A framework for Lutheran schools

**Ethos**

**We believe**
- the Bible is the supreme authority for Christian faith and life
- the Holy Spirit works through the teaching of God’s word in our schools to lead people to know and trust in God as Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier
- all people are sinful and saved by grace through faith in Christ
- because Christians live in grace, all they do is for God’s glory not theirs
- each person is a likeness of God and a person loved by God
- all useful knowledge and learning is God’s gift to people for their wellbeing
- service to others through actions and relationships is a reflection of and response to God’s love for all

And because of this we value as core
- the Bible as the authority informing what we do and teach
- the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of each person
- forgiveness, being forgiven and reconciliation
- that God, by grace shown through Jesus lives, accepts and values each person
- the uniqueness and worth of each person
- God’s gifts of knowledge and learning
- a spirit of service reflecting God’s action in our lives

Value-based learning is further developed by contextual values particular to individual school communities

Therefore, in Lutheran schools we see
- everything we are and do in relation to God
- each member of our school community as someone in relation to God
- this understanding of the identity of each person before God motivates us to
- develop the whole person
- strive for the best
- care for each person
- help each student grow in the assurance of their God-given worth and purpose
- accept the need of discipline for the well-being of the individual living in community
- reflect characteristics of God
- create learning contexts incorporating values that reflect God’s relationship with God’s world

**Lifelong Qualities for Learners**

As central to their mission and ministry, Lutheran schools seek to nurture **individuals**, who are aware of their humanity, open to the influence of the Holy Spirit, and growing in and living according to a cohesive worldview

**while**

**Living in community** and reflecting characteristics of God through core values, especially love, justice, compassion, forgiveness, service, humility, courage, hope, quality and appreciation

**and**

**Contributing to communities** by being
- self-directed, insightful investigators and learners
- discerning, resourceful problem solvers and implementers
- adept, creative producers and contributors
- open, responsive communicators and facilitators
- principled, resilient leaders and collaborators
- caring, steadfast supporters and advocates

**Paradigms**

**Beliefs about Learners**
- All learners are valued for who they are and whose they are
- All learners need encouragement and deserve respect
- All learners have the ability to learn and learn best when
  - they experience success
  - they take responsibility for their own learning
  - they can work both independently and collaboratively
  - subject matter is meaningful
- High quality learning expectations are present
- They are authentically assessed and appropriately challenged
- Learners need to learn how to learn and think
- Collaborative partnerships between parents/caregivers and schools support learners and learning

**Beliefs about learning**
- Learning goes beyond the academic: it includes the spiritual, physical, emotional and social and has a transforming role
- Learning has affective and volitional dimensions as well as cognitive
- Learning is lifelong
- Learning involves learners progressing through developmental cycles
- Learning is facilitated when individual needs of the student are met
- Learning occurs in a context and is driven by curiosity, need and inquiry
- Learning builds on previous knowledge, experiences and understanding

**Beliefs about learning communities**
- All people are learners
- Safe and supportive learning environments facilitate active learning
- Effective learning communities respect diversity and encourage reflective practice and productive feedback
- Learning communities are strengthened by having a shared vision and common core beliefs
- Learning communities reflect upon and respond to the world of today in ways that enable their members to face the future with confidence
- Learning cultures need to be intentionally developed