

## What is a Lutheran?

*Excerpt from Channing Bete "About Being Lutheran"*

### What is a Lutheran?

A Lutheran is a Christian---one who trusts in Jesus Christ as Savior.

### Lutheran's share a common faith

With other Christians they:

- Accept the Bible as the true source of Christian love guidance and doctrine
- Accept the same ancient creeds (Apostles', etc)

### But they also proclaim God's message by:

Emphasizing justification by faith

- Teaching that a person is not to live according to a formula of do's and don'ts but in the freedom of Christian love
- Not confusing law and gospel

LUTHERANISM has its beginnings in 1517, when Martin Luther publicly called for the correction of errors in the medieval church. Luther was pastor, professor, author, composer of hymns and reformer. His ideas still stimulate new thinking in the church—he is RESPECTED but NOT WORSHIPED

### What is a Lutheran Church?

A Lutheran Church is:

- A CONFESIONAL CHURCH that acknowledges Jesus as Lord and Savior, and the Bible as revealing God's will.
- AN ECUMENICAL CHURCH that works for the unity of ALL Christians
- A VISIBLE CHURCH where Christians gather together to hear God's word
- AN INVISIBLE CHURCH made up of all those people together who are saved By faith in Christ as Savior

### The Lutheran Church teaches that:

- The **bible** is the word of God—absolute truth. It shows God in action.
- **God** is one God in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier
- **Man and Women** were created by God in holiness but sinned (rebelled). We cannot by our own powers come back to God
- The **Savior** Jesus, died to save the world from sin

- A person is **justified** (saved) not through merit, but only by God's grace through faith
- **Repenting** means sincerely regretting one's sins and asking for Christ's forgiveness and guidance
- The **Church** is all those people who sincerely accept and believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior
- **Baptism**, a sacrament establishes new life in a person. It remakes him or her in God's spirit
- **The Lord's Supper**, a sacrament is the Body and Blood of Christ borne by bread and wine in Holy Communion
- The **Creeds** are statement of belief, not additions to the Bible. They summarize the Bible teachings
- **Religion and science** are not in conflict. Religion talks about the "who," the creator; science talks about the "how"
- **A Christians unity** with fellow Christians is rooted in Christ as God and Savior
- **God's law** demands perfection of heart, thought, word and deed. Whoever disobeys is a sinner
- The **Gospel** the teachings of Jesus, offers grace to everyone and will save those who believe in its promises
- **Faith** is a confessed sinner's acceptance of Christ as Savior
- **Conversion** (spiritual rebirth) is the bestowal of faith in Christ as Savior
- **Sanctification** (holiness of life) follows conversion but total holiness is possible only after entering eternal life.
- **Prayer** is a Christians' sharing of thought with God—communication with God.
- **The spirit of evil** has many names in the Bible and the enemy of God and the church.
- **Death** does not sever a believer's relationship with Christ
- **Religious education** of the young is the responsibility of home and church
- **Separation of church and state** is ordained by God and provides two arenas of work for Christians
- **Marriage** is intended of life

Basically, Lutheranism teaches that a person is saved only by the grace of God through faith in Christ

## What are the “Three Ancient Creeds of Christianity”?

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### Apostles’ Creed

- This is the oldest summary of Christian belief.
- It tells the basic principals of the Bible. It’s used for general confession and religious teachings.

### Nicene Creed

- It states basic beliefs about God; that God is TRIUNE—three persons in one.
- It also tells about God’s works in the world

### Athanasian Creed

- It summarize the doctrine of the Holy Trinity
- It emphasizes the importance of Christ who is true God and true human in one person

## What is Confirmation?

Confirmation affirms and strengthens baptismal promises. Through the help of the HOLY SPIRIT, we are chosen by Jesus to be His disciples and confirmed members of His church

### METHODS OF CONFIRMATION:

**BAPTISM-** for adults who, after instruction in the faith publicly state faith in Christ, loyalty to Christ’s church, and promise to lead a Christian life. Baptism is also for persons not previously baptized in the name of the triune God.

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**—for a person already baptized and confirmed in a Christian church, who publicly promises faith and loyalty to Christ and to live a Christian life. Instruction is usually required

- **Pastor’s Class:** a series of lessons and discussions for adults. It is an EXPLORATION of the church’s teachings.

## LIVE SELFLESSLY, as a follower of Christ.

-Live a life of LOVE and SERVICE to others

- Give time to the church
- Teach a Bible Class / Sunday School
- Visit the aged and the sick
- Introduce people to the fellowship
- Work as a church officer
- Work with charity groups

**“You will be my witness”**  
Acts 1:8

Jesus Asks that people care for one another, worship together and raise children in faith

