

Lutheran & Catholic Comparison

Wednesday Bible Study, Faith & Fellowship Nights, Fall 2022

Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Lansing, MI

The Roman Catholic Church

- Shared History Creates Shared Beliefs & Customs
 - Three Ecumenical Creeds – Apostles, Nicene, Athanasian
 - Historic Church Calendar – Latin/Roman Calendar
 - Vestments, Church Decorations, Holidays
 - Celebrating Jesus
- Early Roots
 - The apostle Peter – Matthew 16:13-20
 - Rock of the church
 - “Feed my lambs – sheep”
 - Head of the church in Rome (First Pope)
 - Early bishops (Popes)
 - Chief teacher of the church
 - Shepherd of the church
 - Developments
 - Separate east and west churches (Roman and Eastern Orthodox)
 - East – Constantinople
 - West – Rome
 - Was the only stability during the Barbarian conquests
 - Became the political force in Europe during the middle ages
 - Built schools and monasteries
 - Created noble art and literature
 - Martin Luther led the reform movement because of corruption
 - Popes and Councils can err
 - They think Martin Luther was wrong in rebelling
 - Anglican church (Church of England) broke away 1530’s
 - Council of Trent (1543-63) brought reforms &
 - Helped slow the spread of Protestantism in Europe
 - Reestablished the Roman Catholic Church and faith in Europe
 - Counter Reformation 1500’s & 1600’s
 - Came over to North America with the Explorers (i.e. Columbus)
 - First permanent settlement 1565 St. Petersburg, FL
 - City of Detroit & Church of St. Anne 1701
 - Granted religious freedom after the American Revolution
 - Different Catholic Denominations
 - American Catholic Church
 - Eastern Rite Catholic/Uniate Church
 - Liberal Catholic Church
 - Mariavite Old Catholic Church, Province of North America
 - Old Catholic Churches
 - Polish National Catholic Church of America
 - Byzantine Catholic Church
 - Roman Catholic Church

- Catholic Religious Orders in the US
 - Franciscans
 - Carthusians
 - Jesuits
 - Benedictines
 - Salesians
 - Missionaries of Charity
 - Dominicans
 - Augustinians
- Organizations
 - Knights of Columbus, founded in CN 1882
 - Society of St. Vincent de Paul, in US in 1845
 - Catholic Church Extension Society of America
 - Catholic Charities
 - Little Sisters of the Poor
- Hospital Systems
- Education
 - Grade and High School Education
 - Colleges & Universities
 - Seminaries
- Distinct Beliefs
 - Authority in the Church – 3 Sources
 - Scripture
 - Pope (formalized in Vatican I 1870)
 - Tradition (formalized in Council of Trent)
 - Virgin Mary
 - She was holy before, during and after the birth of Christ (Rom 3:23, Luke 1:30)
 - Mary was conceived without original sin (Immaculate Conception, formalized 1854)
 - Mary's body was assumed into heaven by the power of God upon her death (Assumption) (Revelation 12)
 - She is in the first rank of redeemed Christian
 - She was a perfect Christian, the one who best fulfilled Jesus' own idea of sanctity. (Luke 1:38)
 - She can intercede Catholic believers prayers to God (Rom 8:26-27)
 - Saints
 - Can intercede Catholic believers prayer to God (Rev 5:8, 8:3, Is 8:19)
 - Are accepted to sainthood by canonization
 - Only for those whose lives have been marked by heroic virtue.
 - Are people whose holy lives have made them worthy of God's special love
 - Had to perform two miracles
 - Had to have miracles witnessed
 - Martyrs
 - Must have motive for his death
 - Must have died for his faith in Christ
 - Must have performed 2 miracles
 - Miracles must be witnessed

- Beautification
 - Must be sponsored by some one high up in the Roman Catholic church
 - Has to have eyewitnesses the miracles
 - Can be approved directly by the Pope
- Mass
 - Consists of Word and Sacrament
 - Taught in the Language of the People. Used Latin until 1963.
 - In the Western Church Pattern - Liturgy
- Sacraments - 7
 - Baptism – only Original Sin is forgiven
 - Infants and adults
 - Immersion and pouring
 - Confirmation
 - Penance or Reconciliation (Post baptismal sins are forgiven)
 - Eucharist – Bread and Wine change into Body and Blood
 - Marriage – No divorce allowed, only annulments
 - Holy Orders (Ordinations of Deacons, Priests and Bishops)
 - Anointing of the Sick – Last Rites
- Priests
 - Must be like Jesus
 - Cannot marry - Must remain celibate
 - Permanent – indelible character
- Purgatory (Luke 23:43, John 3:16, 36; 5:24; 6:47)
 - A “half way house” between heaven and earth
 - Believer goes there until adequate penance for their sins is satisfied.
- The rosary
 - A prayer that is repeated
 - Say 10 to 15 decades of “Hail Mary’s”
 - Say one “Our Father” between every ten decades
 - At each 15 decades we recall successively in pious meditation one of the mysteries of our redemption
- Stations of the Cross
 - Mediation, prayers and bible verses concerning Jesus’ death
 - Jesus condemned
 - Jesus carries his cross
 - Jesus falls
 - Jesus meets his mother
 - Simon helps carry his cross
 - Veronica wipes Jesus face
 - Jesus falls for the second time
 - Jesus meets the woman
 - Jesus falls the third time
 - Jesus is stripped
 - Jesus is nailed to the cross
 - Jesus dies
 - Jesus is taken down from the cross
 - Jesus is buried
 - Jesus rises