

Lutheran Faith

American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, Lutheran Church in America - Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), Missouri Synod, Wisconsin Synod, Apostolic Lutheran

History

Created by Martin Luther, a Catholic monk and professor of theology in Germany. Luther never intended to start a new religion, just wanted to reform the Roman Catholic church and bring it back to where it had come from. The Lutheran church is one of the largest denominations in the world with approx. 80 million worshippers.

Key points of Lutheranism:

- All people are sinners
- Salvation is not based on worthiness
- Salvation is not based on good works
- 1st to deviate from Latin (language of the people)
- Permitted congregation to have larger control over leaders.
- Congregation to have active role in services
- Congregation allowed to sing

Catholic Church believe in 7 sacraments, Lutheran church only 2: Baptism, Communion.

3 main bodies of Lutheran church in America:

Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, (*Our Saviors*) Prior to 1988, the ELCA did not exist. The ELCA is now the largest Lutheran body in the USA with about 5 million members. The ELCA is a product of the merger of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) and the American Lutheran Church (ALC) and the Association of American Lutheran Churches which broke off from the Missouri Synod.

The ELCA ordains women and believes scripture to be historical and not always literally. Also, there is no set opinion of if when taking Holy Communion it is actually the Body and Blood of Christ, it is up to one's opinion when taking it. ELCA practice open communion

Website: <http://www.elca.org>

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, (*St. Pauls*) the second largest Lutheran Church body, has about 2.6 million members. Originally, this church was named "The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States."

The LCMS does not ordain women, but they do allow women to serve as officers in the church. Also, the church believes it is the true body and blood of Christ at Communion. The church also takes the Holy Scriptures as literal. Missouri Synod practice closed communion

Website: <http://www.lcms.org>

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, (*Hope Lutheran*) the third largest Lutheran body, with about 400,000 members. The WELS is the most conservative of the three major Lutheran churches in the United States.

The WELS does not ordain women and does not allow women to office. They take the Holy Scriptures to be totally true. The WELS also does not consider members of the ELCA and of the LCMS to be 'legitimate' Lutherans.

Website: <http://www.wels.net>

Apostolic Lutheran Church of America

The Apostolic Lutheran Church was organized in the United States in 1872, having its roots with a group of people who came from Finland, Sweden, and Norway in the 1860's. The Apostolic Lutheran Church of America has 55 churches with about 9,000 members.

Apostolic Lutheranism, as a whole, has been and still is mostly a lay movement with ministerial training not a prerequisite for ordination to the ministry

Website: <http://www.apostoliclutheran.org>

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Forgiveness of Sins

Communion

Liturgy