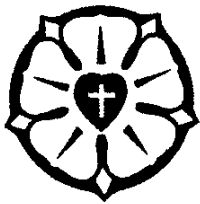


# Who are Lutherans?

Lutherans are Christians--we believe and trust in God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Lutherans share a common faith with other Christians.

- We declare scripture as the inspired inerrant Word of God.
- We confess the same ancient creeds such as the Apostles' Creed.
- We proclaim God's message by emphasizing salvation by grace through faith. (Ephesians 2:8; Romans 2:28)



The Protestant Reformation began in Germany in 1517 with Martin Luther, a Catholic priest who desired to reform the Church. The reforms were met with opposition, and the reformers were forced out of the church; however, the Lutheran movement grew strong spreading throughout Europe and then into the United

States.

Today, there are more than 8 million Lutherans in the United States.

Most belong to one of these groups:

- The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
- The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)
- The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

As members of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we are:

- a confessional church: We acknowledge Jesus as Lord and Savior and the Bible as the Word of God revealing God's will for all humanity.
- a sacramental church: We acknowledge the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion as ordained by Christ.
- a liturgical church: Our primary worship services follow an orderly pattern in the tradition of the historic Christian Church.
- an evangelizing church: We proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ that all may come to believe.