



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

What topics does the *Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality* address?

Marriage

“Marriage is a structure of mutual promises between a man and woman blessed by God (Mark 10:7-9) and authorized in a legal arrangement required by the state. Christians understand marriage as a covenant of commitment and hope requiring constant care and cultivation. It is a covenant that protects the creation and nurturing of mutual trust and love as a foundation of human community” (pg. 33).

“The purpose of marriage is not solely to legitimate genital relations, but to create long-term, durable communion for the good of others” (pg.33).

“Precisely because marriage is the place where deep human trust and needs abide, it also can be a place of greatest harm. Harming another through the misuse or abuse of power not only is a profound injury, but also a betrayal and violation of the shelter and trust that are intended within the marriage relationship” (pg. 34).

Social Statements guide policy in the ELCA and the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality is looking for your feedback on the draft. To read more of the *Draft Social Statement on Human Sexuality* and to respond to the task force please visit:

<http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney>