



St. Paul Lutheran Church, from its very organization in 1888, has been throughout its history distinctively Lutheran. The means that as a congregation **we are "Bible-based", and "Christ-centered" from the perspective of the Lutheran Confessions.**

"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." 2 Tim. 3:14-15 (ESV)

A Lutheran is a person who believes, teaches, and confesses the truths of God's Word as they are summarized and confessed in the Book of Concord.

The Book of Concord, first published in 1580, contains documents which Christians from the fourth to the 16th century A.D. explained what they believed and taught on the basis of the Holy Scriptures.

It includes, first, the three creeds which originated in the ancient church:

- the Apostles' Creed
- the Nicene Creed
- the Athanasian Creed.

It contains, secondly, the Reformation writings known as:

- The Augsburg Confession
- The Apology of the Augsburg Confession
- The Smalcald Articles
- The Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope
- Luther's Small and Large Catechisms
- The Formula of Concord

The Catechisms and the Smalcald Articles came from the pen of Martin Luther; the Augsburg Confession, its Apology, and the Treatise were written by Luther's co-worker, the scholarly Phillip Melancthon; the Formula of Concord was given its final form chiefly by Jacob Andreae, Martin Chemnitz, and Nickolaus Selnecker.

We confess that, "The Word of God is and should remain the sole rule and norm of all doctrine" (FC SD, Rule and Norm, 9). What the Bible asserts, God asserts. What the Bible commands, God commands. The authority of the Scriptures is complete, certain and final. The Scriptures are accepted by the Lutheran Confessions as the actual Word of God. The Lutheran Confessions urge us to believe the Scriptures for "they will not lie to you" (LC, V, 76) and cannot be "false and deceitful" (FC SD, VII, 96). The Bible is God's "pure, infallible, and unalterable Word" (Preface to the BOC).

The Lutheran Confessions are the "basis, rule, and norm indicating how all doctrines should be judged in conformity with the Word of God" (FC SD RN). Because the Confessions are in complete doctrinal agreement with the written Word of God, they serve as the standard in the Lutheran Church to determine what is

faithful Biblical teaching, insofar as that teaching is addressed in the Confessions.

Being a Lutheran is being a person who believes the truths of God's Word, the Holy Bible, as they are correctly explained and taught in the Book of Concord. To do so is to confess the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Genuine Lutherans, confessional Lutherans, dare to insist that "All doctrines should conform to the standards [the Lutheran Confessions] set forth above. Whatever is contrary to them should be rejected and condemned as opposed to the unanimous declaration of our faith" (FC Ep. RN, 6).

Such a statement may strike some as boastful. But it is not; rather, it is an expression of the Spirit-led confidence that moves us to speak of our faith before the world.

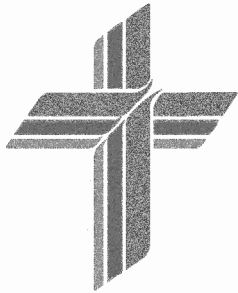


To be a confessional Lutheran is to be one who honors the Word of God. That word makes it clear that it is God's desire for His church to be in agreement about doctrine, and to be of one mind, living at peace with one another (1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Cor. 13:11). It is for that reason that we so treasure the precious confession of

Christian truth that we have in the Book of Concord. For Confessional Lutherans, there is no other collection of documents or statements or books that so clearly, accurately, and comfortingly presents the teachings of God's Word and reveals the Biblical Gospel as does our Book of Concord.

Hand-in-hand with our commitment to pure teaching and confession of the faith, is, and always must be, our equally strong commitment to reaching out boldly with the Gospel and speaking God's truth to the world. That is what "confession" of the faith is all about, in the final analysis. Indeed, "It is written: 'I believed; therefore I have spoken.' With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak" (2 Cor. 4:13).

Since 1914 St. Paul Lutheran Church has been a member of the Iowa District West of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. The LC-MS is comprised of over 6,000 congregations in the United States and has cooperative ministries with Confessional Lutheran Church denominations throughout the world.



Our Mission

Our mission is to grow in our faith in Jesus Christ in order to share that faith with others.

Our Vision

Our vision is to be a people transformed by the Gospel to live out and pass on the legacy of faith in Jesus Christ in our homes, community and world. We will empower and equip people to mentor following generations so that the legacy of faith continues.

Our Strategy

We have a message and a way of life that the whole world needs to hear and experience. We must pass it on. It is our desire that you would experience the love of Jesus Christ and become imitators of him through a process we know as **Learn, Live, Lead**. Our strategy is to be a community where the legacy of faith is **learned** in such a way that people grow to **live** that legacy and **lead** others to become part of that legacy.

St. Paul Lutheran Church

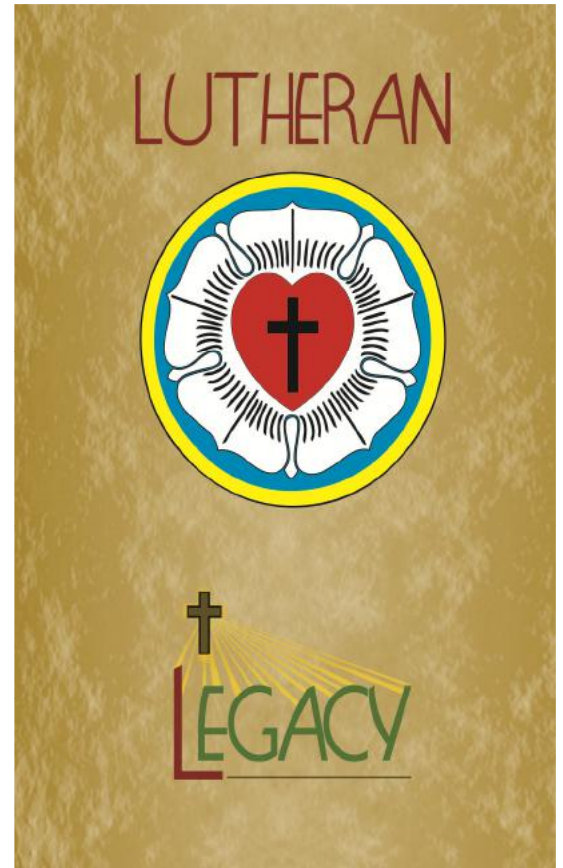
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