

Lutheran & Catholic Comparison

Wednesday Bible Study, Faith & Fellowship Nights, Fall 2022
Our Savior Lutheran Church and School, Lansing, MI

Unity in the Christian Church

- Resources on Martin Luther and the Reformation
- The blessings of the Reformation
 - Addressing corruption and abuses in the Church
 - Bringing the Word of God to the language of the people
 - Luther's September Testament 1522, whole Bible 1534
 - German church services 1526
 - Small and Large Catechism 1529
 - Central Focus on Justification – “the article on which the Church stands or falls”
 - Augsburg Confession IV, “Furthermore, it is taught that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our merit, work, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ's sake through faith when we believe that Christ has suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness in his sight, as St. Paul says in Romans 3 and 4.”
 - Augsburg Confession 1530 – Chief Articles of Faith
 - I. Concerning God
 - II. Concerning Original Sin
 - III. Concerning the Son of God
 - IV. Concerning Justification
 - V. Concerning Ministry in the Church
 - VI. Concerning the New Obedience
 - VII. Concerning the Church
 - VIII. What Is the Church?
 - IX. Concerning Baptism
 - X. Concerning the Supper of the Lord
 - XI. Concerning Confession
 - XII. Concerning Repentance
 - XIII. Concerning the Use of Sacraments
 - XIV. Concerning Church Order
 - XV. Concerning Church Rites
 - XVI. Concerning Civic Affairs
 - XVII. Concerning the Return of Christ for Judgement
 - XVIII. Concerning Free Will
 - XIX. Concerning the Cause of Sin
 - XX. Concerning Faith and Good Works
 - XXI. Concerning the Cult of Saints
 - Emphasis on Conscience, Personal Faith, Personal Conviction
 - Diet of Worms 1521 led to the Declaration of Independence 1776

- Challenges of the Reformation
 - Division in the Body of Christ
 - Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536) Dutch philosopher and theologian
 - Phillip Melancthon (1497-1560) Luther's right hand man
 - Attitudes of Roman Catholic & Eastern Orthodox to the Reformation
 - Attempts at Reconciling
 - Regensburg Colloquy 1541
 - Lutheran Catholic Dialogue 1965-66
 - Joint Lutheran-Roman Catholic Study Commission 1967. See www.lutheranworld.org/content/lutheran-roman-catholic-dialogue
 - The Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ) 1999
 - Radical Reformation & Splintering of Christianity
 - 20,000 denominations in US
 - Non-denominational trends
 - "I believe" vs "We believe"
- What creates Christian Unity?
 - 1 Corinthians 1:10-24, 3:1-11
 - Romans 16:17-19
 - "Truth always unites – Error always divides"
- Our Oneness in Christ will be fully experienced in Heaven (Church Triumphant)
 - John 10:14-16
 - Revelation 7:9-10
- While on earth, the "Church Militant" contends for the faith – in love!
 - Jude 3
 - 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15
 - Ephesians 4:14-16