CHRISTIAN CHURCH

LEARNING STATEMENTS:
CONTENT KNOWLEDGE AND
WAYS OF KNOWING
Key Idea 1: Christians believe the Bible is God's word

The Bible tells the message God has revealed in his story in the Bible. Significant features of the Bible include:

- A collection of stories by different authors
- Contains different forms of writing
- Stories and style of writing reflect the different times in which people lived
- Organised into books and chapters and verses
- Contains many stories about God's people
- There are two distinct sections of the Bible: Old Testament, New Testament
- The Old Testament is about God's journey with his people up to Jesus' birth
- The New Testament tells about God's people after Jesus was born
- God's importance for Christians
- Thught God reveals himself and his love for people in Jesus Christ
- Teaches about God
- Can guide Christians in their living

The Bible is published in different formats, versions and presentations. Bible stories can be told in different ways and the key messages remain the same. The Bible does not tell everything about God and the world.

The Bible is God's word and contains many narratives written by different authors in various forms. The Bible is the story of God and his relationship with people, having Jesus as the central figure. Each author tells the message God has revealed in people's lives, community and history. Christians believe the Bible tells them what to believe and how to live.

Literary forms of the biblical narrative are recognised by their textual features, use of language and literary conventions. Knowledge of these is key to understanding the message and purpose of the Bible. God's relationship with people and his saving plan is the common thread which links the biblical narratives, inviting a response from listeners and readers.

The Bible is an ancient text written in and for a world removed from the experience of contemporary readers. Uncovering the culture of writers and listeners of the original text gives insights into the meanings of the text for those people. It also assists current readers to make meaning for their context.

The Bible is God's way of telling people about him. God gave the Bible to people. What the Bible says about God is true. The Bible is God's way of telling people about him.

The Bible contains many narratives told by different authors, dates, purposes, key themes, cultural and social background to biblical stories, and messages, fictional and unnamed characters.

Significant features of the Bible include:

- Recounts: components (eg, setting, events, conclusion), point of view, characters, events
- Parables: language (eg, allegory, metaphor, simile, symbolism), purpose and messages, fictional and unnamed characters
- Miracle stories: threefold structure (problem or need, action, reaction), types (eg, healing, exorcism, nature), symbolic action
- Psalms: types (eg, praise/lament, faith/trust, trust), poetic structure, imagery, repetition, purpose
- Letters
- History
- Proverbs: wise sayings

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God's importance for Christians:

- Thought God reveals himself and his love for people in Jesus Christ
- Teaches about God
- Can guide Christians in their living

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The Bible is God's word. God communicates with people through the Bible, progressively revealing himself and his plan for salvation through Jesus and his will for people (purpose). Written by people whom God inspired in different places and times, people have had access to God's word in different ways at different times - oral tradition, scroll, individual books, collection of books, electronic, Braille.

Overview of Bible's story, the key people, events, God's will for people.

Contexts of the Bible:

- Authors, dates, purposes, key themes
- Key ideas of books of the Bible
- Cultural and social background to biblical stories
- Historical development of the Bible (eg, oral, written, printing, translation)
- The history of how the biblical canon was agreed upon
- Examination scripture to learn about God's message for his people
- People use a range of tools to investigate biblical passages
- Biblical reference materials (eg, handbooks, concordances, encyclopedias, dictionaries, commentaries, handbooks, concordances, encyclopedias, dictionaries, commentaries) as aids to biblical interpretation
- Maps, diagrams, timelines and charts
- Bible translations - variety, accuracy, purpose
- Different interpretations of scripture (eg, liberal, literal)
- The Bible is interpreted in light of Jesus and the gospel

Nature and purpose of the Bible:

- God's word to people
- Leads people to God through the Holy Spirit
- Ultimate authority for what Christians believe, teach and how Christians should live
- Informs doctrines of the church
- Scripture in forms scripture
- Law and gospel in the Old and New Testaments and its continuing relevance today
- Differences between Protestant, Orthodox and Catholic canons

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The historical context of the biblical text (Old Testament and New Testament) is God's revelation to people and is the basis for Christian doctrine and belief.

Canonical context and acceptance of biblical text:

- Literary style, forms and structures of the Bible (eg, genealogy, law codes, history, wisdom literature, prophecy, apocalyptic)

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Range of approaches to reading and interpreting biblical text:

- Author centred
- Text centred
- Historical-critical
- Source criticism
- Redaction criticism
- Form criticism
- Bible as sacred text

Christian individuals and denominations have different approaches to reading and interpreting the Bible (eg, Lutherans read the Bible through the lenses of law and gospel, Lutherans believe the Bible is revealed word of God).
Achievement standards for each band comprise concepts and content drawn from Learning Statements and Scope Statements together with evidence of student learning demonstrated through ways of knowing.
### Key Idea 2: The Christian community is shaped by and shapes its cultural and historical contexts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Band</th>
<th>CC 1.2</th>
<th>CC 2.2</th>
<th>CC 3.2</th>
<th>CC 4.2</th>
<th>CC 5.2</th>
<th>CC 6.2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning</strong></td>
<td>Children identify different Christian churches in their community</td>
<td>Students draw conclusions about the purpose of the Christian church in the local community</td>
<td>Students research key events in the history of Christianity and reflect on their significance over time and place</td>
<td>Students examine the development of Christian communities to compare how beliefs and practices of these communities reflect their social and historical contexts</td>
<td>Students critique the interaction of the Christian church with society, past and present</td>
<td>Students assess various contexts and challenges facing the Christian church today and propose possible future paths for the church</td>
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**Learning statement**

- The Christian church comprises gatherings of people who meet to celebrate their common faith in God. The buildings in which they meet reflect significant aspects of their beliefs, culture and individuality. Buildings change and even disappear, but people continue to congregate to worship God.

