



OUR FAITH STATEMENT

ICK: International Church Karlsruhe

Updated: Sep.20.2026 by Rev. Faisal Danish

What We Believe

Rooted in Scripture. Centered on Christ. Shaped by Grace. Sent into the World.

At **International Church Karlsruhe (ICK)**, we believe that Christian faith begins and ends with God. We do not build our faith upon changing cultures, human philosophies, personal experiences, or religious traditions. We receive the **Holy Bible as God's written Word** and seek to understand every area of faith, life, church, and mission in the light of Scripture.

We stand within the historic Christian faith and the evangelical Reformed tradition. We believe in the sovereignty and grace of God, the authority and sufficiency of Scripture, salvation through Jesus Christ alone, the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, and Christ's calling for His Church to make disciples of all nations.

Our congregation includes people from many countries, cultures, languages, generations, and Christian backgrounds. Yet our unity is deeper than our diversity. **Jesus Christ is our center, the Gospel is our message, the Bible is our authority, grace is our foundation, the Church is our family, and God's glory is our highest purpose.**

1. The One True God

We believe in **one living and true God**, the Creator, Sustainer, and sovereign Lord of heaven and earth. He eternally exists as **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**—three distinct Persons, yet one God, equal in divine nature, glory, majesty, and holiness.

God is infinitely holy, righteous, wise, loving, merciful, faithful, and just. He knows all things, possesses all power, and sovereignly rules over His creation. Nothing exists independently of Him, and His eternal purposes cannot ultimately be frustrated. He created all things through His wisdom and for His glory, and history is moving toward the fulfillment of His redemptive purposes in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, humanity's highest calling is to **know God, love Him, worship Him, enjoy Him, and glorify Him forever.**

Bible References: Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 46:9–10; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1–3; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Romans 11:33–36.



2. The Bible — God Has Spoken

We believe that God has made Himself known. His power and wisdom are displayed in creation, and He has revealed Himself savingly and supremely through **Jesus Christ and the Holy Scriptures**.

We believe the **sixty-six books** of the Old and New Testaments **are inspired by God** and constitute His written Word. Scripture is **trustworthy, authoritative, sufficient, and necessary** for knowing God's saving truth and for directing the faith and life of His people.

The Church does not stand above Scripture, nor do cultures, traditions, pastors, theologians, creeds, or confessions. **God's Word remains our final authority for faith, doctrine, and Christian living**. Therefore, we seek to read the Bible faithfully, interpret it responsibly, teach it clearly, obey it humbly, and allow it continually to reform our beliefs and lives.

From Genesis to Revelation, Scripture tells one great story: **God creates, humanity falls, God redeems through Christ, and God will restore all things for His glory**.

Bible References: Psalm 19:7–11; Psalm 119:105; Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 3:14–17; 2 Peter 1:20–21; Hebrews 1:1–3.

3. Humanity — Created in God's Image

We believe God created human beings in His own image and therefore every human life possesses God-given dignity and value. Humanity was created to know God, worship Him, enjoy fellowship with Him, care faithfully for His creation, love one another, and reflect His character in the world.

Every human being—regardless of nationality, ethnicity, language, economic condition, education, age, or social position—should therefore be treated with dignity, compassion, and love. Human worth does not come from achievement, wealth, status, nationality, or ability; **it comes from the God whose image we bear**.

We believe God created humanity male and female and established marriage as a covenantal union between a man and a woman. Within God's good creation, marriage, family, work, relationships, and human community were designed to flourish under His loving rule.

Bible References: Genesis 1:26–28; Genesis 2:18–25; Psalm 8:3–8; Matthew 19:4–6; James 3:9.

4. The Fall, Sin, and Our Need for Redemption

We believe humanity rebelled against God and fell into sin. Because of the Fall, our relationship with God, with one another, with ourselves, and with creation has become



broken. Sin is more than individual mistakes; it is humanity's rebellion against God's rightful rule and affects every dimension of human existence.

No person can overcome sin and make himself or herself righteous before God through morality, religion, education, good intentions, social status, or good works. Our deepest human problem therefore cannot be solved merely through better circumstances or self-improvement. **We need reconciliation with God, forgiveness of sins, spiritual renewal, and redemption. We need a Savior.**

Bible References: Genesis 3:1–24; Psalm 51:5; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:10–23; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1–3.

5. God's Sovereign Grace

We believe salvation begins not with humanity reaching upward toward God, but with **God graciously reaching toward sinners**. The Bible reveals a God who seeks, calls, forgives, redeems, adopts, sanctifies, preserves, and ultimately glorifies His people.

Salvation originates in God's gracious purpose rather than human merit. God's sovereign grace gives Christians no reason for spiritual pride; instead, it produces humility, worship, gratitude, obedience, and love. We cannot boast that we were wiser, better, more religious, or more deserving than others. Our salvation is God's gift from beginning to end.

