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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Denounces Connecticut Marriage Ruling**

*St. Louis, MO – October 20, 2008* –The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) is taking a bold stance for natural marriage. With less than two weeks to go until one of the most important elections in history takes place, the LCMS and its leaders know there is no time to lose to urge members in their churches and all Christians to take action and get to the polls, especially in those states that have amendments on their ballots next month.

The LCMS is teaming up with pro-family groups in the U.S. where marriage amendments are definitely on the ballots on November 4 – Arizona, Florida and California. Last week, Connecticut's same-sex marriage ban was struck down, affirming the need for constitutional amendments in states that do not currently have them. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, president of LCMS, made this statement regarding the Supreme Court ruling just last week to legalize same-sex marriage in Connecticut, "In its ruling, the Connecticut Supreme Court compared interracial marriage, specifically the rights of blacks and whites to marry, with the rights of homosexual couples to marry. A darker time in history prevented the races from coming together in marriage. To compare that reality from our nation's past to homosexual marriage today defies comprehension. Interracial marriage brings men and women together in a union that does not defy the laws of nature, while same-sex marriage goes against the biological, anatomical, physiological, and reproductive facts of life."

Kieschnick believes that the Connecticut decision, which strikes down the state's civil union law, highlights the downward spiral of moral values that is becoming so prevalent in our culture. The state's high court decision contravenes not only the Judeo-Christian values that have originated

and defined the moral compass of this great nation, but also the laws of nature and the natural reproductive process.

Connecticut Supreme Court Justice Richard N. Palmer wrote for the majority in a 4-to-3 decision that explored the nature of homosexual identity, comparing the history of societal views toward homosexuality and the limits of gay political power with that of blacks and women. Kieschnick went on to state, "To allow a court to define homosexuality and to compare this lifestyle to blacks' and women's rights is comparing apples to porcupines."

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, founded in 1847 and today one of the largest Christian denominations in the U.S. with approximately 2.5 million members of the church, believes it has the duty and responsibility to speak publicly in disagreement with the Connecticut Supreme Court's decision.

"In the present context we and other Christians cannot be silent, since such silence could be viewed as acceptance of the homosexual lifestyle. Accordingly, we as a church body urge our leaders, members, congregations, and all Christians, to give a public witness against the social acceptance and legal recognition of homosexual 'marriage.'

"We recognize that it is necessary to respond to this behavior with the same love and concern with which we address all other sins committed by human beings, including those inside and those outside the church. We do so without apology, yet with deep humility and respect, calling for repentance and offering forgiveness in the Good News of Jesus Christ when and where such repentance occurs," affirms Dr. Kieschnick.

The LCMS is in full doctrinal fellowship with 30 other confessional Lutheran church bodies on six continents, supports more than 650 missionaries in 85 countries around the globe, and is a founding partner of Lutheran Services in America, an alliance of two Lutheran church bodies and their more than 300 social ministry organizations that together serve one in every 50 Americans. For more information, visit [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org).