

## F.A.Q.

**Q: What is the difference between gender and sexuality?**

A: Gender is who you identify as (male, female, both or neither) whereas sexuality is indicative of who you are attracted to. I.E. you are a man (gender) attracted to women (heterosexual.)

**Q: How do you know what pronouns to use?**

A: Ask! The best way is by saying, "What are your pronouns?" Some people don't like being asked "What are your preferred pronouns" because a pronoun is not a preference; it is an identity, who you are.

**Q: Some people go by "they." Isn't "they" plural?**

A: The English word they is both plural and singular. Think of it this way: if a masked rider trots into town on their horse, how do you know who they are until they take off the mask?

**Q: I have just misgendered somebody. What do I do?**

A: Correct it and move on. "Yes she – my bad, he – said that..." You can apologize, but don't overemphasize it. Mistakes happen. If you profusely apologize or keep talking about the mistake, you are putting that person's gender in the spotlight which can be uncomfortable, and that person may also feel responsible for consoling you now.

**Q: What does cisgender or "cis" mean?**

A: Somebody who identifies with the biological sex they were assigned at birth. If you were born as a biological woman and identify as she/her, you are cisgender, or cis.

## What does "LGBTQ+ stand for?"

LGBT, LGBTQ+, or LGBTQIP2SAA are the most common acronyms to describe our community. But as a community, we want to include everyone on the spectrum. Here are some important words to know which may take place in different variations of this acronym.

**Lesbian**

**Gay**

**Bisexual**

**Transgender**

**Queer, Questioning**

**Intersex**

**Pansexual**

**2-Spirit**

**Asexual, Ally**

The spectrum of gender and sexuality is a vast one, and more unique identities and their subsets exist than what are included in this pamphlet. Take some time to look them up and learn a little more about your neighbors!

## LGBTQ+ Identities And Their Meanings



Each year Faith Lutheran Church participates in Stonewall Chico Pride in support of our LGBTQ+ community. We take pride in creating beautiful crafts to hand out as prizes at our booth or to give away to the community. But how familiar are we as a congregation with gender and sexuality? Lots of our allies (and even our own LGBTQ+ members) are still learning about different gender and sexual identities. This brochure covers the basics. Choose the colors of any identity and craft something BEAUTIFUL to show our community that our congregation educates, celebrates, and loves unconditionally!

## There are a LOT of identities! Why are they important?

*It is in our nature as human beings to want to reach out and connect with people, but many LGBTQ+ folks struggle to feel like we belong. Many of us are ostracized from our families, churches, and communities because we are queer. Sometimes we find it hard to trust again and are afraid to reach out to churches; if we were hurt once, why wouldn't it happen again? One of the most important, consistent things we have in our lives are our identities. And for many of us, embracing our identity makes us whole.*

*Faith Lutheran Church doesn't understand the ins and outs of every identity, even our own queer members, but we still respect and celebrate them. We educate ourselves on them, and connect with folks of all identities not just during Chico Pride but all year round. Our mission statement is "A community reflecting God's love with a place at the table for everyone." That means everyone. All genders. All sexualities. All people.*



### GAY PRIDE

Used by gays and lesbians (sometimes including the Mars or Venus symbols interlocking) although rainbows tend to represent the community as a whole.



### BISEXUAL

Having an attraction toward more than one gender.



### PANSEXUAL

Having an attraction toward people regardless of gender.

**But wait! What is the difference between Bi and Pansexual?** Bisexuals are attracted to more than one gender while pansexuals are attracted to people regardless of gender. For example, some people like the colors red and blue (bisexual), but some people like red, blue, and mixing them to get purple (pansexual.)



### TRANSGENDER

Somebody whose gender not reflect their sex assigned at birth. MtF means male to female (someone born male who is a woman) and FtM is female to male (someone born female who is a man.) This includes nonbinary folks.



### NONBINARY

Somebody who identifies outside the realm of gender binaries (male or female.) They may prefer a neutral pronoun, like "they" as opposed to he or she, and fall under the umbrella of transgender.



### AGENDER

A person who does not identify as any gender.



### ASEXUAL or "ACE"

Somebody who shows little to no sexual attraction to others. This does not mean they cannot be romantic or love somebody.



### AROMANTIC or "ARO"

Somebody who shows little to no romantic attraction toward others. This does not mean they cannot show sexual attraction.

**But can asexuals or aromantics have a fulfilling love life?** Yes! It is all about consent, as is with any other relationship. Somebody who is Ace or Aro may romantically or sexually reach out to their partners in any capacity they find comfortable to fulfill a partner's needs.



### DEMISEXUAL

Somebody who needs to get to know others on a personal level before feeling romantic or sometimes sexual attraction.



### BEAR

A subset of gay or bi men – either cis or trans – who are sometimes hairy or heavy-set.



### LIPSTICK LESBIAN

A subset of lesbians who usually identify as more feminine than not.