This same grace calls people everywhere to repent of sin and trust in Jesus Christ. Our confidence therefore rests not in ourselves, but in the mercy and faithfulness of God.

Bible References: John 6:37–44; Romans 8:28–30; Ephesians 1:3–14; Ephesians 2:4–10; Titus 3:3–7.

6. Jesus Christ — Lord and Savior

At the center of our faith stands **Jesus Christ**, the eternal Son of God. We believe that He became truly human without ceasing to be truly God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He entered human history, lived among us, proclaimed God's Kingdom, showed compassion to the suffering, perfectly obeyed His Father, and lived the righteous and sinless life we could not live.

Jesus was crucified under Pontius Pilate. His death was not merely a tragic event or an example of sacrificial love. **Christ gave Himself for sinners**. He stood in our place, bore the judgment our sins deserved, and accomplished reconciliation between God and all who trust in Him.

On the third day, Jesus bodily rose from the dead, declaring His victory over sin, death, and the powers of darkness. He ascended into heaven and reigns at the Father's right hand as Lord, King, Advocate, and High Priest. We believe salvation is found in Him alone. **Jesus Christ is our only Savior and our only hope of reconciliation with God.**



Bible References: Isaiah 53:4–6; John 1:1–18; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:6–11; 1 Corinthians 15:3–8; Colossians 1:15–20; Hebrews 4:14–16.

7. The Gospel — Good News of Grace

We believe the gospel is the **good news of what God has accomplished for sinners through Jesus Christ**. Christ died for our sins, was buried, rose again, and offers forgiveness, reconciliation, righteousness, adoption, and eternal life to all who trust in Him.

We are justified before God **by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone**. We are not accepted by God because of our religious achievements, morality, or good works. The righteousness we need is found in Christ. Faith receives what God's grace provides, and good works follow as the fruit—not the cause—of salvation.

The gospel is not merely the doorway into Christianity. It remains at the center of the entire Christian life, continually humbling us, restoring us, strengthening us, and reminding us of our identity in Christ.

Bible References: Romans 1:16–17; Romans 3:21–28; Romans 5:1–2; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8–10; Philippians 3:7–9.

8. The Holy Spirit

We believe the **Holy Spirit is fully God**, eternally one with the Father and the Son. He glorifies Jesus Christ and applies God's saving work to His people.

The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, gives spiritual life, brings sinners to repentance and faith, unites believers to Christ, assures us of our adoption, illuminates Scripture, produces holiness, gives spiritual gifts, empowers Christian witness, and equips God's people for ministry and service.

Christianity therefore cannot be reduced to religious knowledge or outward observance. God transforms His people from the inside out. As believers walk by the Spirit, He increasingly forms within us the character of Christ. The gifts He gives are not for personal status or self-promotion, but for **building up Christ's Church and advancing God's mission**.

Bible References: John 3:5–8; John 14:16–17; John 16:7–15; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9–17; 1 Corinthians 12:4–11; Galatians 5:16–25.

9. The Church — One Body, Many Nations

We believe **Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church**. All who truly belong to Christ are members of His body, and the universal Church becomes visible through local congregations where believers gather around God's Word, worship, prayer, fellowship, baptism, the Lord's Supper, discipleship, service, and mission.



The Church is not merely a building, weekly event, or collection of religious consumers. It is **God's covenant people and the body of Christ**. Therefore, Christians belong to one another and are called to encourage, forgive, teach, pray for, serve, and carry one another's burdens.

At ICK, this biblical truth has a particularly beautiful expression. We come from many nations, speak different languages, and carry different cultural stories, yet Jesus has created something greater than our differences. **Our unity does not require us to erase our cultures, nor do our cultures determine our unity. Christ does.**

Bible References: Acts 2:42–47; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; Ephesians 1:22–23; Ephesians 2:11–22; Ephesians 4:1–16; 1 Peter 2:9–10.

10. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe Jesus Christ gave His Church **Baptism and the Lord's Supper** as visible signs of His covenant grace and the gospel.

Baptism points us toward God's promises, our union with Christ, cleansing from sin, new life, and belonging among God's covenant people. The Lord's Supper directs the Church repeatedly to the body and blood of Christ given for us. At His Table, believers remember Christ, proclaim His death, ask for the forgiveness of their sins, enjoy fellowship with Him through faith, express their unity as His body, and anticipate His return.

These sacred signs do not direct our confidence toward human performance. They continually direct us toward **Jesus Christ and His saving grace**.

Bible References: Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 2:38–39; Romans 6:3–4; 1 Corinthians 10:16–17; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26.