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## Key Idea 3: Christians pray, worship and celebrate the sacraments

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<tr>
<td><strong>CC1.3</strong></td>
<td>Children share their experiences of Christian prayer, worship and celebrations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CC2.3</strong></td>
<td>Students research and describe key Christian practices and celebrations</td>
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<td><strong>CC3.3</strong></td>
<td>Students investigate and describe the purposes and significance of worship and sacramental practices of the Lutheran church</td>
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<td><strong>CC4.3</strong></td>
<td>Students compare and contrast the origins, intention and diversity of Christian worship practices</td>
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<td><strong>CC5.3</strong></td>
<td>Students analyse worship, the sacraments and prayer as vital to the Christian experience</td>
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<td><strong>CC6.3</strong></td>
<td>Students explore and discuss Christian beliefs about the meaning and mystery of a sacrament for Christians</td>
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### Children share their experiences of Christian prayer, worship and celebrations
- Christians believe that God is present in a special way in their worship and prayer. In baptism they receive God's Spirit, the gift of faith and forgiveness. The symbols and rituals that accompany worship and significant celebrations point to God's life-giving actions.
- Children share their experiences of Christian prayer, worship and significant celebrations.

### Students research and describe key Christian practices and celebrations
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### Students explore and discuss Christian beliefs about the meaning and mystery of a sacrament for Christians
- Students explore and discuss Christian beliefs about the meaning and mystery of a sacrament for Christians.
- Children share their experiences of Christian prayer, worship and significant celebrations.
• experience and talk about various worship forms (e.g., devotion, Sunday church service, chapel)
• listen to and talk about people praying
• participate in preparations for prayer and worship
• talk about rituals such as lighting and blowing out the candles and what they mean
• talk about and demonstrate prayer postures such as folding hands, closing eyes and why people do them
• talk about how people pray at different times and occasions and in different ways
• prepare for celebrations meaningfully and discuss what is happening and why
• describe why people might worship
• illustrate or describe a personal worship experience

• recognise that prayer is being with God in a special way and can be experienced alone or with others
• identify things Christians can pray about and formulate simple prayers
• practise techniques to enhance prayer (e.g., listening, stillness, visualising and attentiveness)
• investigate and retell biblical accounts of Jesus praying (e.g., the Lord’s prayer, Jesus in the garden)
• design a prayer space (e.g., a garden within the school)
• identify objects commonly used in Christian worship (e.g., Bible, altar, candles) and investigate their significance
• identify parts of worship to plan and present a class/school worship service
• explore Bible stories about baptism
• explore the Christian teaching that through baptism people become members of God’s family
• explore the rituals, events, symbols and practices related to Christmas and Easter

• describe and investigate the various spaces, areas and features within a church building (e.g., plan an ideal church building)
• investigate and explain the elements of worship and activities that take place during worship with particular emphasis on the sacraments and prayer (e.g., prepare a worship service)
• identify the significance of and differentiate between the seasons of the Lutheran church year (e.g., visually represent the seasons)
• gather and share information about historical places of worship and identify significant aspects (e.g., temple, cathedral)
• research why people value community worship and summarise their findings
• investigate the elements of worship and identify why each aspect is important (e.g., Bible readings, prayers, confession)
• interpret the Lord’s prayer in his/her own personal way (e.g., words or images)
• discuss and compare different worship experiences in Christian denominations
• reflect on how the arts can enhance people’s worship experiences (e.g., music, art, dance)
• respond to the Christian message through various means (e.g., words, songs, pictures, action)
• identify Lutheran means of grace (God’s word, baptism, holy communion) and examine their impact on people for daily living
• explore the sacraments of baptism and holy communion to identify what they reveal about God and his people
• critique the school’s worship practices
• explore different forms and traditions of Christian prayer and meditation

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• critique the school’s worship practices
• explore different forms and traditions of Christian prayer and meditation
• present various forms of prayer and identify what they demonstrate about the place of prayer in a person’s relationship with God
• identify the place of baptism in the lives of the early Christians and explain its importance in current Christian practices
• examine different rituals of worship and describe their significance
• use ritual and drama to communicate God’s message for a worship service (e.g., interpret a Bible passage through tableau, freeze frame, mime, dance)
• describe and share different forms and experiences of worship, assessing the purpose and validity of each form of worship
• analyse denominational differences in belief and practice of the sacraments
• analyse the significance of the sacraments to the different denominations
• compare and contrast the worship practices of the school and local congregation and consider reasons for similarities and differences and any challenges this creates
• provide arguments for and against the practice of the sacraments in school worship
• explain how the use of rituals in various denominations communicates key beliefs and promotes hope, affirmation, belonging and community
• identify the need for and the use of rituals in their own lives and create a ritual that endeavours to meet a particular need for themselves or the community
• represent the meaning Christians draw from their experiences of the sacraments
• reflect on their response to rituals in the school community (worship, graduation, stillness exercises), their family (birthdays, weddings, funerals, Christmas) and the wider community (ANZAC dawn service, Australia day)
• research the key events linked to the sacraments as described in the gospels, demonstrating the relationship between the events and the meaning the sacraments have for Christians
• make recommendations to enhance the worship experience of the school community
• critique school’s worship and design rituals that reflect students’ understandings and struggles of faith to include in future worship
• participate in the creation of a school worship event, recording and explaining the significance of the chosen rituals, words and order of the worship event

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