

WHAT IS A LUTHERAN?



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We live in troubled times, times of fear and uncertainty. We see tragedy, sickness, wars, the threat of worldwide terrorism, and in the face of all that, thousands of religious leaders offering confusing ideas that are nothing more than human opinion. . . . People are looking for something to believe in.



The Lutheran church has that something. It has the Bible—God's certain and saving Word for people of every age, race, and place.

People are also looking for **someone** to believe in. The Lutheran church has that someone—Jesus Christ. The central message of the Bible is that sinners (and that includes us all) have a Savior. Jesus Christ is God's own Son, who lived a perfect life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead to bring us *forgiveness, peace with God, and everlasting life* in place of guilt, fear, and damnation.

That's the heart of our faith. In our age of uncertainty and fear, only such faith offers hope and confidence—in death as well as in life.

Jesus says, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

A LIFE WORTH LIVING



This faith isn't merely an emotional feeling or an intellectual exercise. Rather, it is a living confidence that daily expresses itself. Lutherans at their best express their faith as giving and sharing people, just like Jesus himself was.

According to the Bible, all believers enjoy a personal life with God in prayer and devotion. Believers together exercise a shared ministry to one another and their world. We try to do this by being warm and caring, by helping, and by praying for others in need.



In a word, Lutherans try to live their faith in *love*—love for God and love for people.

A GIFT TO SHARE



God's free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ is a gift to share. That's the reason for Lutheran worship and education.



You are welcome to attend Sunday or midweek services, hear God's Word, and join our songs of praise. Our churches also offer Bible instruction and discussion for people of all ages and backgrounds. Lutheran education centers around Christ and his message of salvation. In fact, Lutherans have developed an extensive school system for both children and adults, from preschool through college.

A HERITAGE TO BUILD UPON



Our Lutheran faith is rooted in the truths of the Bible itself, but the name *Lutheran* dates back to the 16th century. It comes from a man named Martin Luther, who lived in Germany from 1483 to 1546. Bible-believing Lutherans everywhere still hold to his teachings.

Luther struggled with the same basic problems that trouble people today. He longed for peace with God, for assurance and certainty. Unable to achieve this by his own good works, he found it in the Bible. When Luther discovered the love of God in Jesus Christ, he exclaimed, "I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise."

Those doors are open for all, including *you*.

The Christian's heart is resting on roses
Even while beneath the cross it reposes.



A cross on a heart, resting on the center of the Messianic Rose (representing Christ) and surrounded by a circle to represent eternity—this was adopted by Luther as his own coat of arms. It remains the symbol of the Lutheran church and is an expression of trust in God.