**“What do we believe?” A Short Summary**

Christians always want to give a clear testimony to the hope which we have. (1Peter 3:15; 1Corinthians 14:8) One of the very earliest formal confessions of the Christian church was the Apostles’ Creed. Faced with a growing church which was spreading all over the Roman Empire, the church felt it needed a “standard” of teaching, a minimum amount of knowledge that would be taught before a person would become an adult member of the church. The Apostles’ Creed was developed. (It was not written by the Apostles but named in their honor.) Crown of Life Lutheran Church uses the Apostles Creed as one of our official statements of faith, and as our standard of instruction, just as Christians have for many years. (You’ll see it below.) We also subscribe to the Nicene and Athanasian Creeds, both of which are slightly longer confessions of faith.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Because the truths of the Word are consistently under attack, periodically it becomes necessary for believers to re-declare the truths which they believe. The Lutheran church, just after the time of Luther, had that necessity, and from it developed the Lutheran Book of Concord, which contains six lengthy confessions of faith. We do not hold them in the same regard as we hold Scripture – the Scripture is God’s Word! However, because we want everyone to be able to clearly know where we stand, we point to our confessions as a clear testimony of what we’re convinced that Bible teaches.

Additionally, as time passes, differently issues come to the fore, so there is an ongoing need for clear confessions. The WELS confession of that sort is called, “This We Believe” and is available on [www.wels.net](http://www.wels.net). (WELS is the nation-wide church body of which Living Word is a part.)

Realizing that many would prefer to begin by reading a short summary of the truths confessed by Crown of Life, we’ve compiled such a confession - you’ll find it below. If you have any questions, please e-mail Pastor Kock at kehljj@gmail.com. Thank you!