


THE
CRISIS
HAPPENING
IN THE
LUTHERAN

CHURCH

ISSUE 2

A
HOMOSEXUAL
AGENDA

Find out more by visiting the
Epiphany District website at
www.epiphanydistrict.com
(507-227-9832)

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Lutheran Congregations in Mission
for Christ
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www.wsullivan@ameritech.net
(toll free at 866-720-5262)

Acknowledgement of Robert A.J. Gagnon and his book,
The Bible and Homosexual Practice, for information provided
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**In August of 2001 the ELCA
at its General Assembly directed the
“ creation of a study document on
homosexuality for use in congregations
and in sponsored hearings
and focus groups across the church.”**

(2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Sect. VI, P. 82)



Didn't we already do a
study on
Human Sexuality?

**A Church that goes where the ELCA
is headed with the blessing of
same-sex relationships
and
ordaining homosexuals in a
non-celibate relationship
is dead to God's Word !**

A church that tries to replace the view of sexuality as contained within the pages of Scripture has given up the hope that Jesus is enough to answer all our questions.

A church that no longer accepts the Word of God that proclaims, *“My grace is sufficient for you, for [my] power is made perfect in weakness.”* (2 Corinthians 12:9) has decided that satisfying the self is more important for the life of the Church than denying self, as Christ commanded, and taking up our cross and following Him.

We have to ask ourselves

**IS GOD'S WORD TRUTH
OR NOT ?**



WHILE
WE LOVE
THE
SINNER,

it would be wrong
to go against the
Word of God in the
Bible to

condone the SIN — any sin —
whether it be lying, stealing, cheating,
killing, gossiping, adultery or
homosexuality,

Just because we find it
Inconvenient to our life-style.

We are to
conform our
lives to that of
Christ

AS INDIVIDUALS
and as a
CHURCH !



YES !

In 1993, the ELCA drafted a
social statement entitled
**The Church
And Human Sexuality**

It talked about many things, but the issue
of homosexual relationships was a key part.

It suggested that homosexuality is
a possible life-style that we as Christians
MUST ACCEPT
in order to be loving and caring
Christians like Christ our Lord.



The congregations of the ELCA
rejected this social statement by
80 % +
This was a big NO !



So, ... what's this new study going to do for us?

Well . . . *“This document shall include study of the Lutheran understanding of the Word of God and biblical, theological, scientific, and practical material on homosexuality.”*

(2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Sect. VI, P. 81)

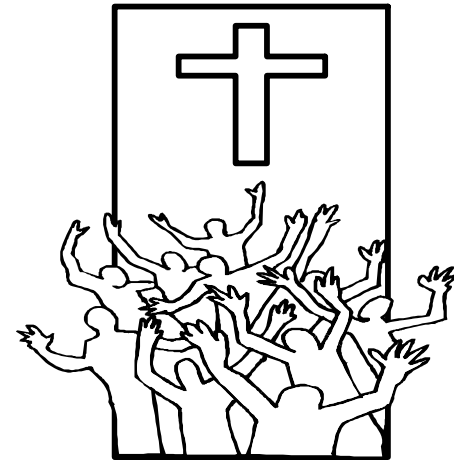
For what purpose ?



to
“address issues related to blessing committed same-gender relationships and rostering of approved candidates who are in committed same-gender relationships.”

(2001 Pre-Assembly Report, Sect. VI, p. 82)

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As Christians, we look to the Word of God in Scripture for direction in how we understand sin and relate to one another.

**Where there is repentance
NO SIN, except denial of the Spirit,
can separate us from the
forgiveness of God in His Church.**

**For this reason, ALL sinners
seeking God's grace and
forgiveness will be
encouraged to take an ACTIVE
role in the life of the Church**

Homosexuals, Too !

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MEMBERS OF THE
**WORDALONE
NETWORK**

AND

**LUTHERAN
CONGREGATIONS
IN MISSION FOR CHRIST**

WELCOME ALL SINNERS
TO BE A PART OF THE LOVE
AND GRACE THAT GOD GIVES
TO ALL WHO BELIEVE IN HIM

AND

WE INVITE THEM TO BE AN
ACTIVE MEMBER OF CHRIST'S
BODY — THE CHURCH!

THEN WHAT HAPPENS ?

The year 2005 at the General Assembly
of the ELCA
is the deadline for both a final report

*“complete with action
steps
for full implementation”
and
“a specific plan and time
leading toward a decision
concerning the rostering
of homosexual persons in
committed relationships.”*

(ELCA News Service, August 14, 2001)



Does this mean we will bless
GAY & LESBIAN
relationships ?

If passed, YES !

Does this mean we will ordain
sexually active homosexuals ?

If passed, YES !

HOW DID THIS
HAPPEN ?



Why are we debating
Homosexuality
In the church
At all ?
Isn't the bible clear
On the question of
Homosexuality ?

