

## Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Curricula and Teaching Policy

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church ('the Church') has a vital mission as described in Matthew 28: 18-20:

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.*

### PURPOSE

As mentioned in numerous places throughout the Bible, the expectations for those who teach the word of God are very high. It is therefore important that the Church establish a policy that guides how teaching is to be conducted. The Christian Education Ministry Team is responsible for the maintenance of this policy.

### SCOPE

The scope of this policy is to include requirements for the approval of curriculum to be used in the teaching of the Church's congregants including both children and adults.

### POLICY STATEMENT

#### Curriculum

Teachers and other curricula developers/decision makers should consult with the Christian Education Ministry Team (CEMT) but must consult with one of the pastors to secure his/her approval of the planned curricula PRIOR to announcing/offering the educational activity to the congregation. For those educational activities not associated with or sponsored by BELC, the Facility Use Policy shall be followed, but review and approval of the curricula by the CEMT and one of the pastors are not required.

#### Teachers

Teachers of classes attended by children, youth, or vulnerable adults shall successfully pass a background check; have attended BELC's Boundary Training Course (or equivalent as determined by the Office and Business Manager) and other orientation/training as recommended by CEMT. All teachers shall be familiar with the Church's Safety and Safe Sanctuary policies, and have their curriculum approved by the

CEMT (for integration with other curricula) and one of the pastors (appropriateness) prior to the first class. Approvals shall be tracked by the Office and Business Manager. Teachers shall comply with all applicable BELC policies and other resource materials (e.g. *Family Handbook/Youth Safety Manual*) while teaching. Teachers for those educational activities not associated with or sponsored by BELC do not require the approval of the CEMT or one of the pastors.

Revision	Revision Date	Review Date	Summary of Revisions
0	9/13/2011	2013	New