11. The Christian Life — Grace That Transforms

We believe the grace that saves us also transforms us. Those whom God justifies are called into a new life of holiness, obedience, love, and growing conformity to Jesus Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Christian growth takes place as God works through His Word, prayer, worship, fellowship, the sacraments, discipleship, confession, repentance, service, and obedience. Although believers do not reach sinless perfection in this life, we are called continually to grow in holiness, humility, integrity, generosity, forgiveness, compassion, courage, faithfulness, and love.

We do not pursue holiness in order to just get the title of becoming God's children. **We pursue holiness because, through Christ, God has graciously made us His children.**

Bible References: Romans 12:1–2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 2:12–13; Colossians 3:1–17; Titus 2:11–14.

12. The Kingdom of God and Christian Living

We believe **Jesus Christ is King**. His Kingdom has entered history through His life, death, resurrection, and the work of the Holy Spirit, although we still await its complete fulfillment when Christ returns.

Our citizenship in God's Kingdom affects how we approach family, relationships, work, finances, neighborhoods, society, and our responsibilities toward others. Christians are called to be salt and light. We should neither isolate ourselves from the world nor become indistinguishable from it.

As followers of Jesus, we seek to:

- love God with our whole being and love our neighbors as ourselves;
- welcome strangers and practice hospitality;
- care for the poor, vulnerable, lonely, and suffering;
- uphold the God-given dignity of human life;
- practice generosity, mercy, reconciliation, and forgiveness;
- seek peace and the good of the communities in which God has placed us;
- live faithfully as witnesses to Jesus Christ.

These actions do not replace the proclamation of the gospel. Rather, **the gospel creates a people whose lives demonstrate the love, mercy, and holiness of the King they proclaim.**

Bible References: Micah 6:8; Jeremiah 29:7; Matthew 5:13–16; Matthew 22:37–40; Galatians 6:9–10; 1 Peter 2:11–17.

13. The Great Commission — Making Disciples

We believe Christ has entrusted His Church with the mission of **making disciples of all nations**. The Great Commission is therefore not simply one ministry among many; it belongs to the very identity of Christ's Church.

We are called to proclaim Jesus Christ, invite people to repentance and faith, baptize disciples, teach God's Word, strengthen believers, equip God's people for ministry, and carry the gospel across cultural and geographical boundaries.

For an international church like ICK, **the nations are both around us and beyond us**. God has brought people from many parts of the world to Karlsruhe—Germans and internationals, students and professionals, immigrants and refugees, families and individuals, children and young adults. We therefore see Karlsruhe itself as a mission field entrusted to us while remaining committed to Christ's worldwide mission.



Bible References: Matthew 28:18–20; Luke 24:46–49; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13–15; 2 Corinthians 5:17–20.

14. Faith Formation Across Generations

We believe Christian faith is to be taught, lived, and passed faithfully from one generation to another. The Church is therefore called to nurture children, equip young people, strengthen families, disciple adults, and encourage mature believers to invest their wisdom and experience in those who follow them.

At ICK, this commitment is expressed through **biblical teaching, children's and youth ministry, young-adult discipleship, family strengthening, Bible studies, small groups, mentoring, prayer, hospitality, shared meals, and everyday Christian fellowship.**

We want children not simply to attend church but to know Christ. We want young people not merely to inherit Christian traditions but to understand, believe, and live the gospel. We want adults continually to mature in Christ, and we want the generations to worship, serve, pray, and follow Jesus together.

Bible References: Deuteronomy 6:4–9; Psalm 78:1–7; Titus 2:1–8; 2 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 3:14–15.

15. Mission, Mercy, and Serving Our City

We believe Jesus came not to be served but to serve, and therefore **His Church cannot exist only for itself.** The gospel sends God's people outward in love.

Christian mission includes faithfully proclaiming Christ while demonstrating His compassion through hospitality, mercy, generosity, reconciliation, practical service, and care for people who are vulnerable, suffering, overlooked, or alone.

For ICK, this means that we desire to be more than **a church located in Karlsruhe.** We want to be **a church that loves, prays for, serves, and blesses Karlsruhe.** We want our homes to become places of hospitality, our tables to have room for strangers, our ministries to have room for seekers, our fellowship to have room for the lonely, and our lives to point beyond ourselves to Jesus Christ.

Bible References: Mark 10:45; Luke 10:25–37; Romans 12:9–13; Hebrews 13:1–3; James 1:27; 1 John 3:16–18.

16. Christ's Return and the Restoration of All Things

We believe the risen and ascended Jesus Christ will **personally, visibly, bodily, and gloriously return.** The dead will be raised, and God will judge humanity with perfect righteousness and justice.



Those who belong to Christ will enter the fullness of eternal life in God's presence, while those who remain outside Christ face God's righteous judgment. Sin, suffering, injustice, Satan, and death will not have the final word. God will make all things new, and His redeemed people will dwell with Him in the **new heavens and new earth**, where righteousness dwells and death, mourning, crying, and pain will finally be no more.