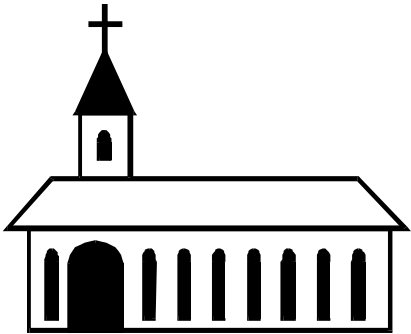
HOWEVER !

Let's be really
clear on some key
issues

because it's too easy to point
an accusatory finger at anyone
who speaks out against the
homosexual lobby.



**To stand on the Word of God and
speak against the sin of
homosexuality, like any sin,
does not mean a
hatred of or exclusion from God's
love or our own of the sinner.**



**THIS
CANNOT
BE
ALLOWED
IN THE
CHURCH !**

Sex isn't a god to be worshiped, and it isn't a necessity for personal human existence. God can restrict the availability of our sexual expression in sexual intercourse in a lot of ways;

- only between a man and a woman in marriage**
- not incestuous**
- for adults only and so on.**

God can do that because He is God. He has made His will clearly known in Scripture which applies to our living as much today as thousands and thousands of years ago.

**The only
absolute
in life is
Jesus Christ !**



**The reason is fairly simple
and very old.**



**The debate over homosexuality,
like our modern view of
sexual permissiveness over all,
is about
US versus GOD**

**We've made our human desires and wants
more important than what
GOD wants for us.**

God and His Word in the Bible
declares boldly
God is Right and God Alone.



The problem comes from our attitude
that we have a view of God
and what He must do to be
loving and just (in our eyes),
instead of
believing in what God provides
as acceptable
sexual behavior
with trusting hearts.



Faith in God

Those who are gays and lesbians
and many who support that life
style as acceptable in the ELCA
are asking
— NO DEMANDING —
that the whole Lutheran church
take part of our life called
SEXUALITY
and say
*“I will tell God what I want from
life to make me happy.”*

So we forget the Bible.

So we forget the partnership of a man and a woman
that God blessed as the only acceptable place for the
expression of sexual intimacy and fulfillment from the
time of creation itself.

MARRIAGE

So we forget the example of Christ in which we are to
remake our lives as God demands.

So We Can Be Happy

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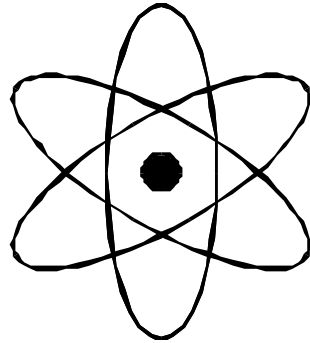
Finally, those who wish to further the homosexual life-style offer a

“ New Knowledge ” Argument

which says:

In our modern, scientific times, we have a new understanding about human sexuality that the writers of the Bible didn't have —

so their view is incomplete and probably wrong.



They viewed sex as having the sole purpose of having babies (procreation) only — not for pleasure.

They were ignorant of genetic factors and the issue of sexual orientation at the time of birth. They considered same-sex relationships and behavior as nothing more than sinful lust and unchecked sexual desires.

Our attitudes toward our sexuality are not God's —
THEY NEVER WERE !



God's plan for us is to move us toward the goal of being “conformed to the image of His Son” (Romans 8:29).

When one really thinks about it — what right do we have to define for ourselves what we can or cannot do on the basis of our personal wants and desires in life?



What right do we have to question God's right to make us over into the image of Christ our Lord as God sees fit?

He Is Our Creator !

Still ...

**there are many who argue that
homosexuality is acceptable behavior.**

**They do this on the basis of
THREE ARGUMENTS**



**“Love—Tolerance—Unity”
Argument**



Here, Scripture doesn’t matter.

**As humans —
We know what love is ...
We know what tolerance is ...
We know what unity calls for ...**

THUS

Consenting adults of the
Same sex who love each other

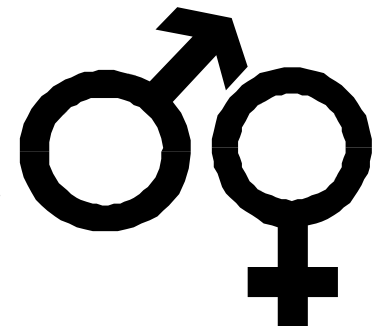
M u s t

Be accepted by the church
As living in a loving
relationship

**Homosexual advocates also stress a
“ Non-Essential Issue “
Argument**



**This says that sex in
general, and
homosexuality
specifically, do not really
matter a whole lot in
today’s world.**



**It’s not a big issue in the Bible,
even if it is mentioned.**

**Only a few passages in the Bible actually say anything
against homosexuality and Jesus never said anything!**

**THE sex issue in the Bible concerns exploitation in
same-sex behavior — not committed loving and caring
same-sex relationships.**

**While homosexuality is a sin, it’s no worse than any
other sin, indeed less of a sin than judging others.**

**The church has looked at Scripture over the centuries
and changed the Bible’s position on several things it
has found inconvenient — so why not homosexuality
too.**