

What Lutherans Believe

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

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The Office of the Keys, Forgiveness

- Read:
 - Revelation 1:18
 - Matthew 16:19
 - Matthew 18:15-20
 - John 20:22-23
 - II Corinthians 2:10-11
 - 2 Samuel 12:13
 - James 5:16

What should/must a congregation do with openly unrepentant sinners?

Should we make confession mandatory for all members?

What abuses might arise from such a practice?

Are there any abuses that occur when confession is strictly voluntary?

- Excommunication
 - Lesser Ban
 - Greater Ban
 - The goal is restoration

God's forgiveness is not a "reward" for our forgiving others, but once we receive it in true faith and gratitude, the inevitable consequence is to want to share it with others.

