

Lutherans and Other Denominations

Lutherans

Welcome

Opening Prayer
Course Overview

Christian Denominations

<i>Question 1</i>	Percent of population
<i>Question 2</i>	Percent of Christians
<i>Question 3</i>	Denominations by size and faith
<i>Question 4</i>	Religious bodies

Lutheran History

October 31, 1517 - Martin Luther posted 95 Theses = On Castle Church door, Univ. of Wittenberg
Intended for discussion among scholars = Focused on theology of indulgences
1529 - Diet at Speier (Germany) said Roman Catholic faith was the only legal faith = Diet - conference of gov. officials
Leaders who followed Luther read a *Protestation* = *Protestant* name stuck

Small & Large Catechisms - 1529 = Small - Vital truths for laity; Large - Greater detail for pastors
Augsburg Confession - June 25, 1530 = Presented to Emperor Charles V at Augsburg
Intended to show that the reformers were fully Christian = Wanted to reform church, not rebuke
First 21 (of 28) articles gave confession of ancient church = 22-28 addressed medieval abuses of the church
The Church of the Augsburg Confession = Lutheran was derogatory term by others
Luther - *Please do not use my name; do not call yourselves Lutherans, but Christians. ...*
The doctrine is not mine; I have not been crucified for anyone. ...
Why should I, a poor mortal, give my meaningless name to Christ's children?

Apology to the Augsburg Confession = Defended Augsburg Confession in response to Roman Confutation
Smalcald Articles of Faith - 1537 Convention = 3 Parts - Trinity, Differences from Rome, Doctrines
Formula of Concord - 1577 = Restated confessions to resolve controversies in Lutheran churches
Book of Concord - 1580 = 50 Year Anniversary of Augsburg Confession - Compilation of Lutheran confessions

Lutheran Doctrine = All doctrine is based on what it means for our salvation

Question 5 - Ephesians 2:8-9 = We are saved by grace through faith, works result from faith

Question 6 - Lutheran doctrine revolves around:

Sola gratia = We are saved ONLY by the grace of God - Not works

Sola fide = Our bond with God is formed ONLY by faith - Not indulgences or trying to please God

Sola scriptura = The Bible is the ONLY source and norm for Christian teaching - Not pope, priests...

Gospel = *Evangelical* in church names is to emphasize belief that salvation is by grace through faith, not by works

Luther - *The Word of God shall establish articles of faith, and no one else, not even an angel.*

Galatians 1:8 = *But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other...let him be condemned!*

Luther translated Bible to German so all could access God's truths = *Priesthood of all Believers*

Wrote catechisms & hymns to guide people; Set up elementary education system to teach Bible reading

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Lutheran Sacraments

Definition of a sacrament:

A sacred act ordained by God = From God, He initiated and commanded it
through which He brings grace to men = Conveys His grace, not just symbolic
through external means = Includes something physical we can connect with
connected with His Word = His Word connects to Him, Sacraments are the “Visible Word”

Question 7 - Lutheran sacraments = Catholics and Orthodox have seven

Baptism = Water with the Word - Not just water, not just Word

Word = Commanded by God, Name of Triune God, His promise (believe & be baptized → shall be saved)

Benefit = Acceptance into God’s family, Not symbolic of acceptance but the act of acceptance

Man’s part = Just have to be there; We simply accept what God is giving

Lord’s Supper

Word = *Given and shed for you for the remission of sins* - Must believe these words to partake

Benefit = Forgiveness of sins, life & salvation

True Presence - Body & blood are *in, with and under* the bread & wine

Not symbolic or transubstantiation

Lutherans in America

1619 - Lutheran Christmas Service on Hudson Bay

1649 - St. Matthew’s Church of New York

German settlers = Organized congregations without pastors, laymen acted as pastors

Colonists asked European church for leadership

1741 - Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf = Former Lutheran, Posed as Lutheran inspector, became pastor to win over

Moravians = Wanted to combine all Christians in a single church - Little doctrine, emphasized works

1742 - Henry Melchior Muhlenberg = Sent by European Lutherans, Kicked Zinzendorf out, Traveled colonies

1748 - Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania = First Synod, HMM called Father of LCA

1820 - General Synod = First large group, Combination of smaller eastern synods

1826 - Established Gettysburg Seminary = First Lutheran Seminary in North America

1830-1870 - Heavy immigration = US population tripled, Lutherans increased nine-fold

1870 - Lutherans were fourth largest Protestant group in America = Around 400,000

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

1839 - Saxon Lutherans = Immigrated to Missouri to escape European liberalism

1847 - German Evangelical Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States

Question 9 = C. F. W. Walther

Evangelized immigrants until WW I, then started a large missionary program

Takes Biblical warning on false doctrines to heart = May appear stand-offish to outsiders

Romans 16:17 = *Watch out for those who...put obstacles...contrary to the teaching...Keep away from them!*

Strong doctrine from uniform training of pastors

1974 - Controversy at St. Louis Seminary over nature of biblical authority = Sem. Pres. John Tietjen suspended

Seminex = Many faculty & student left and formed “Seminary in Exile”

1976 - Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches = Less than 4 % of LCMS membership

Same doctrinal statement as LCMS

10th largest religious group in US = 2.6 million members

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Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Lutheran Church in America = Most liberal because of many, many mergers over the years
History goes back to Muhlenberg and General Synod = See chart
General Synod split in 1860 (doctrine & Civil War), eventually brought back together
1962 - Merger of ULCA (General), Ev. Luth. Augustana (Swedish, Norwegian), Suomi (Finnish)

American Lutheran Church = Middle ground between LCMS and LCA
Formed by mergers in 1930 (Ohio, Buffalo, Iowa) & 1960 (Norwegian) = See chart

1988 - ELCA formed by merger of ALC, LCA and AELC
6th largest religious group in US = 5.2 million members (same size as Mormons)

Other US Lutherans

About 7 other small Lutheran groups
Next largest is Wisconsin Synod (WELS) = Less than 300,000 members
More conservative than LCMS
Question 8 - Ranking by size, age & staunch

Lutheran Differences

Question 10 - Lutheran Differences

History & Background

Ethnic Background - German, Norwegian, Swedish, Danish, Finnish
ELCA - Many mergers since colonial times = Mergers are liberalizing, Influenced by neighboring Protestants
LCMS - From immigrants fleeing liberal doctrines = Strong desire to preserve faith & practice

Cooperation with Interdenominational Groups

ELCA - Participate in National & World Council of Churches, Accept Lodge members
LCMS - Avoids interaction with false doctrines = Many churches have little, if any, doctrine
Lodges - Profess faith in an all encompassing God (for all religions) and emphasize works

Bible Interpretation

LCMS - Divinely Inspired = Words (in original languages) are directly inspired by God and cannot be incorrect
ELCA - Faithful Reporting = Men faithfully stated God's nature & purpose in their own words. Can be errors.

Lutheran Confessions = Compiled in *Book of Concord*

Apostles, Nicene & Athanasian Creeds
Large & Small Catechisms
Augsburg Confession & Apology of Augsburg Confession
Smalcald Articles
Formula of Concord

LCMS - This list correctly interprets the Bible and Christian life & faith.
ELCA - This list was correct in the 16th century. New confessions should be made today.

Closing Prayer

Class materials are available at www.biblestoriesforadults.com/denominations

