is in dependence on the Holy Spirit's work through the Means of Grace – Word and Sacraments – that the teaching and equipping of students at AFLC Schools is carried forward.

The Schools equip and teach students in dependence on the Holy Spirit's work through the Means of Grace. The classes concentrate on the exposition and application of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through which God saves and sanctifies by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. One important application of the Gospel is love for one another, with the result that graduates display an obvious love for the congregation.

The Seminary and the Bible School seek to achieve academic excellence in their students. This is an important purpose in the Seminary and Bible School program outcomes. However, the Schools' goals in training are not complete with mere intellectual understanding of the doctrines and practices of God's Word, the Lutheran Confessions and AFLC distinctive. The Schools are intent on seeing that the personal life of each graduate is conformed more and more to the image of Christ; informed, motivated and empowered by the Holy Spirit through faithful application of the Law and the Gospel. Homes, congregations and the world need godly spiritual leaders. This passion drives the Schools' Word-centered emphasis. Both formal and informal instruction encourages students to deepen their personal devotional life and express their faith through active participation in local congregations, which provide opportunities for spiritual nourishment, worship and service.