

What Does It Mean to Be Lutheran?

*A Message from the Master sermon series on the Lutheran Confessions
October 21 – November 25, 2007*

As a sequel to the previous sermon series on the Holy Christian Church, Message from the Master presents “What Does It Mean to Be Lutheran?” a sermon series on the Lutheran confessions. Lutheran pastors and confirmands make solemn promises to uphold the truths contained in the Lutheran confessions. But, what exactly are they? Where did they come from? What do they say? Join our Message from the Master preachers on a tour of these Lutheran documents. Witness their origins. Peer into their contents. Affirm your faith. And be emboldened to take your stand on these solid summaries of the Holy Scriptures, all gathered into volume we call, “The Book of Concord.”

October 21 – Westendorf **The Ecumenical Creeds**

Matthew 28:18-20, John 5:22-23, 1 Peter 3:15

Lutherans are Christians. We believe in the Trinity, and in the God Man – Jesus Christ. We are better prepared to share with others what we believe if we are familiar with some outlines of Scriptural truth, like those found in creeds and confessions.

October 28 – Mattek **The Smalcald Articles**

Galatians 5:1-6,13; Colossians 2:6-8,16-23; Romans 14:19-23

Lutherans practice Christian freedom. The joy of the gospel shines brightly when we don't burden consciences with man-made rules. A concern of the confessors, as stated repeatedly in the Smalcald Articles, was the burden created by some man-made practices. Their call for gospel freedom is an example for Christians and churches today.

November 4 – Lindemann **The Augsburg Confession and Apology to the Augsburg Confession**

Romans 3:19-28

Lutherans believe that justification is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. This doctrine permeates the Augsburg Confession as it does our living and believing. On this Reformation Sunday the epistle lesson for the day provides a fitting connection with the story and document of the Augsburg confessors.

November 11 – Westendorf **Luther's Small and Large Catechisms**

Deuteronomy 4:9, Psalm 119, Proverbs 22:6, 2 Timothy 3:14-16

Lutherans are lifelong learners, and we regularly open our ears and hearts to the Word of God. We take special care to instruct our children in Christian education at home and school.

November 18 – Bivens **Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope**

Matthew 16:13-20, John 20:23, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Lutherans believe in the ministry of the keys, which is the true authority of the church. We express it in both the public ministry of the gospel, and the universal priesthood of all believers. The authority of the church is found in no individual(s) except Jesus Christ himself.

November 25 – Mueller **The Formula of Concord**

1 Timothy 1:19, 4:6-16, 6:3-5,11-16,20-21; 2 Timothy 1:6-14, 2:2,14, 4:2-5

Lutherans are confessional. What does it mean to be confessional? What role do apologetics play in relation to other Christians? Is there such a thing as absolute truth? Is it a matter of us being right and

everyone else wrong? This series finale will conclude with encouragement from the Scriptures to stand firm in the faith and share it boldly with others.