Our ultimate hope therefore does not rest in human progress, wealth, nations, political systems, or earthly success. **Our hope is Jesus Christ.** Because He is risen and will return, we can live faithfully, serve sacrificially, endure suffering with hope, and proclaim the gospel with confidence.

Bible References: John 14:1–3; 1 Corinthians 15:20–28, 50–58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1–5; Revelation 22:12–13.

Our Theological Foundation

ICK belongs to the **historic Christian faith** and stands within the **evangelical Reformed theological tradition**. We value the great historic Christian creeds and Reformed confessions as faithful witnesses that have helped generations of Christians understand, articulate, defend, and pass on biblical truth.

Among these, we particularly value the **Apostles' Creed, Nicene Creed, Heidelberg Catechism, Westminster Confession of Faith, and Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechisms**.

These historic documents do not stand above or alongside Scripture as another divine authority. They are valuable insofar as they faithfully summarize biblical teaching. **The Holy Scriptures remain our supreme and final authority for faith, doctrine, and life.**

Our Reformed heritage is helpfully summarized by five historic convictions:

- **Scripture Alone — *Sola Scriptura*:** The Holy Scriptures are our supreme authority for faith and life.
- **Grace Alone — *Sola Gratia*:** Salvation is entirely God's gracious gift and cannot be earned.
- **Faith Alone — *Sola Fide*:** We are justified before God through faith, not through our works.
- **Christ Alone — *Solus Christus*:** Jesus Christ is our only Savior, Mediator, and hope of reconciliation with God.
- **To the Glory of God Alone — *Soli Deo Gloria*:** Our salvation, worship, Church, mission, work, and ultimately all of life exist for God's glory.

What Our Faith Means for ICK

Our Faith Statement is not intended merely to define theological positions. **What we believe should shape how we worship, live, love, serve, and carry out Christ's mission.**

Because Scripture is God's Word, **we submit ourselves to the Bible.** Because God is sovereign, **we trust Him.** Because salvation is by grace, **we reject spiritual pride.** Because Christ alone saves, **we proclaim Jesus.** Because the Holy Spirit transforms, **we pray for changed lives.** Because every person bears God's image, **we treat people with dignity.** Because Christ has made us one body, **we welcome people across cultures and nations.** Because the Church is God's family, **we carry one another's burdens.** Because Jesus welcomed us, **we practice hospitality.** Because Jesus served us, **we serve our neighbors.** Because Christ commanded us to make disciples, **we take the gospel beyond ourselves.** And because Christ will return, **we live with hope.**

Above all, because everything belongs to God, **we desire every ministry of ICK to bring glory to Him.**

Our Calling as an International Church

We believe God has placed **International Church Karlsruhe** in this city for a purpose. Karlsruhe brings together people from Germany and nations across Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas, and beyond. We see this diversity not merely as a demographic reality, but as a remarkable opportunity for gospel ministry.

We desire to be a church where:

- the Bible is faithfully taught and Jesus Christ is clearly proclaimed;
- prayer becomes a way of life and believers mature as disciples;
- children and young people grow in faith and families are strengthened;
- seekers can ask genuine questions and explore the Christian faith;
- different cultures, generations, and languages find fellowship in Christ;
- the lonely discover community and the hurting encounter compassion;
- Christians are equipped to use their gifts for ministry and mission;
- Karlsruhe is faithfully loved and served;
- disciples are equipped and sent to participate in God's mission locally and globally.



Our vision reaches beyond simply gathering people from different nations in one room on Sundays. **Our prayer is that Jesus Christ will make us one people who increasingly reflect His character, proclaim His gospel, and participate together in His mission.**

Bible References: Ephesians 2:13–22; Ephesians 4:11–16; Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8.

Many Nations. One Faith. One Church.

Scripture gives us a beautiful picture of God's redeemed people: a great multitude from **every nation, tribe, people, and language standing before the throne and before the Lamb.**

This biblical vision deeply shapes ICK. Cultural diversity itself is not our gospel—**Jesus Christ is the center of the gospel.** Yet when people who might otherwise have remained strangers become brothers and sisters through Christ, the Church gives the world a glimpse of God's reconciling work.

Our nations may be many, our languages may be many, our cultures may be many, and our stories may be many, **but we have one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of all.**

Therefore, by God's grace, we desire to be:

- **A Church Rooted in the Word**
- **A Church Centered on Christ**
- **A Church Dependent on the Holy Spirit**
- **A Church Shaped by Grace**
- **A Church Growing in Prayer**
- **A Church Forming Disciples**
- **A Church Strengthening Families**
- **A Church Welcoming the Nations**
- **A Church Serving Karlsruhe**
- **A Church Sent into the World**

Bible References: Ephesians 4:1–6, 15–16; Revelation 7:9–10.

International Church Karlsruhe — ICK

People. Faith. Community. Together